

## **Slaughter Establishment Availability – Updated Maps**

**August 9, 2010**

Today FSIS is releasing updated maps showing the density, per county, of small producers of livestock and poultry and the locations of Federally- and State-inspected slaughter establishments. The maps are part of the USDA Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food initiative and are intended to help with efforts to support local and regional food systems. Specifically, USDA plans to use the maps to identify gaps in slaughter availability. To support increasing consumer demand for locally produced agricultural products, meat producers need to have access to local or regional slaughter facilities.

The new maps include updated slaughter establishment location data, based on the collection and analysis of new and additional data since the initial May 4, 2010, release of the maps. The new maps also have been simplified, based upon comments on the initial release, and so are more illustrative. Importantly, the production of these maps is iterative and more new maps will be made available to reflect changes in the data over time and as new sources of information become available.

### **Data Gaps and Uncertainties**

Although these updated maps are more accurate, they are and will always remain inexact because of uncertainties inherent in the producer data and the dynamic nature of slaughter establishment data. For example, small producer density by county and species was estimated using the publically-available data from the 2007 Agricultural Census. Because this data does not identify individual producers, their income or whether they sell more than one species of livestock and poultry, various estimations were employed using the number of animals sold per producer and the average sale price per animal. Thus, the densities of small producers per county are approximations based upon the best available data.

In regard to slaughter establishment data, locations of Federally-inspected establishments came from the FSIS database used to schedule inspection and track compliance. Analysis of this data shows that the market for meat and poultry slaughter is very dynamic, as the number of active Federal slaughter establishments receiving inspection changes almost daily. The nature of the many establishments' business practices (e.g. what species they slaughter) changes frequently as well. The majority of the location data for State-inspected slaughter establishments comes from the same FSIS database. However, a few States do not use the FSIS database, and locations of their State-inspected establishments come from other data sources which are often not updated as frequently as the FSIS database.

So, the maps present a snapshot-in-time and should be considered as only one of the tools needed to refine and improve USDA efforts to support regional food systems. And again, the maps will be updated and refined based on public comment and the collection of new data.

## How to Read the Maps

FSIS is making available six maps: two for cattle (all adult market classes of cattle and heavy calves); two for swine (all market classes); and two for young chickens. Map A for each species shows the densities of small producers for every county in the United States: the darker the shade of blue, the greater the number of producers in that county. The producers enumerated are small, with an approximate annual income of \$250,000 or less. Overlaid in Map A are the locations of small<sup>1</sup> slaughter establishments for the species in question.

Map B for each species again shows the locations of small slaughter establishments, but shades only the counties where both (1) the number of small producers is equal to or greater than the approximate median for that species, per county, and (2) there is no slaughter establishment. Thus, the cream-colored areas on Map B for each species indicate counties that either have a number of producers lower than the national median or have a slaughter establishment for the species in question. In short, Map B shows counties with relatively large concentrations of small producers of a species, but no slaughter establishment.

In all of the maps, the following types of slaughter facilities are **not** shown:

- facilities that conduct only custom slaughter operations;
- facilities that slaughter only species not subject to mandatory inspection under the Federal Meat Inspection Act or the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA); and
- facilities that slaughter poultry only under one of the exemptions in the PPIA.

