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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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New Study Looks at Livestock Operators' Use of Ethanol Co-Products in Feed

Washington, June 29, 2007 – Roughly half of the cattle and hog operations in a 12-state region either fed ethanol co-products or considered feeding them to their livestock last year, according to a report published today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) with the support and funding of the Nebraska Corn Board.

Among dairy operations, 38 percent indicated that they fed co-products during 2006 and another 22 percent considered doing so. Among cattle on feed operations, 36 percent fed co-products and 34 percent more considered it. Among beef cattle operations, 13 percent reported that they fed co-products and 30 percent considered it. For hog operations, 12 percent fed co-products and 35 percent considered it.

NASS contacted approximately 9,400 livestock operations in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin to determine whether they used co-products – including distillers grains and corn gluten feed – in their feed rations in 2006. NASS collected information regarding the types and amounts of co-products fed, how the co-products were procured and used, and what concerns and barriers may have prevented operations from feeding co-products.

Of the various types of co-products available to operations for feeding, corn gluten feed was used by 46 percent of beef cow operations and 38 percent of cattle on feed operations, while distillers dried grains were used by 45 percent of dairy cattle operations and 44 percent of hog operations. Other co-products that the survey looked at included distillers dried grains with solubles, condensed distillers solubles, brewers grains and distillers wet grains.

Where do livestock operators get their ethanol co-products? Most dairy cattle, beef cattle and hog producers purchase them through feed companies or co-ops, while a majority of cattle on feed operations purchase them directly from ethanol and other processing plants.

Livestock operations that are not currently using ethanol co-products indicated that availability is the primary impediment. Infrastructure and handling issues are also a barrier as, to a lesser extent, is cost.

Ethanol Co-Products Used for Livestock Feed and all other NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

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