UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
MARKET NEWS SERVICE

IL2 MARKET STREET,
NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK.

REPORT OF THE DECEMBER 1, 1924 PIG SURVEY

WASHINGTON, D.C., JANUARY 13, 1925.

A hog production in 1925 procedurally as small as in any
year in the last ten and an acute shortage of hogs products in 1926 are indicated
in the December 1 pig survey made by the United States Department of Agriculture
in cooperation with the Post Office Department through the Rural Carriers.
The survey shows a decrease of 28.2 percent in the number of sows farrowing
in the fall of 1924 in the country as a whole from the number farrowed in the
fall of 1923. Because of a somewhat higher average number of pigs saved per
litter the decrease in pigs is only 22.2 percent. For the corn belt the decrease
in sows farrowed was 30.6 percent, and in pigs saved was 23.4 percent. Decreases
in the other regions, while large, were somewhat less than in the Corn Belt.

The numbers of sows bred or to be bred to farrow
in the spring of 1925 is shown as 54.3 percent of the number of sows that
actually farrowed in the spring of 1924, for the United States, and 89.6 percent
for the Corn Belt. Based upon the results of previous surveys which have shown
about how much the number of sows farrowed has fallen short of breeding intentions,
the present survey indicates a reduction of from 15-25 percent in sows that will
farrow in the Corn Belt in the spring of 1925 from the spring of 1924.

For the country as a whole, a somewhat similar reduction
is indicated. The reduction of 23.4 percent in the fall crop in the Corn Belt
follows that reduction of over 17 percent in the spring crop shown by the survey
of last June. The total number of pigs raised in the Corn Belt in 1924 was
probably fully 19 percent less than in 1923. Quantitatively, this represents a
reduction from 1923 of between 11 million and 12 million head, around 7 million
in the spring crop and 4,500,000 in the fall crop. But in spite of the large re-
duction in numbers corn the market movement to January 1 of the 1924 spring
crop of Corn Belt hogs has been almost as large as the movement to the same date
of the 1923 spring crop. December marketings and slaughter in 1924 were the
largest ever recorded. The reduction in sows bred this fall for spring farrow
compared to a year ago is indicated at around 2 million head in the Corn Belt.
These will go to increase the winter market supply and to decrease the marketings
next summer and fall, thus making the decreased supplies of the marketing year
the more marked in the second half of the year.

(SEE OTHER SIDE)

B. F. McCARTHY
LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE.