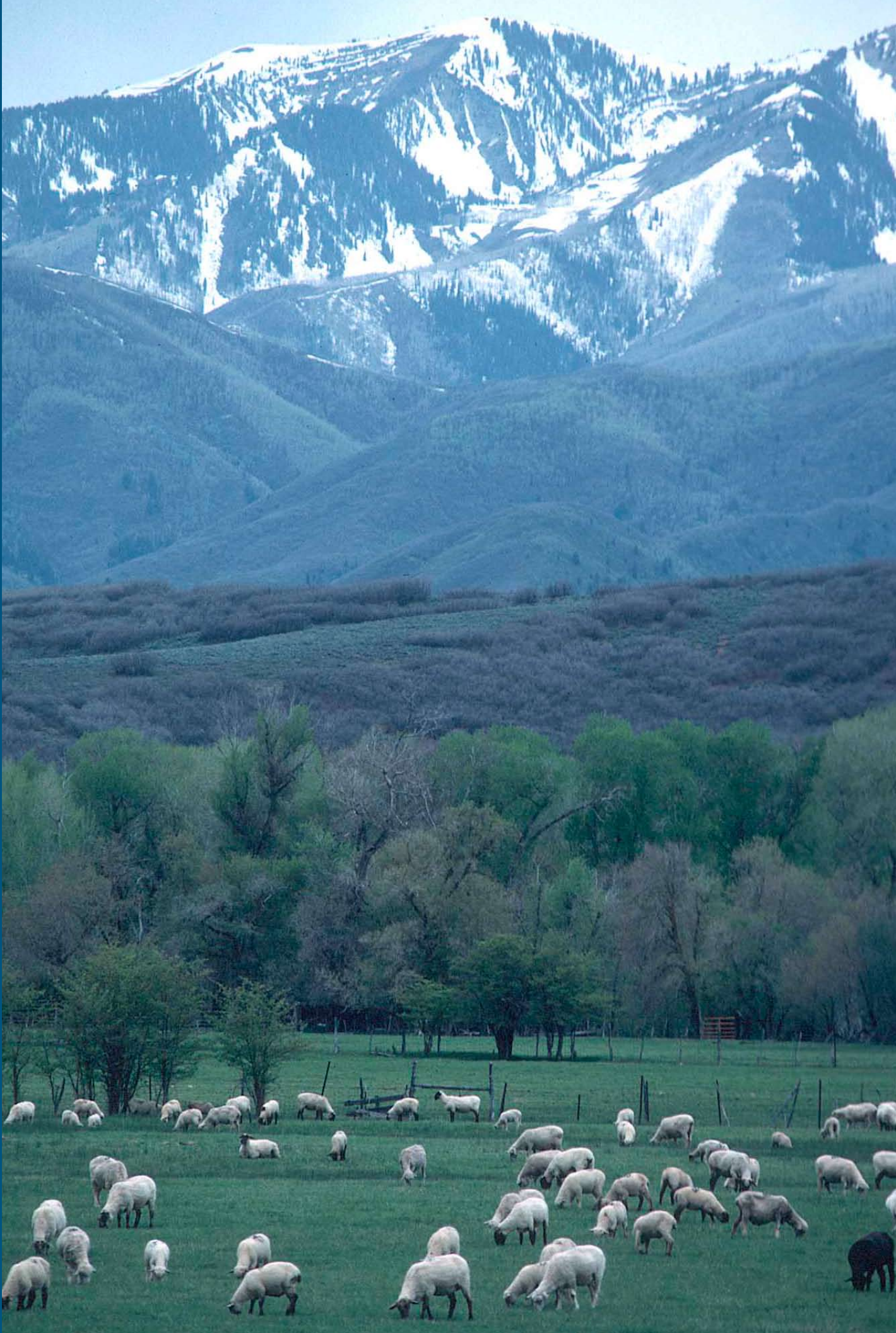


CHAPTER 6



Overview of U.S. Livestock, Poultry, and Aquaculture Production in 2007

Available Statistics

Official statistics for U.S. livestock, poultry, and aquaculture populations are published by USDA's NASS. These statistics are based on the Census of Agriculture conducted every 5 years (e.g., 1997 and 2002) and on surveys conducted monthly, quarterly, or annually as determined by the particular commodity. Frequency of surveys and sample sizes by commodity are shown in appendix 1 (table A1.1).

The Census of Agriculture, which is a complete enumeration of the entire agricultural segment of the economy, is the only source of detailed, county-level data for all farms and ranches in all 50 States that sell or intend to sell agricultural products worth \$1,000 or more in a year. The most recent Census data was collected for 2002 and published in spring 2004. The U.S. maps presented in this chapter are based on the 2002 Census of Agriculture, which provides animal inventory levels as of December 31, 2002. During spring 2008, the most recent Census of Agriculture (2007) was conducted. Animal inventory levels were collected as of December 31, 2007. Published reports will be available in spring 2009.

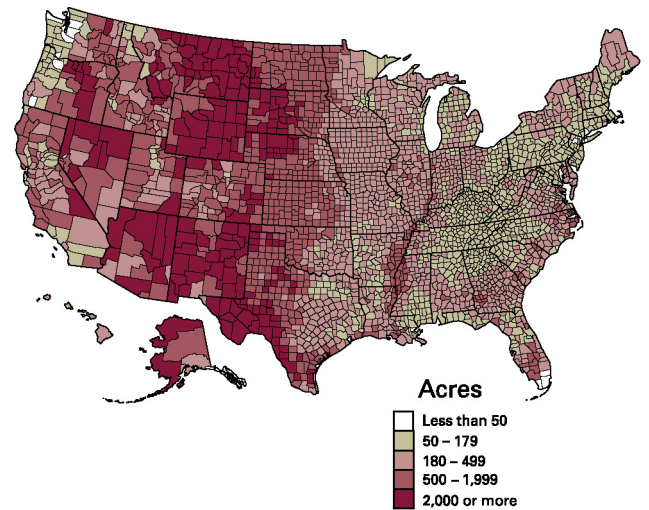
In NASS' ongoing sample survey and estimation programs, data is collected and estimates are published within the same month to provide users with the most up-to-date and timely information. This information is collected and published even during years the Census is conducted. The massive data-collecting, editing, and summarizing effort required to prepare the Census naturally results in a publication lag. Sample survey estimates and final Census reports rarely show exactly the same numbers. However, the ongoing sample surveys provide the most up-to-date statistics between the Census years and are themselves subject to revision when current-year estimates are made. For this reason, if you compare statistics printed in the 2006 Animal Health Report for that year with statistics published in this year's version of the report for 2006, the numbers do not always match. In fact, after each 5-year Census of Agriculture, NASS reviews all of the previous 5 years' worth of sample survey estimates, revises the figures, and publishes the results as "Final Estimates."

Number of Farms

Estimates for the number of U.S. farms were based on the definition of a farm as “any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would be normally sold during the year.” Map 1 illustrates the distribution of farms across the United States, based on the 2002 Census. In general, there were fewer farms in the western half of the United States; however, western farms and ranches were generally larger than those in the eastern half of the United States (map 2). A higher percentage of land area in the Central United States was dedicated to land in farms (map 3). In 2007, there were 2.08 million farms, 0.6 percent fewer than in 2006. Total land in farms was 930.9 million acres in 2007, which represents a decrease from 932.4 million acres in 2006. The average farm size of 449 acres in 2007 was slightly larger than the average acreage in 2006 (446 acres).

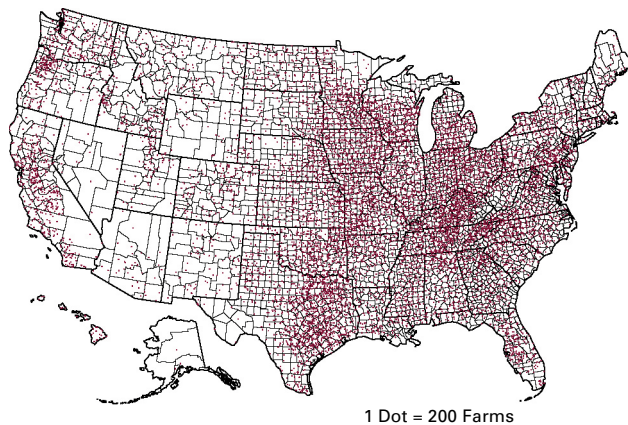
MAP 2: Average Size of Farms in Acres: 2002

United States Average: 441



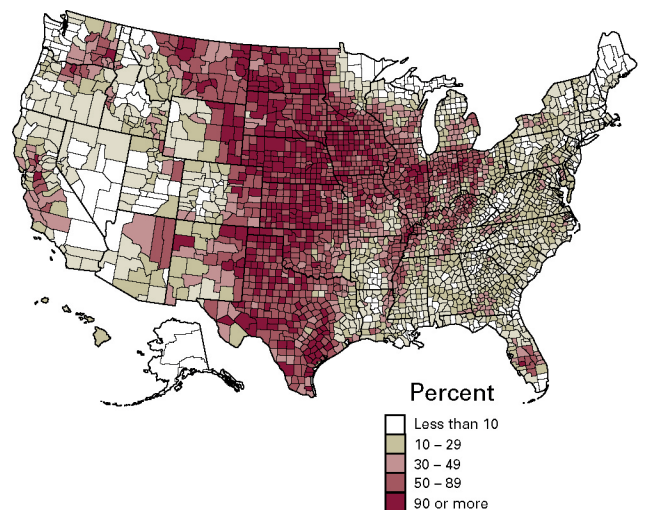
MAP 1: Number of Farms: 2002

United States Total: 2,128,982



MAP 3: Acres of Land in Farms as Percent of Land Area in Acres: 2002

United States: 41.4 Percent

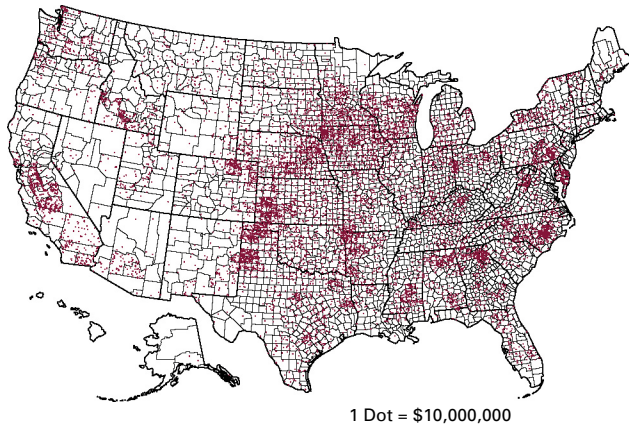


Relative Magnitude of Industries, by Value of Production

The Central and Eastern States had a higher concentration in value of livestock and poultry in 2002, compared with the Western States (map 4). In recent years, the total value of production has been split nearly equally between crop and livestock (and poultry) production. In the 2002 Census of Agriculture, 52.6 percent of total value of production came from livestock and poultry. The coastal areas and North Central portions of the United States

