

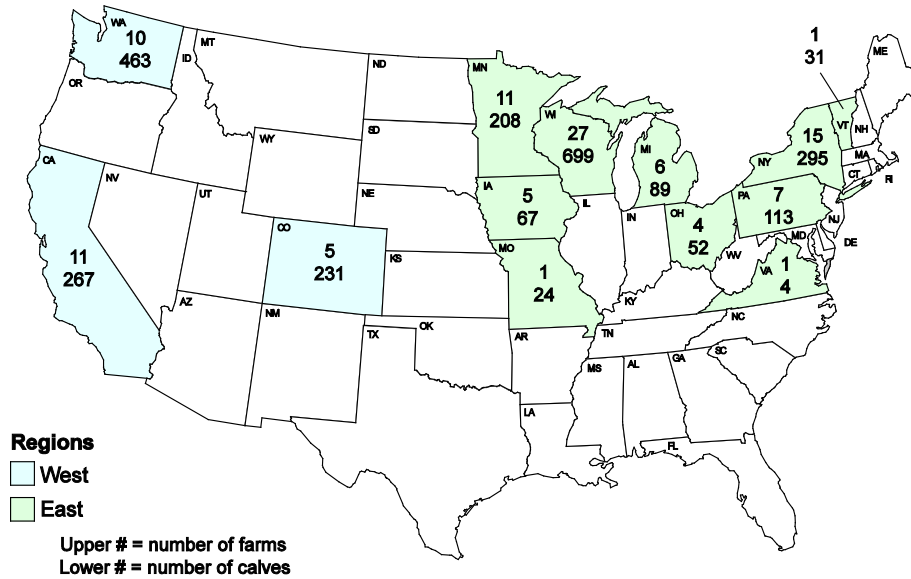


Dairy 2014 Calf Component Summary

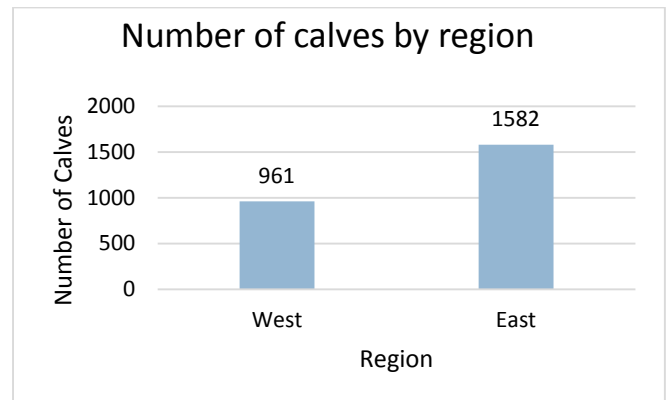
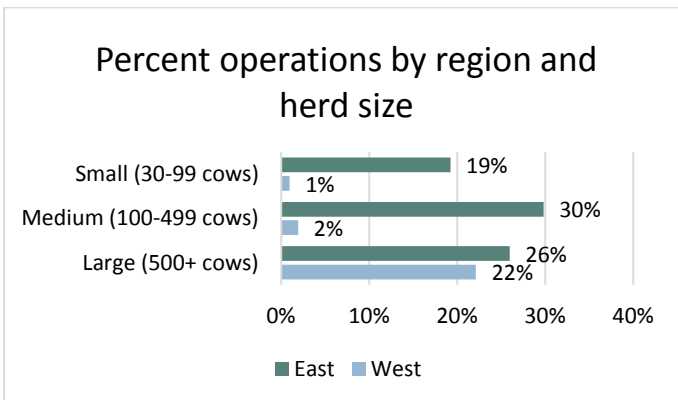
November 2015

Thank you for participating in the calf component of the USDA-NAHMS Dairy 2014 study. This report provides an overview of the 104 operations throughout 13 States that participated in the calf component. In total, 2,543 calves were enrolled in this portion of the Dairy 2014 study.

