

Pig, Broiler and Laying Hen Farm Structure in China, 1996
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By

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There are no official statistics on livestock structure in China although data may eventually become available from the agricultural census taken in January 1997. This paper provides a rich amount of information otherwise unavailable on commercial size pig, broiler and laying hen operations in 1996.

The data reported on in this paper are the results of a survey carried out in early 1977 by the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Bureau (AHVB) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Beijing, China. Mr. Weisheng Chen, a co-author of this paper, was in charge of the survey which was directed by Mr. Youlong Shi, also a co-author. The survey was designed by the two MOA co-authors. Data were collected in the survey the AHVS in each province. Each AHVS in turn utilized their line agency statisticians at the county and township levels collect and check the data.

Overall, the survey shows there are a substantial number of large and very large size pig, broiler and laying hen farms in China. For example, there were nearly a half million farms with 50 or more pigs in 1996. Among them were 635 with 10,000 to 49,999 head and 6 with 50,000 head or more. Twenty one percent of the half million farms with 50 or more pigs were located in Hunan province, 11 in Liaoning and 10 in Henan province.

Offtake and inventory data are also included in the survey data. Pig offtake is much more dispersed than farm numbers and the province order changes. For example, Guangdong and Hunan had 13 percent while Henan had 9 and Shandong had 8 percent of the national total.

There were a quarter million farms with more than 1,000 laying hens or more. Of these, there were 140 with 200,000 to 299,999 birds, 10 with 300,000-499,999 and 30 with 500,000 or more. Hebei had 23 percent of the farms with 1,000 birds or more while Shandong had 21 percent and Jiangsu 14 percent. Inventory approximated the provincial farm structure.

China had about 63,000 broiler farms with 10,000 or more birds in 1996 according to the survey. There were 108 with a half million to one million birds, 79 with one million to 5 million, 6 with 5 to ten million and 2 with ten million birds or more. Twenty eight percent of China's farms with 10,000 or more birds were found in Shandong province, 19 in Jilin and 14 in Guangdong province.

Comparisons between farm numbers, offtake and inventory will also be made in the presentation. For example, although 78 percent of the pig farms were in the smallest category of 50-99 head, these size operations only accounted for 34 percent of offtake. In contrast, the smallest size laying hen operations, 1,000 to 9,999 birds accounted for 98 percent of the farms and 79 percent of the inventory. Ninety four percent of the broiler farms were in the smallest category of 10,000 to 49,999 birds, but this size only had 51 percent of the offtake.

The data on total numbers of farms by livestock group from the agricultural census have not yet been published. The data will likely be available by the meeting. If so, the results will be further enriched by placing them in an entire structural framework.

Data on national off-take of all size farms is also compared with the farms in the survey. In the case of pigs, 13.6 percent of the national off-take was from farms with 50 pigs or more. For broilers, 39.3 percent of national off-take was from farms

with 10,000 birds or more. As to laying hens, 24.2 percent of all hens are on farms with 1,000 birds or more.

The paper will include a discussion on implications for national development and trade.

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