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California Farm News

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USDA TO CONDUCT SEMIANNUAL CATTLE SURVEY

SACRAMENTO, June 18, 2007 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture is gearing up to count cattle inventory nationwide, with plans to contact nearly 10,000 cattle operations during the first two weeks in July.

“The July Cattle Survey provides California producers the opportunity to serve as the frontline source of data on cattle,” said Vic Tolomeo, Director of USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), California Field Office. “We will be contacting approximately 800 California operations in order to measure trends in beef and dairy cattle inventories, calf crop and cattle operations.”

Those selected for the survey will have the option of responding via telephone, Internet or personal interview with a NASS representative.

“No matter how producers choose to respond, they are providing an important service to the cattle industry and to U.S. agriculture as a whole,” Tolomeo explained. “Their responses will be compiled with those of their fellow producers nationwide to provide the only accurate and comprehensive estimate of the state of U.S. cattle production.”

“The information collected is a critical decision-making tool for the cattle industry,” Tolomeo added. “For instance, it helps producers make informed marketing decisions and plan for herd expansion or reduction. It also helps packers and government to evaluate expected slaughter volume for future months and to determine potential export supplies.”

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all survey responses and publishes only State- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

NASS will publish the survey results in the biannual *Cattle* report, scheduled for release on July 20, 2007, 12:00 p.m. PDT. The report will provide national-level estimates of total inventory, beef cows, milk cows, bulls, replacement heifers, other heifers, steers, calves and number of calves born during the previous year. For a copy of the finished report, or to obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the National Agricultural Statistics Service website at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/, or call the NASS order desk at 1-800-727-9540.

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