of 8.1 to 9.8 pigs.

The combination of litter size and litters per year is reported as pigs weaned per mated female per year and is often considered the single best measure of reproductive biological efficiency. While the average was 18.9 pigs per mated female, the range was 14.8 to 22.4 pigs (10th to 90th percentile).

These results verify the great variation in biological performance that exists in swine herds in the western cornbelt. Possible causes of this variation include such items as genetic source, facilities, planned production schedules, disease, and management. The use of 10th and 90th percentiles is not meant to imply that producers should strive at all costs to attain the better reproductive efficiency these values represent. Rather, producers are encouraged to consider these values as reasonable performance limits with the understanding that optimal financial efficiency may mean less than maximum reproductive efficiency.

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# 1995 Nebraska Swine Enterprise Records Program Results

**Dale Kabes**
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## Summary and Implications

*Data from cooperators participating in the Nebraska Swine Enterprise Records and Analysis Program were summarized for the period January to June 1995 and July 1, 1994 to June 30, 1995. Results continue to show significant variability in production and financial parameters among individual swine enterprises. The results indicate that efficient, well managed swine enterprises can be profitable and competitive in a dynamic industry.*

Average values of several production and financial parameters for farrow-to-finish, and farrow-to-feeder pig enterprises for the first six months of 1995 are given in Tables 1 and 2. Also included in the far right column of each table is annual data from July 1, 1994 through June 30, 1995. In addition to the overall averages for each enterprise type, averages for the high 1/3 profit group and low 1/3 profit group are listed for the farrow-to-

**Table 1.  Selected items for farrow-to-finish enterprises.**

| | January 1 to June 30, 1995 | | | July 1, 1994 to June 30, 1995 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Item | Average | High 1/3 profit | Low 1/3 profit | |
| Number of farms | 37 | 12 | 12 | 20 |
| Profit/cwt pork produced | $4.75 | $11.32 | -$2.07 | -$1.22 |
| **Total cost/cwt pork produced** | $40.99 | $36.63 | $44.20 | $39.69 |
| Total variable cost/cwt pork produced | $35.76 | $33.24 | $38.46 | $35.52 |
| Fixed cost/cwt of pork produced | $5.24 | $3.39 | $5.74 | $4.17 |
| Total feed expense/cwt pork produced | $24.27 | $23.12 | $25.47 | $24.05 |
| Average cost of diets/cwt | $6.61 | $6.38 | $6.79 | $6.44 |
| Feed/cwt pork produced, lb | 368 | 362 | 377 | 373 |
| Pigs weaned/female/year, no. | 17.9 | 18.3 | 16.3 | 17.6 |
| Pigs weaned/crate/year, no. | 78.4 | 81.3 | 79.2 | 76.6 |

**Table 2.  Selected items for farrow-to-feeder pig enterprises.**

| | January 1 to June 30, 1995 | | | July 1, 1994 to June 30, 1995 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Item | Average | High 1/3 profit | Low 1/3 profit | |
| Number of farms | 11 | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Profit/cwt pork produced | $2.61 | $13.38 | -$7.55 | -$10.24 |
| **Total cost/cwt pork produced** | $63.16 | $60.39 | $64.87 | $66.56 |
| Total variable cost/cwt pork produced | $53.16 | $51.32 | $55.44 | $54.56 |
| Fixed cost/cwt of pork produced | $10.00 | $9.07 | $9.43 | $12.00 |
| Total feed expense/cwt pork produced | $30.80 | $27.05 | $34.41 | $30.64 |
| Average cost of diets/cwt | $7.91 | $7.61 | $8.20 | $8.34 |
| Feed/cwt pork produced, lb | 389 | 357 | 419 | 368 |
| Pigs weaned/female/year, no. | 17.2 | 18.7 | 15.3 | 18.2 |
| Pigs weaned/crate/year, no. | 89.6 | 98.5 | 81 | 100.3 |
| Average weight of feeder pig sold, lb | 50.2 | 53.9 | 46.5 | 49.8 |
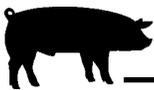
finish and farrow-to-feeder pig enterprises for the January through June 1995 time period.

The high 1/3 profit producers reported feed costs of $23.12/cwt of pork produced and the low 1/3 profit producers reported feed costs of $25.47/cwt of pork produced, respectively. This resulted in a $2.35/cwt of pork produced advantage for the high profit group. To accomplish this the high profit group had a lower diet cost ($6.38/cwt vs $6.79/cwt of ingredients) and a better feed efficiency (362 vs 377 lb of feed/cwt of pork produced) than the low profit group. Similar increased reproductive efficiencies were reported in pigs weaned per female per year (18.3 vs 16.3 for the high and low profit group, respectively). Corn was valued at $2.37/bu for the first six months of 1995 and $2.24/bu for the 12-month period ending in June 1995.

