

Livestock and Poultry Inventory

Livestock inventory in the Census of Agriculture reflects the number of livestock on the farm reported by farmer operators at the beginning of the calendar year. Most livestock inventories declined from 1992-97 (Tables 17 and 18). Dairy cow inventory was down (-13 percent) to 121,823 head, hog inventory was down (-7 percent) to 385,755 head, and sheep inventory was down (-37 percent) to 73,932 head. Sheep and lamb inventory fell by 54 percent from 1987-97 in Virginia. Beef cow inventories were up marginally (+2 percent) to 688,541. Poultry inventories rose dramatically. Broiler inventories were up (+23 percent) to 41,360,070 birds, and turkey inventories were up (+22 percent) to 8,175,875 birds.

Table 17. Livestock and Poultry Inventory by Extension District

| Extension District | Beef Cows | Dairy Cows | Hogs | Sheep | Broilers | Turkeys |
|--------------------|-----------|------------|---------|--------|------------|-----------|
| Central | 163,228 | 27,472 | 39,980 | 3,742 | 6,516,536 | 96 |
| Northeast | 13,047 | 3,198 | 1,259 | 1,368 | 842,538 | 50 |
| Northern | 135,853 | 17,550 | 3,834 | 11,907 | 467 | 128,283 |
| Northwest | 143,267 | 44,583 | 16,520 | 35,070 | 28,299,414 | 7,932,630 |
| Southeast | 5,353 | 1,018 | 144,864 | 839 | 5,150,145 | 4 |
| Southwest | 191,133 | 25,707 | 3,044 | 19,737 | 298 | 81 |
| Virginia | 688,541 | 121,823 | 385,755 | 73,932 | 41,360,070 | 8,175,875 |

| Planning District | Beef Cows | Dairy Cows | Hogs | Sheep | Broilers | Turkey |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------|---------|--------|------------|-----------|
| Central Virginia | 56,026 | 5,530 | 1,020 | 1,582 | 68 | 42 |
| West Piedmont | 40,497 | 14,172 | 1,444 | 468 | 25 | 9 |
| Southside | 29,765 | 2,890 | 11,453 | 175 | 36 | 4 |
| Piedmont | 43,637 | 6,268 | 26,063 | 1,724 | 6,516,407 | 41 |
| Richmond Regional | 10,431 | 2,338 | 800 | 1,040 | 842,538 | 30 |
| Northern Neck | 407 | 0 | 83 | 148 | 0 | 0 |
| Middle Peninsula | 2,209 | 860 | 376 | 180 | 0 | 20 |
| Peninsula | (1) | (1) | (1) | (1) | 0 | 0 |
| Northern Virginia | 19,923 | 1,620 | 1,012 | 2,402 | 0 | 193 |
| Rappahanock-Rapidan | 69,476 | 13,221 | 1,097 | 4,347 | 441 | 128,021 |
| Thomas Jefferson | 40,495 | 1,837 | 1,486 | 4,692 | (1) | (1) |
| Radco | 5,959 | 872 | 239 | 466 | 26 | 69 |
| Fifth | 16,205 | 2,160 | 720 | 1,146 | 0 | 10 |
| Central Shenandoah | 79,869 | 37,336 | 6,148 | 24,371 | 18,402,792 | 6,395,615 |
| Lord Fairfax | 47,193 | 5,087 | 9,652 | 9,553 | 9,896,622 | 1,537,005 |
| Crater | 4,511 | 670 | 2,259 | 237 | 0 | 0 |
| Southeastern Virginia | 513 | 336 | 141,425 | 469 | 911,915 | 4 |
| Accomack-Northampton | 329 | 12 | 1,180 | 133 | 4,238,230 | (1) |
| Lenowisco | 27,443 | 948 | 244 | 620 | 103 | 17 |
| Cumberland Plateau | 30,007 | 2,132 | 1,707 | 4,182 | 16 | 14 |
| Mount Rogers | 85,704 | 15,797 | 1,058 | 6,881 | 179 | 50 |
| New River Valley | 41,282 | 5,442 | 35 | 7,847 | 0 | 0 |

(1) Data withheld for County.

In 1997, Central District had 24 percent of Virginia beef cow inventory, 23 percent of dairy cow inventory, 10 percent of hog inventory, and 16 percent of broiler inventory. Within the district, dairy and broilers exhibited the most dramatic change in inventories from 1992. Central Virginia Planning District lost 21 percent of dairy cows and Piedmont Planning District lost 26 percent of milk cows between 1992-97. Although poultry numbers in Piedmont Planning District rose only marginally from 1992-97, individual counties reported dramatic changes in the number of poultry in inventory. Amelia County, which in 1997 had 6 percent of total Virginia broiler

inventory, increased its broiler inventory by 30 percent from 1992-97, and Nottoway County increased its broiler inventory by 33 percent. Buckingham broiler inventory fell by 45 percent from 1992-97.

Northeast District does not have a great deal of livestock production. However, Chesterfield, Goochland, and Hanover counties in the Richmond Regional Planning District had 842,538 broilers in inventory in 1997. Although previous Census numbers were not disclosed, it appears that broiler production may have increased by as much as 70 percent from 1992.

In 1997, Northern District had 20 percent of Virginia beef cow inventory, 16 percent of sheep inventory, and 14 percent of dairy inventory. Beef cows are primarily raised in Rappahannock-Rapidan and Thomas Jefferson Planning Districts, where beef cow inventories changed little from 1992. Most of the district's dairy cows are in Rappahannock-Rapidan Planning District. Fauquier County alone had 17 percent of district beef cows, and one-third of the district's dairy cows.

Northwest District is very important in terms of all livestock and poultry type except hogs. In 1997, the district had 21 percent of Virginia beef cow inventory, 37 percent of dairy cow inventory, 47 percent of sheep inventory, 68 percent of broiler inventory, and 97 percent of turkey inventory. Central Shenandoah Planning District had 12 percent of Virginia beef cow inventory, 31 percent of dairy cow inventory, 44 percent of broiler inventory, and 78 percent of turkey inventory. Broiler inventories increased substantially in Rockingham County to 17.5 million broilers (+42 percent) in 1997, but Rockingham County turkey inventory fell 10 percent between 1992-97 as turkey production expanded in the other Shenandoah Valley counties. Turkey inventory in Augusta County rose to 2.2 million birds (+39 percent) in 1997. Lord Fairfax Planning District had 24 percent of Virginia broiler inventory and 19 percent of turkey inventory. Page County alone had 17 percent of Virginia broiler inventory in 1997, while Shenandoah County had 12 percent of turkey inventory. Page County broiler inventory increased by 17 percent between 1992-97, while Shenandoah County turkey inventory increased by 125 percent.

Although Southeast District is not predominantly a livestock and poultry area, it had 37 percent of state hog inventory and 10 percent of state broiler inventory. In hogs, predominant counties are Isle of Wight (17 percent of state inventory) and Southampton (11 percent of state inventory). These two counties had 76 percent of district hog inventory. Accomack County predominates in the district with 10 percent of Virginia broilers, having increased 40 percent from 1992.

Southwest District had 28 percent of Virginia beef cow inventory, 21 percent of dairy inventory, and 27 percent of sheep inventory. Beef cows were distributed widely across the extension district. Major counties for beef cows are Russell (10 percent of district inventory) and Washington (12 percent). Russell County beef cows in inventory were down 12 percent from 1992, but district beef cow inventory was up marginally. For dairy, Washington (18 percent of district inventory) and Wythe (16 percent) had by far the most cows, but dairy cow inventory in these counties fell by 22 percent and 26 percent since 1992, respectively.