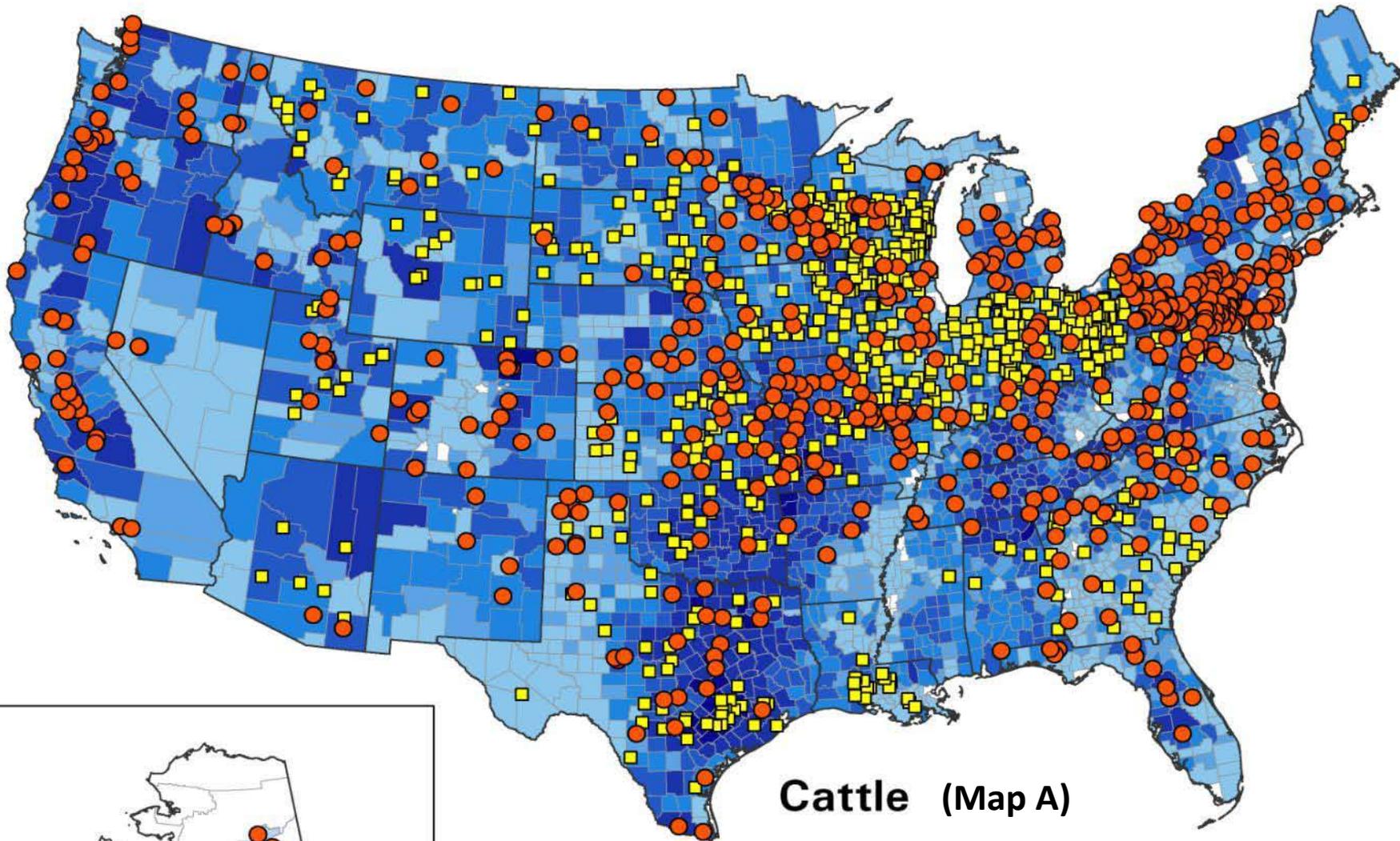
## Future Improvements

The following improvements are planned for future versions of the maps:

- The collection and use of more accurate producer data, allowing the plotting of producer densities based on total farm income, rather than estimates derived using the annual sales data for a single species;
- Improved data for State-inspected slaughter facilities;
- Inclusion of data for Puerto Rico.

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<sup>1</sup> The establishments shown are all either “small” or “very small” as defined in the 1996 HACCP regulations. “Small” slaughter establishments have between 10 and 499 employees. “Very small” slaughter establishments have fewer than 10 employees or less than \$2.5 million in annual sales. For some establishments without specific size data, we have assumed they are small or very small.