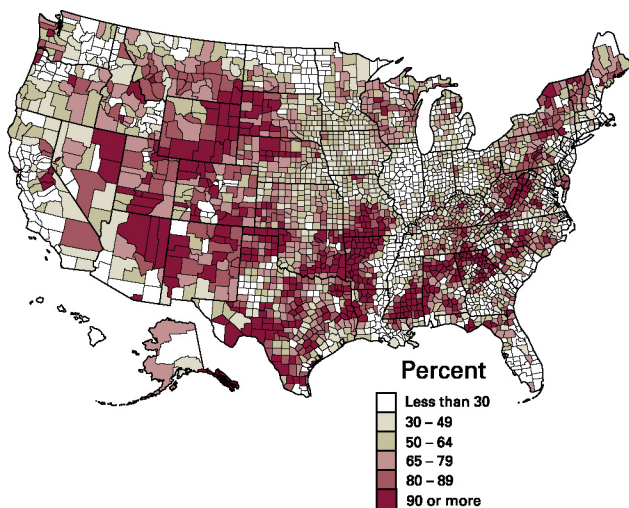
MAP 4: Value of Livestock, Poultry, and Their Products Sold: 2002

United States Total: \$105,494,401,000



MAP 5: Value of Livestock, Poultry, and Their Products as Percent of the Total Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 2002

United States Total: 52.6 percent



generally made a smaller livestock and poultry contribution to the total market value (map 5). These areas had heavy concentrations of crop, fruit, and vegetable products.

Table A1.2 in appendix 1 identifies specific major livestock, poultry, and crop commodity values for 2007. Figure 6.1a shows that livestock and poultry accounted for less than half the total value of production (42.1 percent). Note that poultry contributed 27 percent of the total value of livestock, poultry, and their products (fig. 6.1b).

FIGURE 6.1A: Value of production in 2007: Crops v. livestock and poultry as a percentage of total

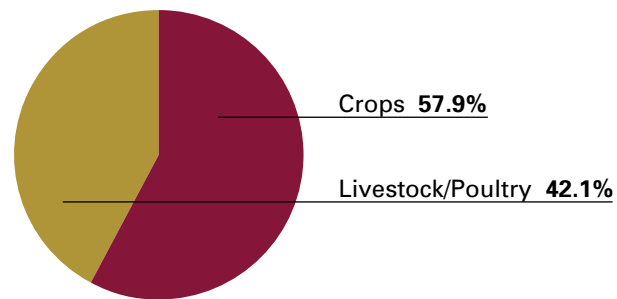
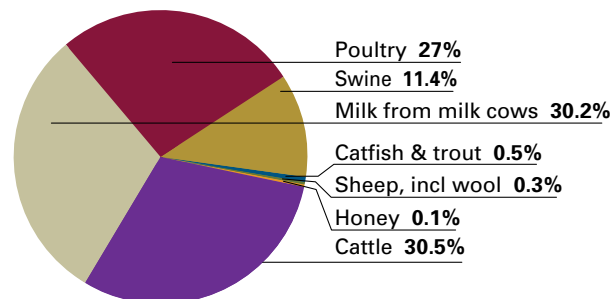


FIGURE 6.1B: Value of production in 2007: Specific commodities as a percentage of the respective total of livestock and poultry and their products, plus honey



Introduction to the Livestock, Poultry, and Aquaculture Industries

In 2007, almost half the farms in the United States had cattle and calves. (USDA defines a cattle operation as any place having one or more head of cattle on hand at any time during the year.) Only a small number of cattle operations (71,510) were dairies for milk production. The value of production for cattle and calves was roughly \$36.1 billion. In addition, the value of milk production was about \$35.7 billion, 51.3 percent higher than in 2006. The poultry industries were the next largest commodity in the United States, with production valued at around \$31.9 billion. Numbers were very similar for operations with hogs and operations with sheep (65,640 and 70,590, respectively), although the comparative values of production were dissimilar (table 6.1). Note: Detailed statistics for each commodity are provided in tables A1.2 through A1.15 in appendix 1.

TABLE 6.1: Livestock, poultry, and aquaculture statistics for 2007

Commodity	Inventory (1,000)	Operations	Value of production (\$1,000)	Appendix reference for detail
All cattle and calves	¹ 96,669	967,440	35,740,774	A1.3
Milk cows	¹ 9,224	71,510	² NA	A1.4
Beef cows	¹ 32,553	757,900	NA	A1.5
Cattle on feed	¹ 14,317	87,160	NA	A1.6
Hogs and pigs	³ 65,110	65,640	12,703,842	A1.7
Sheep and lambs (plus wool)	¹ 6,055	70,590	392,598	A1.8
Goats	¹ 3,015	108,130		A1.8
Poultry	⁵ Detail	NA	26,842,833	A1.9
Equine	⁵ 5,317	NA	NA	A1.10
Catfish	⁵ Detail	⁶ 1,064	444,650	A1.11
Trout	⁵ Detail	⁷ 390	87,546	A1.11
Honey	⁵ Detail	NA	153,233	A1.12

¹Inventory as of January 1, 2008.

²Not available.

³Inventory as of December 1, 2007.

⁴Inventory as of January 1, 1999.

⁵Detailed breakout of inventory is shown in respective appendices.

⁶Number of operations as of January 1, 2007.

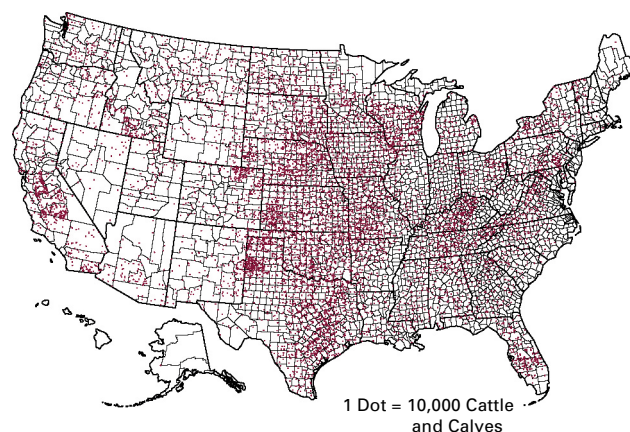
⁷Number of operations selling trout.

Cattle and Calves (Beef and Dairy)

In 2002, the Nation's nearly 100 million cattle and calves (beef and dairy) were dispersed widely across the country, with a heavier concentration generally in the Central States (map 6).

MAP 6: Cattle and Calves—Inventory: 2002

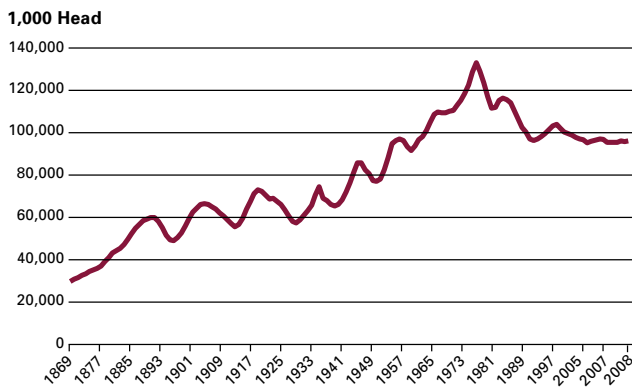
United States Total: 95,497,994



Overall, the number of cattle and calves in the United States steadily increased from 1869, following a cyclical or “wave” pattern, until 1975 and then declined during the next two decades, despite a slight upturn in the mid-1990s. Historically, changes in the cattle cycle occur at roughly 10-year intervals. Recently, the Nation’s inventory of cattle and calves has remained relatively steady after several years of gradual decline (fig. 6.1c).

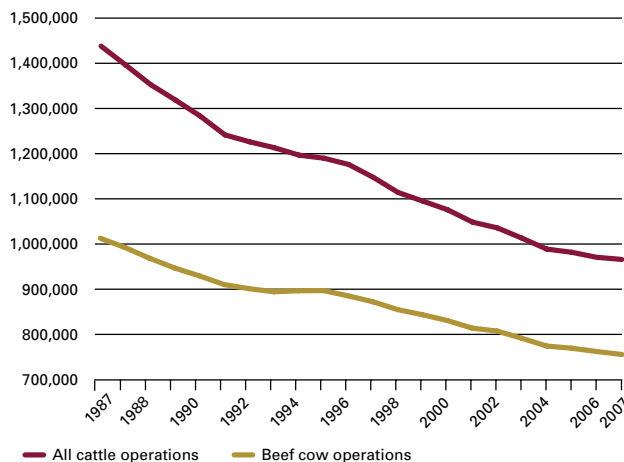
FIGURE 6.1C: Cattle and calves: U.S. inventory on January 1 for selected years, 1869–2007

2008 Inventory = 97.0 million



The number of cattle and calf operations has declined steadily during the past 15 years. A similar decline has also occurred in the number of beef operations (fig. 6.2). The decrease in the number of cattle and calf operations is due primarily to the decline in the number of small operations.

