



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NEW ENGLAND FIELD OFFICE
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USDA TO SURVEY NEW ENGLAND HOG AND PIG PRODUCERS

Concord, New Hampshire – The New England Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is preparing to contact pork producers region-wide for the December Hogs and Pigs survey.

In late November, approximately 300 New England pork producers will receive questionnaires in the mail. Producers who have not returned their forms by December 1 will be phoned by the New England Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and asked to help with this important project. They will be asked to report their inventories as of December 1, as well as farrowing intentions for the next six months. The December Hog and Pig survey is the only chance to officially measure the New England hog industry in 2008.

"Through this survey, NASS measures and reports conditions and trends in the U.S. pork industry over the course of the year," said Gary Keough, director of the NASS New England Field Office. "The annual Hogs and Pigs Survey enables NASS to provide the most reliable, timely data.

"With growing inventory numbers and record-level pork exports, all sectors of the industry here and overseas depend on this information to make sound business decisions," added Keough.

Keough 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 data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," he said.

Survey results will be published in NASS's quarterly *Hogs and Pigs* report, to be released December 30. This and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS New England Field Office at 1-800-642-9571.