

Agri-Food Statistics Update



Issue No: LS10-02

Collected from a variety of sources, the Statistics and Data Development Branch monitors statistical indicators of agri-food activity for Alberta. The Agri-Food Statistics Update is designed to provide users with commentary on current issues, trends and new developments related to agriculture and the food and beverage processing industries. Up-to-date statistics are supplemented with informative charts and diagrams. To gauge Alberta's performance, comparative data and information are often available for Canada and the provinces.

Please visit the following website for a complete listing of Agri-Food Statistics Update releases:

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd5270](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd5270)

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**Government
of Alberta** 

July 1, 2010 Livestock Inventory Estimates - Alberta/Canada

On August 19, Statistics Canada released the **July 1, 2010** inventory estimates for cattle, pigs, and sheep on farms in Alberta and other Canadian provinces. This issue focuses primarily on the Alberta estimates, which were jointly prepared by Statistics Canada and the Statistics and Data Development Branch of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development.

The latest estimates show Alberta's total cattle and calf inventory at 5.51 million head, 5.6 per cent below a year ago. The provincial pig herd contracted 2.3 per cent to 1.50 million head, while the sheep and lamb flock increased 2.3 per cent to 181,000 head.

The estimates present potential marketings (i.e. supply which could become available), based on the size of the breeding herd and imports. Such information is useful to producers and others when making decisions relating to marketings, pricing, future production, as well as in estimating farm income and farm expenses.

As alluded to earlier, determination of the provincial livestock inventory estimates are undertaken jointly with Statistics Canada. The process involves verifying commodity supply and disposition variables to arrive at ending stocks. The supply variables are opening stocks, births and imports (interprovincial/international), while the disposition variables include deaths and condemnations, marketings, and exports (interprovincial/international). Administrative data are used where available, supplemented with some estimates where data are not timely or available. Hence, **the inventory estimates are subject to revision**. Given this limitation, users are advised to exercise some caution when using the estimates.

August 25, 2010

(Please turn over)

Selected Livestock on Alberta Farms, as of July 1, 2010

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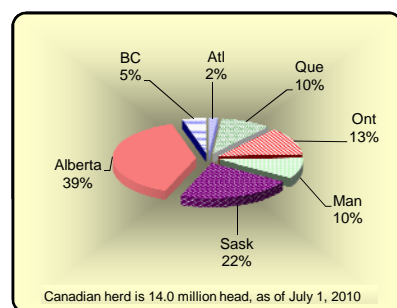
	2006	2007	2008	2009r	2010p	% Change ('10/'09)	% of West. Cda	% of Canada
Key Messages								
Total Cattle and Calves	6,300,000	6,410,000	6,010,000	5,830,000	5,506,000	-5.6	51.9	39.3
Bulls, 1 year plus	105,000	108,000	105,000	96,000	95,500	-0.5	47.5	40.0
Beef Cows	2,025,000	2,076,000	1,955,000	1,790,000	1,704,000	-4.8	45.2	39.1
Milk Cows	82,000	83,000	86,000	88,500	88,500	0.0	38.1	9.0
Heifers: dairy replacement	38,000	38,000	40,000	40,500	40,000	-1.2	37.4	8.9
Heifers: beef replacement	278,000	284,000	267,000	250,000	249,000	-0.4	46.6	39.9
Heifers: slaughter	812,000	835,000	750,000	785,000	725,000	-7.6	76.8	63.0
Steers, 1 year plus	888,000	1,000,000	805,000	845,000	749,000	-11.4	69.7	50.1
Calves, under 1 year	2,072,000	1,986,000	2,002,000	1,935,000	1,855,000	-4.1	49.5	39.4
Total Pigs	2,056,000	1,970,000	1,670,000	1,530,000	1,495,000	-2.3	30.3	12.7
Breeding Stock	195,100	189,500	171,000	161,500	153,100	-5.2	26.8	11.7
Boars, 6 months plus	7,100	6,900	6,000	5,000	4,600	-8.0	44.2	22.8
Sows & Bred Gilts	188,000	182,600	165,000	156,500	148,500	-5.1	26.5	11.6
All Other Pigs	1,860,900	1,780,500	1,499,000	1,368,500	1,341,900	-1.9	30.8	12.8
Under 20 kg	614,400	582,200	504,800	441,900	426,400	-3.5	28.6	11.7
20 - 60 kg	676,400	615,200	488,800	476,500	476,500	0.0	34.2	14.0
Over 60 kg	570,100	583,100	505,400	450,100	439,000	-2.5	29.8	12.7
Total Sheep and Lambs	228,000	205,000	185,000	177,000	181,000	2.3	43.8	17.4
Rams	5,200	4,800	4,000	4,000	4,000	0.0	42.6	17.3
Ewes	103,600	92,000	88,200	84,600	84,700	0.1	43.9	15.7
Replacement Lambs	16,000	15,800	11,500	12,000	13,200	10.0	34.6	14.2
Market Lambs	103,200	92,400	81,300	76,400	79,100	3.5	45.8	20.4

Source: Statistics Canada

Alberta's Cattle and Calf Inventory fell 5.6 per cent

As of July 1, 2010, the estimated provincial cattle and calves herd contracted 5.6 per cent to 5.51 million head, from a year ago. This marks the third consecutive "year-over-year" decline, and is the smallest inventory since 1994.

