



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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

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USDA TO MEASURE TROUT SALES IN CONNECTICUT, MASSACHUSETTS, AND MAINE

The value of trout sold from operations in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Maine totaled \$774,000 in 2002. There were 17 trout producers selling food-size trout, stockers, fingerlings, and eggs as of January 1, 2003 in the three New England States. An additional 16 hatcheries distributed a total of 3.2 million fish for restoration or conservation purposes in 2002. Every February, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) publishes the official statistics of trout sales in the United States. In New England, the study is administered by the New England field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

USDA's Trout Survey is the only chance to officially measure sales for the 2003 season. This annual study is part of a national program requested by the aquaculture industry to establish official USDA statistics for trout raised and sold for food, stockers, fingerlings, or eggs. This survey is funded in part by the United States Trout Growers Association. All growers in the three States will be asked for their help in this major effort to measure 2003 sales. The survey is actually a census of all known operations in the selected states. If you have not received a questionnaire as of January 1, please call 1-800-642-9571 so you can be counted in this annual census of your industry!

A questionnaire will be mailed in late-December and non-respondents will be called in early-January. As with all surveys conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, individual operator information is kept strictly confidential and is exempt from requests under the Freedom of Information Act. The individual reports are only used in combination with other reports to establish State and National estimates.

Trout statistics will be released in the **Trout Production Report** from Washington, D.C. on February 27, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. All reports are available on the Internet at www.usda.gov/nass/ within minutes of the scheduled release time. Statistics for the New England States will be reprinted in the March issue of the **Ag Review**. The monthly New England **Ag Review** is available on the Internet at 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. All National statistics and State level newsletters are available free from e-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at www.usda.gov/nass/.

For More Information Contact: Robin Helrich at 1-800-642-9571