

Livestock, Dairy and Poultry

All cattle and calves on farms January 1, 2001 in New Jersey totaled 48,000 head, the same as a year ago. Value per head increased \$30 from the previous year to \$960.00. The 2001 inventory value was estimated at \$46.1 million, \$1.4 million more than the total of a year ago.

Milk cow numbers on January 1, 2001 remained at 16,000 head. Beef cows were estimated at 9,000 head, 1,000 less than the January 1, 2000 total. Of the total cattle and calf inventory, cows that have calved accounted for 52 percent. Heifers weighing 500 pounds or more totaled 10,000 head, 21 percent of total inventory. Of these, 5,000 were milk cow replacements, 3,000 were beef cow replacements, and 2,000 were intended for slaughter. There were 3,000 steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 6 percent of all cattle and calves. Bulls at 500 pounds and greater numbered 1,000 head or 2 percent of the total inventory. Calves under 500 pounds accounted for the remaining 8,000 animals, 17 percent of all cattle and calves on January 1, 2001. The 2000 calf crop was the same as 1999, totaling 20,000 head.

Milk production in the Garden State totaled 266 million pounds, down 5 percent from the 280 million pounds produced in 1999. The average number of milk cows declined to 16,000 head. Milk per cow averaged 16,625 pounds in 2000 compared to 16,471 a year earlier. The leading milk producing counties were Warren, Salem, Sussex, Burlington and Gloucester, accounting for 81 percent of the state's total. Value of production of milk totaled \$33.8 million during 2000, compared with \$41.1 million in 1999.

All hogs and pigs on New Jersey farms totaled 14,000 head on December 1, 2000. This number was a decrease of 1,000 head (7 percent) from the number of head on December 1, 1999. Value per head averaged \$90.00, five dollars more than a year ago.

The total value of the hog and pig inventory value amounted to \$1.3 million, the same as

the previous year. Of the total hogs and pigs on farm in the state, 14 percent were kept for breeding and 86 percent were market hogs. The New Jersey pig crop totaled 9,150, down 30 percent from 1999.

Egg production in the Garden State in 2000 increased to 574 million eggs, compared to 547 million eggs in 1999. Eggs per layer averaged 283, down from 286 the year before. Average layer numbers on New Jersey farms totaled 2.03 million during 2000, increasing 6 percent from 1.92 million the preceding year. In 2000, poultry managers in the state received on average 53.0 cents per dozen eggs, down 4 percent from the 55.0 cents per dozen received in 1999. This price reflects the average price received by egg producers for wholesale and retail sales of all sizes and grades of eggs. The value of egg production in 2000 was unchanged from the previous year at \$25.0 million.

Sales of chickens (excluding meat chickens) totaled 1,010,000 head in 2000, 57 percent more than the 643,000 head sold in 1999. The average price received in 2000 was 7.0 cents per pound, 94 percent more than the previous year's average price of 3.6 cents. Value of sales equaled \$247,000 in 2000, up \$168,000 from the preceding year.

New Jersey turkey production in 2000 was 59,000 birds, up 9,000 from the number of turkeys raised the previous year. Turkey growers received an average price of 79.0 cents per pound, 7 cents more than the price in 1999. In 2000, the value of production increased to \$969,000, up 23 percent from \$785,000 the year before.

Honey production in 2000 amounted to 385,000 pounds, decreasing 13 percent from the 440,000 pounds produced the year before. Beekeepers received an average price of \$.61 per pound in 2000, up 4.0 cents from the previous year. The value of production fell from the 1999 level of \$251,000 to \$235,000.