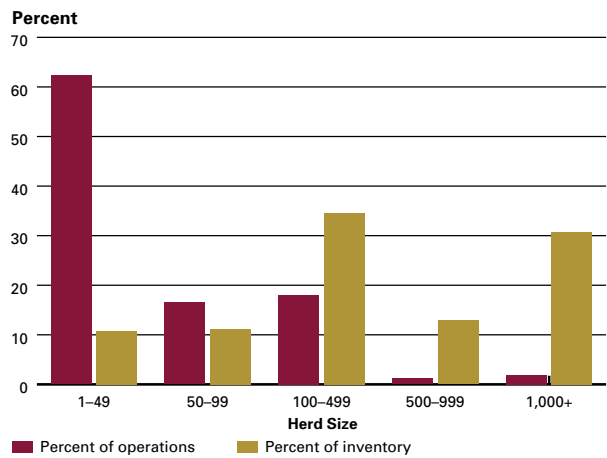
FIGURE 6.2: Number of all cattle and beef cow operations, United States, 1987–2007



In 2007, small cattle operations (1–49 head) accounted for 62.1 percent of all operations, but only 10.6 percent of the total inventory of cattle and calves. Large operations (500 or more head) accounted for just 3.1 percent of all operations, but contained 44.2 percent of the total U.S. inventory of cattle and calves (fig. 6.3 and also table A1.3 in appendix 1).

FIGURE 6.3: Cattle and calves: Percent operations and inventory, by herd size

2007 Operations = 967,440 Jan. 1, 2008, Inventory = 96.67 million



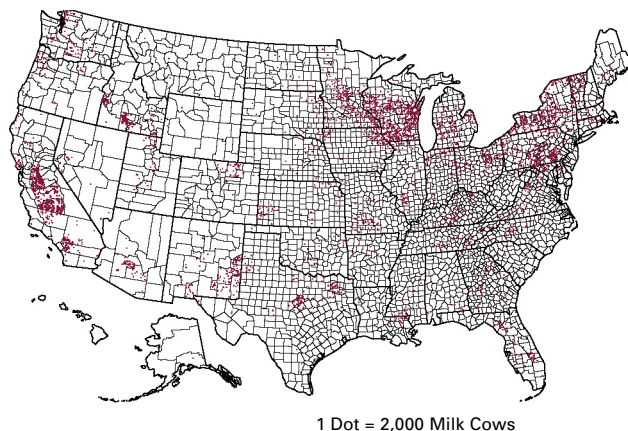
Milk Cows—Dairy

In the United States, the distribution of milk cows is concentrated in California, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and States in the Northeast (map 7).

The overall U.S. population of milk cows has remained relatively stable over the last 10 years. In contrast, the number of operations with milk cows in 2007 was only 57.8 percent of the number of operations in 1997 (fig. 6.4). Large operations (500 or more milk cows) were a small percentage of all operations, but represented a large percentage of the total number of milk cows (fig. 6.5).

MAP 7: Milk Cows—Inventory: 2002

United States Total: 9,103,959



1 Dot = 2,000 Milk Cows

Annual milk production per cow increased from 17,180 pounds in 1997 to 20,267 pounds in 2007—an 18 percent increase. Table A1.4 in appendix 1 documents dairy production for 2006 and 2007.

FIGURE 6.5: Milk cows: Percent operations and inventory by herd size

2007 Operations = 71,510

Jan. 1, 2008 Inventory = 9.22 million

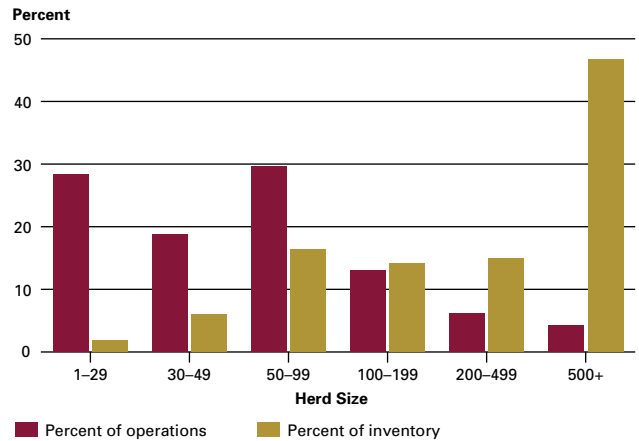
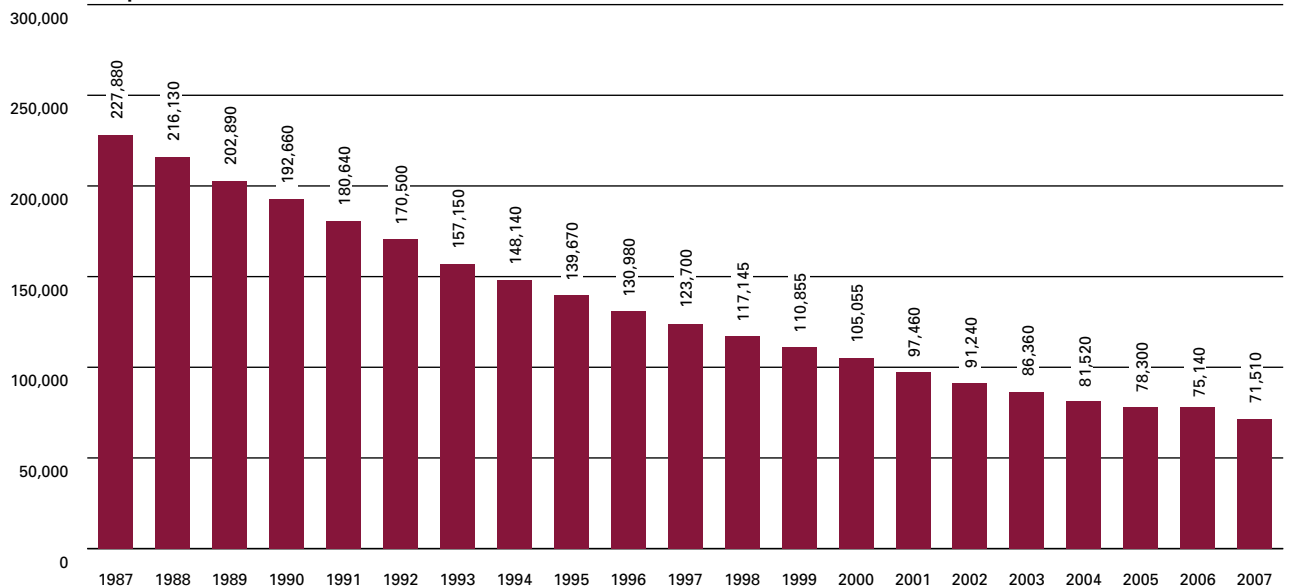


FIGURE 6.4: Milk cows: Number of U.S. operations, 1987–2007

Number of Operations



Beef Cows

In 2002, beef cows were distributed widely across the United States. In general, however, States in the central part of the Nation had higher concentrations of beef cows (map 8).

The overall trend in the number of beef cows (fig. 6.6) follows the trend shown for the total inventory of cattle and calves (fig. 6.1c). Essentially, inventory levels have remained stable over the last decade (fig. 6.7). Beef cows accounted for 77.9 percent of the total cow inventory on January 1, 2008.

In 2007, a relatively large number of operations in the United States (757,900) had beef cows. However, the number of operations with beef cows has declined gradually since 1996 (1 to 2 percent per year, as shown in fig. 6.2). This decrease is most notable in small operations (1–49 head). Following a common trend seen in other livestock commodities, the population of beef cows on large operations (100 or more head) has increased and now accounts for 53.7 percent of total U.S. beef cow inventory as of January 1, 2008 (fig. 6.8 and table A1.5 in appendix 1). These large operations account for only 10.3 percent of all beef cow operations in the United States but have more than half the total beef cow inventory.