**Cattle (Map A)**

**Small Slaughter Establishments**

● Federal - 556

■ State - 656

**Small Farms**

□ 0 - 3

□ 4 - 83

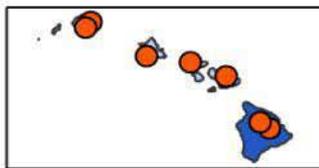
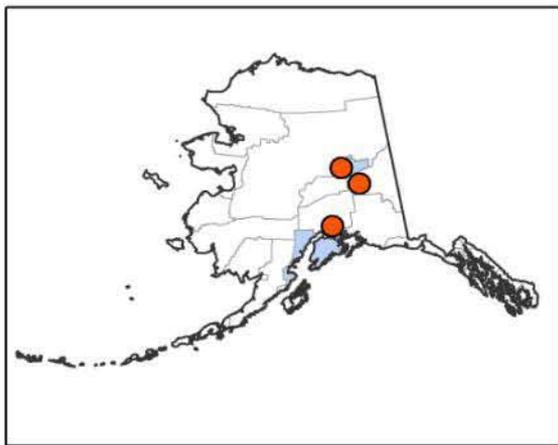
□ 84 - 113

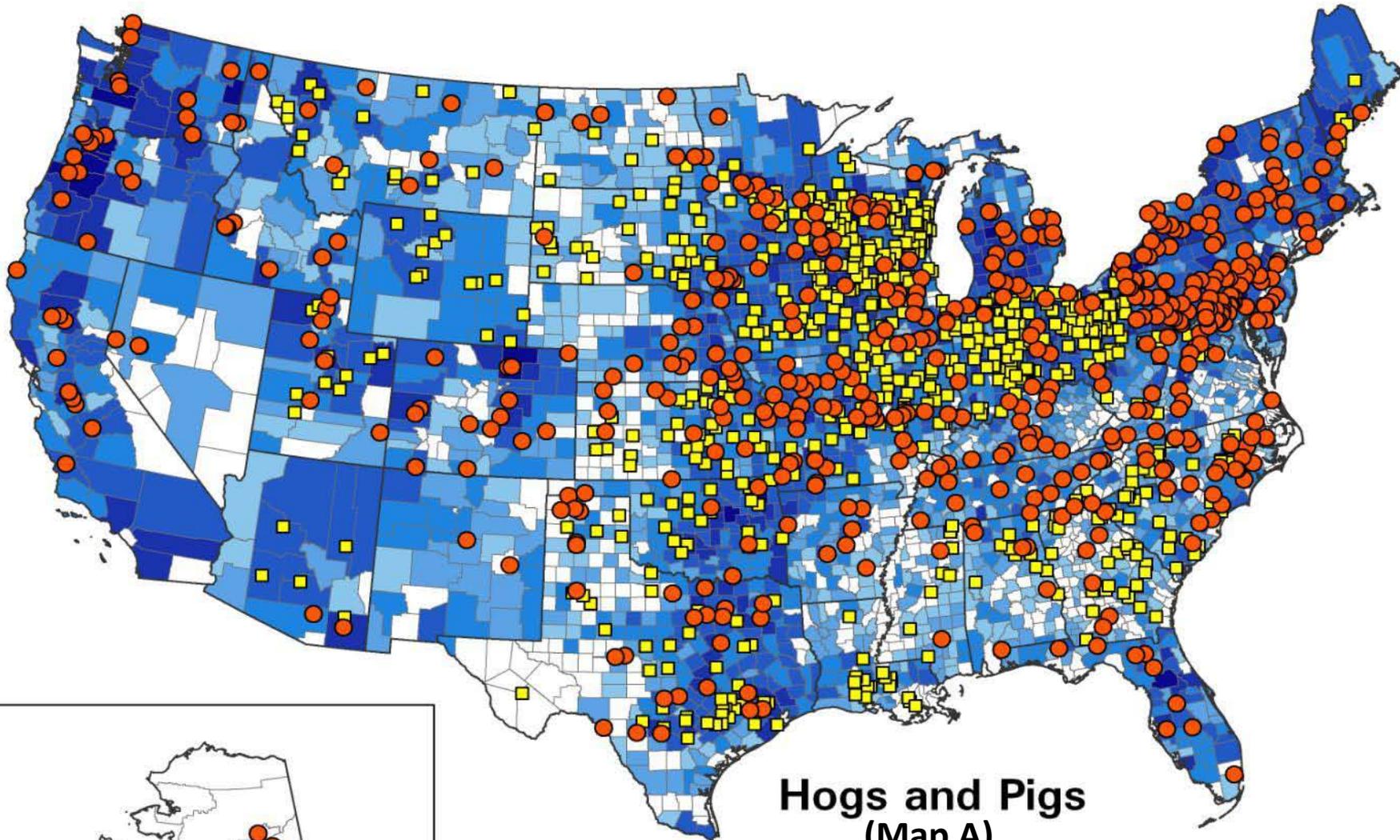
□ 114 - 192

■ 193 - 400

■ 401 - 950

■ 954 - 2,404





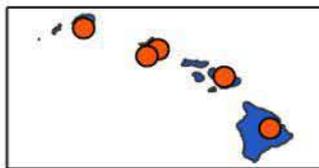
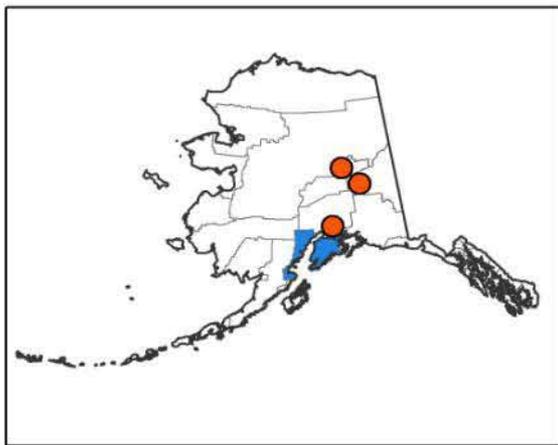
## Hogs and Pigs (Map A)

