



# PRESS RELEASE

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250  
Washington Field Office • Olympia, WA 98507

Ag Statistics Hotline: 1-800-727-9540 • [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/)



Posted online July 17, 2007

Contact: Chris Messer (360)902-1940

[nass-wa@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-wa@nass.usda.gov)

### USDA TO STUDY SMALL SWINE OPERATIONS

OLYMPIA, Wash., July 17, 2007—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is taking an in-depth look at health and management practices facing small swine operations in an effort to help further the understanding of potential disease threats to the pork industry.

Conducted through USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), the *Swine 2007 Small-Enterprise Study* marks the first time NAHMS has focused on small-enterprise swine operations, an important segment of the swine industry. During August 2 to September 24, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will mail questionnaires to a random sample of swine operations in 31 states, specifically operations with fewer than 100 pigs.

By participating in the *Swine 2007 Small-Enterprise Study*, producers can help contribute to:

- Better understanding of potential risk factors for diseases associated with exposure to feral swine;
- Defining and summarizing current management practices and health conditions present on small-enterprise swine operations;
- Helping government and industry representatives make informed decisions; and
- Helping university researchers and private enterprises identify and focus on vital issues related to small swine operations.

“The study will cover states considered at risk for exposure to feral swine and transmission of classical swine fever and pseudorabies,” explained Chris Messer, Director of the NASS Washington Field Office. “The information gathered in this study will offer a more complete picture of small-enterprise swine operations and the risk of introduction of these diseases, providing valuable information that can be used to help keep swine operations healthy and secure.”

As with all NAHMS studies, individual responses are kept strictly confidential and used only in combination with other responses to report regional and U.S. estimates. This assures that no matter the size, participating operations cannot be identified when the results of the study are reported.