MAP 8: Beef Cows—Inventory: 2002

United States Total: 33,398,271

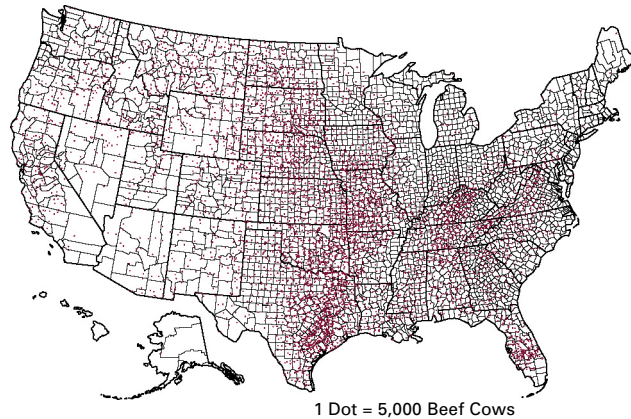


FIGURE 6.6: Beef cows: U.S. inventory on January 1 for selected years, 1920–2008



FIGURE 6.7: Beef cows: U.S. inventory on January 1 for selected years, 1988–2008

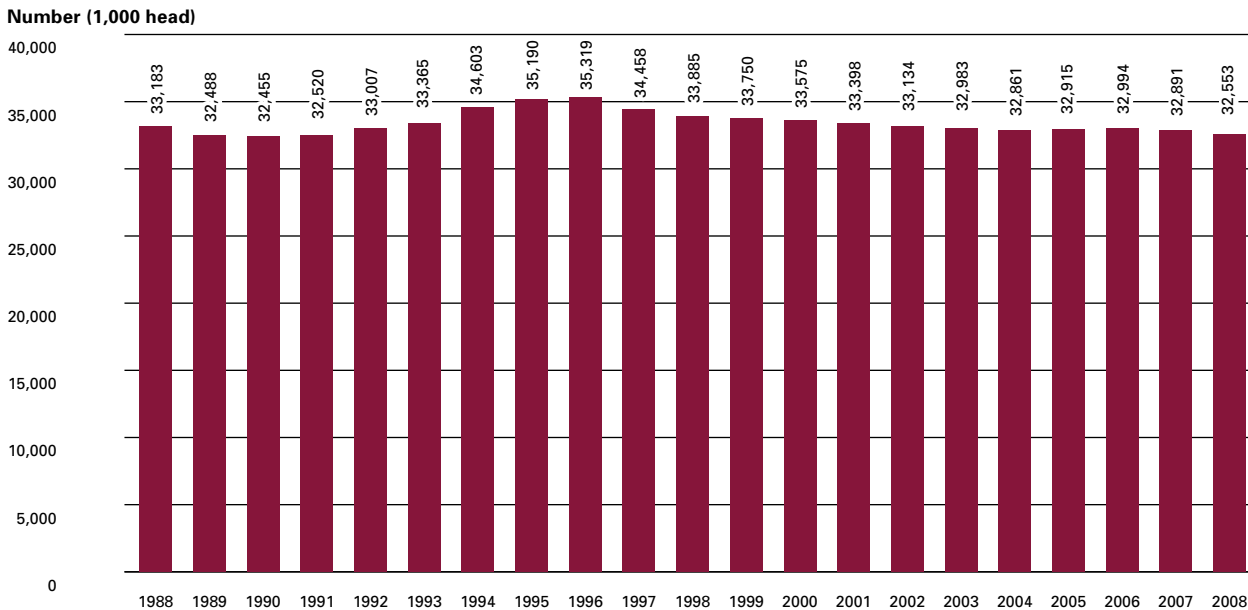
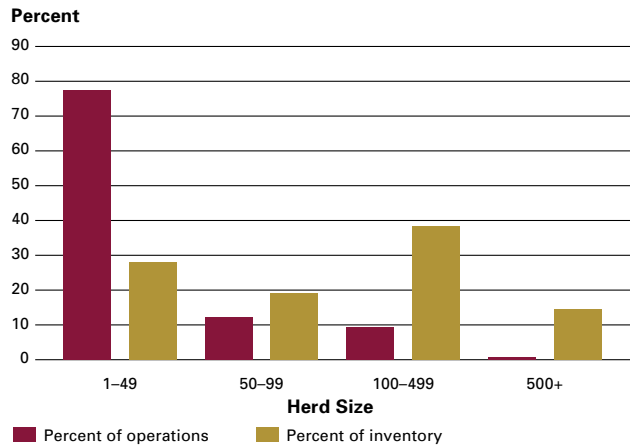


FIGURE 6.8: Beef cows: Percent operations and inventory by herd size

2007 Operations = 757,900 Jan. 1, 2008, Inventory = 32.55 million



Cattle on Feed

Cattle and calves on feed are fed a ration of grain or other concentrate in preparation for slaughter, and the majority of these are in feedlots in States with large grain supplies (map 9).

On January 1, 2008, three States (Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas) accounted for over half (58 percent) the inventory of cattle on feed. Large numbers of cattle on feed are concentrated in relatively few feedlots: 129 feedlots (0.1 percent of all feedlots) accounted for 41.7 percent of the total U.S. cattle-on-feed inventory (table A1.6 in appendix 1). Inventory numbers in feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 or more head typically reach high points in December, January, and February and low points in August and September because of the seasonal availability of grazing resources and the predominance of spring-born calves (fig. 6.9a). As a result, commercial cattle slaughter typically reaches a high point in May and June (fig. 6.9b). Steers and heifers accounted for 81.5 percent of 2007 federally-inspected cattle slaughter. Federally-inspected slaughter accounted for 98.4 percent of the 34.3 million head of commercially inspected cattle slaughter (table A1.6 in appendix 1).

MAP 9: Cattle on Feed—Inventory: 2002

United States Total: 14,905,545

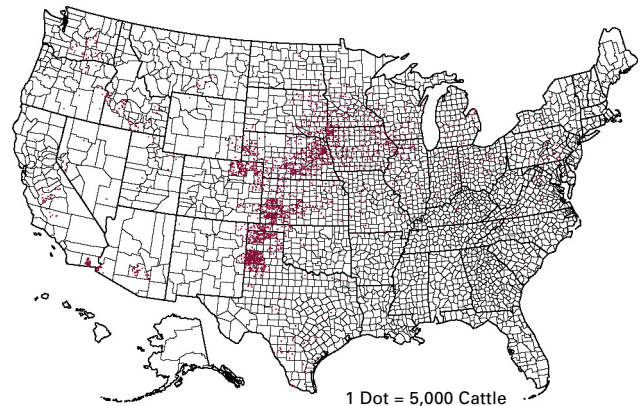


FIGURE 6.9A: U.S. cattle on feed at feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head, 2005-07

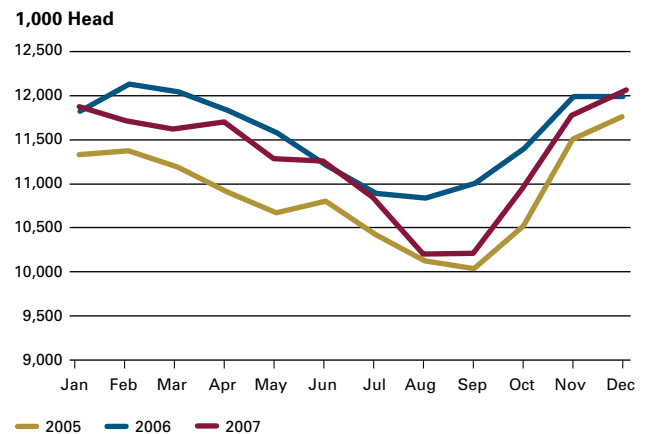
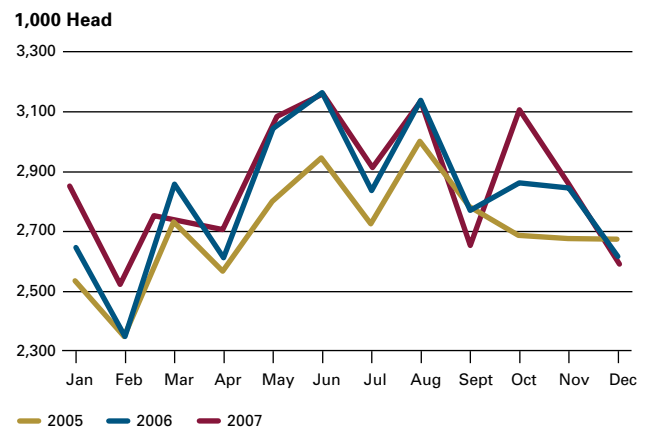


FIGURE 6.9B: Cattle: U.S. commercial slaughter, by month, 2005-07



Hogs

Historically, hog production has been most common in the upper Midwest (map 10). On December 1, 2007, Iowa, the largest hog-producing State, had 28.2 percent of the U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs. During the past two decades, North Carolina has increased its production and is now the Nation's second-largest hog-producing State, with 15.1 percent of the inventory. The practice of shipping pigs from production areas (e.g., North Carolina) to grower-finisher areas in the upper Midwest continued in 2007.

In the United States, inventory levels are estimated and published quarterly (December, March, June, and September). Over the past decade, the U.S. inventory of all hogs has fluctuated from quarter to quarter. During the period from 1996 to 2001, a greater degree of change was shown from quarter to quarter, compared with the quarter-to-quarter variation shown in the last 5 years. Typically, inventory numbers reach a low point on March 1 and peak on September 1 (fig. 6.10a). The number of hogs kept for breeding decreased by 11.5 percent during the last decade.

In 2 of the last 3 years, the number of hogs slaughtered commercially reached a low point in July, then increased until peaking in October (fig. 6.10b) in preparation for the holiday season. Commercial hog slaughter totaled 109.2 million head in 2007.

