



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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USDA TO SURVEY HOG AND PIG PRODUCERS NATIONWIDE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is preparing to contact pork producers nationwide for the December Hogs and Pigs Survey.

"Through the Hogs and Pigs Surveys, conducted quarterly, NASS measures and reports conditions and trends in the U.S. pork industry over the course of the year," said Herman Ellison, director of the NASS Virginia Field Office. "The quarterly surveys enable NASS to provide the most accurate, timely data that all sectors of the U.S. pork industry depend on to help make sound business decisions on their production and marketing strategies."

During the first two weeks of December, NASS representatives will contact nearly 13,000 pork producers, including contractors in 49 states. NASS will gather data about market hog and breeding stock inventories and farrowing intentions.

"To make it as easy as possible for selected producers to participate, we now offer them the option of responding by mail, telephone, Internet or during a personal interview." Ellison said.

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

Survey results will be published in NASS's quarterly *Hogs and Pigs* report, to be released December 27, 2007. The report includes inventory and breeding information for each state in the nation. This report, along with all NASS reports, is available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

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