

## USDA Releases Cattle and Calves Nonpredator Death Loss Report

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) has released its *Cattle and Calves Nonpredator Death Loss in the United States, 2005* report.

The report provides analysis of cattle and calf losses in 2005 from all causes. Special emphasis was placed on nonpredator causes of loss by class of operation, such as beef, dairy, mixed and other cattle. Operation classes were based on reported inventory. In addition, the report provides death losses by operation size and region, and, when possible, death losses reported in 1991, 1995 and 2000 were included for comparison.

Here are a few highlights from the NAHMS *Cattle and Calves Nonpredator Death Loss in the United States, 2005* report:

- A total of 1.7 million cattle and 2.3 million calves were lost to all causes during 2005. These totals represent 2.1 and 6.2 percent of cattle inventory and calf crop, respectively. While the percentage of cattle inventory lost remained stable, the percentage of calf crop lost declined from 7.0 percent in 1991 to 6.2 percent in 2005.
- Since 1991, nonpredator causes accounted for the majority of cattle and calf losses; 95.3 percent of losses in 2005 were attributed to nonpredator causes. As expected, predators accounted for a larger percentage of calf losses than cattle losses (6.7 and 2.0 percent, respectively).

- Just over 90 percent of calf losses on beef operations were due to nonpredator causes, compared to at least 97 percent of losses on dairy, mixed and other operations (99.0, 97.0 and 98.9 percent of losses, respectively).
- On dairy operations in 2005, digestive and respiratory problems were the most common causes of nonpredator calf losses (35.8 and 33.2 percent of losses, respectively).

*Cattle and Calves Nonpredator Death Loss in the United States, 2005* 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 Teresa Howes at (970) 494-7410 or e-mail [teresa.k.howes@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:teresa.k.howes@aphis.usda.gov).

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