MAP 10: Hogs and Pigs—Inventory: 2002

United States Total: 60,405,103

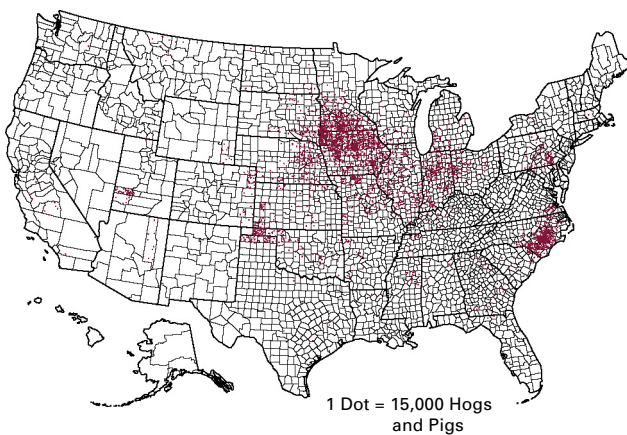


FIGURE 6.10A: Hogs and pigs: U.S. inventory, by quarter, 1997–2007

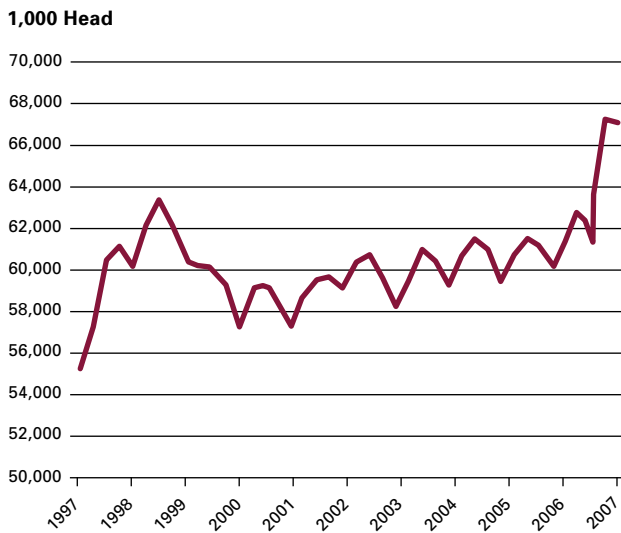
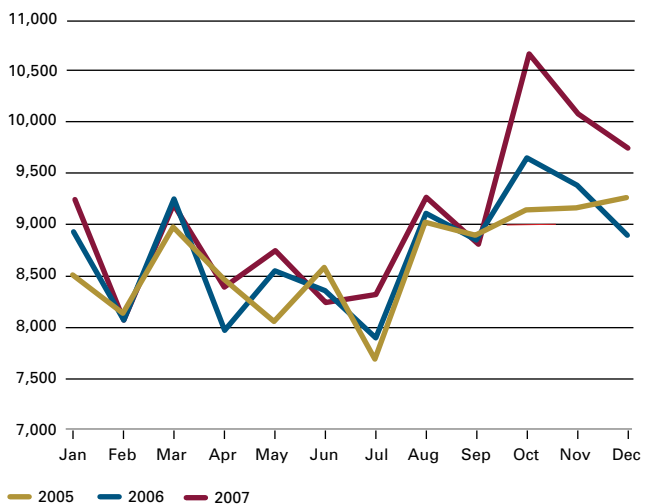


FIGURE 6.10B: Hogs: U.S. commercial slaughter, by month, 2005–07

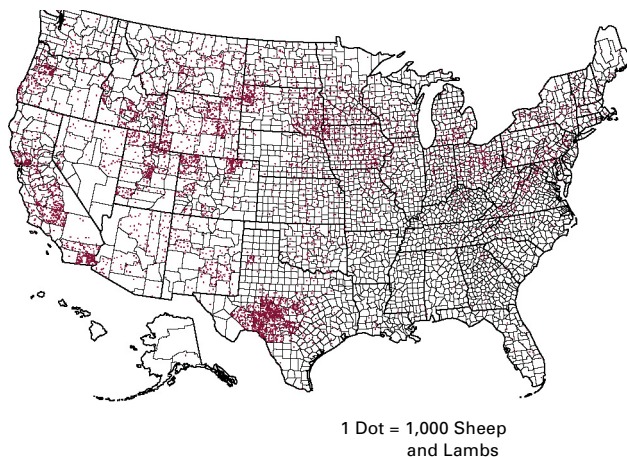


The number of operations with hogs declined steadily during the past decade, decreasing by 53.7 percent over the last 10 years (since 1997) (fig. 6.11). The majority of swine operations (61.1 percent) had fewer than 100 head, but these operations accounted for only 1 percent of the inventory. During the past decade, there has been a steady increase in the number of large operations (5,000 or more head), with the exception of a slight decline in 2003. Large operations (3.9 percent of all operations) now maintain more than half of the U.S. hog inventory.

In 2007, the United States had 65,640 hog operations with a production value of \$13.5 billion (table A1.7 in appendix 1).

MAP 11: Sheep and Lambs—Inventory: 2002

United States Total: 6,341,799



Sheep and Goats

The U.S. sheep industry is located primarily in the Western and Central States (map 11). Typically, the Western States are characterized by large range flocks, whereas those in the Central and Eastern States are mostly small, fenced flocks.

The number of sheep has declined steadily since the late 1980s with the exception of a brief peak in inventory in 1990; however, there were small increases noted on both January 1, 2005, and January 1, 2006, followed by decreases on both January 1, 2007, and January 1, 2008 (fig. 6.12).

The number of operations with sheep since the late 1980s has declined gradually. However, 2-percent increases have been recorded in each of the last 2 years (fig. 6.13a).

The January 1, 2008, total inventory of U.S. sheep and lambs was 6.1 million head. Almost a third of these sheep (30.8 percent) are located on a large number of small operations; 91.1 percent of the 70,590 total operations had fewer than 100 head of sheep and lambs (table A1.8 in appendix 1). Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter totaled 2.7 million head in 2007. Slaughter typically peaks in March or April (fig. 6.13b).

There were 3.02 million goats in the United States on January 1, 2008, which represents a 3-percent increase over the January 1, 2007, population. Breeding goats accounted for 2.5 million head and there were 520,000 market goats. Breeding goats were comprised of 1.8 million does, 175,000 bucks, and 472,000 replacement kids under 1 year old. The number of kids born during 2007 was estimated at 1.94 million head. The number of Angora goats decreased 12 percent, while the number of milk goats increased 4 percent (210,000 and 305,000 head, respectively). Meat and other goats totaled 2.5 million head, which was up 4 percent from 2007.

