



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 N Cameron St, Rm G-19 · Harrisburg, PA 17110

Upcoming survey information is contained in this release. You can also find it on our site at www.nass.usda.gov/pa/ and click on the Pennsylvania Publications link.

Contact: Marc Tosiano, 717-787-3904
nass-pa@nass.usda.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA to Count Pennsylvania's Inventory of Hogs and Pigs

HARRISBURG, PA, July 21, 2008 - - - Despite the rising price of livestock feed and the decreasing number of hog operations in the United States, total U.S. inventory of hogs and pigs has been at a record high. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be looking to see if this trend has continued when they collect inventory numbers in September from hog operations throughout Pennsylvania and the nation.

To do this the Pennsylvania Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will contact producers statewide as part of the quarterly Hogs and Pigs Survey.

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

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

In early September, NASS representatives will contact more than 9,000 pork producers, including contractors in the 30 largest hog-producing states. NASS will collect data about market hog, breeding stock inventories and farrowing intentions.

"Information provided by respondents is confidential by law, as with all NASS surveys. 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," stated Tosiano.

Survey results will be published in NASS's quarterly *Hogs and Pigs* report, to be released September 26. The report includes inventory and breeding information for each of the 17 largest hog producing states. This report, along with all NASS reports, is available online at www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Pennsylvania Field Office at 1-800-498-1518.

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