

## USDA Releases Equine Events Report

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) has released a descriptive report entitled, *Equine 2005 Baseline Reference of Equine Health Management Strategies at Equine Events in Six States*.

Conducted in California, Colorado, Florida, Kentucky, New York and Texas, the Equine 2005 Events Study focuses on describing health-management factors at equine events that could impact the occurrence and potential spread of equine infectious diseases. Examples of events include: sales or auctions, shows, horse trials, western events, fairs, rodeos, race meets, polo matches, organized trail rides and training clinics.

In addition, the study looks at the type of information recorded by event coordinators and organizers regarding participants and their equids and explores animal-health control strategies employed at the events.

Here are a few highlights from the NAHMS Equine 2005 Events Study:

- The most common event type was show/trial (57.7 percent of events) followed by western event/fair/rodeo (21.9 percent of events). Race/polo events accounted for 6.1 percent of all events. Colorado and Texas had a higher percentage of western event/rodeo/fair events compared to events in the four other states.
- Overall, 57.1 percent of events did not require a health certificate for equids attending the event, while 20.3 percent required a health certificate for all equids, and 22.4 percent required a health certificate only for equids from out of state. A higher percentage of events in Kentucky had some type of health requirement compared to the other five states.
- A higher percentage of race/polo events (57.9 percent) required a health certificate for *all* equids compared to show/trial events (14.5 percent).

*Equine 2005 Baseline Reference of Equine Health Management Strategies at Equine Events in Six States* 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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