

Managing Supply: Balancing Fewer Farrowings with Record Litter Sizes



Jason Franken

Division of Applied Social Sciences

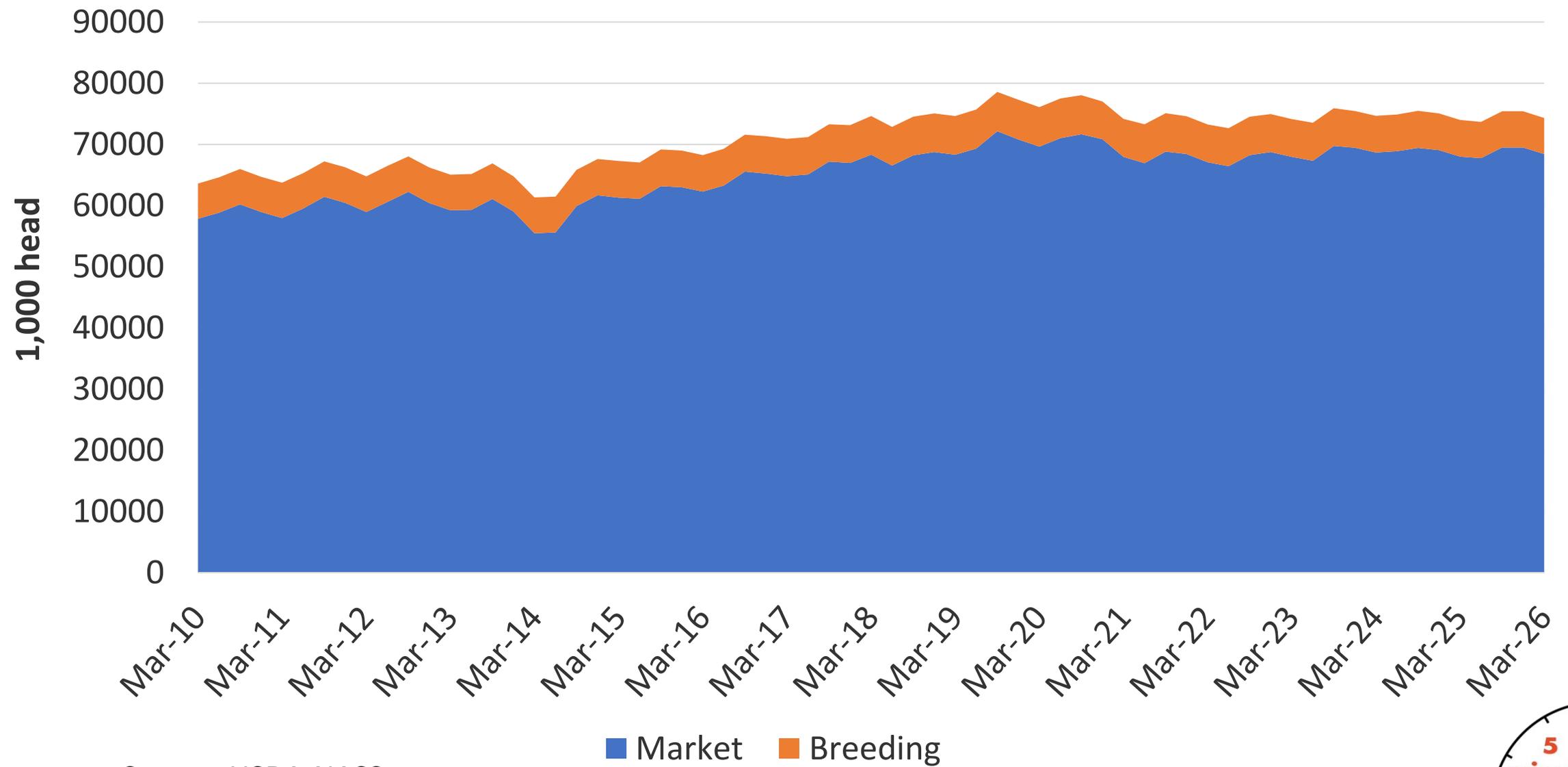
University of Missouri

March 30, 2026

farmdocDAILY