With constant change in the swine industry, pork producers will have to continually strive to improve their enterprises. Producers will need to identify their strengths and weaknesses and then determine the opportunities and threats for their individual swine enterprise. To accomplish this, producers should begin with an accurate record system and a set of written goals to help lay the path for the future.

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# Slaughter Hog Price Patterns at Omaha

Al Wellman[1]

## Summary and Implications

*Omaha slaughter hog prices from 1975 to 1994 were used to indicate the price patterns that tend to be repeated year to year. A monthly price index and variability of the monthly price were calculated. Strong seasonal price patterns were observed. The price patterns can be used to determine likely price trends during the year. The price data can be used to assist producers with their marketing plan and price forecasting for the future.*

## Introduction

Price-risk management strategies require that hog producers have accurate records on past price patterns. The ability to accurately forecast price movements allows the producer to focus on a smaller number of pricing strategies. Knowing the historical patterns of trends, cycles and seasonal price movements can provide a base for forecasting future cash prices. Trends refer to price movements over a period of years. Hog price cycles are fairly regular up and down changes which cover a period of about three to five years. Seasonal price patterns refer to month-to-month or spring-to-summer, summer-to-fall, etc. repeating patterns within a year. This article provides data about seasonal price patterns.

Slaughter hog seasonal price patterns persist from year to year. The price patterns result from changes in hog and pork supplies, changing demand for pork by consumers or a combination of supply and demand changes. Hog prices are affected by the seasonality of farrowings and the resulting supply of pork products. Some seasonal patterns in demand influence hog prices, but the major impact is from supply changes.

Table 1 has the monthly cash prices for Omaha barrows and gilts from 1975 through 1994. By reviewing the past price movements during the year, a determination can be made about the chances that prices will increase or decrease during a particular current or future time period.

Slaughter hog price patterns may change somewhat over time if there are changes in production technology, industry structure or any other factors that offset production patterns or demand. This is reflected by the seasonal price indexes and variability factors in Figure 1. The index primarily reflects the seasonal variation in



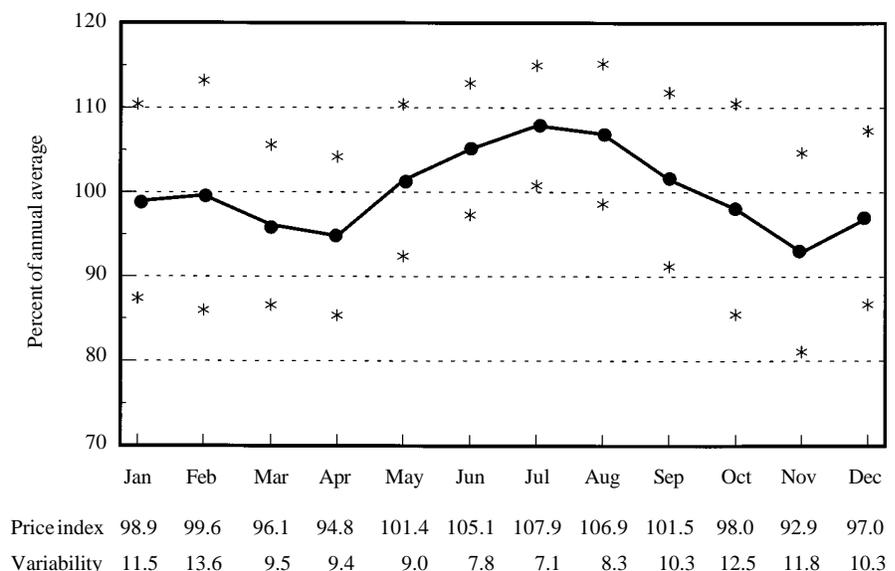| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Price index | 98.9 | 99.6 | 96.1 | 94.8 | 101.4 | 105.1 | 107.9 | 106.9 | 101.5 | 98.0 | 92.9 | 97.0 |
| Variability | 11.5 | 13.6 | 9.5 | 9.4 | 9.0 | 7.8 | 7.1 | 8.3 | 10.3 | 12.5 | 11.8 | 10.3 |

**Figure 1. Seasonal price index for barrows and gilts at Omaha, 1975 to 1994.**