FIGURE 6.11: Hogs and pigs: Number of U.S. operations, 1997–2007

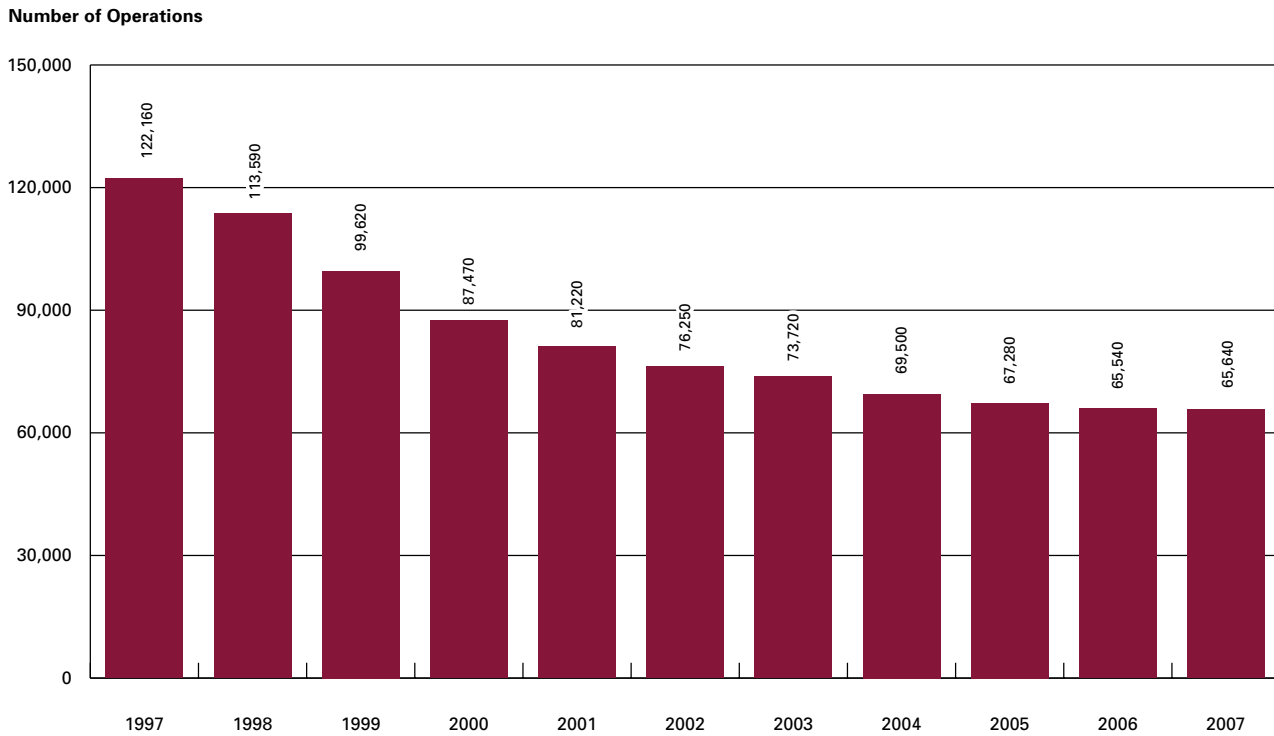


FIGURE 6.12: Sheep and lambs: U.S. inventory on January 1, 1988–2008

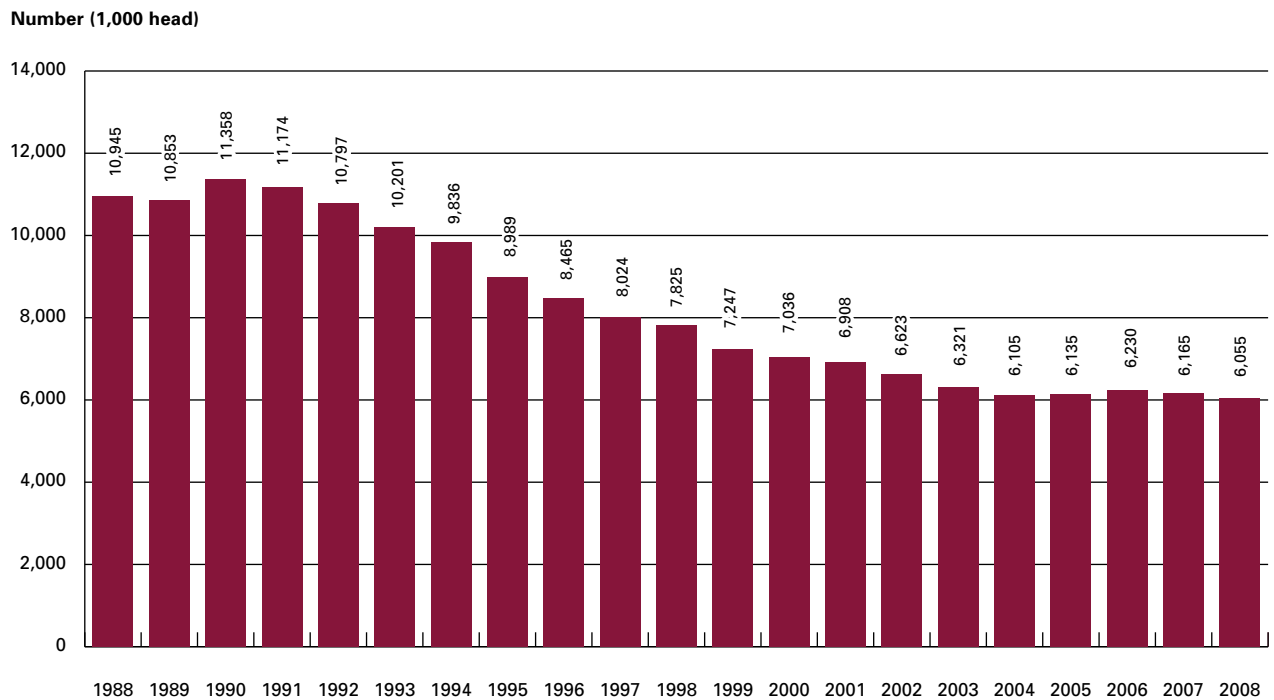


FIGURE 6.13A: Sheep and lambs: Number of U.S. operations, 1987-2007

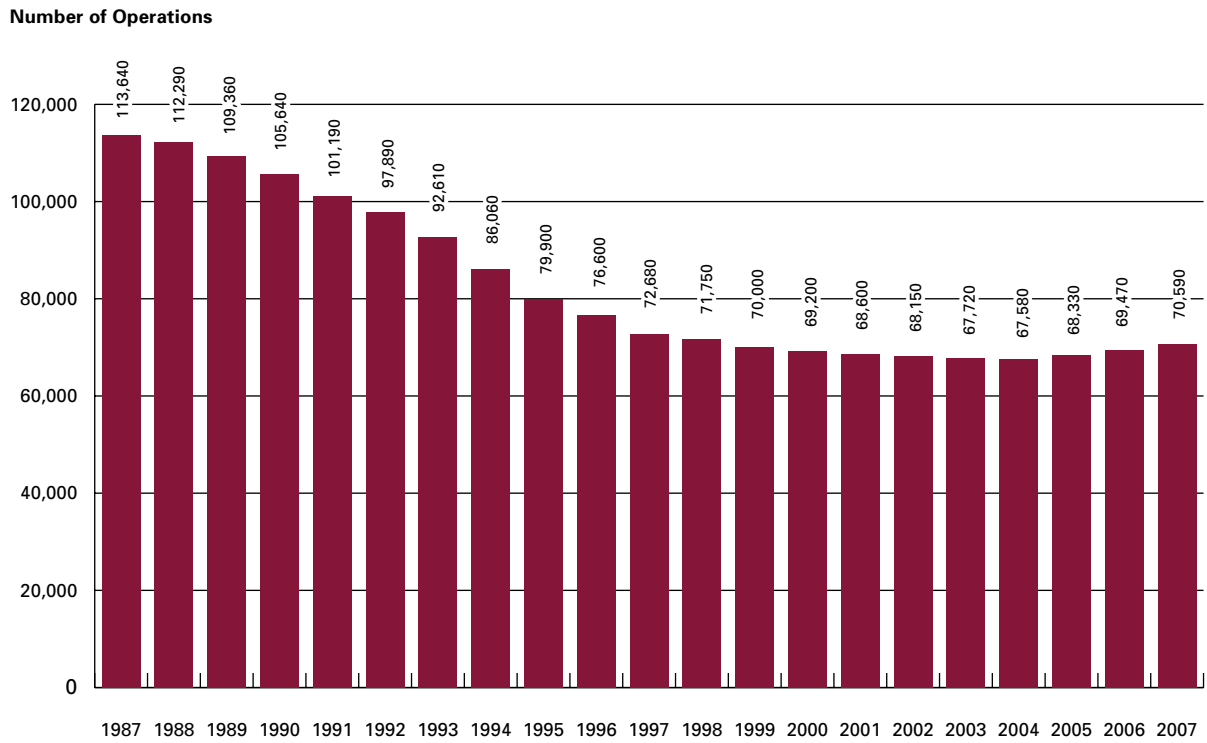
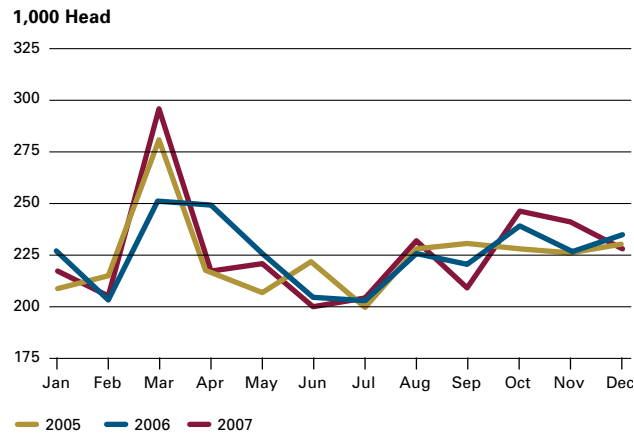


FIGURE 6.13B: Sheep: U.S. commercial slaughter, by month, 2005-07



Poultry Industries

The poultry industries are economically important to the Eastern States—especially the Southeastern States (map 12). The value of poultry and eggs is a high percentage of the total value of agricultural products sold in these States. In terms of value of production, the broiler segment of the poultry industries dominates other segments—eggs, turkeys, and chickens (excluding broilers). Broilers account for two-thirds of the value of production (fig. 6.14). The quantity of production for each segment has increased rapidly over the past 50 years (figs. 6.15a–c).

MAP 12: Value of Poultry and Eggs as Percent of Total Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 2002

United States: 11.9 Percent

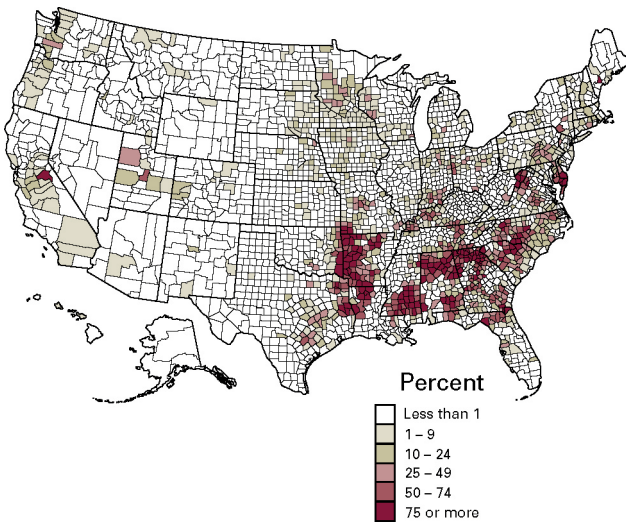


FIGURE 6.14: U.S. value of production: Broilers, eggs, turkeys, chickens, and total, 1997–2007

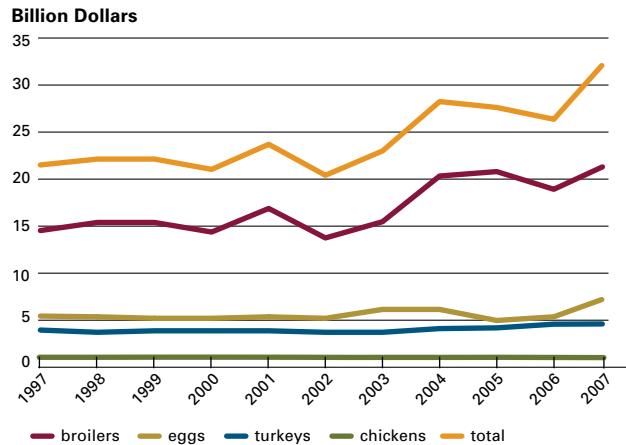


FIGURE 6.15A: U.S. broiler production, 1960–2006

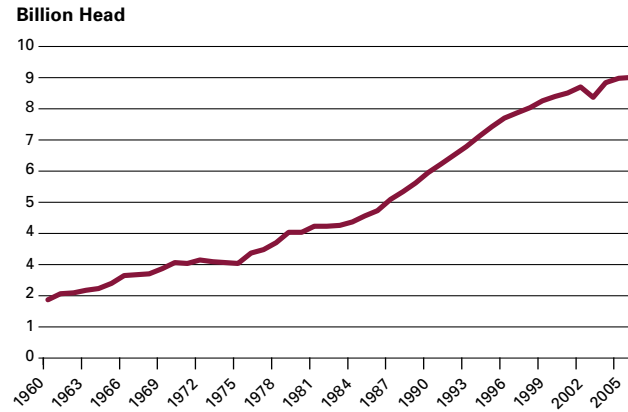


FIGURE 6.15B: U.S. egg production, 1960–2006

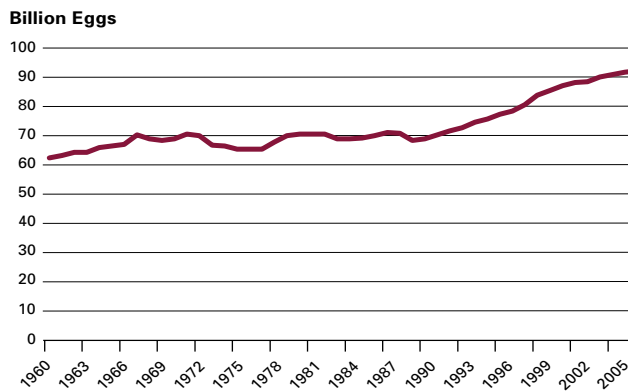
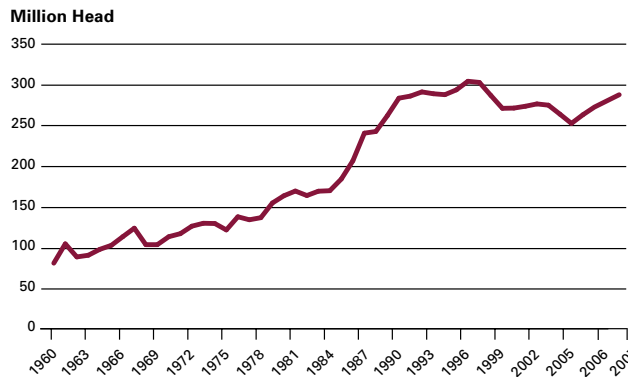


