



News Release

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DECEMBER 2008 HOG REPORT

All hogs and pigs on **North Carolina** farms on December 1, 2008 totaled 9.6 million head, down 6 percent from December 1, 2007 and 7 percent from September 2008.

Market hogs, at 8.6 million head, were down 6 percent from last year and down 8 percent from last quarter. Breeding stock totaled 980,000 head, down 5 percent from last December and down 2 percent from September 1, 2008. North Carolina ranks 2nd nationally, behind Iowa, in the total number of hogs and pigs produced.

The State's pig crop during the September – November 2008 period totaled 4.9 million head, down 7 percent from the same quarter last year. These pigs were produced by 510,000 sows, down 60,000 sows from last year. Pigs saved per litter averaged 9.55, up from the number of pigs saved on average last year.

North Carolina producers intend to farrow 540,000 sows during the December – February 2009 quarter and 550,000 sows during the March – May 2009 quarter.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2008 was 66.7 million head. This was down 2 percent from both December 1, 2007 and September 1, 2008.

Breeding inventory, at 6.08 million head, was down 2 percent from last year but up slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 60.6 million head, was down 2 percent from both last year and last quarter.

The September-November 2008 pig crop, at 28.4 million head, was down 4 percent from 2007 but up 6 percent from 2006. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.99 million head, down 6 percent from 2007 but up 1 percent from 2006.

NORTH CAROLINA HOG & PIG INVENTORY

(Thousand Head)

