Non-substantive Change Request

0535-0213 – Agricultural Surveys – December Hogs, (quarterly and annual surveys), January Cattle, and January Sheep and Goats

In NASS's continuing effort to standardize questionnaires and to minimize the frequency in which farmers are contacted, NASS is submitting this non-substantive change request.

Overview of non-substantive change request – The hog and cattle surveys are currently approved to collect the value of breeding livestock. The sheep and goat survey is currently approved to collect values for both breeding and market animals. NASS would like to expand the cattle and hog surveys to include the additional values for market animals.

In addition, this non-substantive change request will be for the expansion of the predator loss questions. Currently, NASS is approved to collect predator loss data in Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and Utah under cooperative agreements with those states. Recently NASS received funding from the USDA - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to collect predator loss data for cattle and goats for the entire US in FY 2016. This information is utilized by APHIS to design effective programs to address predators and their economic impact on the farm and ranch communities. The predator loss questions for cattle and sheep have generally been done every five years if funding was made available.

The base month for sampling of hogs is December. For cattle, sheep, and goats the base month is January. The follow-on surveys that are done during the year are subsampled from these base months. With the approval of this non-substantive change request, NASS would be able to incorporate these changes into the upcoming data collection cycles, which coincide with the approved funding.

December Hogs Survey

In response to data requests received at trade shows and livestock association meetings, NASS's Statistics Division decided it would improve the quality of livestock estimates if we expand the amount of detail we collect for each livestock category to match what is currently collected in our Sheep and Goats Survey.

Currently NASS collects only the "Breeding Hog Value" in the December Hogs Survey:

Breeding Hog Value		
[If no breeding hogs (sows, gilts, or boars) were reported in **item 2** or **item 3**, then go to **item 7**.]		**Dollars**
5. What is the average replacement value per head of hogs and pigs used and to be used for **breeding**? (Nearest whole dollar.)..		877

NASS plans to expand this for the 2015 December Hogs Survey to:

Inventory Values for Hogs and Pigs on Hand on December 1, 2015	
6. What is the average value per head of the following [Report to nearest dollar.]	**Dollars**
a. Sows and gilts used and to be used for breeding?	xxx
b. Boars used and to be used for breeding?	xxx
c. Market hogs and pigs for each of the following four weight groups?	
(i) Under 50 pounds? (**Include,** unweaned pigs intended for market or home use.)	xxx
(ii) 50 – 119 pounds?	xxx
(iii) 120 – 179 pounds?	xxx
(iv) 180 pounds and over? (**Include** sows and boars no longer used for breeding.)	xxx

NASS survey methodologists feel this slight increase in detail will not create any noticeable burden on respondents. Hog farmers we talked with said they have the data readily available for the additional questions, since such data helps them make marketing decisions.   For example, many hog farmers track market prices daily for the various weight classes in order to decide when to sell their animals. They must continually know their inventory by weight class in order to make such marketing decisions.

January Cattle Report

In January 2015 NASS only collected the "Breeding Stock Values" with the 2015 January Cattle Report:

12. What is the average replacement value per head of the following breeding stock: [Report to nearest dollar.]	
a. Beef cows?	$ 190
b. Heifers kept for beef cow replacement weighing 500 pounds or more?	$ 192
c. Milk cows?	$ 266
d. Heifers kept for milk cow replacement weighing 500 pounds or more?	$ 267
e. Bulls weighing 500 pounds or more?	$ 191

In January 2016, NASS plans to expand the inventory values to include cattle and calves that may also be on the farm at the time of the survey.

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12. What is the average value per head of the following:
   [Report to nearest dollar.]

a.	Beef cows?	$	190
b.	Heifers kept for beef cow replacement weighing 500 pounds or more?	$	192
c.	Milk cows?	$	266
d.	Heifers kept for milk cow replacement weighing 500 pounds or more?	$	267
e.	Bulls weighing 500 pounds or more?	$	191
f.	Other heifers weighing 500 pounds or more?	$	195
g.	Steers weighing 500 pounds or more?	$	196
h.	Calves weighing less than 500 pounds?	$	197

Similar to the additional hog questions, cattle producers routinely know their cattle inventory by weight class in order to make profitable marketing decisions. For this reason, the additional questions will not add noticeable burden to respondents.

Predator Loss Questions - Cattle

Every five years NASS collects predator loss data from cattle farmers as part of a reimbursable agreement with the USDA – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). In January 2016 the cattle predator loss questions will be added back to the questionnaire.