Quarterly U.S. Hogs and Pigs Inventory

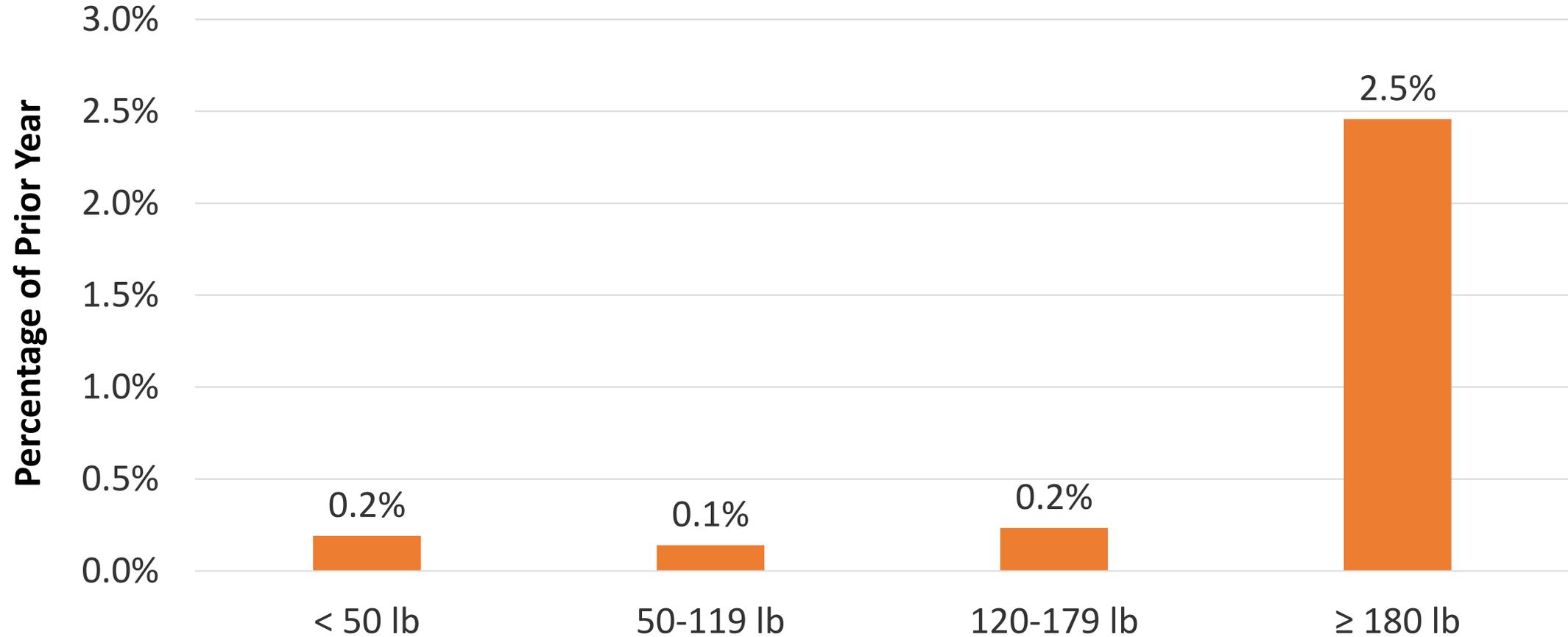


Source: USDA-NASS

Market Breeding



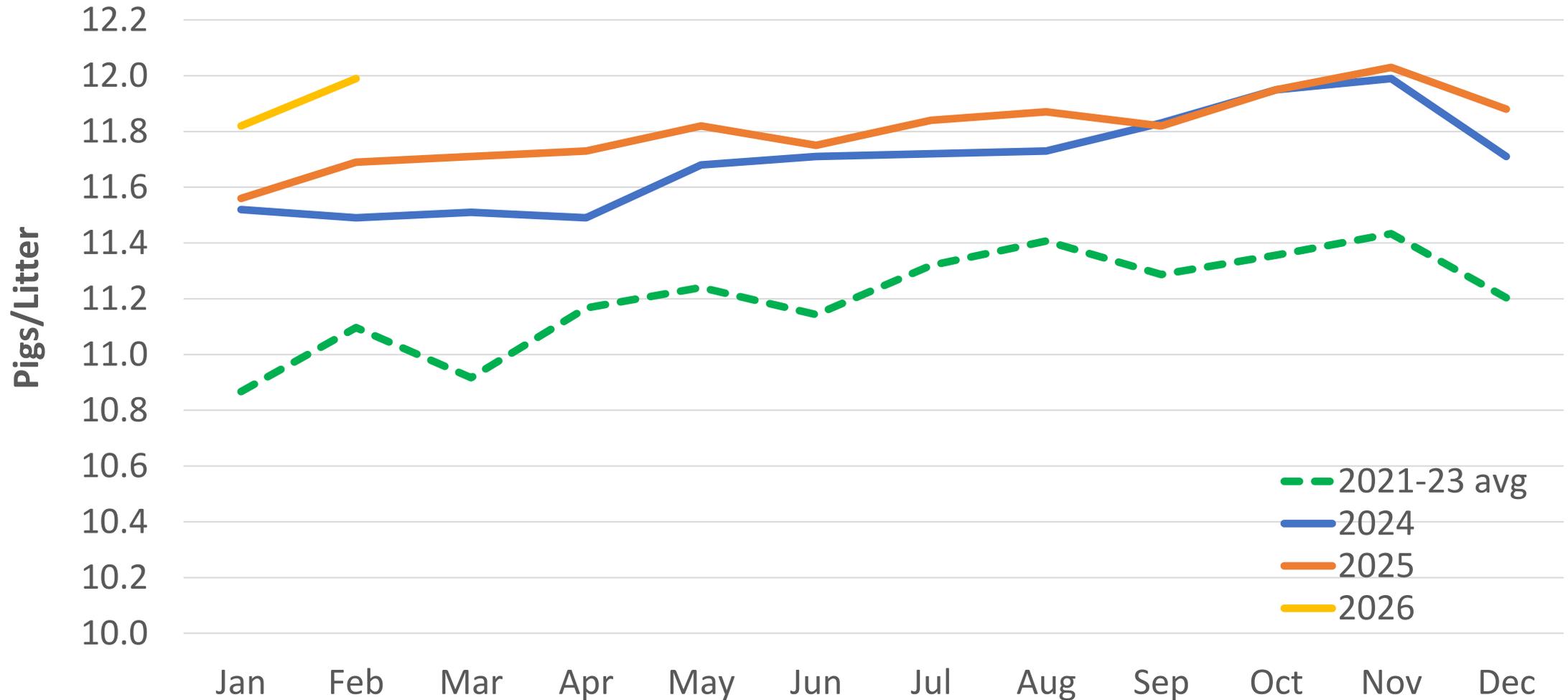
Change in Market Hog Inventory from March 2025 to March 2026, by Weight Class



