

USDA Releases Equine 2005 Report

The National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), a program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, has released a descriptive report from its Equine 2005 study titled *Part I: Baseline Reference of Equine Health and Management, 2005*.

Equine 2005 is NAHMS' second study of the U.S. equine industry. Similar to the first study, Equine 1998, the 2005 study is designed to provide participants, industry and animal-health officials with information on the Nation's equine population. This study will serve as a basis for education, service and research related to equine infectious disease control.

The present study describes health-management factors that could impact the occurrence of equine infectious diseases. These factors include: early identification of outbreaks, reducing exposure to infectious agents and optimizing resistance to disease through vaccination.

For Equine 2005, NAHMS collected data on equine health and management practices from a representative sample of operations with five or more equids in 28 states divided into four regions:

- West: California, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming,
- Northeast: New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania,
- South: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia, and
- Central: Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin.

The 28-state target population represented 78.0 percent of equids and 78.6 percent of operations with five or more equids in the United States. Here are a few findings from Part I of the NAHMS Equine 2005 study:

- Nine of 10 operations (92.2 percent) had 19 or fewer equids present on the operation on July 1, 2005. These operations accounted for 70.8 percent of resident equids and 70.3 percent of all equids.

- Overall, 75.9 percent of operations had at least given some type of vaccine to resident equids during the previous 12 months. A higher percentage of operations in the West region (83.8 percent) had given at least some vaccines to resident equids compared to operations in the South and Northeast regions (72.3 percent and 72.0 percent, respectively).
- Overall, 4.9 percent of foals born alive died in the first 30 days. The percentage of foals that died in the first 2 days and the percentage that died in the subsequent 28 days (age 3 to 30 days) were similar (2.6 percent and 2.3 percent, respectively).
- Total deaths of equids more than 30 days of age ranged from 2.8 percent in the Northeast region to 1.6 percent in the South region during the previous 12 months.
- For equids more than 30 days to 6 months old, the leading causes of death were injury/wounds/trauma and unknown causes.

Part I: Baseline Reference of Equine Health and Management, 2005 is available at the NAHMS Web site at <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.

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.