

USDA to Launch National Beef Cow-Calf Study

Officials with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service will contact randomly selected beef cow-calf producers during October or November to conduct the first phase of a national study entitled, *Beef 2007–08*. The study will take an in-depth look at the priority health and management issues now facing the U.S. beef cow-calf industry.

Conducted through USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), the *Beef 2007–08* study marks the first time in 10 years that NAHMS has taken an in-depth look at the U.S. beef cow-calf industry. 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.

Participation in the *Beef 2007–08* study is voluntary. As always, links between NAHMS data and operations where the data were collected are confidential and not included in national databases.

Note to Stakeholders: Stakeholder announcements and other APHIS information are available on the Internet. Go to APHIS home page at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov> and click on the "Newsroom" button. For additional information on this topic, contact Teresa Howes at (970) 494-7410 or e-mail teresa.k.howes@aphis.usda.gov.

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