NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE
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USDA SURVEYING SHEEP AND GOAT OPERATIONS

HARRISBURG, PA – Starting in late December, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will measure sheep and goat inventories and wool and mohair production during a nationwide survey.

"Interest in sheep and goat data continues to grow with increased diversification in agriculture and consumer demands," said Northeastern Regional Director King Whetstone. "The Sheep and Goat Survey gives producers the opportunity to report the latest information on conditions and trends in the industry."

Operators surveyed will be asked to provide information about their sheep and goat inventories, counts of lambs and kids born during 2016, and production and prices received for wool and mohair.

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

To make it as easy as possible for producers to participate in the survey, NASS offers the option of responding online, by telephone, mail, or a personal interview with a local NASS representative.

NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level data in aggregate, ensuring that no individual producer or operation can be identified.

NASS will publish the survey results January 31, 2017 in the *Sheep and Goats* report. This and all NASS reports are available online at *www.nass.usda.gov*. For more information, call the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office at (800) 498-1518.

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