



# Hogs and Pigs Survey

United States Department of Agriculture

National Agricultural Statistics Service

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The U. S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts a quarterly Hogs and Pigs Survey, measuring and reporting conditions and trends in the U.S. pork industry. NASS contacts pork producers, including contractors, to collect data on market hog and breeding stock inventories and farrowing intentions.

## HOW ARE THE DATA COLLECTED?

The survey is conducted in March, June, September and December. Data are gathered from a sample of producers representing U.S. facilities with the capacity to raise breeding or market hogs. Producers in the 30 largest hog-producing states are surveyed during March, June and September, while producers from every state are included in the December survey.

Data collection methods include:

- Telephone – Computer-assisted telephone interviewing is the primary method.
- Mail – Participants fill out and mail back the questionnaire that was mailed to them.
- Internet – Secure, online reporting is the timeliest, most cost-effective option.
- Personal interviews – Respondents can request an interview with a NASS representative.

## HOW IS THE INFORMATION USED?

NASS publishes a quarterly *Hogs and Pigs* report with inventory and breeding information for each of the 17 largest hog producing states, which account for nearly 95 percent of the total U.S. inventory. In addition, NASS estimates a combined total for all other states in order to publish U.S.-level data. In December, NASS publishes hog information, by state, for all states.

Following each quarterly hog report, NASS and Statistics Canada release the *United States and Canadian Hogs* report. This report combines NASS hog and pig estimates with quarterly hog statistics released by Statistics Canada.

NASS also publishes estimates of the number of hog operations by herd size groups and percent of inventory in the *Farms, Land in Farms and Livestock Operations* report each February.

Every sector of the U.S. pork industry relies on accurate hog and pig estimates to make sound business decisions. For instance:

- Producers use the data to determine production and marketing strategies.
- Data on breeding stock inventory, farrowing intentions, the latest pig crop and average litter size allow analysts to forecast the expansion and contraction of pork production.
- The transportation sector, warehouse and storage companies, commodity traders and processors rely on the reports to anticipate volume for future months.

The information provided by survey respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes data only in aggregate form, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

All reports are available through the NASS web site: [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540.