Percentage of Canadian Cattle and Calf Inventory

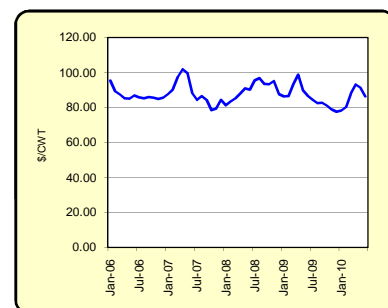


Alberta's beef breeding herd, comprising cows and replacement heifers, declined by 4.3 per cent to 1,953,000 head. Beef cows fell 4.8 per cent to 1,704,000 head. This marks the third consecutive "year-over-year" decline, and is the smallest since 1992. Likewise, beef replacement heifers fell for the third consecutive year to 249,000 head, a 0.4 per cent drop, and is the lowest number in over twenty years. These declines signal that the beef herd is not re-building.

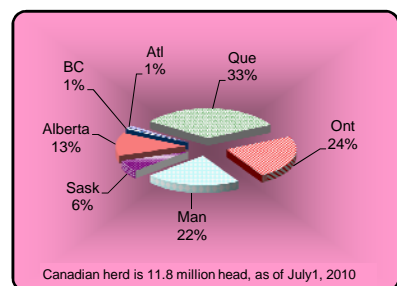
Also declining were heifers for slaughter, falling 7.6 per cent to 725,000 head. The inventory of calves fell by 4.1 per cent to 1,855,000 head. Down as well, was the size of the provincial dairy herd (cows and heifers), which fell by 0.4 per cent to 128,500 head. Milk cows remained flat at 88,500 head, while replacement dairy heifers decreased by 1.2 per cent to 40,000 head.

Despite improved forage and pasture conditions this spring, favourable cow market prices and issues surrounding mandatory country of origin labeling may be some of the factors behind the continued herd reduction.

Monthly Alberta Slaughter Steer Price, 2006-2010*



Percentage of Canadian Hog Inventory



Alberta's Hog Inventory decreased 2.3 per cent

As of July 1, 2010, the estimated pigs on Alberta farms totalled 1,495,000 head, down 2.3 per cent from a year ago. Inventories were down for total market hogs and breeding stock.

Total market hogs were estimated at 1,341,900 head, down 1.9 per cent from the previous year. Hogs in the "under 20 kilograms" class contracted 3.5 per cent to 426,400 head, while hogs in the "over 60 kilograms" class dropped 2.5 per cent to 439,000 head. Those in the "20 to 60 kilograms" class remained unchanged at 476,500 head.

The size of the provincial pig breeding herd declined for the eighth consecutive time on a "year-over-year" basis. The estimated number of boars, sows and bred gilts, totalled 153,100 head, 5.2 per cent lower than a year ago. Sows and bred gilts contracted 5.1 per cent to 148,500 head, while boars fell 8.0 per cent to 4,600 head, mainly due to increased use of artificial insemination (A.I.).

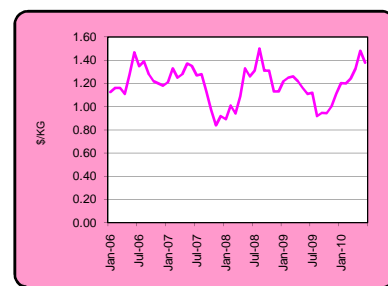
Contraction of the pig herd continues to be affected by factors such as high feed costs, relatively strong slaughter hog prices, and mandatory country of origin labeling.

Alberta's Sheep and Lamb Inventory increased 2.3 per cent

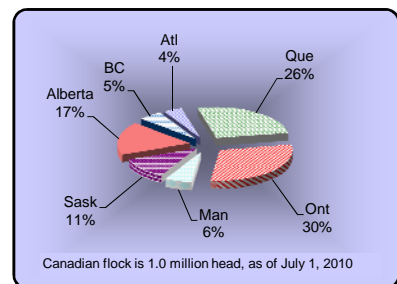
The estimated number of sheep and lamb on Alberta farms increased by 2.3 per cent to 181,000 head. Ewe numbers went up by 0.1 per cent to 84,700 head, while market lambs rose by 3.5 per cent to 79,100. Ram numbers remained unchanged at 4,000 head, while replacement lambs rose 10.0 per cent to 13,200 head.

Favourable pasture and forage conditions and relatively strong market lamb prices are some of the factors behind this growth.

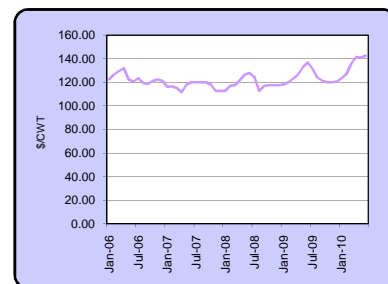
Monthly Alberta Index 100 Hog Price, 2006-2010*



Percentage of Canadian Sheep and Lamb Inventory



Monthly Alberta Slaughter Lamb Price, 2006-2010*



Source: Statistics Canada; Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) p preliminary and may be subject to revision r revised

August 25, 2010

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