



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
New England Field Office



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USDA TO CONDUCT SEMIANNUAL CATTLE SURVEY

Concord, NH – The U.S. Department of Agriculture is gearing up to count cattle inventory nationwide, with plans to contact nearly 10,000 cattle operations during the first two weeks in July.

“The July Cattle Survey provides New England producers the opportunity to serve as the frontline source of data on cattle” said Gary Keough, director of the New England Field Office of USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). “In New England, we’ll be contacting about 450 operations in order to measure trends in beef and dairy cattle inventories, calf crop and cattle operations.”

Producers selected for the survey will have the option of responding via telephone, mail or personal interview with a local NASS representative.

“No matter how they choose to respond, they are providing an important service to the cattle industry and to U.S. agriculture as a whole,” Keough said. “Their responses will be compiled with those of their fellow producers nationwide, providing the only accurate and comprehensive estimate of the state of U.S. cattle production.”

The information is a critical decision-making tool for the cattle industry, he explained.

“For instance, it helps producers make informed marketing decisions and plan for herd expansion or reduction. It also helps packers and government evaluate expected slaughter volume for future months and determine potential supplies for export,” Keough said.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is held confidential by law. NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all survey responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

NASS will publish survey results in the biannual *Cattle* report, scheduled for release on July 20, 2007. The report will provide national-level estimates of total inventory, beef cows, milk cows, bulls, replacement heifers, other heifers, steers, calves, and number of calves born during the previous year. All reports are available on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS New England Field Office at 1-800-642-9571.