

## NAHMS to Study Beef Industry in 2007- 08

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The National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) is preparing to launch a national study of the U.S. beef cow-calf industry this fall. The Beef 2007-08 study marks the first time in 10 years that NAHMS has taken an in-depth look at this sector.

Data for the study will be collected from producers in 24 States, representing 79.4 percent of U.S. beef cow-calf herds and 87.8 percent of U.S. beef cows.

Major objectives for Beef 2007-08 include:

- Describing trends in beef cow-calf health and management practices;
- Evaluating management factors related to beef quality assurance;
- Describing recordkeeping practices on cow-calf operations;
- Determining producer awareness of bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) virus and management practices used for BVD control;
- Describing current biosecurity practices and producer motivation for implementing or not implementing biosecurity practices; and
- Determining the prevalence and antimicrobial resistance patterns of potential food-safety pathogens.

In 1993, NAHMS conducted the Cow/Calf Health and Productivity Audit (CHAPA). CHAPA provided baseline information on U.S. beef cattle inventories, health and management practices, forage nutrient content, and animal selenium deficiency status. The Beef '97 study built on the results of CHAPA. Objectives of the Beef '97 study included describing trends in health issues affecting the U.S. beef herd and acquiring national prevalence estimates of *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis* (Johne's disease) exposure and infections with bovine leukosis virus.

Participation in all NAHMS studies is voluntary. Randomly selected producers will be contacted by representatives from USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service from October through November, 2007. An on-site questionnaire will be administered, and eligible producers will be asked to participate in the second phase of the study. Producers who choose to continue in the study will be visited by veterinary medical officers (VMOs) and/or animal health technicians (AHTs) who will administer questionnaires and collect biological samples from January through March, 2008. VMOs and/or AHTs will make a second contact from July through August, 2008.

The reports from Beef 2007-08 will be distributed to the beef industry and its stakeholders to provide information on trends and areas of concern to the industry.

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**Beef 2007-08 Participating States**