Source: USDA-NASS



U.S. Average Pigs Saved Per Litter

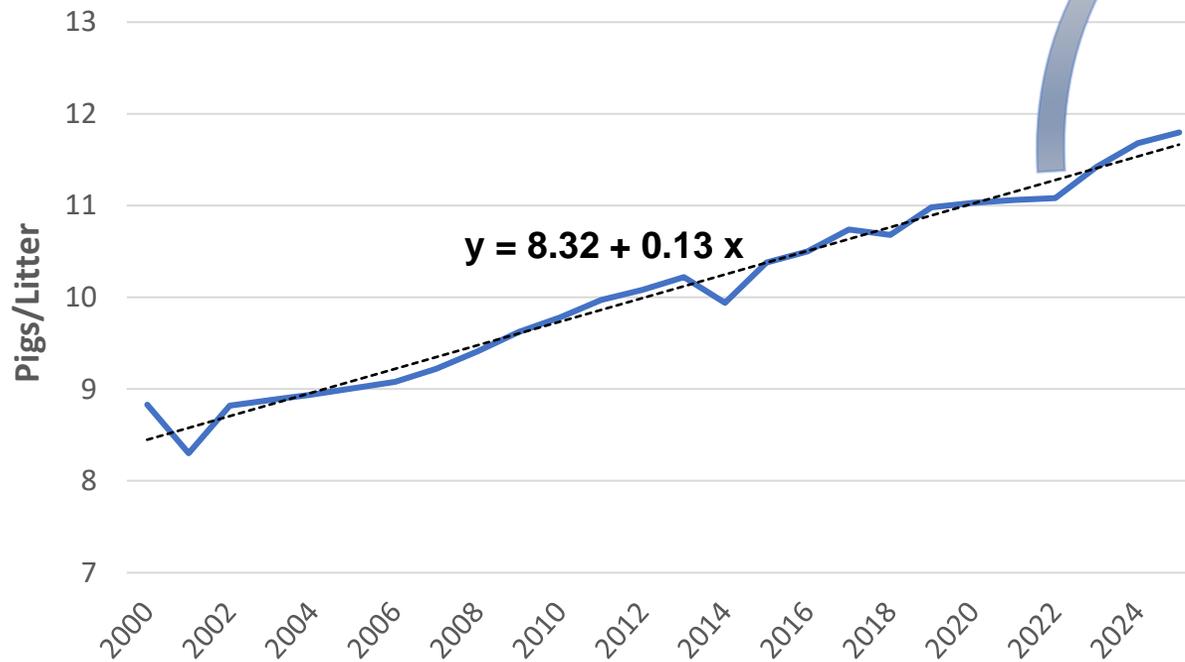


Source: USDA-NASS

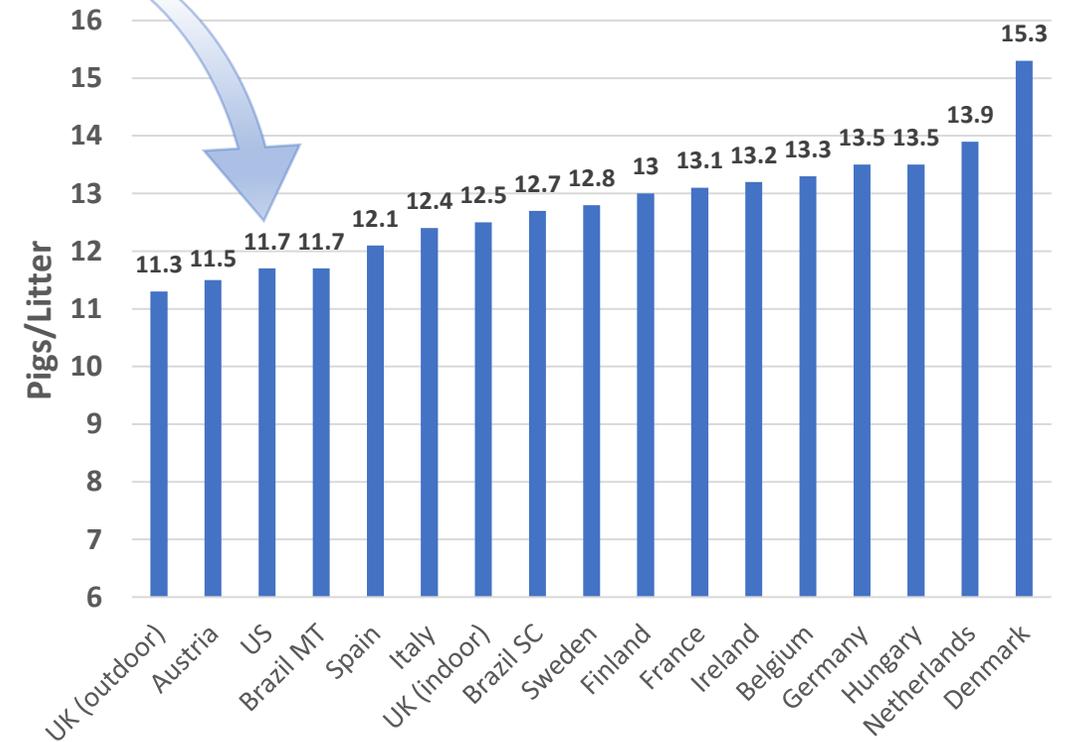


Growth in Pigs per Litter and How far Can it Go?

Trend in U.S. Annual Average Pigs Saved Per Litter, 2020-2025



