



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
New England FIELD OFFICE
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USDA TO CONDUCT 2010 SHEEP AND GOAT SURVEY

Concord, New Hampshire – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is gearing up for the Sheep and Goat Inventory Survey. Conducted each year in January and July, this survey provides critical inventory and production information for New England and the nation.

"During the first two weeks in January, producers in New England will be contacted to participate in the Sheep and Goat Inventory Survey." said Gary Keough, Director of the NASS New England Field Office. "This survey will provide the latest information of conditions and trends in the U.S. sheep and goat industry for 2010.

"Accurate data on sheep and goat inventory and production allow USDA and the industry to be more responsive to the American and international public, increase consumer understanding and awareness, and establish an appreciation for the benefits of U.S. sheep and goats and their products," added Keough.

When contacted by the NASS New England Field Office, producers will be asked to provide information on the number of breeding and market sheep and goats, lambs, and kids born during the previous year, as well as mohair production, wool production, and prices. For convenience, producers will have the option of responding to the survey by telephone, mail, during a personal interview, or online.

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 survey responses ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

Results will be published in the *Sheep and Goats* report, scheduled for release on January 29, 2010. The report will provide state- and national-level estimates on the sheep and goat industry. This and all NASS reports are available online at: www.nass.usda.gov.