



NASS Programs

2017 March Hogs and Pigs Survey

About the Survey

The March 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 30 largest hog-producing states, which together account for over 99 percent of total U.S. inventory. The December survey covers all states in the nation.

NASS will release the results of the survey in the *Quarterly Hogs and Pigs* report on March 30, 2017. All reports are available on the NASS website: www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/.

How NASS Collects Data

During the first two weeks of the month, NASS will survey approximately 8,000 pork producers, including contractors, with the capacity to raise breeding or market hogs.

NASS will collect market hog and breeding stock inventories, farrowing intentions, and information on the latest pig crop.

Producers may respond in either of the following ways:

- **Online – Respond at www.agcounts.usda.gov.** Online reporting is the fastest, most cost-effective and most secure way to complete the survey. To get started, use the identification number and easy to follow instructions on the survey form.
- **By mail or fax** – Producers fill out the survey questionnaire and return it in the envelope provided or by 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 vital 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 information 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.

