

## NAHMS Poultry 2004 Study

The National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) has launched its Poultry 2004 study. The study is focused on the nontraditional poultry industries, such as backyard flocks and live-bird markets. The objectives of the study are to: 1) help provide information to improve management practices that affect bird health, 2) assist animal health officials and industry members in identifying research needs, and 3) provide owners of small-production or backyard flocks with information on avian influenza (AI), exotic Newcastle disease (END) and effective biosecurity practices.

Data collection began for the small-production backyard flock component on October 1, 2004 and will continue through November 15, 2004 in the leading poultry States which include: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Georgia, Iowa, Indiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia. Commercial poultry operations were randomly selected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Field data collectors will search for noncommercial premises that house birds within a 1 mile radius of each selected commercial operation. Animal health officials from both the Federal and State levels will then administer a confidential (will not include any identifying information) questionnaire to those who choose to participate in and contribute to the NAHMS Poultry 2004 study.

The live-bird market component of the study will be conducted from January 1, 2005 through April 30, 2005 in seven participating areas— California, Florida, New England, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Texas. Every known market in these areas will be visited by either Federal or State animal health officials. Questionnaires that focus on bird movement, cleaning and disinfecting information, and management will be administered once to market owners or managers who choose to participate. The market visits will be incorporated into routine activities (e.g. AI surveillance). For the purpose of this study, tests will not be conducted; however, the questionnaire does ask for historical information on AI testing. In order to maintain confidentiality, markets will be identified by coded identification numbers only.

The NAHMS is also in the process of developing a survey to be mailed to the members of the United GameFowl Breeders Association (UGBA). The purpose of this questionnaire will be to examine important issues in game fowl industry related to bird health, biosecurity practices and movement.

Once all data has been collected and analyzed, NAHMS will generate summary reports of national and regional estimates for dissemination to owners/managers, producers, members of industry, researchers and animal health officials.

For more information on the Poultry 2004 study and other NAHMS studies please visit their Website at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/ncahs/nahms/index.htm>.