



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# California Farm News

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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## USDA TO STUDY HEALTH MANAGEMENT IN GOAT INDUSTRY

SACRAMENTO, June 16, 2009 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture is taking an in-depth look at the health, productivity, and health management issues facing the meat, dairy and fiber segments of the U.S. goat industry in an effort to help further the understanding of potential disease threats.

Conducted through USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), the *Goat 2009 Study* marks the first time NAHMS has focused on goat operations. From late June through July, representatives of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will survey selected goat operations in 21 states including approximately 300 operations in California

"The *Goat 2009 Study* is a grassroots effort to gather health data on America's goat farms," said Vic Tolomeo, Director of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), California Field Office. "In order to continue to be highly productive, the U.S. goat industry relies on this objective, science-based information regarding successful management practices."

Goat producers will be asked to provide data regarding herd management, herd health, disease prevention practices and numerous other aspects of their operations. The *Goat 2009 Study* will identify health measures and practices that promote efficient production and improve product quality.

Major objectives for this study include:

- Helping to develop baseline information on health and health management practices
- Determining producer awareness of disease prevalence
- Helping to guide future research and education

As with all NAHMS studies, individual responses are kept strictly confidential and used only in combination with other responses to report regional and national estimates. This assures that regardless of size, participating operations cannot be identified when the results of the study are reported.

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