Weaned Pigs per Litter, 2022

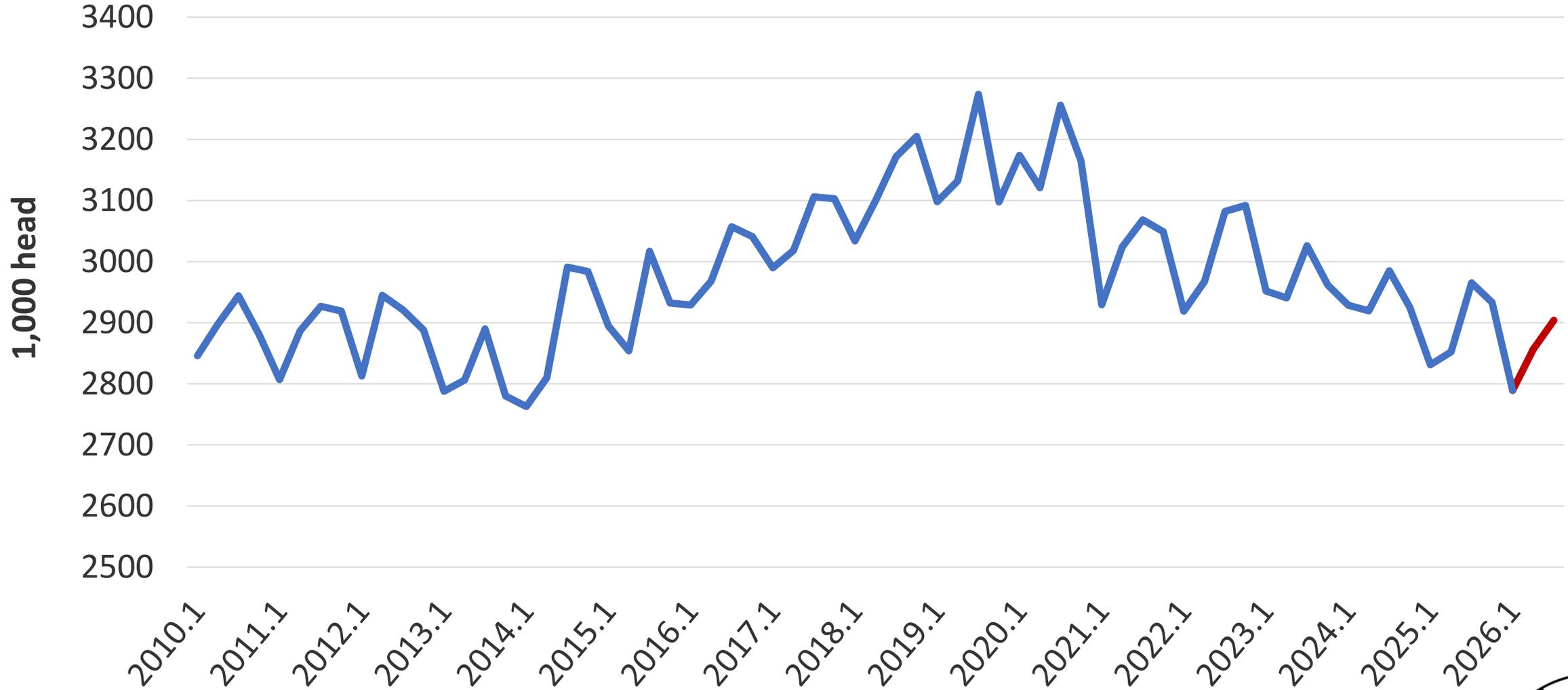


Adapted from: Langemeier, M. "Long-Term Trends in Pigs per Litter." *farmdoc daily* (14):199, Department of Agricultural & Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, November 1, 2024.

