



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 5, 2015

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USDA CONDUCTING END-OF-YEAR HOGS AND PIGS SURVEY

HARRISBURG, PA – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is contacting producers for the December Hogs and Pigs Survey. Conducted quarterly, the end-of-year survey in December is the most comprehensive gathering of detailed data on market hog and breeding stock inventories as well as farrowing intentions in every state.

“According to the most recent *Hogs and Pigs* report in September, there were 68.4 million hogs and pigs in the United States,” said King Whetstone, Director of the USDA/NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office. “This marks the highest inventory of all hogs and pigs since official, U.S. government quarterly hog and pig estimates began in 1988. The December survey and resulting report will continue to provide important indicators for the industry of what changes are occurring – if any.”

NASS will mail the questionnaires to all producers selected for the survey in late November. To ensure all survey participants have an opportunity to respond, NASS interviewers will contact all producers who do not respond by mail or email to conduct telephone and personal interviews.

The data gathered in these quarterly surveys allow NASS to accurately measure and report conditions and trends in the U.S. pork industry over the course of the year. The information is used by all sectors of the industry to help make sound and timely business decisions.

Whetstone 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 estimates, ensuring that no individual producer or operation can be identified,” he said.

NASS will publish the survey results in the *Quarterly Hogs and Pigs* report on December 23. All NASS reports are available online at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/>. For more information, call the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office at 1-800-498-1518.

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