In the 2011 January Cattle Report (2010 reference period) we asked the following questions:

Section 1A – Causes of Predator and Non - Predator Loss

Questions 1 – 13 are collected for use by other agencies within the Department of Agriculture.

[Refer to Items 6 and 7 on the previous pages.]   **Office Use**

1 - Incomplete	115
3 – Valid Zero	

1. If Cattle or Calves died or were lost on this operation last year, please report what happened to them.

    Record answers in the tables below.

    How many Cattle or Calves died or were lost from:

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2. Predator Causes:

	Calves	Cattle
Bears. . . . . +	953	042
Bobcats or Lynx. . . . . +	952	041
Coyotes. . . . . +	950	038
Dogs. . . . . +	689	037
Foxes. . . . . +	688	036
Wolves. . . . . +	687	039
Ravens. . . . . +	957	044
Eagles. . . . . +	951	040
Vultures. . . . . +	961	045
Mountain Lions, Cougars, or Pumas. . . . . +	954	043
Other Predators [specify] _____ . . . . . +	955	049
Unknown predators. . . . . +	960	060

3. Non – Predator Causes:

☐ Digestive problems (bloat, scours, parasites, enterotoxemia, acidosis, etc.) . .	+	962	046
☐ Respiratory problems (pneumonia, shipping fever, etc.).	+	964	047
☐ Metabolic problems (milk fever, grass tetany, etc.).	+	965	048
☐ Mastitis.	+	967	051
☐ Lameness or injury.	+	968	054
☐ Other Diseases.	+	963	063
☐ Weather related causes (chilling, drowning, lightning, etc.).	+	956	050
☐ Calving related problems.	+	966	053
☐ Poisoning (nitrate poisoning, noxious feeds, noxious weeds, etc.).	+	958	052
☐ Theft (stolen).	+	024	056
☐ Other non - predator causes (old age, etc.)		027	057
[specify] _____	+		
☐ Unknown non - predator causes.	+	032	058

4. Add calf and cattle deaths by cause in each column. These totals should agree with the death loss recorded in items 6 and 7 previously. If they don't agree, make corrections wherever necessary. . . . . = | 028 | 059 |

5. How many calves and cattle were injured but not killed by predators during 2010?	970	971

6. Did you use any non-lethal methods to prevent wildlife-caused losses on your cattle operation?	134

    ₁☐ **Yes** = 1, Continue   ₃☐ **No** = 3, Go to **Item 10** . . . .

7. To prevent wildlife caused losses on your cattle operation,

Did you use: **Yes**   **No**

   a.   Guard Animals. . . . . ₁☐   ₃☐ | 121

   b.   Fencing (Predator Exclusion Fencing). . . . . ₁☐   ₃☐ | 124

   c.   Herding. . . . . ₁☐   ₃☐ | 126

   d.   Night Penning. . . . . ₁☐   ₃☐ | 127

   e.   Fright Tactics. . . . . ₁☐   ₃☐ | 128

   f.   Livestock Carcass Removal. . . . . ₁☐   ₃☐ | 129

   g.   Culling Older Cattle to Prevent Death Loss. . . . . ₁☐   ₃☐ | 130

   h.   Frequent Checks in High Predation Areas/Seasons. . . . . ₁☐   ₃☐ | 132

   i.   Other Non – lethal (specify: _____). . . . . ₁☐   ₃☐ | 133

8. Did you spend any money on **non-lethal** predator control measures for
cattle and calves during 2010?

    ₁☐ **Yes** = 1, Continue   ₃☐ **No** = 3, Go to **Item 10** . . . . | 135

	Dollars
9. How much was spent on cattle and calves for **non-lethal** predator control measures by this operation during 2010?.	136

10. Did you spend any money on **lethal** predator control measures for cattle
and calves during 2010?

    ₁☐ **Yes** = 1, Continue   ₃☐ **No** = 3, Go to **Item 12** . . . . | 137

	Dollars
	_____

11. How much was spent on cattle and calves for **lethal** predator control measures by this operation during 2010?.	138

12. Did you have the assistance of a County, State or Federal Government Trapper in controlling

    predators of cattle and calves in 2010?

    ₁☐ **Yes** = 1,   ₃☐ **No** = 3 . . . . | 139 |

13. If you quit raising cattle within the past year which of the following was the **primary** reason:

    ₁☐ Disease = 1

    ₂☐ Predator loss = 2

    ₃☐ Price of cattle or cattle products = 3

    ₄☐ Retirement = 4

    ₅☐ Weather (drought, etc.) = 5

    ₆☐ Other causes = 6 (specify _____)

    | 140 |

In the January 2016 Cattle Report NASS plans to add "old age" as an option for question 3, and delete questions 12 and 13. The remainder of the questions will remain the same as they were in 2011. The additional predator loss questions are estimated to add approximately 10 minutes of respondent burden to each questionnaire. However the sample size for 2016 will be less than originally estimated. The table on the last page shows the adjusted respondent burden.

