



# NEWS RELEASE

**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
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## USDA to Study Health Management in Goat Industry

**Harrisburg, PA** – The U.S. Department of Agriculture is taking an in-depth look at the health, productivity, and health management issues facing the meat, dairy, fiber, and other 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 2019 Study* marks the second time NAHMS has focused on goat operations. From July through mid-August, representatives from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will survey selected goat operations in 24 states, including Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut and Vermont.

The *Goat 2019 Study* is an effort to gather health data on America's goat farms. In order to continue to be highly productive, the U.S. goat industry relies on this objective, science-based information regarding successful management practices.

Qualified participants who give signed consent to a follow up survey can receive free biological testing for up to 15 of their goats. Goat producers will be asked to provide data regarding herd management, herd health, disease prevention practices and numerous other aspects of their operation. The *Goat 2019 Study* will identify production practices and health measures that promote efficient production and improve product quality.

### Major objectives for this study include:

- Observe changes in animal health, nutrition, and management practices from 2009 - 2019.
- Describe practices to control internal parasites and reduce parasites' resistance
- Promote appropriate use of antimicrobials.
- Estimate intestinal pathogen and antimicrobial resistance prevalence.
- Construct an antibody and DNA bank for future research.

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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