



Agricultural Marketing Service

Creating Opportunities for American Farmers and Businesses

3/70/20

Confidentiality Guideline

The Livestock Mandatory Reporting (LMR) Act of 1999 requires the USDA to publish mandatory data on livestock and meat price trends, contracting agreements, and supply and demand conditions **in a manner that protects the identity of reporting entities and preserves the confidentiality of proprietary transactions.**

Confidentiality

Confidentiality Obstacles:

- Even with many large slaughter plants across the U.S., still considerable concentration among companies
- There was diversity among data users

Confidentiality

- Confidentiality is simply a mathematical process to prevent the possibility of ID'ing an individual or company in a data summary
- Often referred to as suppression

Confidentiality

Data quality

- Be mindful of the data user needs or wants
- While also being mindful of the accuracy and timeliness of the data summary

History

The simplest, and most common, form of protecting confidentiality is the 3/60 rule:

- 3 reporters (companies)
- Not one of the operations can have more than 60% of the data being used in the report
- AMS used this early in LMR

The transition to 3/70/20

LMR was meeting many criteria for expanding confidentiality:

- Large census (many companies)
- Collecting quantifiable information
- Expected audience (significant data output used by large cross-section)
- What type of decisions will be based on the information published

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- At least 3 reporting entities need to provide data at least 50 percent of the time over the most recent 60 day time period.

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- No single reporting entity may provide more than 70 percent of the data for a report over the most recent 60 day time period

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- No single reporting entity may be the sole reporting entity for an individual report more than 20 percent of the time over the most recent 60 day time period

Adjustments

Geographic areas or regional reporting:

- AMS has grouped together high production areas for cattle and swine (procurement)
- Able to show regional and national data on swine and cattle
- Meat is reported on a national basis

Showing more data

What is AMS doing to show more data?

- Comprehensive reporting
- National reporting on cattle, lamb, and swine
- Rolling averages

3/70/20 Confidentiality

- Confidentiality is applied across all LMR commodities. The individual presentations will cover how it is applied to their area of oversight.

Link to guideline:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/ConfidentialityGuidelines.pdf>

Contact information

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