USDA Releases Second Report from Dairy 2007 Study

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has released the second report from its Dairy 2007 study entitled *Part II: Changes in the U.S. Dairy Cattle Industry, 1991-2007.* The report was produced by the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS).

The report identifies changes in the U.S. dairy industry from 1991 to 2007, and it specifically addresses changes identified in four NAHMS dairy studies: NDHEP 1991, Dairy 1996, Dairy 2002 and Dairy 2007. The report also provides a worldwide snapshot of changes in the dairy industry.

The NAHMS Dairy 2007 study was designed to serve as a basis of information for education and research programs on the nation's dairy population. Seventeen states, accounting for 79.5 percent of U.S. dairy operations and 82.5 percent of the nation's dairy cows, participated in Dairy 2007. Here are a few highlights from Part II of the Dairy 2007 study:

- From 1996 to 2007, the percentage of cows with clinical mastitis increased from 13.4 to 16.5 percent, respectively. During the same time period, the percentage of cows with lameness increased from 10.5 to 14.0 percent, respiratory problems increased from 2.5 to 3.3 percent, infertility problems increased from 11.6 to 12.9 percent, and displaced abomasum increased from 2.8 to 3.5 percent. The percentage of cows with diarrhea for more than 48 hours decreased from 3.4 percent in 1996 to 2.5 percent in 2007.
- As a percentage of cow inventories, the number of calves born alive decreased from 93.4 percent in 1996 to 86.0 percent in 2007.
- From 1991 to 2007, the percentage of dairy operations that separate newborn heifer calves from their dams immediately after birth doubled, increasing from 28.0 to 55.9 percent.
- Approximately 4 to 7 percent of U.S. dairy operations have gone out of business each year since 1991. Since 1991, the number of dairy operations decreased by 58.4 percent, while January 1 milk cow numbers in 2007 were at 93.8 percent of 1992 numbers. In this same timeframe, the amount of milk per cow increased by 32.7 percent and total milk production increased by 23.1 percent.
- States in the Western United States have shown the largest growth in the number of milk cows since 1992. Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon and Utah have all increased cow numbers since 1992. States in the Southeast, including Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi, had the largest percentage decline in dairy cows, but these states represented less than 5 percent of the overall dairy population.

Part II: Changes in the U.S. Dairy Cattle Industry, 1991-2007 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