

Livestock Inventory & Production, 1998 *By Steven R. Stockdale*

The total value of all cattle, hogs and sheep on Pennsylvania farms at the end of 1998 was \$1.44 billion, up 12 percent from the previous year. Cattle inventory was valued at \$1.39 billion on January 1, 1999, accounting for 96 percent of the total value of all livestock in Pennsylvania. Sheep inventory, valued at \$9.1 million, accounted for 1 percent of the total. Hog inventory, valued at \$48.4 million on December 1, 1998, accounted for 3 percent of the total livestock inventory value.

Cattle: All cattle in Pennsylvania totaled 1,670,000 head on January 1, 1999, down 1 percent from January 1, 1998. Of the total, 770,000 were cows and heifers that had calved. Milk cow inventory totaled 619,000, down 1 percent from one year earlier, while the number of beef cows at 151,000 head, was down 8 percent from last year. Heifers 500 pounds and over totaled 370,000, up 1 percent from the inventory on January 1, 1998. There were 280,000 heifers for dairy replacement and 42,000 for beef cow replacement. Steers 500 pounds and over totaled 175,000. A total of 25,000 bulls 500 pounds and over were on hand. Calves under 500 pounds totaled 330,000, unchanged from the previous year. The 1998 Pennsylvania calf crop totaled 690,000 head, 3 percent below the 1997 calf crop.

The gross income from beef production was \$352.3 million in 1998, down 7 percent from the previous year. There were 28,000 Pennsylvania farms having cattle during 1998, down 1,000 from a year earlier. Farms with milk cows decreased 400 from 1997 to 10,900. Pennsylvania ranked 4th in the United States in milk cow inventory on January 1, 1999, and 20th in cattle inventory.

Hogs: There were 1,100,000 hogs and pigs on Pennsylvania farms as of December 1, 1998, unchanged from the previous year. Breeding hog inventory, at 120,000 head, was also unchanged from the previous year. A total of 980,000 market hogs and pigs were on hand as of December 1, 1998, the same as last year.

Pennsylvania's pig crop in 1998 totaled 1,649,000, down 2 percent from 1997. A total of 189,000 sows farrowed in 1998, averaging 8.72 pigs per litter. The gross income from pork production was \$119.7 million for 1998, 35 percent less than in 1997. Hog farmers numbered 3,500 in 1998, unchanged from the previous year. Pennsylvania's hog inventory ranked 13th in the United States on December 1, 1998.

Sheep: January 1, 1999 sheep and lamb inventory totaled 83,000 head, down 3 percent from January 1, 1998. Commonwealth flocks included 71,000 breeding sheep and lambs and 12,000 market sheep and lambs.

The total lamb crop for 1998 was 72,000 lambs, down 3 percent from 1997. Wool production totaled 470,000 pounds from 69,000 sheep shorn during 1998.

The gross income from sheep production in 1998 was \$5.0 million, down 15 percent from 1997. The value of wool produced during the year was \$221,000, down 5 percent from 1997. Sheep farms numbered 2,600, down 200 from last year. Pennsylvania was tied with Wisconsin for 20th in the United States in sheep and lamb inventory as of January 1, 1999.

Red Meat Production: Pennsylvania red meat production, dressed weight basis, in commercial slaughter establishments totaled 1.13 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 1997. There were 359 commercial slaughter plants in Pennsylvania on January 1, 1999. Pennsylvania ranked 1st among all states in the number of commercial slaughter plants.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 958,900 head in 1998, 1 percent less than the previous year. Total live weight for cattle slaughtered was 1.21 billion pounds. Average live weight was up 24 pounds from 1997 to 1,264 pounds. Slaughter of calves weighing less than 500 pounds totaled 193,400 head, down 1 percent from 1997. Total live weight for calves slaughtered was 61,347,000 pounds. The average live weight for calves, at 317 pounds, was down 55 pounds from 1997.

A total of 2,427,900 hogs were slaughtered in Pennsylvania in 1998, up 4 percent from 1997. Total live weight for hogs slaughtered was 578,702,000 pounds. The average live weight for hogs slaughtered was 238 pounds, down 3 pounds from 1997.

Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 70,400 head, was 3 percent above the previous year. Total live weight for sheep and lambs slaughtered was 6,966,000 pounds. Sheep slaughtered averaged 99 pounds live weight, down 4 pounds from the previous year.

Pennsylvania ranked 11th among all states in commercial red meat production in 1998. Pennsylvania's rankings by number of head slaughtered were: 8th for cattle, 3rd for calves, 12th for hogs, and 6th for sheep.