



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

New England Field Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USDA TO START 2009 SURVEY YEAR WITH SHEEP AND GOATS

Concord, NH – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is gearing up to collect the first sheep and goat numbers of 2009. Conducted only twice a year, the Sheep and Goat Inventory Survey provides critical inventory and production information for New England and the nation.

“For NASS, a new year means new numbers – so during the first two weeks in January, producers will be contacted to participate in the Sheep and Goat Inventory Survey.” said Gary Keough, director of the NASS New England Field Office. “This survey will provide the first glimpse of conditions and trends in the U.S. sheep and goat industry for 2009.

“Accurate data on sheep and goat inventory and production allow 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 Keough.

When contacted by the NASS New England Field Office producers will be 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.

Keough noted that, as is the case 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.

Results will be published in the *Sheep and Goats* report, scheduled for release on February 1, 2009. 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. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS New England Field Office at 800-224-9639.