

INFO SHEET

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Highlights of Equine '98 Study Results: Part III

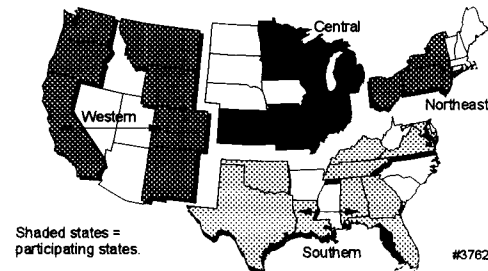
The USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) designed the Equine '98 Study to provide both participants and the equine industry with information on the United States' equine population for education, management, and research purposes.

This report is based on the second phase of Equine '98 data collection done by Federal and state Veterinary Medical Officers (VMO's) and Animal Health Technicians in 28 states.¹ Data were collected on horse management and health on-farm from April 20 through June 12, 1998, from 1,178 participating operations that had three or more horses present on January 1, 1998, as reported for the Phase 1 data collection. Race tracks were excluded from this phase of the study. This target population with three or more horses present on January 1, 1998, was estimated to represent

- 51.6 percent of *operations* with horses in the 28 states.
- 83.9 percent of *horses* in the 28 states.

More detailed information on the study and the sampling methodology is available in NAHMS Equine '98 tabular summary reports. All Equine '98 reports are posted on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/cahm>. The following information was excerpted from *Part III: Management of Health and Horses in the U.S., 1998*.

Figure 2
States Participating in the Equine '98 Study
by Region



Vaccinations

- For operations with horses over 12 months of age other than broodmares, those horses were most often vaccinated against tetanus (63.2 percent of operations), influenza (63.0 percent), and herpesvirus (42.8 percent). These horses were less likely to be vaccinated against rabies (24.5 percent of operations), Potomac horse fever (PHF, 18.0 percent), or *Streptococcus equi* (13.3 percent of operations).
- Vaccination against rabies was most common in the Northeast and Central regions. For operations that vaccinated resident horses other than broodmares, 55.6 percent of operations in the Northeast and 33.5 percent of operations in the Central region vaccinated these horses against rabies. Percentages of those operations that vaccinated resident horses other than broodmares for Potomac horse fever (PHF) were also higher for these two regions than the other regions (35.4 percent in the Northeast region and 24.9 percent in the Central region).
- A larger percentage of operations in the Central region (83.1 percent) than other regions vaccinated resident horses over 12 months of age (other than broodmares) against influenza.

¹ Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

- Over 50 percent of operations with broodmares vaccinated them against influenza (61.2 percent), tetanus (69.7 percent), encephalitis (57.2 percent), and herpesvirus (54.9 percent).

- Although 61.2 percent of operations with broodmares vaccinated the broodmares against influenza at some time, 34.6 percent of these operations vaccinated broodmares against influenza within 6 weeks prior to foaling. Percentages of operations vaccinating resident broodmares within 6 weeks prior to foaling increased with increasing size of operations.

Injections

- Personnel on 68.1 percent of operations had given injections to at least one horse on the operation in the previous 12 months.

- A new or sterilized needle was used for each animal when giving intramuscular injections on 9 out of 10 operations (90.6 percent) where injections were given by operation personnel. This practice was similar across operation size categories.

- Personnel on the majority of operations where injections were given did **not** give intravenous (IV) injections (79.8 percent of operations). For those operations where IV injections were given, the majority of operations used a new or sterile needle.

- Four out of five operations (80.6 percent) that gave injections got information on how to give them from a veterinarian.

Deworming

- Almost all (99.5 percent) operations that gave at least one horse a dewormer gave a pulse (noncontinuous) dewormer, while only 12.5 percent of operations gave continuous dewormers, such as Strongid - C, fed daily. (Methods were not mutually exclusive).

- For operations that gave a pulse (noncontinuous) dewormer, two out of three operations (67.8 percent) rotated class of dewormers in the previous 12 months.

- For the majority (98.6 percent) of operations that gave a pulse dewormer to horses, the primary reason for deworming was as a general preventive

measure. Low weight or weight loss was the primary reason for the remaining 1.4 percent of operations.

General Resident Horse Management

- Over 13 percent of operations with fewer than 20 resident horses reported the horses never left the operation compared to 1.0 percent of operations with 20 or more horses. Operations were more likely to routinely isolate returning horses where the primary use of horses was racing (42.1 percent) and breeding (17.6 percent) than operations with other primary uses.

- Overall, 11.6 percent of operations reported any resident horse was hospitalized and returned to the operation in the previous 12 months. This percentage increased with size of operation (from 5.4 percent of operations with one to five resident horses to 41.2 percent of operations with 20 or more resident horses).

- Approximately one-half of operations (50.9 percent) trimmed horses hooves five or more times per year. The percentages of operations by frequency of hoof trimming were similar across operation sizes.

Facility Management

- Over 80 percent of operations used water troughs to deliver water to resident horses. However, water troughs were the *primary* water delivery system for approximately one-third of operations.

- Operations with a primary function of farm/ranch were less likely to confine horses indoors (restrict them to the inside of a building, such as a barn, shed, or stable) in either the summer or winter than operations with other primary functions. A larger percentage of operations in the Western region than in other regions rarely or never confined horses indoors (86.3 percent in the summer and 76.2 percent in the winter).

For more information on NAHMS or the Equine '98 Study, contact:

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