DANBRED. "[Denmark's production costs remain among Europe's lowest.](#)" Productivity & Profit, January 19, 2024.



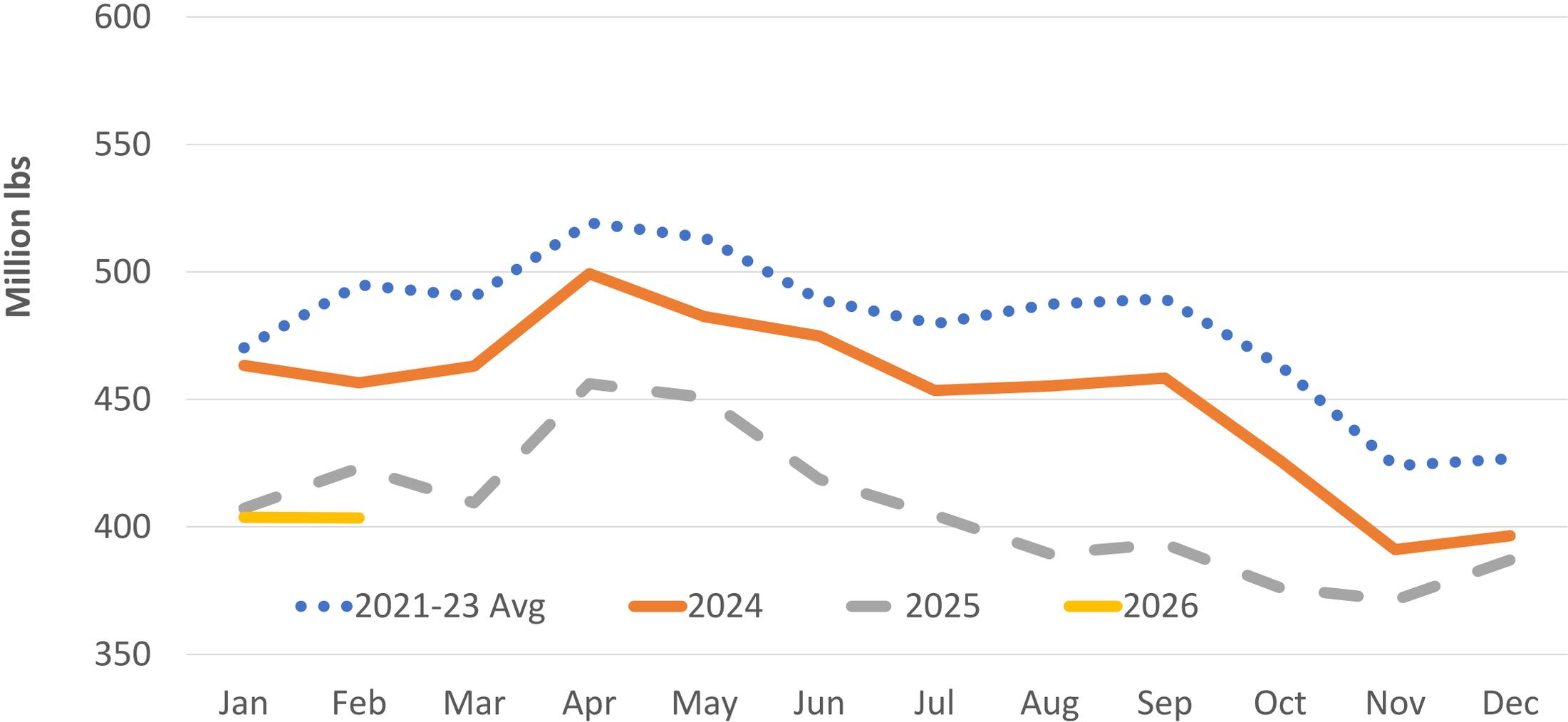
