



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
ARKANSAS FIELD OFFICE



NEWS RELEASE

Cooperating with the University of Arkansas - Division of Agriculture
10800 Financial Centre Pkwy, Suite 110 • Little Rock, AR 72211

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Contact: Becky Cross
(501) 228-9926

USDA TO CONDUCT SMALL-SCALE LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS STUDY

Little Rock, Arkansas – Over the next several months, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will conduct its first national study of small-scale livestock operations. The study will provide valuable information, such as health and herd management within the nation's livestock industry.

Beginning in March, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will mail questionnaires to a selected group of livestock operations.

"By participating in the Small-Scale Livestock Operations 2011 Study, producers will help the industry and their own operations by contributing to the development of reliable and valuable information," said Becky Cross, director of the NASS Arkansas Field Office.

The new data collected will help researchers identify the most costly health problems and secure money for animal-health research. The study will gauge the respondent's awareness and use of various biosecurity practices, as well as barriers to remaining in business five years from now. It will also help determine which information sources are most likely to be used by the small operations and provide industry and government with the most effective conduit to dispense new information to this industry.

As with all NASS surveys, all individual responses are kept strictly confidential and used only in combination with other responses to report regional and U.S. estimates. This assures that no matter the size, participating operations cannot be identified when the results of the study are reported.

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