

USDA Releases First Report from Swine 2006 Study

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has released a descriptive report from its Swine 2006 study entitled, *Part I: Reference of Swine Health and Management Practices in the United States, 2006*.

Produced by APHIS' National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), this is the fourth national study of the U.S. swine industry. The study serves as a basis of information for education and research programs on the nation's swine population. Seventeen states participated in the study. These states accounted for 94 percent of swine operations with 100 or more pigs and 94 percent of the U.S. swine inventory was located on these operations. Here are a few highlights from this first descriptive report of the Swine 2006 study:

- Nearly 40 percent of sites had gestation and farrowing production phases. A smaller percentage of medium sites had these production phases than their small and large counterparts.
- Nearly 80 percent of sows on all sites were mated two or more times per service. Small sites had a substantially higher percentage of pen-mating (62.5 percent of sows) than medium and large sites (23.4 and 1.9 percent of sows, respectively).
- Approximately 4 out of 10 sites used artificial insemination as a predominant mating technique on sows and gilts for at least one mating.
- A higher percentage of breeding-age females (21.1 percent) were culled on large sites compared to medium and small sites (12.7 and 12.4 percent, respectively). Overall, 19.5 percent were culled.
- Continuous flow was the management style used most in the gestation phase by 61.5 percent of sites and for 77.0 percent of pigs.

- Large sites were more likely to wean piglets at an average of 20 days or less and move pigs to a separate nursery site compared to small sites.
- For sites with a nursery phase, more than 6 out of 10 medium sites (65.8 percent) and 5 out of 10 large sites (52.1 percent) obtained pigs for the nursery phase from another producer, while less than 3 of 10 small sites did so (25.0 percent). More than one-third of all sites (35.4 percent) obtained pigs for the nursery phase from another producer.

Part I: Reference of Swine Health and Management Practices in the United States, 2006 is available at the NAHMS Web site: <http://nahms.aphis.usda.gov>. Part II of the study is scheduled for release December 2007.

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.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.