

Office of Agricultural Statistician, Springfield, Illinois, December 31, 1940.

PIG CROP REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1, 1940

The fall pig crop in Illinois this year is estimated at 2,819,000 head or 5 percent smaller than that of 1939. With the spring pig crop of 1940 reported 3 percent smaller, the combined pig crop for 1940 is about 3 percent under that of 1939, according to the December Pig Crop Survey of the ILLINOIS and U.S. DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE made in cooperation with the Post Office Department through the rural mail carriers. Apparently the decline in hog production will continue into 1941 since the indicated number of sows to farrow in the spring of 1941 is 11 percent smaller than the number farrowed in the spring of 1940.

A favorable fall farrowing season resulted in a record high average of 6.48 pigs saved per litter. Combining the 2,819,000 pigs saved from fall litters with the 4,600,000 spring pig crop indicates a 7,419,000 pig crop in 1940. This compares with the 7,676,000 crop of 1939 and the 1929-38 average crop of 6,205,000 head.

The downswing in hog production in the United States which began in the spring of 1940 continued through the fall and will continue at least through the spring season of 1941. The decline apparently has been at an increasing rate. The percentage decrease in the 1940 fall pig crop was greater than that of last spring, and the indicated percentage decrease for the spring of 1941 is a little greater than that for the fall of 1940.

The fall pig crop of 1940 is estimated at 28,587,000 head - a decrease of 4,100,000 head or 12.5 percent from the fall crop of 1939. Excepting 1939, however, this year's fall crop was the largest since 1933, and it was about 11 percent above the 10-year (1929-38) average, which period included the small crops of the severe drought years. The combined spring and fall pig crop of 1940 is estimated at 76,976,000 head, about 10 percent smaller than the record large crop of 1939 but larger than in any other year since 1933.

The number of sows to farrow in the spring season of 1941 (Dec. 1, 1940 to June 1, 1941) is indicated at 6,938,000. This number is 14 percent smaller than the number of sows that farrowed in the spring of 1940, 20 percent below the number in the spring of 1939, and about the same as in 1938. While much above the low production years of the drought period, the number of sows indicated to farrow for the coming spring is much below any year of record prior to 1934. If hog prices should advance substantially during the next 40 days, and the hog-corn ratio becomes favorable, the actual decreases in the Corn Belt States may not be so large as those indicated in this report. It is apparent from returns from farmers that the 1940 spring pig crop is going to market early.

State	SOWS FARROWED						PIGS SAVED					
	Spring			Fall			Spring			Fall		
	(Dec. 1 - June 1) 1940	(June 1 - Dec. 1) 1941 1/2	(June 1 - Dec. 1) 1939	(Dec. 1 - June 1) 1940	(June 1 - Dec. 1) 1939	(June 1 - Dec. 1) 1940	(Dec. 1 - June 1) 1939	(June 1 - Dec. 1) 1940	(Dec. 1 - June 1) 1939	(June 1 - Dec. 1) 1940	(Dec. 1 - June 1) 1939	(June 1 - Dec. 1) 1940
(000)	(000)	% of 1940	(000)	(000)	% of 1939	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	% of 1939
Ohio	405	352	87	368	350	95	2,602	2,499	2,473	2,366	96	
Ind.	572	498	87	438	420	96	3,371	3,461	2,891	2,776	96	
Ill.	768	684	89	468	435	93	4,718	4,600	2,958	2,819	95	
Mich.	128	106	83	100	94	94	799	817	683	632	93	
Wis.	324	288	89	169	156	92	2,067	2,142	1,163	1,078	93	
Minn.	714	643	90	210	206	98	4,620	4,420	1,319	1,306	99	
Iowa	1,704	1,568	92	657	591	90	11,326	10,360	4,146	3,729	90	
Mo.	415	324	78	366	326	89	2,735	2,511	2,383	2,126	89	
N. Dak.	122	110	90	16	16	100	787	791	101	102	101	
S. Dak.	259	220	85	52	47	90	1,701	1,588	317	290	91	
Nebr.	379	303	80	148	112	76	2,832	2,285	888	681	77	
Kans.	178	135	76	171	128	75	1,376	1,096	1,062	827	78	
CORN												
BELT	5,968	5,231	88	3,163	2,881	91	38,934	36,570	20,384	18,732	92	
U. S.	8,057	6,938	86	5,192	4,504	87	53,207	48,389	32,687	28,587	87	

1/ Number indicated to farrow from breeding intentions reports.

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