

USDA to Launch National Dairy Study

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) is launching its fourth national study of the U.S. dairy industry. The NAHMS Dairy 2007 study will address priority issues facing the U.S. dairy industry.

Randomly selected dairy producers will be contacted by representatives from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service in January to conduct the first phase of Dairy 2007, a national study of dairy health and health management in the United States. Data for the study will be collected from producers in 17 states: California, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin. The next two phases of the study will consist of field visits by veterinary medical officers and/or animal health technicians from February through April, and again from May through July.

The three previous studies were conducted in 1991, 1996 and 2002. The Dairy 2007 study will:

- Describe trends in dairy cattle health and management practices,
- Evaluate management factors related to cow comfort and removal rates,
- Describe dairy calf health and nutrition from birth to weaning and evaluate heifer disease prevention practices,
- Estimate the prevalence of herds infected with bovine viral diarrhea virus,

- Describe current milking procedures and estimate the prevalence of contagious mastitis pathogens,
- Estimate the herd-level prevalence and associated costs of *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*,
- Describe current biosecurity practices and determine producer motivation for implementing or not implementing biosecurity practices, and
- Determine the prevalence of specific food safety pathogens and describe antimicrobial resistance patterns.

Participation in the Dairy 2007 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 the 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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