Sows Farrowing



Source: USDA-NASS



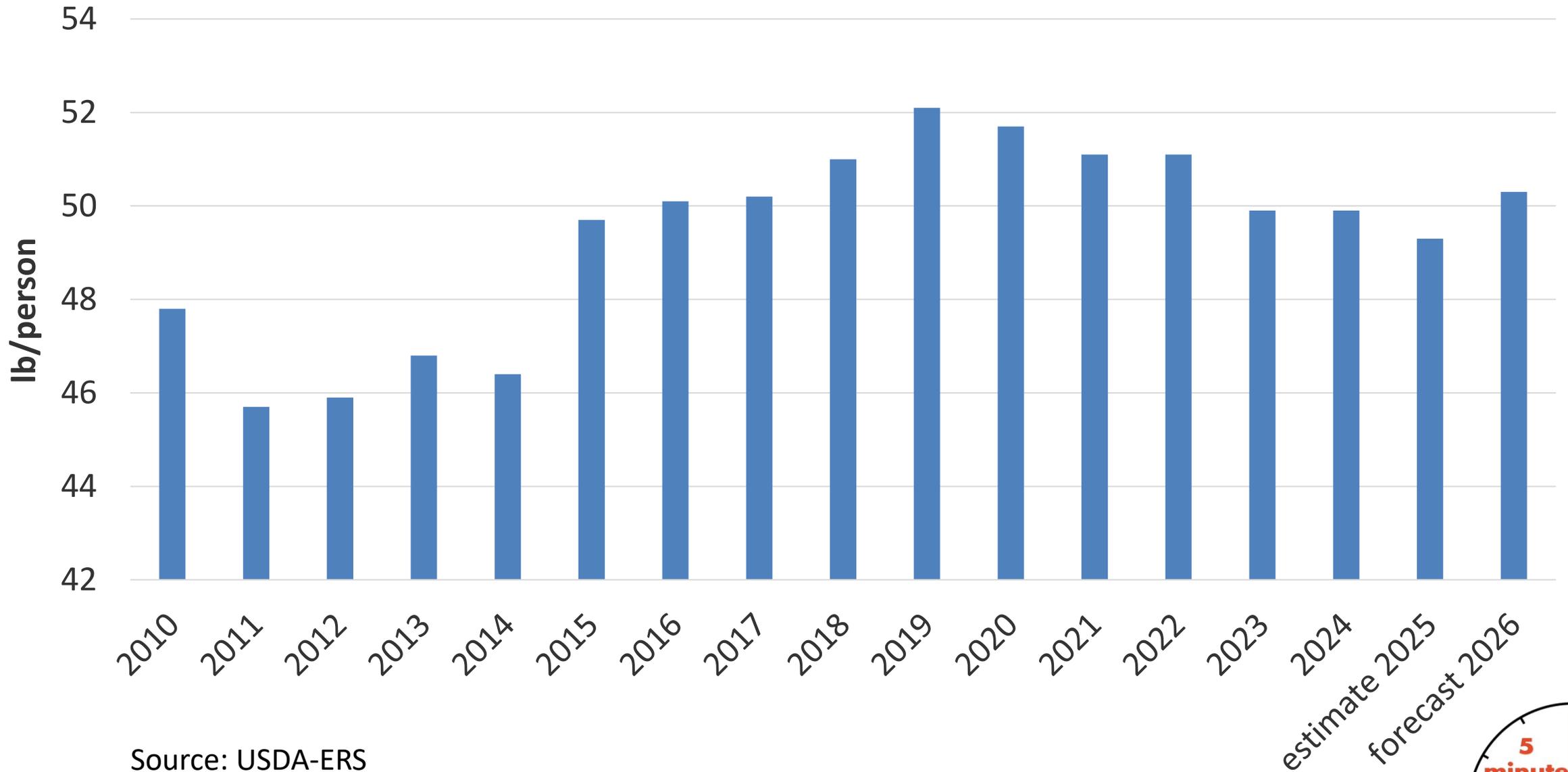
U.S. Frozen Stocks of Pork (End of Month)



