



NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Delta Regional Office (serving Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi)
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USDA Surveying Sheep and Goat Operations

Jackson, MS – Starting in late December, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will measure sheep and goat inventories and wool and mohair production during a nationwide survey.

“Interest in sheep and goat data continues to grow with increased diversification in agriculture and consumer demands,” said Esmerelda Dickson, NASS Mississippi State Statistician. “The Sheep and Goat Survey gives producers the opportunity to report the latest information on conditions and trends in the industry.”

Mississippi operators surveyed will be asked to provide information about their sheep and goat inventories, counts of lambs and kids born during 2023, and production and prices received for wool and mohair. In Mississippi, NASS will contact approximately 400 producers to request their responses to the survey.

“Accurate data on sheep and goat inventory and production is a significant decision-making tool for USDA and the industry to be more responsive to domestic and international markets and consumer needs,” said Dickson. “The information can also help create public appreciation for the many benefits of U.S. sheep and goats and their needed products.”

To make it as easy as possible for producers to participate in the survey, NASS offers the option of responding online, by telephone, or by mail. If a producer does not respond by Saturday, December 30, 2023, a representative from the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) may reach out to schedule an interview. The results of this survey will be available in aggregate form only, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified, as required by federal law.

NASS will publish the survey results January 31, 2024 in the *Sheep and Goats* report. This, and all NASS reports, are available online at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications. For more information, please contact the NASS Delta Regional Field Office at (800) 327-2970.

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NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.

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