



NASS

New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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November 9, 2000 - For Immediate Release - Please Inform Others

USDA'S ANNUAL JANUARY 1 CATTLE & SHEEP SURVEYS

New England's cattle and calf inventory totaled 569,000 head on January 1, 2000, 3 percent below the previous year. Calves born totaled 274,000, 3 percent below the 1998 calf crop. The sheep and lamb inventory totaled 50,000 head, unchanged from the previous year. It is once again time to measure these livestock commodities in New England.

These cattle and sheep surveys are part of a national study to establish official USDA statistics for each of these commodities nationwide. The results of the surveys are used by farmers, grower associations, extension specialists, suppliers, lenders and law-makers to have the facts about agriculture when reviewing farm practices and policies.

The New England Agricultural Statistics Service will contact approximately 1,000 New England cattle operators to ask for their help in a nationwide effort to measure cattle inventories, calf crop and death loss. In addition, about 250 sheep producers will be surveyed to measure sheep inventories, 2000 lamb crop, death loss, wool production and inventory values.

"These surveys are the only source of annual cattle and sheep statistics for individual states in New England. Farmer cooperation is essential in order to ensure that agriculture in New England is clearly represented in the national livestock picture," said Aubrey Davis, Director of the New England Agricultural Statistics Service. All information about individual farms is held in the strictest confidence and the data are only used in combination with reports from other producers to prepare these livestock statistics.

The producers selected to participate are mailed sample questions and a letter requesting their help in this project. Interviewers will conduct the survey through personal or telephone interviews between December 30 and January 12, 2001.

The national survey results will be available in the *Sheep and Goats* report and the *Cattle* report. Both of these reports are released in Washington, DC on January 26, at 3:00pm. All reports are available on the Internet within minutes of the scheduled release time. New England statistics are reprinted in the February issue of the *Ag Review* (a monthly newsletter from the Concord field office). The *Ag Review* is also available on the Internet monthly and complimentary copies are mailed to survey participants upon request.

[The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. It is located in Concord, NH, and is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six states in the region. The office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at nass-nh@nass.usda.gov. All national statistics and state level newsletters are available through free e-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at www.usda.gov/nass/.]

For More Information Contact: Dianne Johnson or Aubrey Davis at 1-800-642-9571.