

USDA Releases Third Report from Dairy 2007 Study

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) has released the third descriptive report from its Dairy 2007 study entitled *Part III: Reference of Dairy Cattle Health and Management Practices in the United States, 2007*.

The Dairy 2007 study is NAHMS' fourth national study of the U.S. dairy industry. Like its predecessors, APHIS designed the study to provide participants, industry and animal health officials with information on the nation's dairy population that will serve as a basis for education and research. Seventeen states participated in the study, accounting for 79.5 percent of U.S. dairy operations and 82.5 percent of the nation's dairy cows. To highlight from the third Dairy 2007 descriptive report:

- Almost half of producers (49.3 percent) knew some basics about foot-and-mouth disease, and an additional 8.9 percent were fairly knowledgeable about the disease. More than 8 out of 10 producers (80.4 percent) knew some basics or were fairly knowledgeable about bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Almost 60 percent of producers (57.9 percent) were fairly knowledgeable about Johne's disease, while an additional 36.2 percent knew some basics about the disease. Additionally, more than 50 percent of producers at least knew some basics about *Mycoplasma mastitis*, bovine viral diarrhea and *Leptospira hardjo bovis*.
- Approximately one-third of the dairy cow inventory (36.2 percent) was replaced (primarily by heifers that calved) during the previous 12 months.
- More than 20 percent of operations (22.7 percent) reported that Johne's disease was confirmed via laboratory testing during the previous 12 months.
- The ground or flooring surface for lactating cows was usually dry for 60.3 percent of operations during summer and 49.5 percent in winter. Lactating cows usually stood in water or slurry on less than 1 percent of operations (0.6 percent).

- Nearly 9 out of 10 operations (89.6 percent) reported an average bulk tank somatic cell count (BTSCC) below 400,000 cells/ml, and 70.9 percent reported less than 300,000 cells/ml. Herd-size differences were minimal, with a lower percentage of medium operations having a BTSCC of less than 100,000 cells/ml compared to small and large operations.
- Nearly one out of four unweaned heifers had diarrhea during the previous 12 months (23.9 percent) and 17.9 percent of all unweaned heifers were treated for diarrhea. A lower percentage of unweaned heifers had respiratory disease (12.4 percent) and 11.4 percent of heifers were treated for respiratory disease.

Part III: Reference of Dairy Cattle Health and Management Practices in the United States, 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 Lyndsay Griffin (970) 494-7410 or e-mail: lyndsay.m.griffin@aphis.usda.gov.

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