January Sheep and Goat Report

In January 2015 we asked the following goat kid question.

	Angora	Milk	Meat & Other
6. Deaths and Losses During 2014 How many kids died or were lost from all causes during 2014? (Exclude kids born dead.).	1102	1105	1106

In January 2016 we will expand this question to provide more detail on goat kid deaths.

6. How many kids died or were lost from all causes **before** being weaned during 2015: (Exclude kids born dead.).	xxx	xxx	xxx
7. How many kids died or were lost from all causes **after** being weaned during 2015?	xxx	xxx	xxx

Predator Loss Questions – Sheep and Goats

Every five years NASS collects predator loss data from sheep farmers as part of a reimbursable agreement with the USDA – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). In January 2015 this data was collected from sheep farmers from across the country. For the January 2016 survey, NASS was asked by APHIS to collect predator loss data for goats. The questions are basically the same as they were for the January 2015 sheep portion of the questionnaire.

Deaths and Losses During 2015 (Include goats and kids that died or were lost on grazing land leased on a fee per head or animal unit month (AUM) basis.)		How many **kids** died or were lost from all causes **before** being weaned during 2015?	How many **kids** died or were lost from all causes **after** being weaned during 2015?	How many **goats** died or were lost from all causes during 2015?
14. Report the number of kids or goats that died or were lost from all causes for the following:.	=	xxx	xxx	xxx

[If the total in Item 14 was zero, go to Section 3; otherwise, continue. The total for Item 14 should equal the total reported for Items 6, 7, and 8.]

15. Of the (item 14) kids or goats that died or were lost, how many were lost from the following causes in 2015?

Predator Causes		**Kids before being weaned**	**Kids after being weaned**	**Goats**
a. Bears	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
b. Bobcats or Lynx	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
c. Coyotes	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
d. Dogs	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
e. Foxes	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
f. Mountain lions, cougars, or pumas	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
g. Wolves	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
h. Vultures	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
i. Ravens	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
j. Feral pigs	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
k. Eagles	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
l. Other known predator causes (specify: _____)	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
m. Other unknown predator causes	+	xxx	xxx	xxx

		Kids before being weaned	Kids after being weaned	Goats
Non–Predator Causes	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
n. Enterotoxemia (overeating)	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
o. Internal parasites.	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
p. Other digestive problems (bloat, scours, acidosis, etc.).	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
q. Respiratory problems.	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
r. Metabolic problems (milk fever, etc.).	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
s. Other disease problems (mastitis, foot rot, etc.).	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
t. Weather related (chilling, drowning, lightning, etc.)	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
u. Starvation	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
v. Kidding problems	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
w. Pregnancy toxemia	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
x. Poisoning (nitrate, noxious feeds, noxious weeds, etc.).	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
y. Theft (stolen).	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
z. Other non-predator causes (lameness, etc.) (specify: . . . .)	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
aa. Found dead (cause undetermined)	+	xxx	xxx	xxx
bb. Unknown non-predator causes	+	xxx	xxx	xxx

	Head
16. During 2015, how many bred does were on this operation?.	xxx

	Head
17. Of the (Item 16) bred does, how many aborted (stillborn, mummified, fetuses) during 2015?.	xxx

	Kids before being weaned	Kids after being weaned	Goats
18. How many kids and goats were **injured but not killed** by predators during 2015?	xxx	xxx	xxx

19. Which of the following nonlethal methods did you use to prevent wildlife-caused losses on your goat operation during 2015?

a.	Guard dogs for goats.	xxx	1 ☐ Yes	3 ☐ No
b.	Llamas for guarding goats.	xxx	1 ☐ Yes	3 ☐ No
c.	Donkeys for guarding goats.	xxx	1 ☐ Yes	3 ☐ No
d.	Fencing (predator exclusion fencing).	xxx	1 ☐ Yes	3 ☐ No
e.	Kid shed.	xxx	1 ☐ Yes	3 ☐ No
f.	Herding.	xxx	1 ☐ Yes	3 ☐ No
g.	Night penning.	xxx	1 ☐ Yes	3 ☐ No
h.	Fright tactics.	xxx	1 ☐ Yes	3 ☐ No
i.	Removing carrion.	xxx	1 ☐ Yes	3 ☐ No
j.	Culling older goats to prevent death loss.	xxx	1 ☐ Yes	3 ☐ No
k.	Changing bedding grounds.	xxx	1 ☐ Yes	3 ☐ No
l.	More frequent checks in high predation areas/seasons.	xxx	1 ☐ Yes	3 ☐ No
m.	Altered breeding season so kids are not born when predators such as coyotes are feeding their young.	xxx	1 ☐ Yes	3 ☐ No
n.	Other nonlethal (specify:)	xxx	1 ☐ Yes	3 ☐ No

