

USDA Releases Second 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 entitled *Part II: Changes in the U.S. Equine Industry, 1998–2005*.

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

For the Equine 2005 study, data was collected on equine health and management practices from a representative sample of operations with five or more equids in 28 states divided into four regions. The 28-state target population represented 78 percent of equids and 78.6 percent of operations with five or more equids in the United States.

Part II: Changes in the U.S. Equine Industry, 1998–2005 presents a comprehensive look at trends in the U.S. equine industry. Section I of the report presents demographic changes of the U.S. equine population from a historical perspective using data provided by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Census of Agriculture and U.S. Bureau of Census. Section II includes historical data regarding equine infectious anemia, West Nile virus and vesicular stomatitis. In Section III, the results of the Equine 1998 and Equine 2005 studies are compared to provide an overview of changes in U.S. equine management and health from 1998 through 2005.

Here are a few highlights from Part II of the NAHMS Equine 2005 study:

- Census of Agriculture on-farm horse and pony numbers peaked in 1910 at 19.8 million head then declined rapidly during the 1920s and 1930s. By 1950, the number of horses and ponies was only about one-third of what it was in 1925. The decline continued until a low of 1.6 million head in 1974. As of 2002, there were 3.6 million
- horses and ponies in the United States, the highest number on farms since 1954. There is no accurate estimate of the current total number of equids in the U.S. because the number of equids on nonfarm operations does not exist.
- Although the value of U.S. livestock exports fluctuates greatly, the value of U.S. equine exports exceeded the value of swine, cattle, poultry and sheep live-animal exports each year from 1996 through 2005.
- The percentage of positive equine infectious anemia (EIA) tests among those tested declined steadily from nearly 4 percent in 1972 to less than 0.1 percent in 2005. The average cost of an EIA test increased from \$22.95 in 1998 to \$27.33 in 2005, a \$4.38 (19.1 percent) difference.
- The percentage of operations that used computerized records as the primary method of recording equine health information increased from 4.9 percent of operations in 1998 to 7.8 percent in 2005.
- The percentages of operations that vaccinated resident equids during the previous 12 months were similar in 1998 and 2005: about three-fourths had given at least some type of vaccine to resident equids during the previous 12 months.

Part II: Changes in the U.S. Equine Industry, 1998–2005 is available on 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.

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