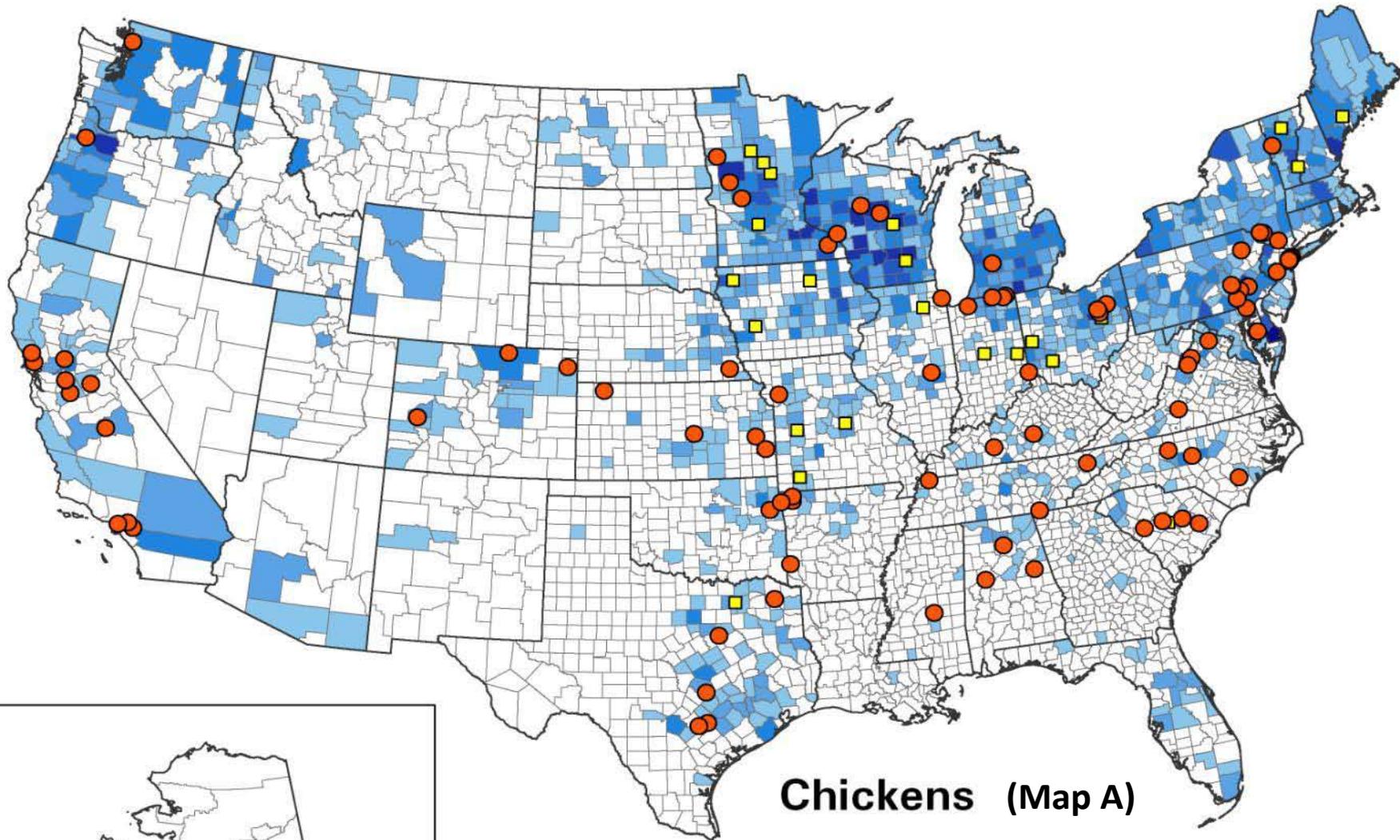
Small Slaughter  
Establishments

- Federal - 535
- State - 679

Small Farms

- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| □ 0 - 3   | ■ 22 - 43  |
| ■ 4 - 6   | ■ 44 - 89  |
| ■ 7 - 11  | ■ 90 - 188 |
| ■ 12 - 21 |            |





