

Surveillance inventory provides easy access to animal health information

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The U.S. Animal Health and Productivity Surveillance Inventory is an online, searchable database with information about animal health surveillance activities conducted by many different U.S. Government agencies. The inventory, which has recently been updated, began in 2004 to identify existing animal health surveillance activities as the Veterinary Services (VS) Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) National Surveillance Unit (NSU) started building a comprehensive and integrated National Animal Health Surveillance System.

The easy-to-use database compiles animal health activities of various Federal agencies into a centralized overview of national surveillance. The inventory captures, in a single location, summary-level information regarding past and ongoing animal health and productivity surveillance activities in the United States as well as management studies that provide critical baseline information on diseases and risk factors.

Inventory users may search by several categories, including:

- Species, such as cattle or swine;
- Disease/condition, such as brucellosis or copper deficiency;
- Data source, including ready-to-eat foods or slaughter establishments;
- Sample type, including brain or environmental samples;
- Category, such as trade-related monitoring or wildlife surveillance; and
- Agency, such as the Food Safety and Inspection Service or Agricultural Research Service.

The inventory provides users with an efficient source of information about animal health activities both inside and outside USDA. It also provides links to additional resources, such as program-specific information and contacts when available.

NSU manages the surveillance inventory and continually updates it to ensure the timeliness and accuracy of the information. The inventory is available for use by

research scientists within and outside USDA, as well as livestock owners, industries, and the interested public.

Recent Updates

New studies and surveillance activities recently added to the inventory include the following:

- NAHMS Dairy 2007;
- Bilateral viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) surveillance; and
- Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) ongoing surveillance.

The surveillance inventory contains these and more than 240 other Federal surveillance and monitoring programs. It is available online at <http://nsu.aphis.usda.gov/inventory/>.