FIGURE 6.15C: U.S. turkey production, 1960–2006



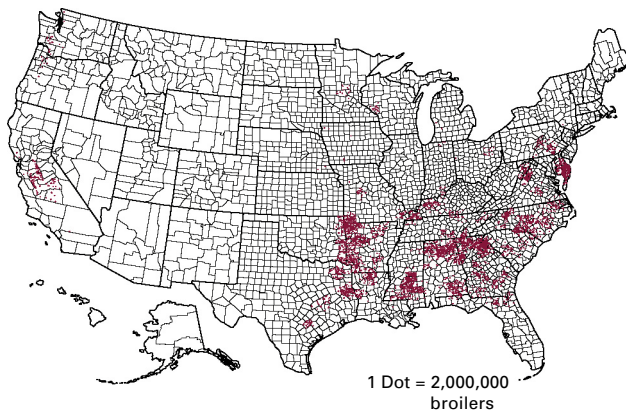
Broiler production is concentrated heavily in the Southeast (map 13), whereas layers are dispersed more widely over the Central and Eastern States (map 14).

Turkey production is concentrated in the eastern half of the United States (map 15). Arkansas, Minnesota, and North Carolina accounted for 43.4 percent of the 272 million turkeys raised in 2007.



MAP 13: Number of Broilers and Other Meat-Type Chickens Sold: 2002

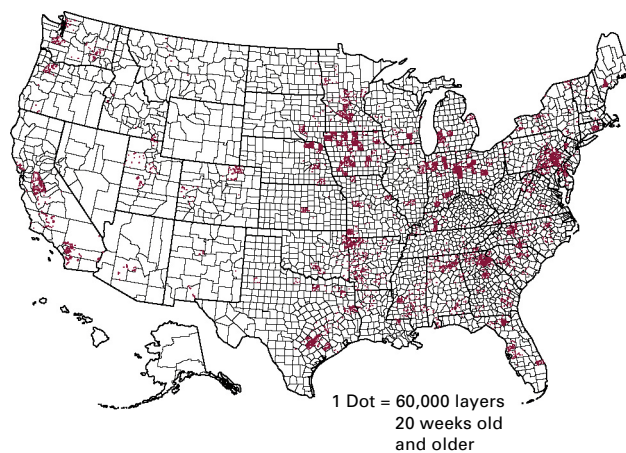
United States Total: 8,500,313,357



The broiler and layer industries are characterized by a relatively small number of large companies. USDA does not provide annual estimates of the number of companies or production sites. The value of broiler production was 67.3 percent of the \$31.9 billion poultry industries' production in 2007. Egg production accounted for 20.9 percent of the total value of production (table A1.10 in appendix 1).

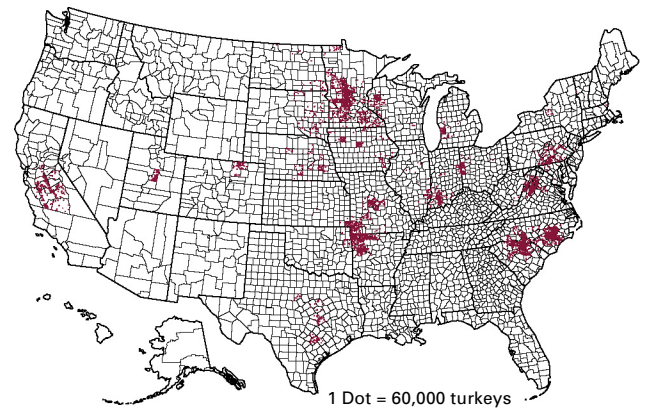
MAP 14: Layers 20 Weeks Old and Older – Inventory: 2002

United States Total: 334,435,155



MAP 15: Number of Turkeys Sold: 2002

United States Total: 283,247,649



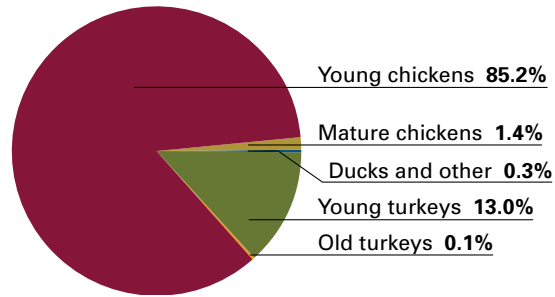
Hatchery statistics for 2007 include 9.57 billion broiler-type chickens hatched, 446 million egg-type chicks hatched, and 313 million poults hatched in turkey hatcheries. The collective capacity of the 315 chicken hatcheries on January 1, 2008, was 917 million eggs, and the capacity of the 54 turkey hatcheries was 40 million eggs.

More than 99 percent of total U.S. poultry slaughter for the major species takes place in federally-inspected slaughter plants.

In 2007, approximately 305 plants killed poultry under Federal inspection. Young chickens were killed in 34 States, and young turkeys were slaughtered in 26 States.

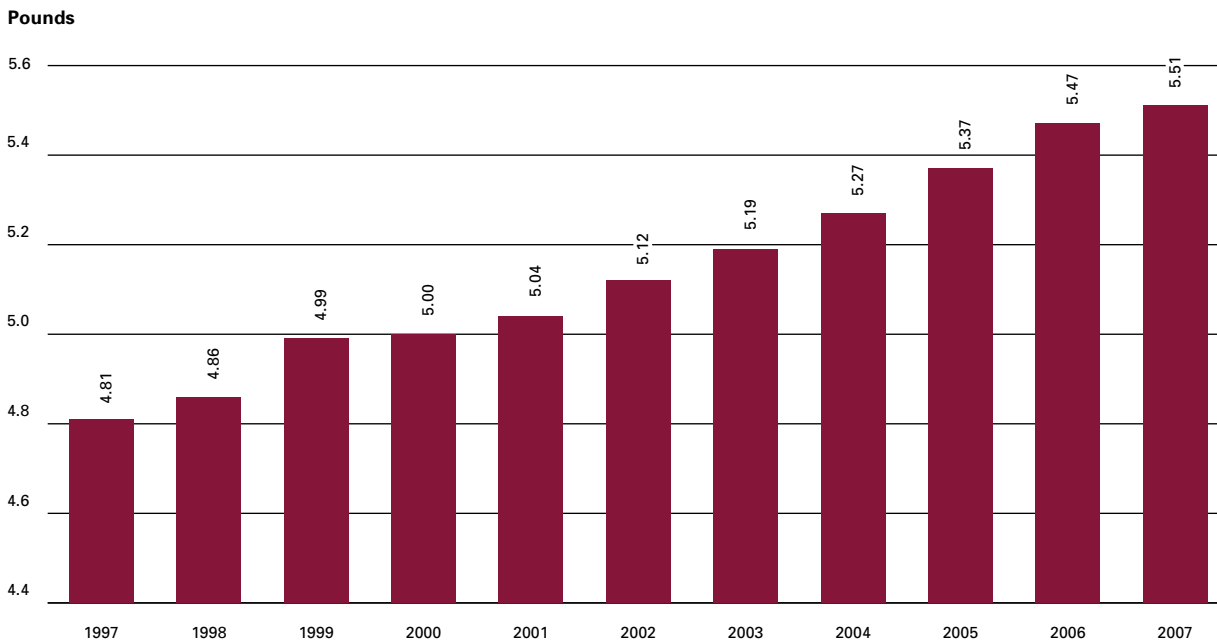
Slaughter of young chickens¹ accounted for 85.2 percent of the total live weight of poultry slaughtered in 2007 (fig. 6.16).

FIGURE 6.16: Poultry: Total live weight slaughtered in 2007, in percentage, by type of poultry



The average live weight of young chickens slaughtered has steadily increased over the previous decade (fig. 6.17).

FIGURE 6.17: Young chickens: Average slaughter live weight, in pounds, 1997–2007



Footnote

1. Young chickens are commercially grown broilers, fryers, and other young, immature birds (e.g., roasters and capons).

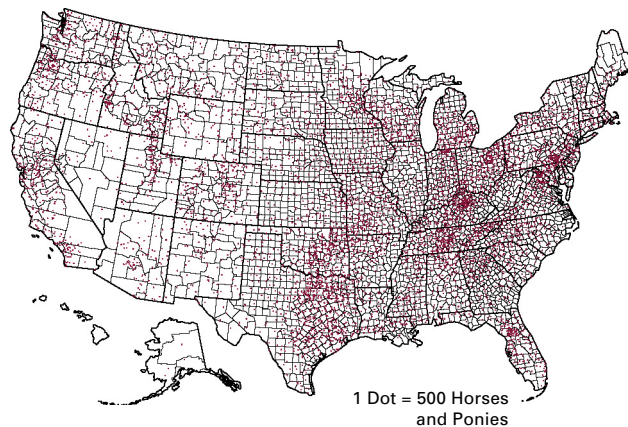
Equine Industry

Demographic statistics on the U.S. equine industry are sparse. USDA does not have an equine statistics program; the only data available date from 1998 and 1999.

