



# New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

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## USDA'S ANNUAL JANUARY 1 CATTLE AND SHEEP SURVEYS

New England's cattle and calf inventory totaled 523,500 head on January 1, 2003, three percent below the previous year. Calves born in 2002 totaled 246,600, five percent below the 2001 calf crop. The sheep and lamb inventory totaled 47,000 head, unchanged from the previous year. What is the current status of these livestock species?

January cattle and sheep surveys are part of a National study to establish official USDA statistics nationwide. The results of these surveys provide vital facts used by farmers, grower associations, extension specialists, suppliers, lenders, and law makers when reviewing farm practices and policies.

The New England Agricultural Statistics Service will contact approximately 1,000 New England cattle operators to ask for their assistance in this nationwide effort to measure cattle inventories, calf crop, and death loss. In addition, about 250 sheep producers in the region will be surveyed to measure inventories, 2003 lamb crop, death loss, wool production, and inventory values.

**"These surveys are the only source of annual cattle and sheep statistics in New England. Farmer cooperation is essential in order to ensure that New England is clearly represented in the national livestock picture,"** said Aubrey Davis, Director of the New England Agricultural Statistics Service. All information about individual farms is held in the strictest confidence and the data are only used in combination with reports from other producers to prepare these livestock statistics.

Sample questions and a letter requesting assistance with this project are mailed to the producers selected to participate. Interviewers will conduct the survey through personal or telephone interviews between December 30, 2003 and January 13, 2004.

National survey results will be available in the **Sheep and Goats Report** and the **Cattle Report** from Washington, D.C. on January 30, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. All reports are available on the Internet at [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/) within minutes of the scheduled release time and the statistics are reprinted in the monthly issue of the **Ag Review**. The New England **Ag Review** is available on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/nh/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/nh/) and complimentary copies will be mailed to survey participants upon request.

The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Located in Concord, New Hampshire, it is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six States in the region. The office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through E-mail at [nass-nh@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-nh@nass.usda.gov). All National statistics and State level newsletters are available free from E-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

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