

Confidentiality

Because NAHMS' national studies rely on voluntary participation, maintaining respondents' confidentiality is a top priority. No individual's data will be reported. Reports will present summarized data for national or regional estimates.



For More Information

For more information, contact

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United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Program Aid No. 0000

Help America's Livestock Industries: Participate in the National Nonambulatory Livestock Study



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National Nonambulatory Livestock Study

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Nonambulatory Livestock Study will provide the first statistically reliable estimates on the number of nonambulatory cattle, goats, horses, pigs, and sheep in the United States and provide insight as to how these animals are handled onfarm. The study is a collaborative effort among producers and USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service—Veterinary Services.

For this study, nonambulatory animals are defined as

- Adult livestock that cannot stand or walk for any reason (no minimum length of time), and
- Young livestock that cannot stand or walk for at least 12 hours.



Onfarm Data Collection

All Cattle

In January 2004, USDA–NASS enumerators interviewed about 40,000 cattle producers across the United States to determine the number and disposition of nonambulatory cattle and calves. The interview was repeated in January 2005. Results from both interviews will be published in spring 2005.

Dairy Cattle

From April 1 through May 13, 2005, a detailed onfarm questionnaire will be administered on a sample of dairy operations (from 21 major dairy States) that had nonambulatory cattle in 2004. In addition, as a means of comparison, the questionnaire will be administered on a sample of dairy operations that did not have nonambulatory cattle in 2004. Questionnaire results will be published in late 2005.

Sheep and Goats

In January 2005, USDA–NASS enumerators interviewed U.S. producers regarding the number and disposition of nonambulatory sheep and goats. The interview will be repeated in January 2006. Results from both interviews will be published in spring 2006.

Pigs

In-depth questions on factors associated with nonambulatory and fatigued pigs will be added to the National Animal Health Monitoring System's (NAHMS) Swine 2006 study, which will be conducted in 17 major hog-producing States in summer 2006.

Horses

In-depth questions on factors associated with nonambulatory horses will be included in the NAHMS Equine 2005 study, which will be conducted in 28 States in summer 2005.

“Participating in the survey will help provide vital information for improving the productivity and welfare of U.S. livestock.”

—Dr. Temple Grandin Department of Animal Sciences Colorado State University



Study Benefits

By participating in the first-ever National Nonambulatory Livestock Study, you will help the U.S. livestock industry, your specific industry, and your own operation. This voluntary study will

- Determine the extent of nonambulatory cattle, goats, horses, pigs, and sheep on U.S. farms;
- Describe how various livestock industries handle nonambulatory animals;

- Ascertain the disposition of nonambulatory livestock at a national level;
- Enable industry leaders and legislators to make science-based decisions on the sensitive issues regarding nonambulatory animals;
- Provide veterinarians and producers with information about species' differences in relation to nonambulatory animals; and
- Help evaluate feasible and humane handling practices for managing nonambulatory cattle, goats, horses, pigs, and sheep.