



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NEW ENGLAND FIELD OFFICE
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USDA TO SURVEY NEW ENGLAND CHICKEN AND EGG PRODUCERS

Concord, New Hampshire – USDA’s Annual Chickens and Eggs survey is the only chance to officially measure the entire layer industry in New England for 2008. This annual survey is part of a National study to establish official USDA estimates for 2008 egg production, as well as layer, pullet, and rooster inventories as of December 1. This survey will be conducted across all six States in the New England region. All operations with hatchery flocks, as well as growers with table egg flocks having more than 1,600 layers, will be contacted.

In late November, approximately 150 New England poultry operations will receive questionnaires in the mail. Producers who have not returned their forms by December 1 will be phoned by the New England Field Office of USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and asked to help with this important project. The results of the survey are used by farmers, grower associations, extension specialists, suppliers, lenders, and lawmakers when reviewing farm practices and policies.

Gary Keough, director of the NASS New England Field Office noted that, as is the case with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. “NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified,” he said.

Survey results will be published in NASS’s *Chickens and Eggs* report, to be released in late February 2009. 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 1-800-642-9571.