

By gathering reliable and valuable information on the U.S. sheep industry, the Sheep 2011 study will help to

- Provide the producers and practitioners of tomorrow with information on current management practices,
- Help policymakers and industry make informed decisions,
- Measure the impact of disease,
- Assist researchers and private enterprise to identify and focus on vital issues related to sheep health and productivity, and
- Conduct economic analyses of the health and production of the U.S. sheep industry.

Participation in all NAHMS studies is voluntary. Randomly selected producers who choose to participate in the study will be visited by representatives from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service from January through February 2011. During this visit, an on-site questionnaire will be administered. Eligible producers will also be asked to participate in the second phase of the study. Producers who participate in the second phase will be visited by veterinary medical officers and/or animal health technicians who will administer questionnaires and collect biological samples beginning in March 2011.

Testing Options

Results from tests on biological samples will be provided to participating producers at the conclusion of the study.

Confidentiality

Because NAHMS' studies rely on voluntary participation, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) protects the privacy of every participant. Only those collecting the data know the identity of the respondent. No name or address is ever recorded in any APHIS database. No data will be reported on any individual or in a manner that would allow the identification of an individual.

For more information, contact:

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