



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Upcoming survey information is contained in this release. You can also find it on our site at www.nass.usda.gov/pa/ and click on the Pennsylvania Publications link.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA TO STUDY HEALTH MANAGEMENT IN GOAT INDUSTRY

Harrisburg, PA – Wednesday, May 27, 2009 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture is taking an in-depth look at the health, productivity, and health management issues facing the meat, dairy, and fiber segments of the U.S. goat industry in an effort to help further the understanding of potential disease threats.

Conducted through USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), the *Goat 2009 Study* marks the first time NAHMS has focused on goat operations. From July through mid-August, representatives from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will survey selected goat operations in 21 states, including Pennsylvania. A total of 231 Pennsylvania farm operations will be contacted for this study.

The *Goat 2009 Study* is an effort to gather health data on America's goat farms. In order to continue to be highly productive, the U.S. goat industry relies on this objective, science-based information regarding successful management practices.

Goat producers will be asked to provide data regarding herd management, herd health, disease prevention practices and numerous other aspects of their operation. The *Goat 2009 Study* will identify production practices and health measures that promote efficient production and improve product quality.

Major objectives for this study include:

- Helping to develop baseline information on health and health management practices
- Determining producer awareness of disease prevalence
- Helping to guide future research and education

As with all NAHMS studies, individual responses are kept strictly confidential and used only in combination with other responses to report regional and national estimates. This assures that regardless of size, participating operations cannot be identified when the results of the study are reported.