



## NASS Programs

# 2013 December Hogs and Pigs Survey

### About the Survey

The December Quarterly Hogs and Pigs survey gathers information from pork producers in the United States.

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts the quarterly hog survey in March, June and September collecting hog information in the 29 largest hog-producing states, which together account for over 95 percent of total U.S. inventory. The December survey covers all states in the nation.

NASS will release the results of the survey on December 27, 2013. All reports are available on the NASS website: [www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/index.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/index.asp).

### Response Confidentiality

All information NASS collects in this survey will be kept strictly confidential, as required by federal law. The results of this survey will be available in aggregate form only, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

### How NASS Collects Data

During the first two weeks of December, NASS will send the survey to approximately 10,000 pork producers, including contractors with the capacity to raise breeding or market hogs.

The survey collects market hog and breeding stock inventory, farrowing intentions, and the latest pig crop.

Producers who receive the survey may respond in either of the following ways:

- **Online** – Secure, online reporting is the most timely, cost-effective option. The cover letter includes instructions for this easy option.
- **By mail or fax** – Producers fill out the survey questionnaire and return it in the envelope provided or via fax.

A NASS representative will contact producers who do not respond to offer the option of a telephone or personal interview.

### Who Uses the Information?

Pork producers, analysts, agribusinesses, and others use data from the hogs and pigs survey as a critical decision-making tool.

- Livestock producers and feeders rely on NASS reports to evaluate a wide range of information when making decisions on purchases, sales, and capital investments.
- Producers also use the up-to-date production and inventory information to anticipate supply- and demand-based pricing.
- Analysts use data on breeding stock inventory, farrowing intentions, the latest pig crop, and average litter size to forecast the expansion and contraction of pork production.
- Processors, warehouses, storage companies, and the transportation sector rely on the reports to anticipate future volume.

