



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
DELTA REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE

(Serving Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi)

10800 Financial Centre Parkway, Suite 110, Little Rock, AR 72211



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Contact: Eugene Young
(800) 327-2970

USDA TO COLLECT 2016 SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORY DATA

Jackson, MS – In late December, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will begin to survey sheep and goat operations throughout the country for a comprehensive measure of inventories as well as wool and mohair production nationwide.

“NASS will give producers the opportunity to report the latest information on conditions and trends in the U.S. sheep and goat industry throughout Mississippi,” said Esmerelda Dickson, Mississippi State Statistician. “In Mississippi, we’ll be contacting over 300 operations to request their responses to the Sheep and Goat Survey.”

“Accurate data on sheep and goat inventory and production is a critical decision-making tool for USDA and the industry to be more responsive to domestic and international markets and consumer needs. The information can also help create public appreciation for the benefits of U.S. sheep and goats and their products,” added Dickson.

To make it as easy as possible for producers to participate, NASS offers the option of responding via a secure Internet connection, telephone, mail, or personal interview with a local NASS representative.

Dickson 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 producer or operation can be identified,” she said.

NASS will publish the survey results on January 29, 2016, in the *Sheep and Goats* report. These and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov. For more information, call the NASS Delta Regional Office at (800) 327-2970 or visit our website [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide to NASS Surveys/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide%20to%20NASS%20Surveys/) and click on ‘Sheep & Goat Inventory’.

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NASS provides accurate, timely, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. We invite you to provide occasional feedback on our products and services. Sign up at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/subscriptions> and look for “NASS Data User Community.” USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).