The 2002 Census of Agriculture showed 3.64 million horses and ponies reported from 542,223 farms. Map 16 illustrates the broad and even distribution of horses and ponies across the United States. The 2002 Census also reported 105,358 mules, burros, and donkeys located on 29,936 farms.

MAP 16: Horses and Ponies—Inventory: 2002

United States Total: 3,644,278



Those figures may be compared with the last statistics published by USDA for equine inventories on all places. As of January 1, 1998, the inventory of equids on both farms and nonfarms totaled 5.25 million head. A year later, that figure was 5.32 million head (table A1.11 in appendix 1). In addition, 39.1 percent of the January 1, 1998, total was estimated to be on nonfarm locations. The estimated value of sales was \$1.64 billion for 1997 and \$1.75 billion for 1998.

USDA publishes no estimates for the number of operations with all types of equids and collects no information by size of equid operation for the United States.

Fish and Other Aquaculture Products

The 2002 Census of Agriculture estimated the value of aquaculture products sold at \$1.1 billion, or about 1 percent of the total \$105.5 billion sales for all livestock, poultry, and their products in the United States.

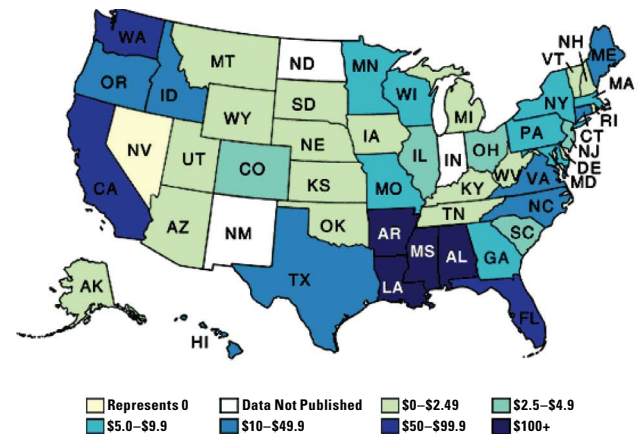
The 2005 Census of Aquaculture expanded data collection from the 2002 Census and now provides the most recent and comprehensive picture of the aquaculture sector. However, NASS collects information on the catfish and trout industries through monthly catfish processing surveys, semiannual catfish production surveys, and an annual trout survey (table A1.12 in appendix 1).

The target population for the 2005 Census of Aquaculture was comprised of all commercial or noncommercial sites that produced and either sold or distributed \$1,000 or more of aquaculture products during the census year.

MAP 17: Aquaculture Sales: 2005

United States Total Sales: \$1.09 Billion

Source: 2005 Census of Aquaculture, USDA–NASS



Aquaculture is important in the coastal States and is heavily concentrated in the four States of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi (map 17). These four States account for over half (51.7 percent) of the aquaculture sales in the United States.

In 2005, the United States had 4,309 aquaculture producers with estimated total sales of \$1.1 billion. Food fish accounted for 61.5 percent of sales. Table 6.2 shows that the industry is composed of relatively few (5.4 percent) large producers responsible for 61.8 percent of the total sales. Slightly more than one-half of water surface acres used for aquaculture production are from freshwater (table 6.3).

Honey Production

In 2007, honey production from producers with five or more colonies totaled 148.5 million pounds, which represents a 4-percent decrease from 2006 (table A1.13 in appendix 1). Figure 6.18 illustrates the decline in honey production over the last 20 years. This decrease, and a 0.4-percent decrease in honey prices, resulted in a 2007 production value of \$153.2 million, down 4.5 percent from the previous year. The distribution of honey production across the United States is rather widespread, although North Dakota accounted for 20.9 percent of the total production.

TABLE 6.2: Number of aquaculture farms and sales by sales category, 2005

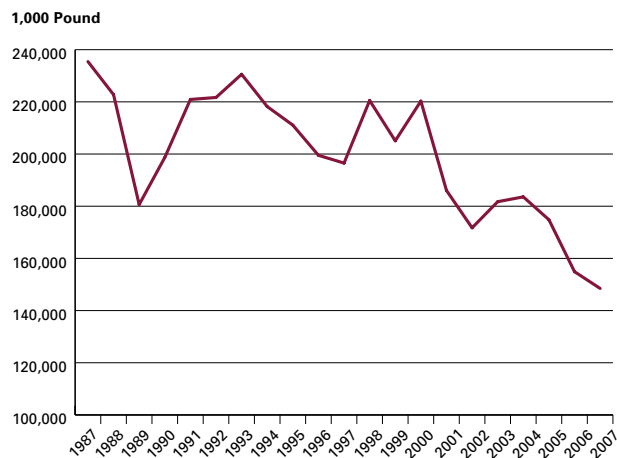
Sales Category (in dollars)	Farms		Sales	
	No.	Pct.	(\$1,000)	Pct.
<25,000	1,898	44.0	16,217	1.5
25,000 to 49,999	528	12.3	18,540	1.7
50,000 to 99,999	542	12.6	37,733	3.4
100,000 to 499,999	897	20.8	200,082	18.3
500,000 to 999,999	210	4.9	144,868	13.3
1,000,000 or more	234	5.4	674,948	61.8
Total	4,309	100.0	1,092,386*	100.0

* Sum of commodities may not add to total.

TABLE 6.3: Surface water acres used in aquaculture production, 2005

	Acres	Pct.
Freshwater	365,566	52.7
Saltwater	327,487	47.3
Total	693,053	100.0

FIGURE 6.18: U.S. honey production, 1987-2007



Miscellaneous

The 2002 Census of Agriculture reported several miscellaneous livestock and poultry commodities, which are shown in table A1.14 in appendix 1.

Number of Livestock Slaughter Plants in the United States

On January 1, 2008, there were 808 federally-inspected U.S. slaughter plants. Federally-inspected plants are those that transport meat interstate and must employ Federal inspectors to ensure compliance with USDA standards. There are additional plants considered federally inspected, called Talmedge–Aiken plants. Although USDA is responsible for inspection in these plants, actual inspection is carried out by State employees, who ensure that Federal regulations are being followed. During 2007, 626 plants slaughtered cattle (table A1.15 in appendix 1), and 14 of these plants accounted for 54 percent of the total cattle slaughtered. Six of the 232 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for 63 percent of the total, and 4 of the 480 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2007 produced 68 percent of the total number of head. (In 2007, 397 plants slaughtered goats.) Hogs were slaughtered at 618 plants; 11 of the largest plants accounted for 51 percent of the total. Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas accounted for 51 percent of U.S. commercial red-meat production in 2007. Monthly commercial red-meat production typically reaches a low point in February (fig. 6.19). Beef and pork dominated commercial production in 2007 (54.2 and 45.1 percent, respectively), as shown in figure 6.20.

On January 1, 2008, there were 2,119 State-inspected or custom-exempt slaughter plants in the United States, compared with 2,060 such plants on January 1, 2007. State-inspected plants sell and transport intrastate exclusively. State inspectors

FIGURE 6.19: U.S. commercial red meat production, by month, 2005–07

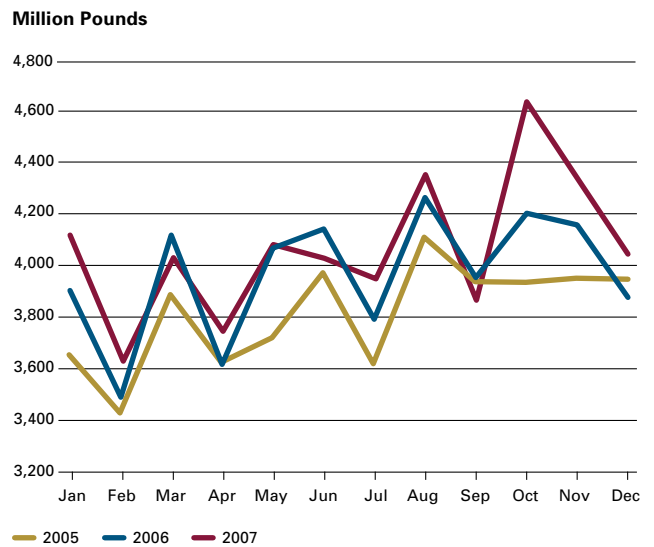
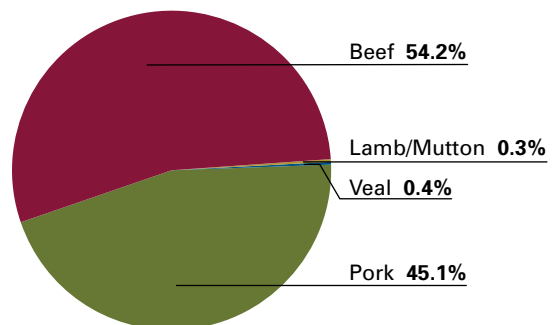


FIGURE 6.20: U.S. commercial red meat production, by percentage, 2007



ensure compliance with individual State standards as well as with Federal meat and poultry inspection statutes. Custom-exempt plants do not sell meat but operate on a custom slaughter basis only. The animals and meat are not federally inspected, but the facilities must meet local health requirements.