

## USDA Releases First Report from Dairy 2007 Study

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has released a descriptive report entitled *Part I: Reference of Dairy Cattle Health and Management Practices in the United States, 2007*.

Produced by the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), this report is the first from the Dairy 2007 study. This is the fourth national study of the U.S. dairy industry conducted by NAHMS. The overall study was designed to serve as a basis of information for education and research programs on the nation's dairy population. Seventeen states, accounting for 79.5 percent of U.S. dairy operations and 82.5 percent of the nation's dairy cows, participated in the study. Here are a few highlights from the first Dairy 2007 descriptive report:

- The majority of dairy operations (63.9 percent) were conventional-type operations, and the majority of cows (82.2 percent) were on these operations. Grazing and organic operations accounted for only 3.1 and 1.7 percent of operations, respectively, and together represented less than 3.0 percent of cows.
- Overall, the average age of heifers at first calving was 25.2 months. Large operations reported the earliest average age for heifers at first calving at 24.0 months.
- The operation average dry period on medium operations (56.3 days) was about three days shorter than the average on large operations (59.6 days).  
The overall average days dry was 57.8 days.
- Nearly all dairy operations (96.5 percent) had at least some heifers that were born and raised on the operation. Almost 9 of 10 heifers (87.4 percent) were born and raised on the operation. Although 4.7 percent of operations had heifers born on the operation but raised elsewhere, these operations accounted for 11.5 percent of all heifers.

- The majority of dairy operations (60.3 percent) had a tie stall/stanchion milking facility. Although just 39.5 percent of operations used parlors, 78.2 percent of cows were on operations that milked in parlors.
- Almost 4 out of 10 dairy operations (38.9 percent) brought new cattle onto the operation during 2006.

*Part I: 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>.

Part II of the Dairy 2007 Study is scheduled for release in January 2008.

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](mailto:teresa.k.howes@aphis.usda.gov).

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