

## NAHMS Launches 2007 Studies

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The National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) launched Dairy 2007, the fourth national study of the U.S. dairy industry, this month. This July and August, NAHMS will conduct two other important studies: the Small-Enterprise Chicken Study and the Small-Enterprise Swine Study. Both are the first national APHIS studies of these industry segments.

Dairy producers from 17 top dairy States are asked to participate in Dairy 2007, which takes an in-depth look at the priority health and health-management issues facing the U.S. dairy industry.

Dairy 2007 will provide valuable information on nearly 80 percent of U.S. dairy herds and 82 percent of U.S. dairy cows. The 17 States included in the study are California, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. The 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 (BVD) virus,
- Describe the 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.

### **Small-Enterprise Chicken Study**

The small-enterprise chicken study will provide information on operations in the United States with 1,000 to 19,999 chickens. The study will help researchers analyze the spread of poultry diseases and possible response measures to the disease. Small-Enterprise Chicken will:

- Describe characteristics of small-enterprise operations, including bird species on hand, seasonal inventory, and marketing of free-range chickens or eggs and organic or other niche-market products,
- Describe movements of animals, people, waste products, vehicles, and equipment on and off operations, and estimate the distances associated with these movements, and
- Examine biosecurity practices, including bird access to the outdoors.

Information from the study will be used to, among other things, help develop parameters for disease-simulation models that may be used for emergency preparedness and to compare disease control strategies and estimate resources needed in the event of a disease outbreak.

### **Small-Enterprise Swine Study**

The Swine 2007 Small-Enterprise Study will focus on swine operations with fewer than 100 pigs in 31 States. These States are considered at risk for exposure to feral swine and transmission of classical swine fever (CSF) and pseudorabies. The information gathered will provide a more complete picture of small-enterprise swine operations and the risk of introduction of these diseases. It also will further the understanding of the risks and hazards presented by feral pigs, the role they play in disease transmission, and ways to minimize the threat they pose to domestic swine.