

USDA Releases Fourth Report from Dairy 2007 Study

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has released the fourth descriptive report from its Dairy 2007 study. The report, *Part IV: Reference of Dairy Cattle Health and Management Practices in the United States, 2007*, was produced by APHIS' National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS).

Dairy 2007 is NAHMS' fourth national study of the U.S. dairy industry. Like its predecessors, the study was designed 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. These states accounted for 79.5 percent of U.S. dairy operations and 82.5 percent of the nation's dairy cows. Here are a few highlights from the fourth Dairy 2007 descriptive report:

- More than one-half of operations (54.9 percent) had cattle pregnancies conceived through natural service (bull breeding). Almost 9 out of 10 operations (88.4 percent) had pregnancies conceived via artificial insemination (AI), and about 1 of 10 operations (9.9 percent) had pregnancies via embryo transfer. A higher percentage of large operations (71.8 percent) used natural service compared with small operations (51.2 percent).
- On average, 72.5 percent of pregnancies were conceived by AI—either after detected estrus or timed—during the previous 12 months.
- Approximately 6 out of 10 operations had guidelines on when to intervene during calving for heifers (60.7 percent), cows (60.5 percent) or both (60.5 percent).
- Overall, 94 percent of operations routinely dehorned heifer calves during the previous 12 months.

- About 3 out of 10 operations (28.7 percent) had at least one case of digital dermatitis in bred heifers, while 70.2 percent of operations had at least one case in cows during the previous 12 months.
- Almost all operations (97.4 percent) administered intramuscular injections during the previous 12 months. Subcutaneous and intravenous injections were administered on 69.1 and 70.3 percent of operations, respectively.
- Of the 92.3 percent of operations that housed weaned heifers, about one-third housed the heifers primarily in a multiple-animal, inside area (34.6 percent), while one-fourth housed weaned heifers in a drylot/multiple-animal, outside area (22.9 percent).

Dairy 2007 Part IV: 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 Lindsay Griffin at (970) 494-7410 or e-mail: lyndsay.m.griffin@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.