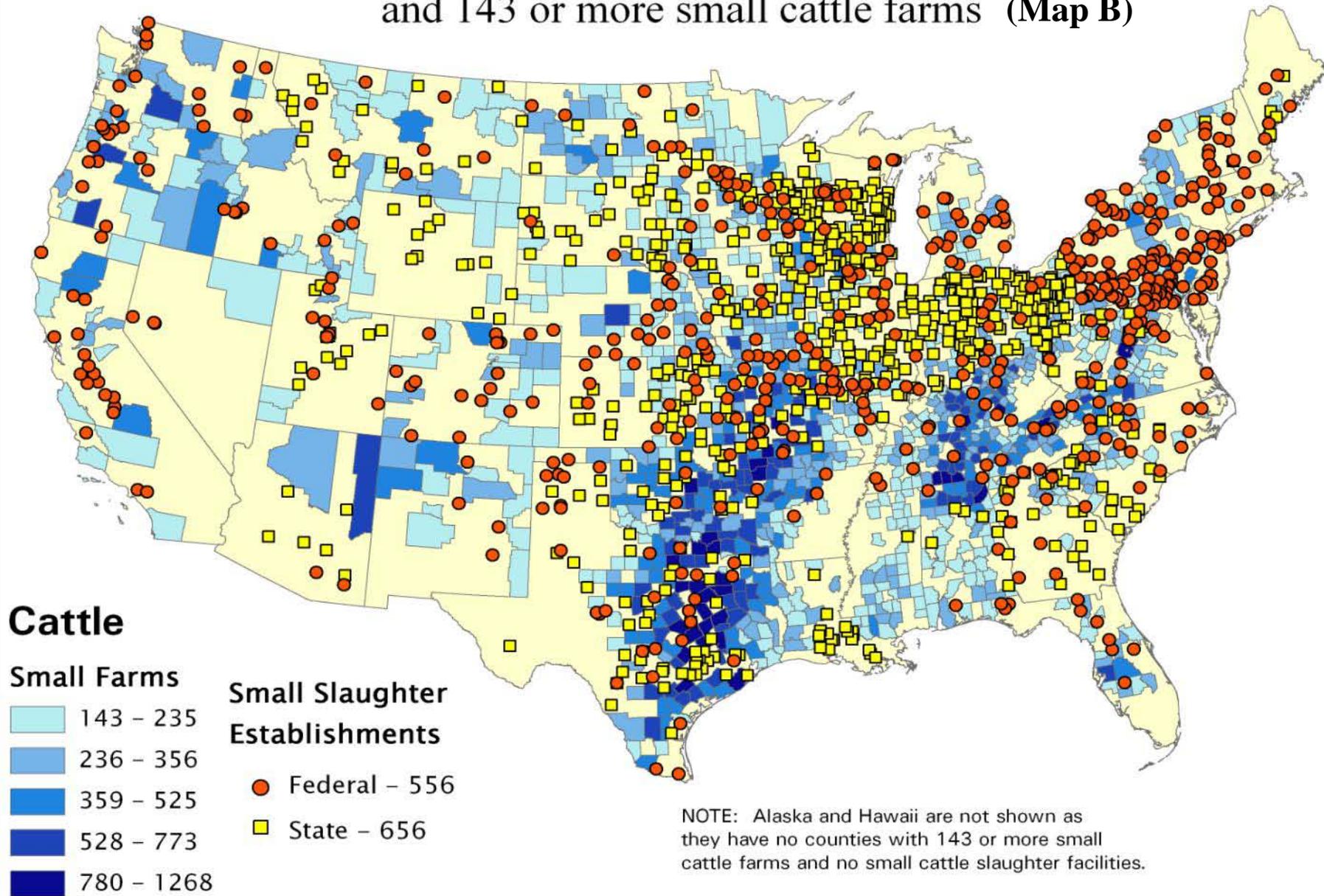
**Small Slaughter Establishments**

- Federal - 94
- State - 27

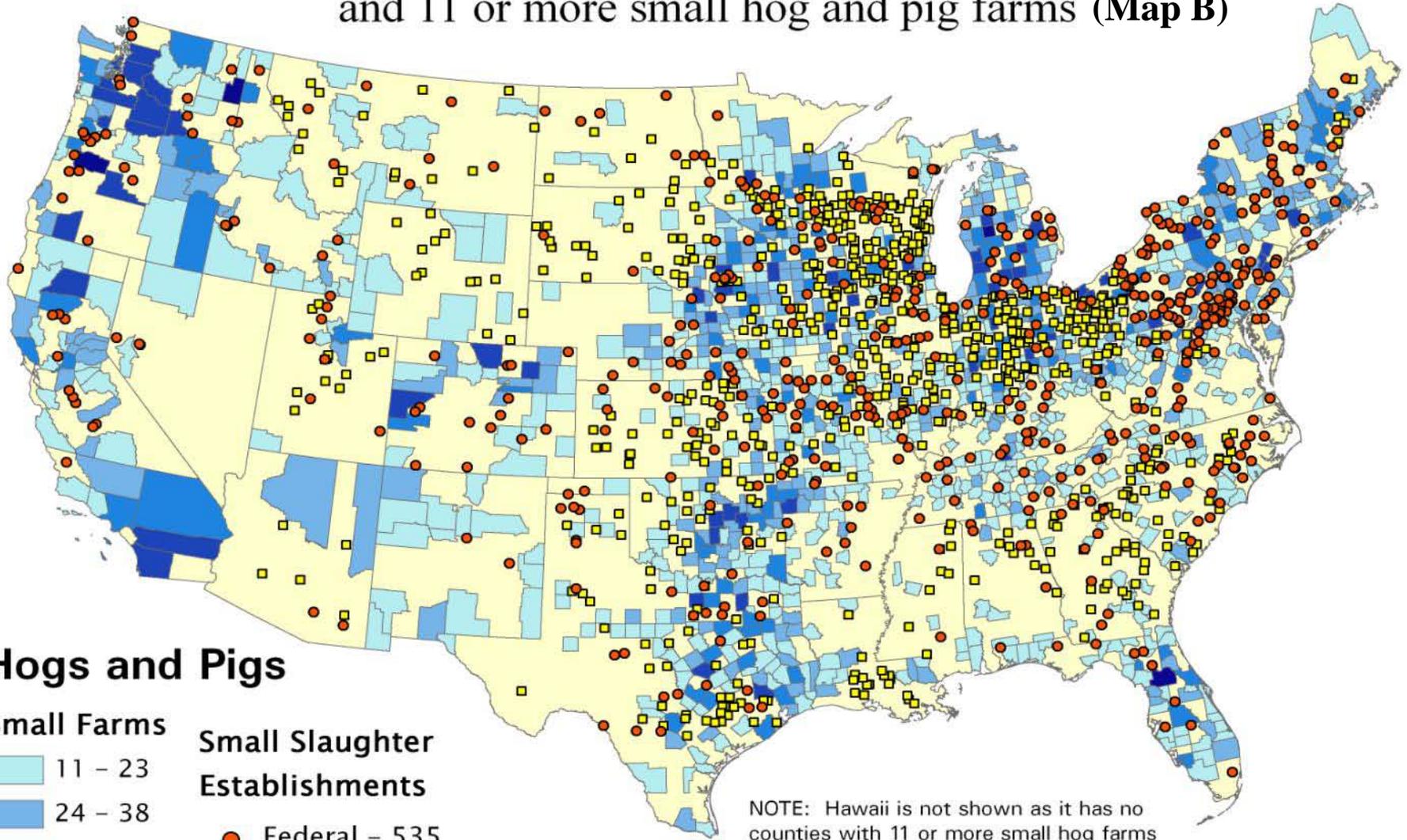
**Small Farms**

- |           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| □ 0 - 3   | ■ 22 - 33   |
| ■ 4 - 7   | ■ 34 - 51   |
| ■ 8 - 12  | ■ 121 - 134 |
| ■ 13 - 21 |             |

