

## National Animal Health Monitoring System to Study Cervid Industry in 2014

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Animal Health Monitoring Service (NAHMS) conducts national studies on the health and management of the U.S. livestock, poultry, and aquaculture industries. These studies are designed to meet the information needs of these industries and other stakeholders, as identified by those working with the industries.

In 2014, NAHMS, in cooperation with the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), will conduct the first national study of the U.S. farmed-cervid industry.

### NAHMS Cervid 2014 study

Objectives of the study include:

- Providing a baseline description of the U.S. farmed-cervid industry, including inventory, species, operation size, and operation type;
- Describing current U.S. farmed-cervid production practices and challenges, including animal identification, fencing, animal care and handling, trade and movement, and disease testing;
- Describing the producer-reported occurrence of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) and the management and biosecurity practices important for controlling EHD on cervid farms; and
- Describing health management and biosecurity practices important for the control of infectious diseases on cervid farms.



Photograph courtesy of Owen Henderson.



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### What your participation involves

Your participation in all NAHMS studies is voluntary and confidential. Operations are selected randomly, and those selected will be contacted by NASS, the USDA agency responsible for the study's data collection. If you are selected and decide to participate in the Cervid 2014 study, you can expect the following general activities and schedule:

- During August\* 2014, NASS will mail you a questionnaire and a letter explaining the study.
- If you do not return the questionnaire, a NASS representative will contact you to help you complete the questionnaire over the phone.

Your participation in the Cervid 2014 study will help NAHMS develop reliable and accurate national estimates about important farmed-cervid issues. This valuable information will have many uses, including:

- Assisting university researchers, extension agents, producer groups, and others in identifying and focusing educational efforts on vital issues related to farmed-cervid operations.
- Assisting animal health officials, policymakers, and industry members in making informed decisions to help protect U.S. agriculture and animal health.

*"Full industry participation in the NAHMS Cervid 2014 study is vital to identify our most significant areas of concern."*

Shawn Schafer  
Executive Director  
North American Deer Farmers Association

\*Date changed from July to August on 7/21/2014.

## How you will benefit

If you choose to participate in the study, you will receive a variety of reports and information sheets that will enable you to compare your operation—e.g., management decisions and practices—with other farmed-cervid operations. These publications will present study data on general management, marketing topics, and specific health-related issues.

*“The Cervid 2014 study is a prime opportunity for the cervid industry to show its value to the U.S. agriculture system. I encourage all cervid producers to be a part of this study. The information gathered will benefit each of us and will help us understand where our industry stands and how we can plan for the future.”*

Douglas S. Wagner DVM  
Newport Labs

## A scientific approach

NAHMS collects and reports accurate and useful information on animal health and management in the United States. Since 1990, NAHMS has developed national estimates on disease prevalence and other factors related to the health of U.S. beef cattle, sheep, goats, dairy cattle, swine, equids, poultry, and catfish populations. The science-based results produced by NAHMS have proven to be of considerable value to the U.S. livestock, poultry, and aquaculture industries as well as to other animal health stakeholders. NAHMS studies are

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

*“It is essential that cervid producers participate in this study. The vital information collected during the study will help our industry learn more about itself and help educate other stakeholders in our industry. Other agriculture industries have benefited from NAHMS studies, and I fully expect the Cervid 2014 study to help our industry in the short and long term.”*

Clifford F. Shipley, DVM, DACT  
University of Illinois, College of Veterinary Medicine

## Confidentiality

Because NAHMS studies rely on voluntary participation, the privacy of every participant is protected. Only those collecting the data know the identity of the respondent. 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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For more information, contact:

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