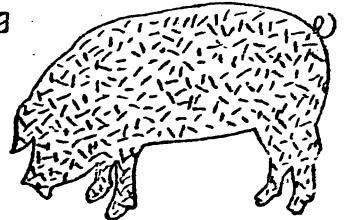


# PIG CROP REPORT



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
CROP REPORTING BOARD  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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## PIG CROP REPORT - DECEMBER 1948

The Crop Reporting Board of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics makes the following report of sows farrowing, pigs per litter, and pigs saved. This report is based upon returns from some 130,000 farmers obtained in cooperation with the Post Office Department through the rural mail carriers. 3

	SPRING PIG CROP (December 1 - June 1)			FALL PIG CROP (June 1 - December 1)		
	<u>Average: 1948</u> <u>: 1949</u> <u>: 1937-46:</u>			<u>Average: 1947</u> <u>: 1948</u> <u>: 1937-46:</u>		
	<u>of 1243</u> <u>: 1249</u> <u>: of 1243</u>			<u>of 1948</u> <u>: 1947</u> <u>: of 194</u>		
	<u>Thousand head</u>			<u>Thousand head</u>		
SOWS FARROWING						
United States	8,518	7,967	<u>1/</u> 9,086	114	5,344	4,907
N. Cent. States (Corn Belt)	6,225	5,874	<u>1/</u> 6,899	117	3,345	3,100
PIGS SAVED						
United States	52,968	51,286	<u>2/</u> 56,500	110	33,954	31,345
N. Cent. States (Corn Belt)	39,380	38,414	<u>2/</u> 43,500	113	21,691	20,018
PIGS PER LITTER						
United States	6.23	6.44			6.35	6.39
N. Cent. States (Corn Belt)	<u>6.34</u>	<u>6.54</u>			6.49	6.46
	<u>PIGS SAVED ANNUALLY</u>				<u>Number</u>	
	<u>(Year ended Dec. 1)</u>				<u>Number</u>	
	<u>Average: 1947</u> <u>: 1948</u> <u>: 1937-46:</u>				<u>Number</u>	
	<u>of 1947</u> <u>: of 1948</u> <u>: of 1937-46:</u>				<u>Number</u>	
	<u>Thousand head</u>				<u>Number</u>	
United States	86,922	84,147	85,281	101		
N. Cent. States (Corn Belt)	61,071	60,327	60,760	101		

1/ 1949 spring farrowings are indicated from breeding intentions reports.

2/ Average number of pigs per litter (1937-46) used to compute indicated number of spring pigs. Number rounded to nearest 500,000 head.

APPROVED:

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# PIG CROP REPORT - DECEMBER 1948

The 1948 pig crop totaled 85,281,000 head, an increase of about 1 percent over last year the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. This increase resulted from a larger fall pig crop since the spring crop was 3 percent smaller than last year. The fall pig crop of 33,995,000 head was 8 percent larger than last year. The number of sows farrowing this fall was 5 percent larger than last fall and exceeded the intentions reported last June by 5 percent. The pigs per litter at 6.58 is the largest on record for the fall season.

An increase of 14 percent over last spring is indicated in the number of sows to farrow in the spring of 1949. Assuming average-size litters, this would mean a spring pig crop in 1949 of 56.5 million, about 10 percent over last spring. The number of hogs over 6 months old on farms and ranches on December 1 was about 2 percent smaller than last year - mostly because of the smaller spring pig crop. Marketings from the spring pig crop have been more rapid than usual but about as fast as last year.

This report is based upon a survey of about 130,000 farms and ranches. These returns were obtained largely in cooperation with the Post Office Department through the rural mail carriers.

Fall Pig Crop: The number of pigs saved in the fall season of 1948 (June 1 to December 1) is estimated to be 33,995,000 head. This is 2,650,000 head or 8 percent larger than the 1947 fall pig crop and about the same as the 1937-46 average. The 1948 fall pig crop is the largest since 1945 and the fifth largest in the 25 years of record. Except in the South Atlantic States, where the fall pig crop is 2 percent smaller than last year, fall pig numbers are larger in all regions than in 1947. The north Atlantic States are up 5 percent; the East North Central up 8 percent; the West North Central up 16 percent; the South Central up 4 percent; and the West up 10 percent.

The number of sows farrowing in the 1948 fall season was 5,169,000 an increase of 262,000 or 5 percent above 1947. This number is 3 percent below the 1937-46 average. The number of sows farrowing this fall is also 5 percent larger than indicated by farmers' reports on breeding intentions as shown in the June 1948 Pig Crop Report. The greatest increases above intentions occurred in the North Central States. Comparing 1948 with 1947, the percentages as shown in the June report and as now estimated are as follows: North Atlantic, June, 98, and now, 105; East North Central 99 and 104; West North Central 102 and 111; South Atlantic 97 and 96; South Central 98 and 103; and Western 108 and 111.

The number of pigs saved per litter is the largest on record. The 6.58 pigs saved per litter is 3 percent above the 1947 number and 4 percent above the 10-year average of 6.35. Generally good weather at farrowing time and better care are among the reasons given by respondents for the increase in the average litter size.

The monthly distribution of farrowings in the 1948 fall season shows larger percentage than last year in June, October and November with somewhat smaller percentages in July, August and September. The shifts are relatively small, and the pattern is about the same as last year. The percentage of sows farrowing each month of the 1948 fall season is as follows: June 11.4, July 11.3, August 19.4, September 30.0, October 17.2, and November 7.7.

Yearly Pig Crop: The combined spring and fall pig crop of 1948 is estimated at 85,281,000 head. This is an increase of 1,131,000 head or about 1 percent over the 1947 crop but is 2 percent less than the 10-year average.

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Spring Intentions: Farmers' reports on breeding intentions indicate 9,086,000 sows to farrow in the spring of 1949, an increase of 14 percent above last year. This would be 7 percent above the 10-year average and the largest number of spring farrowings since 1944. Compared with last year, all regions except the South Atlantic show increases, with the Corn Belt States sharply up. By regions the indicated changes are as follows: North Atlantic, up 8 percent; East North Central, up 16 percent; West North Central, up 18 percent; South Central, up 6 percent and the Western, up 7 percent. The South Atlantic region shows about the same number of sows to farrow next spring as last.

These estimated changes from last year are based on breeding intentions reported by farmers about December 1, considering the relationship of intentions to actual farrowings in other years when hog prices were high and the hog-corn ratio and corn supplies were above average.

If the intentions for spring farrowing materialize and the number of pigs saved per litter is about the same as the 10-year average, the 1949 spring pig crop will be about 56.5 million head, 10 percent larger than in 1948. For the Corn Belt, the crop would be 13 percent larger. The goal suggested by the Department of Agriculture for spring pigs is 60 million head.

Hogs on Farms Over 6 Months Old: According to reports from farmers the number of hogs over 6 months old on December 1 was about 2 percent smaller than a year earlier. Marketings of 1948 spring pigs have been about as rapid as last year when a fairly large percentage of the crop moved before January 1. The movement this year is unusually heavy in view of the record corn crop and prevailing favorable level of hog prices in relation to corn. In most other years when the movement has been heavy before January 1, the corn crop has been well below average.

CROP REPORTING BOARD