

## USDA Releases First Report from Beef 2007–08 Study

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has released the first descriptive report from its Beef 2007–08 study. Entitled *Part I: Reference of Beef Cow-calf Management Practices in the United States, 2007–08*, the report was produced by APHIS' National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS).

Beef 2007–08 is the third national study of the U.S. beef cow-calf industry conducted by NAHMS. The latest study was designed to serve as a basis of information for education and research programs on the nation's beef cow-calf population. Twenty-four states, accounting for 79.6 percent of U.S. beef cow-calf operations and 87.8 percent of the nation's beef cows, participated in the study. Here are a few highlights from the first Beef 2007–08 descriptive report:

- Compared to those operations having fewer beef cows, a higher percentage of operations with 200 or more beef cows utilized specific production practices to target a breed-influenced program as a marketing channel for calves produced.
- The majority of operations (83.3 percent) kept some form of records, and over 90 percent of operations with 100 or more cows kept records.
- More operations considered veterinarians a very important source for both general information and breeding and genetics information (53.1 and 45.2 percent, respectively) than any other information source.
- The majority of operations (53.8 percent) used calf age and/or weight to determine when to wean calves. Tradition was the next most common reason used to determine when to wean calves (11.9 percent of operations).

- Of operations that usually reported information to buyers regarding their calf health programs, the percentage that usually provided written documentation ranged from 32.6 percent of operations with 1 to 49 beef cows to 53.1 percent of operations with 200 or more.
- Overall, more than one-half of operations (51.3 percent) had heard of the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program. A higher percentage of operations with 200 or more beef cows had heard of the BQA program compared with operations with fewer than 200 beef cows.

*Part I: Reference of Beef Cow-calf Management Practices in the United States, 2007–08* is available at the NAHMS Web site: <http://nahms.aphis.usda.gov>.

**Note to Stakeholders:** Stakeholder announcements and other APHIS information are available on the Internet. Go to the APHIS home page at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov> and click on the "Newsroom" button. For additional information on this topic, contact Lindsay Griffin at (970) 494–7410 or e-mail: [lyndsay.m.griffin@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:lyndsay.m.griffin@aphis.usda.gov).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720–2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250–9410, or call (800) 795–3272 (voice) or (202) 720–6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.