

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

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REPORT OF THE DECEMBER 1, 1924 PIG SURVEY

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

A HOG PRODUCTION IN 1925 PROBABLY AS SMALL AS IN ANY YEAR IN THE LAST TEN AND AN ACUTE SHORTAGE OF HOG PRODUCTS IN 1926 ARE INDICATED IN THE DECEMBER 1 PIG SURVEY MADE BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN CO-OPERATION 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 94.3 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 REDUCTION IN NUMBERS BORN 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.

G-1/14/25- 11:50 A.M.