



NASS Programs

2014 Sheep and Goats Survey

About the Survey

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts the Sheep and Goats Inventory Survey every January to collect information on inventories, as well as number of lambs and kids born during the previous year. NASS will publish the results of the survey on January 31, 2014, in the *Sheep and Goats* report.

The survey results help the industry be more responsive to domestic and international markets and consumer needs. The accurate, good-quality data also help create public appreciation for the benefits of U.S. sheep and goats and their products.

All previous *Sheep and Goats* reports are available online at: http://bit.ly/NASS_Sheep_Goats.

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, without revealing any information that may identify individual operations.

How NASS Collects Data?

NASS will conduct the Sheep and Goats Survey in every state except Alaska. In late December, NASS will mail the survey to 23,000 sheep and goat operators.

The survey asks producers to provide information about their sheep and goat inventories, counts of lambs and kids born during 2013, and production and prices received for wool and mohair.

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 – Producers fill out the survey questionnaire and return it in the envelope provided.

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

Who Uses The Information?

Sheep and goat producers, agribusinesses, and policymakers use data from the sheep and goats surveys as a critical decision-making tool. For instance:

- Producers use the information to determine production and marketing strategies and to plan purchases and capital investments.
- Suppliers, packers and government agencies use the sheep and goats inventory estimates to evaluate the expected slaughter volume for future months and to determine potential supplies for export.
- USDA and producer organizations can better prepare and plan for crisis situations such as disease outbreaks with accurate inventory and production data.

