

# Livestock and Livestock Products

All cattle and calves on farms January 1, 2004, in New Jersey totaled 46,000 head, the same as the previous year. Value per head decreased \$20 from the previous year to \$990. The 2004 inventory value was estimated at \$45.5 million, \$.92 million less than the total of a year ago.

The total number of milk cow on January 1, 2004, was 12,000 head, 1,000 head less than the previous year. Beef cows were estimated at 10,000 head, 1,000 more than the January 1, 2003, total. Of the total cattle and calf inventory, cows that have calved accounted for 48 percent. Heifers weighing 500 pounds or more totaled 12,000 head, 26 percent of total inventory. Of these, 6,000 were milk cow replacements, 3,500 were beef cow replacements, and 2,500 were intended for slaughter. There were 3,000 steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 7 percent of all cattle and calves. Bulls at 500 pounds and greater numbered 1,000 head or 2 percent of the total inventory. Calves under 500 pounds accounted for the remaining 8,000 animals, 17 percent of all cattle and calves on January 1, 2004. The 2003 calf crop was the same as 2002, totaling 18,000 head.

Milk production in the Garden State totaled 216 million pounds, down 9 percent from the 236 million pounds produced in 2002. The average number of milk cows remained unchanged at 13,000 head. Milk per cow averaged 16,615 pounds in 2003 compared to 18,154 a year earlier. The leading milk producing counties were Salem, Sussex, Warren and Burlington, accounting for 76 percent of the state's total. Value of production of milk totaled \$27.6 million during 2003, compared to \$30.2 million in 2002.

All hogs and pigs on New Jersey farms totaled 12,000 head on December 1, 2003.

This number was a decrease of 3,000 head (20 percent) from the number of head on December 1, 2002. Value per head averaged \$79, \$5 dollars less than a year ago.

The total value of the hog and pig inventory value amounted to \$948,000, down \$312,000 from the previous year. Of the total hogs and pigs on farm in the state, 8 percent were kept for breeding and 92 percent were market hogs. The New Jersey pig crop totaled 5,600, down 68 percent from 2002.

Egg production in the Garden State in 2003 decreased to 556 million eggs, compared to 534 million eggs in 2002. Eggs per layer averaged 282, up from 268 the year before. Average layer numbers on New Jersey farms totaled 1.97 million during 2003, compared to the 1.99 million in 2002. In 2003, poultry managers in the state received on average 63 cents per dozen eggs, 12 cents more than the previous year. The value of egg production in 2003 was up 28 percent from 2002 at \$29.2 million.

New Jersey turkey production in 2003 was 33,000 birds, down 1,000 from the number of turkeys raised the previous year. Turkey growers received an average price of 78 cents per pound, 1 cent less than the price in 2002. In 2003, the value of production decreased to \$535,000, down 3 percent from the \$551,000 the year before.

Honey production in 2003 amounted to 190,000 pounds, decreasing 57 percent from the 440,000 pounds produced the year before. Beekeepers received an average price of 157 cents per pound in 2003, up 57 cents from the previous year. The value of production fell from the 2002 level of \$440,000 to \$298,000 in 2003.