



September 2017

## NAHMS Beef Cow-Calf 2017 Study

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) is planning for the launch of its Beef Cow-Calf 2017 study, its fourth national study of U.S. beef cow-calf operations. This study will take an in-depth look at U.S. beef cow-calf operations and provide new and valuable information regarding animal health and management practices in the U.S. beef cow-calf industry. Approximately 4,000 beef cow-calf producers from 24 States\* will be asked to participate in the study, which will take an in-depth look at priority issues facing U.S. beef cow-calf operations.

### Study focus

The Beef Cow-Calf study is designed to provide individual participants and stakeholders with valuable information on this segment of the U.S. beef industry.

The NAHMS Beef Cow-Calf 2017 study will

1. Describe trends in beef cow-calf health and management practices, specifically
  - Cow health and longevity,
  - Calf health,
  - Reproductive efficiency,
  - Selection methods for herd improvement,
  - Biosecurity practices, and
2. Describe management practices and producer beliefs related to
  - Animal welfare,
  - Emergency preparedness,
  - Environmental stewardship,
  - Record-keeping,
  - Animal identification practices, and

\*AL, AR, CA, CO, FL, GA, IA, ID, KS, KY, MN, MO, MS, MT, ND, NE, OH, OK, OR, SD, TN, TX, VA, WY

3. Describe antimicrobial-use practices (stewardship) and determine the prevalence and antimicrobial resistance patterns of potential food-safety pathogens, specifically

- Types and reasons for using antimicrobial drugs by animal type.
- Antimicrobial stewardship
  - Use of alternatives for disease control
  - Use of Beef Quality Assurance principles
  - Veterinarian-client-patient relationship
  - Information sources
- Antimicrobial resistance assessments for *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, and *Enterococcus*.

*"We appreciate the efforts of NAHMS to provide accurate and robust data detailing trends in beef cow-calf health, specifically cow health and longevity, reproductive efficiency, and selection methods for herd improvement."*

Jimmy Holliman, Chairman of NCBA Cattle Health and Well-being Committee.

### How you can help

By participating in the Beef Cow-Calf 2017 study, you will help your industry and your own operation by providing valuable information that will be used to

- Define and evaluate current management practices and trends,
- Help policymakers and industry make informed decisions,
- Assist researchers and private enterprise to identify and focus on vital issues related to beef cow-calf health and productivity,
- Conduct economic analyses of the health and productivity of the U.S. beef cow-calf industry, and
- Assist university researchers, extension personnel, producer groups, and others to identify educational needs related to beef cow-calf health and production.

## How beef producers benefit

By fully participating in the Beef Cow-Calf 2017 study, you will receive

- A forage nutrient analysis,
- Test results regarding persistent infection with BVD virus for your entire calf crop,
- Hard copies of reports and information sheets generated by the study (upon request), and
- Data on industry trends in cattle health and management practices as well as information on the antibiotic susceptibility of selected bacteria found on cow-calf operations.

*“The information generated by NAHMS studies is extremely valuable to all stakeholders of the beef industry, including educators, researchers, allied industry, policymakers, and consumers. Through the voluntary participation of producers, NAHMS is able to describe health and management practices on beef operations, while ensuring that individual producer data remain confidential. We urge veterinarians and producers to support and participate in the NAHMS Beef Cow-Calf 2017 study.”*

Academy of Veterinary Consultants

## What your participation involves

Participation in all NAHMS studies is voluntary. If you are selected to participate in Beef Cow-Calf 2017 and decide to do so, representatives from USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will visit you to complete a questionnaire. If you are eligible and choose to continue in the study, USDA veterinarians or animal health technicians (AHTs) will visit you and explain further phases of the study.

- NASS will contact selected beef cow-calf producers with one or more beef cows from October through December 2017
- USDA veterinarians or AHTs will visit from January through April 2018

*“The NAHMS 2017 Beef Cow-Calf study will provide valuable information on animal health, management, and antimicrobial-use practices on U.S. cow-calf operations. This information can be a useful resource for advancing cow-calf health and productivity. The American Association of Bovine Practitioners encourages cow-calf producers to participate in the survey and asks their veterinarians to support them in their efforts.”*

K. Fred Gingrich II DVM  
Executive Vice President  
American Association of Bovine Practitioners

## A scientific approach

NAHMS was established to collect accurate and valuable information on animal health and management in the United States. Since its creation, NAHMS has developed national estimates on disease prevalence and other factors related to the health of U.S. dairy cattle, swine, beef cattle, equids, bison, captive cervids, goats, poultry, and aquaculture. The science-based results produced by NAHMS have proven to be of considerable value to U.S. livestock, poultry, and aquaculture industries, as well as other animal health stakeholders. NAHMS studies are

- National in scope,
- Science based,
- Statistically valid,
- Collaborative,
- Voluntary, and
- Anonymous.

## Privacy

Because NAHMS studies rely on voluntary participation, the privacy of every participant is protected. Only those collecting the data know the identity of respondents. No name or contact information will be associated with individual data, and no data will be reported in a way that could reveal the identity of a participant. Data are presented only in an aggregate manner.

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