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## December Pig Crop Up 3 Percent

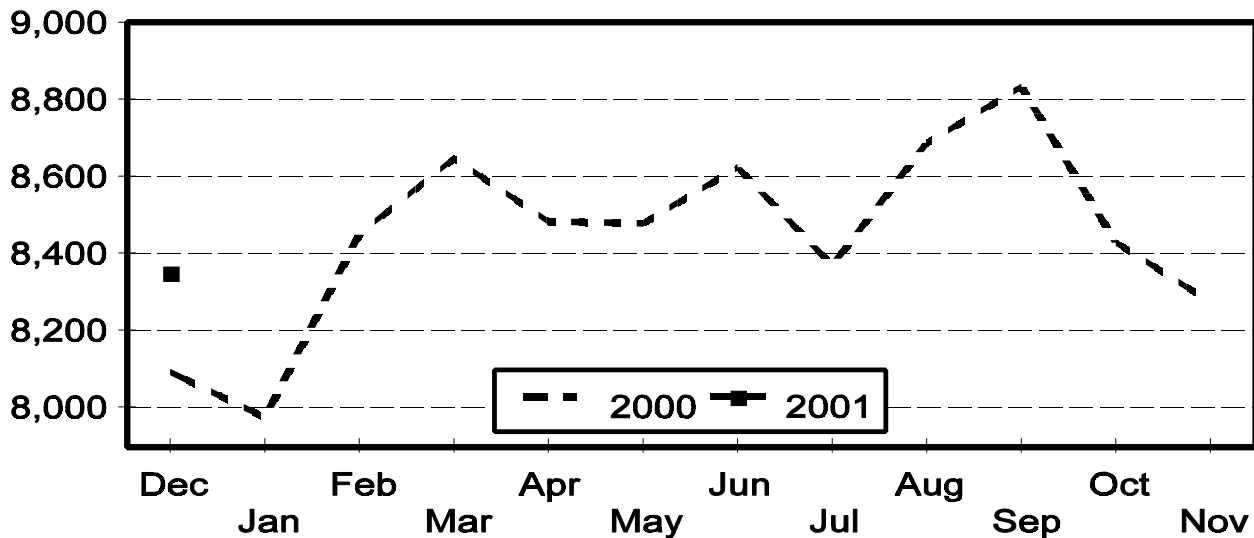
The December 2000 U.S. pig crop at 8.35 million head, was 3 percent more than the previous year. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 940 thousand head, 2 percent above last year. The average pigs per litter rose to 8.89 pigs saved per litter for December, compared to 8.77 pigs last year.

The U.S. inventory of sows and gilts totaled 6.03 million head on January 1, 2001.

U.S. sows and gilts bred during the month of December totaled 1.19 million head.

## U.S. Monthly Pig Crop

(000) Head



**Monthly Farrowings: Number of Sows, Pigs per Litter, and Pig Crop,  
United States December-November 2000-2001<sup>1 2</sup>**

Month	Sows Farrowing		Pigs per Litter		Pig Crop	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
Dec <sup>1</sup>	922	940	8.77	8.89	8,091	8,354
Jan	911		8.76		7,977	
Feb	965		8.76		8,454	
Mar	974		8.87		8,647	
Apr	959		8.84		8,484	
May	956		8.87		8,479	
Jun	975		8.85		8,626	
Jul	944		8.87		8,370	
Aug	980		8.87		8,690	
Sep	996		8.87		8,835	
Oct	947		8.90		8,428	
Nov	932		8.88		8,274	
Total	11,462		8.84		101,355	

<sup>1</sup> December preceding year.

<sup>2</sup> Monthly values may not add to quarterly or annual totals due to rounding.

**Monthly Sows and Gilts: Inventory and Number Bred,  
United States December-November 2000-2001<sup>1 2</sup>**

Month	Inventory 1st of Month			Bred during Month		
	2000	2001		2000	2001	
		Number	as % of 2000		Number	as % of 2000
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Dec <sup>2</sup>		6,095			1,185	
Jan		6,030				
Feb						
Mar						
Apr						
May						
Jun						
Jul						
Aug						
Sep				1,234		
Oct	6,072			1,183		
Nov	6,055			1,168		
Total						

<sup>1</sup> Data series beginning October 2000.

<sup>2</sup> December preceding year.

**Survey Procedures:** A random sample of 3,100 U.S. producers from contractors to independent producers were used to provide data for these estimates. Survey procedures ensured that all breeding and farrowing operations, regardless of size, had a chance to be included in the survey. Large producers were sampled more heavily than small operations. Data were collected during the first-half of the month by mail, telephone, and face-to-face personal interviews. Operations were asked to provide information on sow and gilt inventories as of the first of the month, sows and gilts bred during the previous month, sows and gilts farrowed during the previous month, and the pig crop from these litters.

**Revision Policy:** Revisions to previous monthly estimates are made during the quarterly report. These revisions are to improve month to month, and quarter to quarter relationships. In December, estimates for all months and quarters of the current and previous year are reviewed. The reviews are primarily based on hog check-off receipts and slaughter. Estimates will also be reviewed after data from the Department of Agriculture five-year Census of Agriculture are available. No revisions will be made after that date.

**Reliability:** Since all operations with sow and gilt inventory are not included in the sample, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplication, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. The affects of these errors cannot be measured directly. They are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and through a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

The next "Monthly Hogs and Pigs" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on February 23, 2001.

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