Source: USDA-NASS



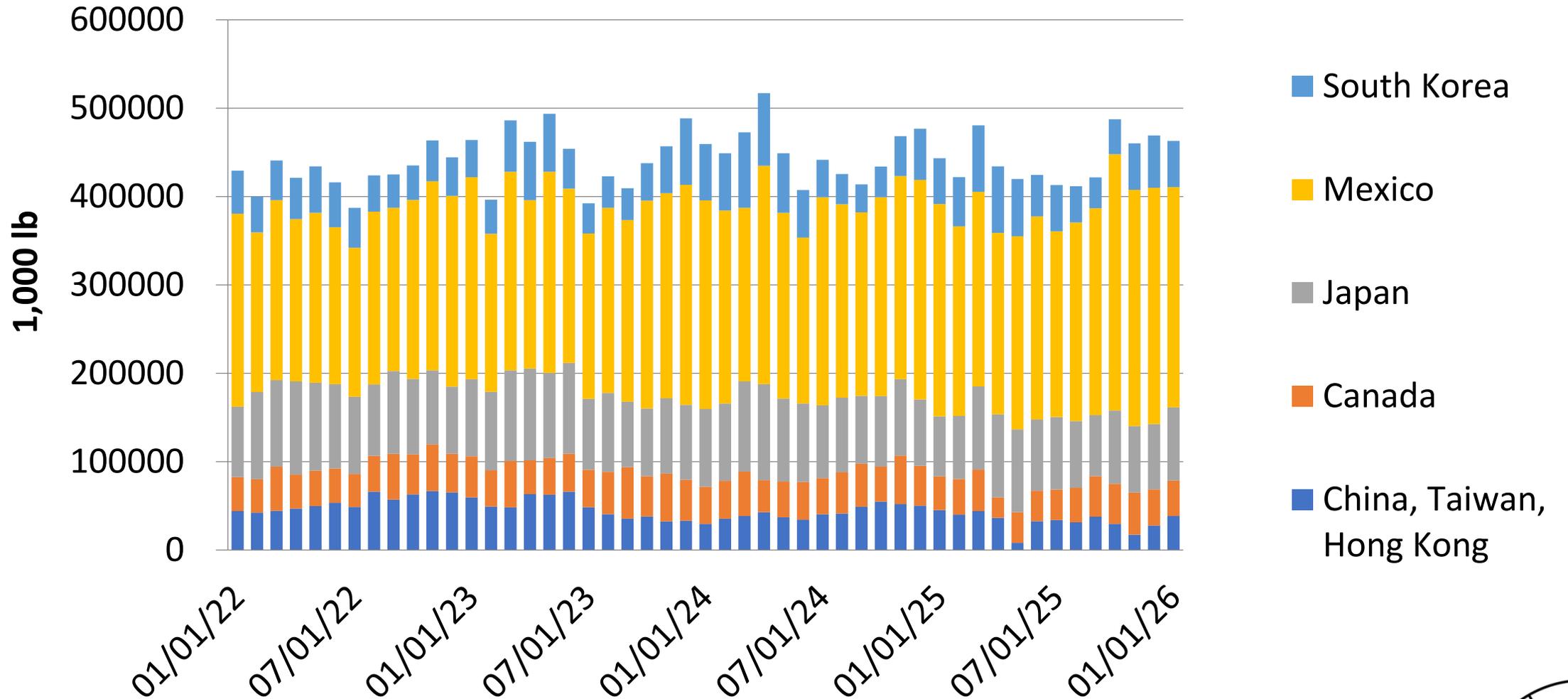
U.S. Annual Per Capita Pork Consumption



Source: USDA-ERS



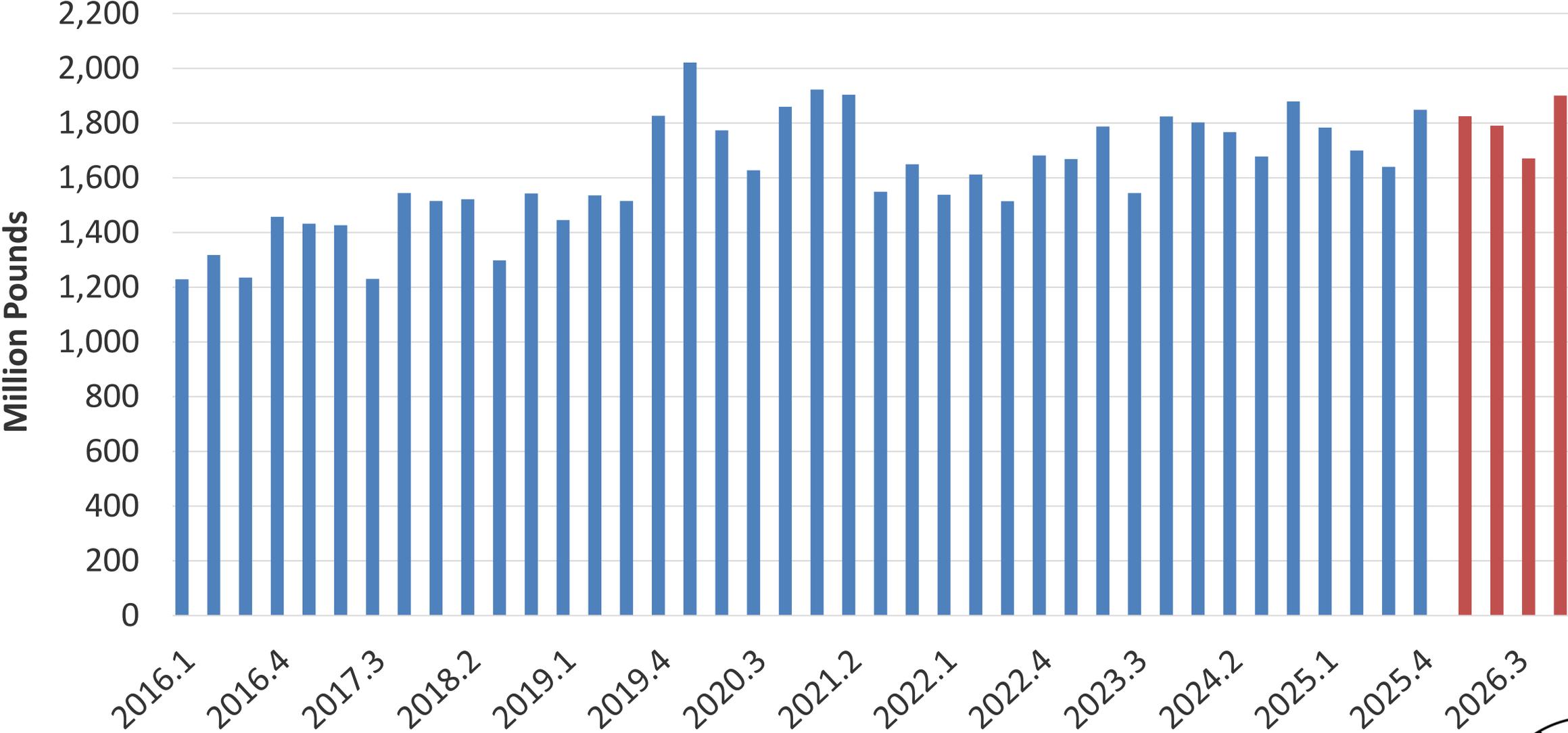
U.S. Pork Exports



Source: USDA-ERS



U.S. Pork Exports

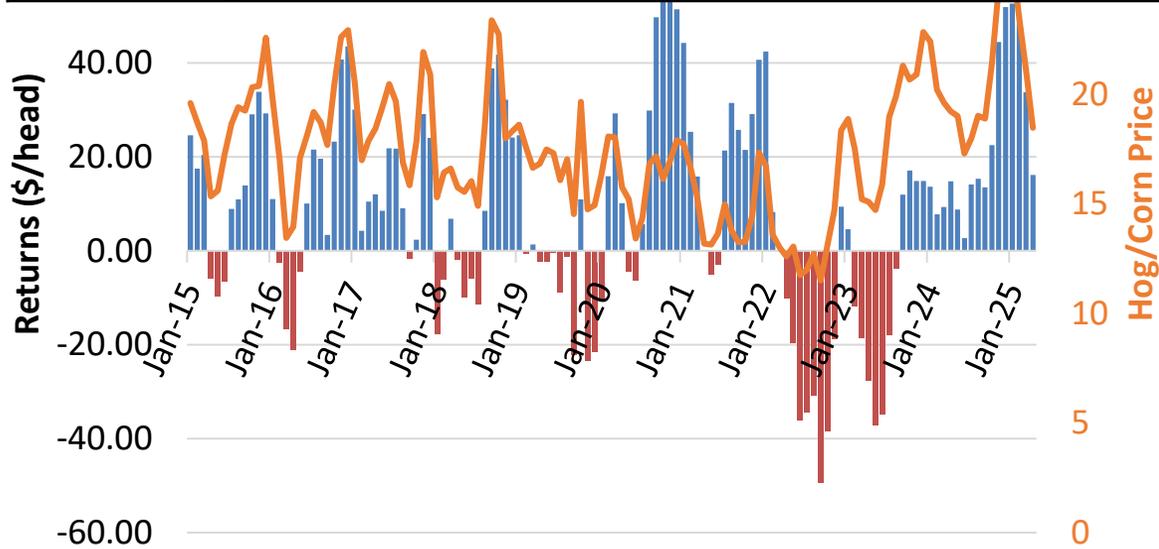


Source: USDA-ERS

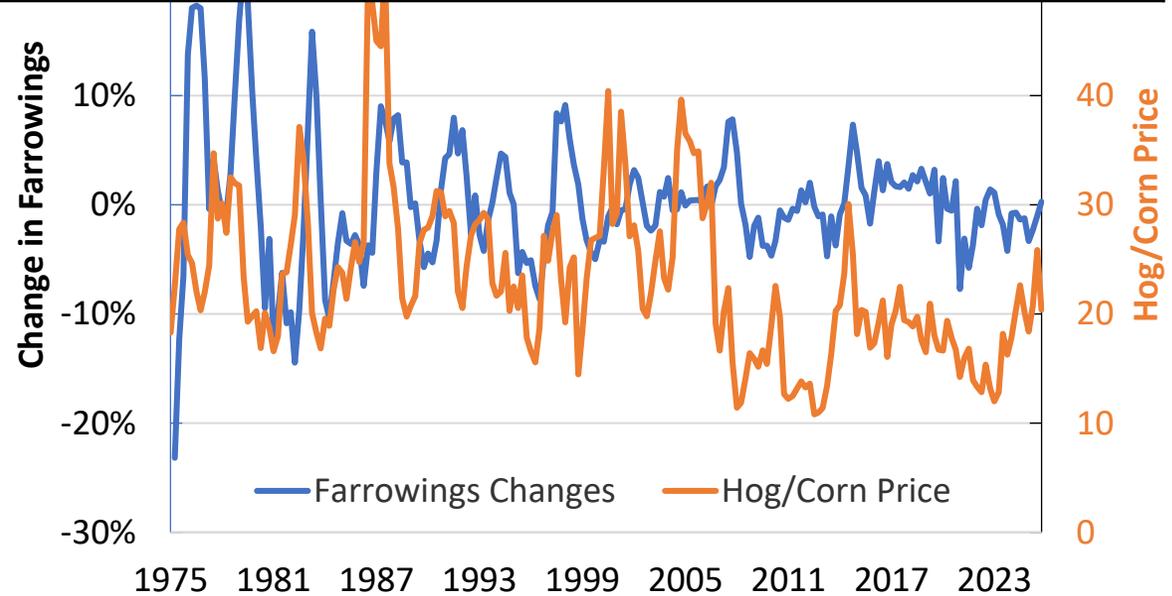


Profitability & Production Cycles

Futures 3/27/26	May	July	December
Hog	\$96.88	\$108.70	\$84.03
Corn	\$4.62	\$4.73	\$4.90
Hog/Corn Ratio	20.97	22.98	17.15



Source: Iowa State University, [Livestock Returns.](#), [CME Group.](#)



Source: USDA-NASS

Source: USDA-NASS



Quarterly Barrows and Gilts Price

National Weighted Average Net Price, Carcass Basis

