



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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USDA TO CONDUCT SHEEP AND GOAT SURVEY IN JANUARY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is gearing up to survey nearly 23,000 sheep and goat producers nationwide during the first two weeks in January.

“Every January and July the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts the Sheep and Goat Inventory Survey to measure and report current conditions and trends in the U.S. sheep and goat industry,” said Herman Ellison, director of the NASS Virginia Field Office.

“Timely and accurate data on sheep and goat inventory and production allows USDA and the industry to be more responsive to the American and international public, increase consumer understanding and awareness, and establish an appreciation for the benefits of U.S. sheep and goats and their products,” added Herman Ellison.

Selected sheep and goat producers in Virginia will be contacted by the NASS Virginia Field Office during the first two weeks of January and asked to provide information on the number of breeding and market sheep and goats, lambs and kids born during the previous year, as well as mohair production, wool production and prices. For convenience, selected producers will have the option of responding to the survey by telephone, mail, during a personal interview, or Internet-online EDR.

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

NASS survey results will be published in the *Sheep and Goats* report, scheduled for release on February 1, 2008. The report will provide state- and national-level estimates relevant to the sheep and goat industry. This and all NASS reports are available online at: www.nass.usda.gov.

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