20. Did you spend any money on nonlethal predator-control measures for goats and kids during 2015?

xxx

1 ☐ Yes – [Continue]   3 ☐ No – [Go to Item 21]

		Dollars
a.	How much was spent on goats and kids for **nonlethal** predator-control measures by this operation during 2015?	xxx

21. Did you spend any money on lethal predator-control measures for goats and kids during 2015?

xxx

1 ☐ Yes – [Continue]   3 ☐ No – [Go to Item 22]

		Dollars
a.	How much was spent on goats and kids for **lethal** predator-control measures by this operation during 2015?	xxx

22. Did you have the assistance of a State or Federal government trapper in controlling predators of goats and kids in 2015? . . . .   xxx ₁☐ Yes   ₃☐
No

23. Did you quit raising goats during 2015?

xxx

   ₁☐ Yes – [Continue]   ₃☐ No – [Go to Section 3]

24. Which of the following was the main reason you quit raising goats during 2015? [Check one only.]

xxx

   ₁☐   Disease . . . .

   ₂☐   Predator loss . . . .

   ₃☐   Price of meat or milk . . . .

   ₁☐   Retirement . . . .

   ₁☐`   Parasites or worms . . . .

   ₄☐   Other reason
(specify:)

The respondent burden for these extra questions is expected to add 10 minutes to the questionnaires for the respondents who report goats.

In ID, MT, UT, and WY, NASS will ask the predator loss questions for both sheep and goat farmers. This is due to cooperative agreements NASS has with state government agencies in these four states. The death loss rates are relatively high in these states due to predators, and state agencies use the data to monitor predator management programs. The sheep predator loss questions are asked annually in these four states.

The table below shows the adjustment to sample sizes and burden for this non-substantive change to the hog, cattle, and sheep & goats surveys for 2015 and 2016.

Five years ago 45.9% of respondents on the Cattle Survey experienced losses due to predators. In 2014, 22.2% of respondents on the Sheep and Goats Survey experienced sheep losses due to predators. If the number of farmers who experienced losses due to predators are similar to previous years, then the increase in respondent burden will be much less than what is in the table below.

Survey	Survey Month	Estimated Sample Size	Freq	Estimated Responses				Non-response				Total Burden Hours
				Resp. Count	Freq x Count	Min./ Resp.	Burden Hours	Nonresp Count	Freq. x Count	Min./ Nonr.	Burden Hours	
Hog Inventory	Dec	13,000	1	10,400	10,400	10	1,733	2,600	2,600	2	87	1,8
Sheep and Goat Survey	Jan	23,500	1	18,800	18,800	20	6,267	4,700	4,700	2	157	6,4
Cattle Report	Jan	50,000	1	40,000	40,000	20	13,333	10,000	10,000	2	333	13,6
Totals		86,500		69,200	69,200		21,333	17,300	17,300		577	21,91

Survey	Survey Month	Estimated Sample Size	Freq	Estimated Responses				Non-response				Total Burden Hours
				Resp. Count	Freq x Count	Min./ Resp.	Burden Hours	Nonresp Count	Freq. x Count	Min./ Nonr.	Burden Hours	
Hog Inventory	Dec	10,000	1	8,000	8,000	10	1,333	2,000	2,000	2	67	1,4
Sheep and Goat Survey	Jan	25,000	1	20,000	20,000	30	10,000	5,000	5,000	2	167	10,1
Cattle Report	Jan	43,000	1	34,400	34,400	30	17,200	8,600	8,600	2	287	17,4
Totals		78,000		62,400	62,400		28,533	15,600	15,600		520	29,05

Net Difference	(8,500)		7,14

With the combined sample sizes decreasing by an overall 8,500 operators and an increas in number of minutes per operator for the Sheep/Goat and the Cattle survey, there is a net increase in respondent burden of 7,143 hours. That is approximately a 3.5% increase in the total respondent burden for docket number 0535-0213.