# Counties with no small cattle slaughter facility and 143 or more small cattle farms (Map B)

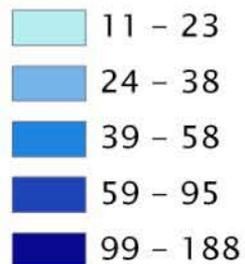


# Counties with no small slaughter facility and 11 or more small hog and pig farms (Map B)

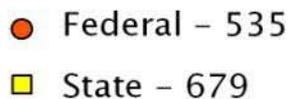


## Hogs and Pigs

### Small Farms

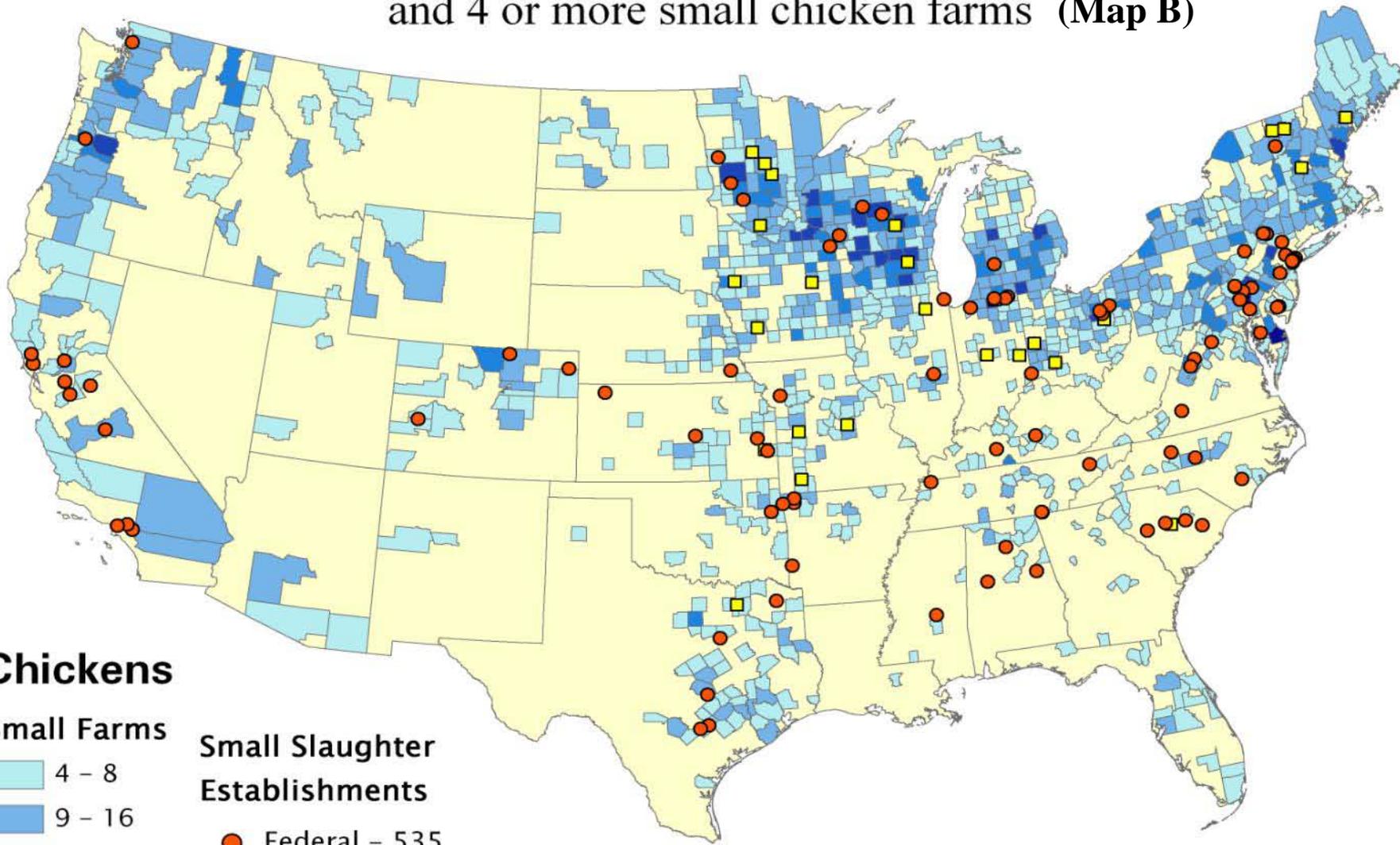


### Small Slaughter Establishments



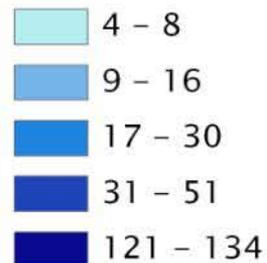
NOTE: Hawaii is not shown as it has no counties with 11 or more small hog farms and no small slaughter facilities. Anchorage County and the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska both have 11 - 23 small hog farms and no small hog slaughter facility.

# Counties with no small chicken slaughter facility and 4 or more small chicken farms (Map B)

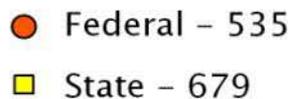


## Chickens

### Small Farms



### Small Slaughter Establishments



NOTE: Hawaii County, Hawaii and Anchorage County, Alaska both have 4 or more small chicken farms and no small slaughter facilities.