

## LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS 2008

All cattle and calves on farms January 1, 2009, in New Jersey totaled 38,000 head, unchanged from the previous year. Value per head decreased \$40 from the previous year to \$1,210. The 2008 inventory value was estimated at \$46.0 million, \$1.5 million less than the total from a year ago.

**Cattle:** The total number of milk cows and beef cows on January 1, 2009, was 10,000 head and 9,500 head, respectively, with milk cows unchanged and beef cows up 500 head from the previous year. Of the total cattle and calf inventory, cows that have calved accounted for 51 percent. Heifers weighing 500 pounds or more totaled 9,500 head, 25 percent of total inventory. Of these, 5,000 were milk cow replacements, 2,500 were beef cow replacements, and 2,000 were intended for slaughter. There were 2,000 steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 5 percent of all cattle and calves. Bulls at 500 pounds and over numbered 1,000 head or 3 percent of the total inventory. Calves less than 500 pounds accounted for the remaining 6,000 animals, 16 percent of all cattle and calves on January 1, 2009. The 2008 calf crop totaled 14,000 head, unchanged from 2007.

**Milk:** Milk production in the Garden State totaled 165 million pounds, down 2 percent from the 168 million pounds produced in 2007. The average number of milk cows was 10,000 head, unchanged from the previous year. Milk per cow averaged 16,500 pounds in 2008 compared to 16,800 a year earlier. Value of production of milk totaled \$30.5 million during 2008, compared to \$32.9 million in 2007. The leading milk

producing counties were Salem, Sussex, Warren and Gloucester, accounting for 80 percent of the state total.

**Hogs and Pigs:** All hogs and pigs on New Jersey farms December 1, 2008 totaled 8,000 head, down by 1,000 head from the previous year. Value per head averaged \$99, an increase of \$17 from 2007. The total value of the hog and pig inventory amounted to \$792,000, up \$54,000 from the previous year. Of the total hogs and pigs on farm in the state, 13 percent were kept for breeding and 87 percent were market hogs. The New Jersey pig crop totaled 7,000, down 13 percent from 2007.

**Chicken and Eggs:** Egg production in the Garden State in 2008 decreased to 421 million eggs, compared to 435 million eggs in 2007. Eggs per layer averaged 266, down from 280, the year before. Average layer numbers on New Jersey farms totaled 1.58 million during 2008, compared to the 1.55 million in 2007. In 2008, poultry managers in the state received an average of 119.0 cents per dozen eggs, compared with 92.1 cents in 2007. The value of egg production in 2008 rose by 25 percent from 2007, to \$41.6 million.

**Honey:** Honey production in 2008 amounted to 360,000 pounds, decreasing 30 percent from the 513,000 pounds produced the year before. Beekeepers received an average price of 158 cents per pound in 2008, down 38 cents per pound from the previous year. The value of production decreased from the 2007 level of \$1,005,000 to \$569,000 in 2008.