



Animal and
Plant
Health
Inspection
Service

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

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Greetings!

We are following up on the mailing we sent you approximately one week ago asking for your help in a national study of sheep producers conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) and National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). We are contacting a select number of people who raise sheep in the United States to learn more about sheep production, marketing, health management, biosecurity, and diseases.

Enclosed is the study questionnaire. You may complete the paper questionnaire and return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope, or you may complete the survey online at www.agcounts.usda.gov by entering the 12-digit survey code located on the front of the questionnaire. If you are unable to complete the paper or web-based survey, a NASS representative will reach out to you to complete the survey over the phone or to schedule an in-person interview at a time that is convenient for you.

As a thank you for completing this questionnaire, we are offering producers with 20 or more ewes the option of free biological testing, including testing for gastrointestinal parasites, lameness pathogens (pathogens that cause digital dermatitis and foot rot), and enteric microbes (*Salmonella*, *E. coli*, *Enterococcus*, and *Campylobacter*). If you would like to take advantage of this free testing, please indicate this in Section H, Item 1 of the questionnaire. If you are interested in the testing for gastrointestinal parasites, please do not deworm your sheep until after your visit with the Veterinary Services Representative.

Further information about the testing and about the ways your data are protected can be found in the Informed Consent Form on the back of this page.

If you would like to access additional information about the study, visit the NAHMS website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/nahms> and click on the "Sheep 2024 Study" link. If you have any questions or comments about this study, we would be happy to talk with you. Our toll-free number is 1-888-424-7828.

Thank you very much for helping with this important sheep study.

Sincerely,

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