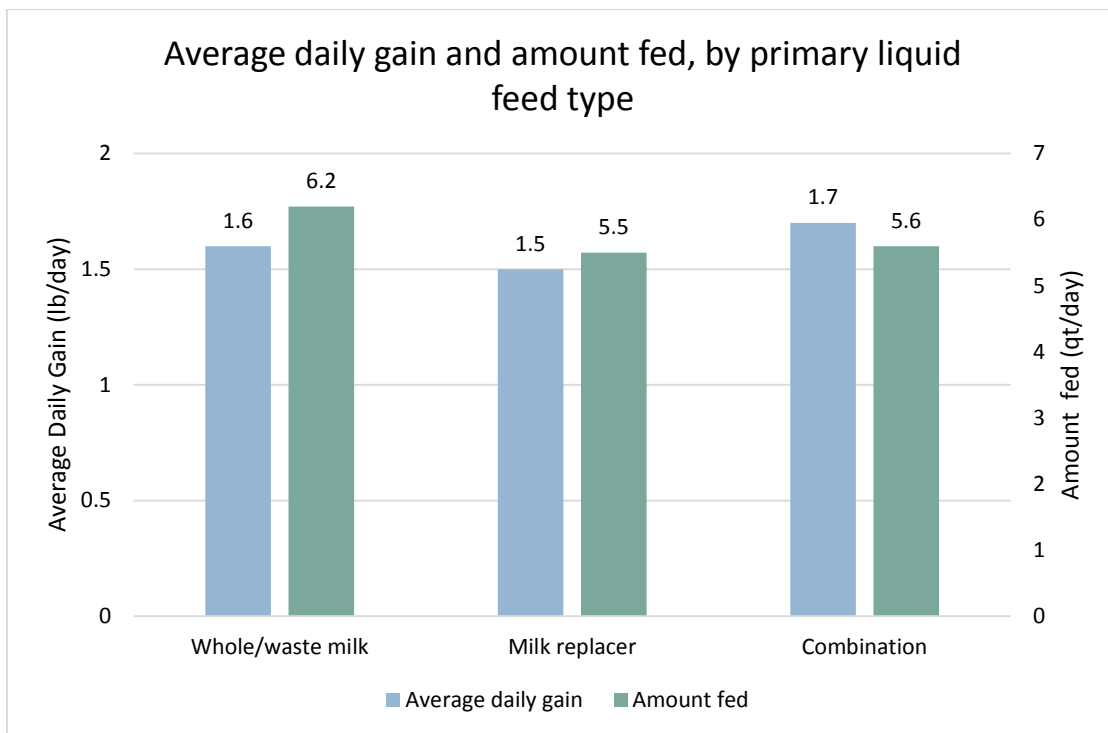
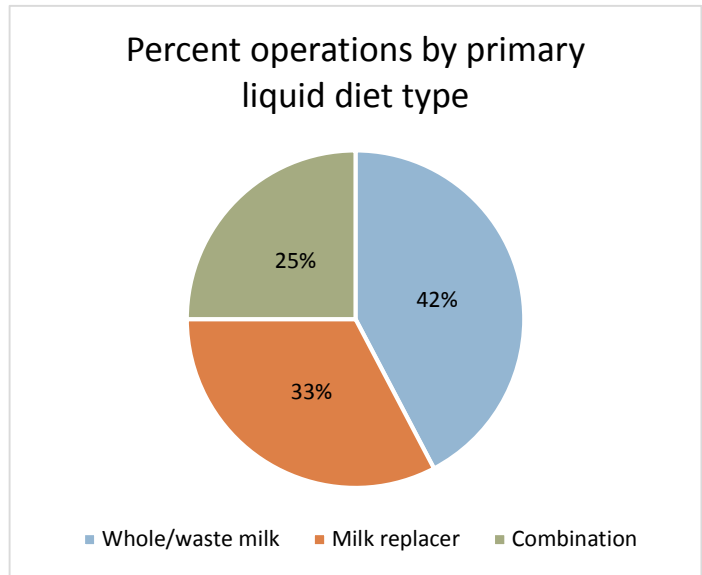
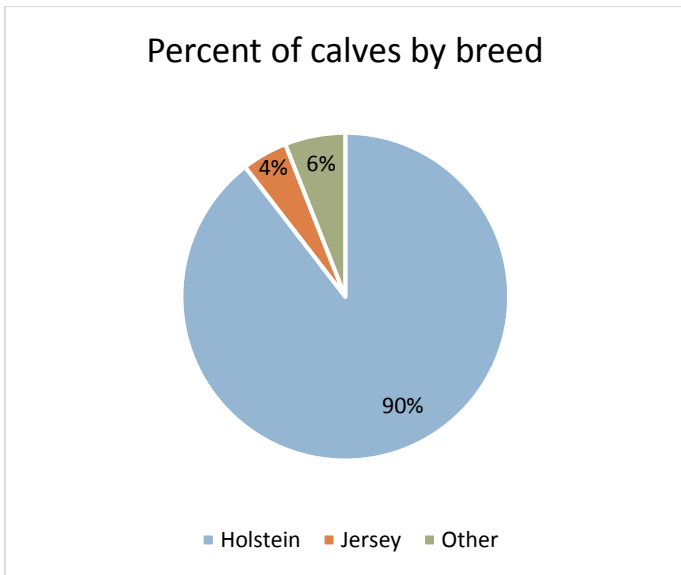
States participating in the calf component



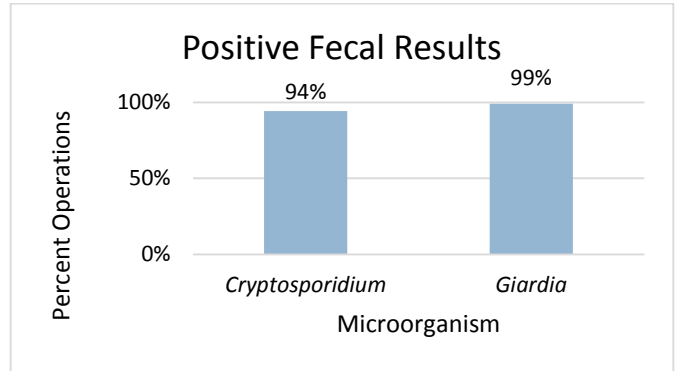
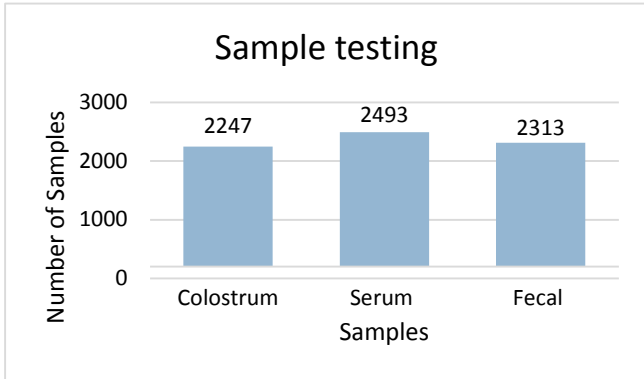
Herd size was based on an operation's January 1, 2014, dairy cow inventory. Small operations had 30 to 99 cows; medium operations had 100 to 499 cows; and large operations had 500 or more cows. States were divided into two regions: West (California, Colorado, and Washington) and East (Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin). A lower percentage of operations in the West region than in the East region participated in the calf component (25 and 75 percent, respectively). Approximately 38 percent of enrolled calves (961) were from the West region and 62 percent (1,582) were from the East region.



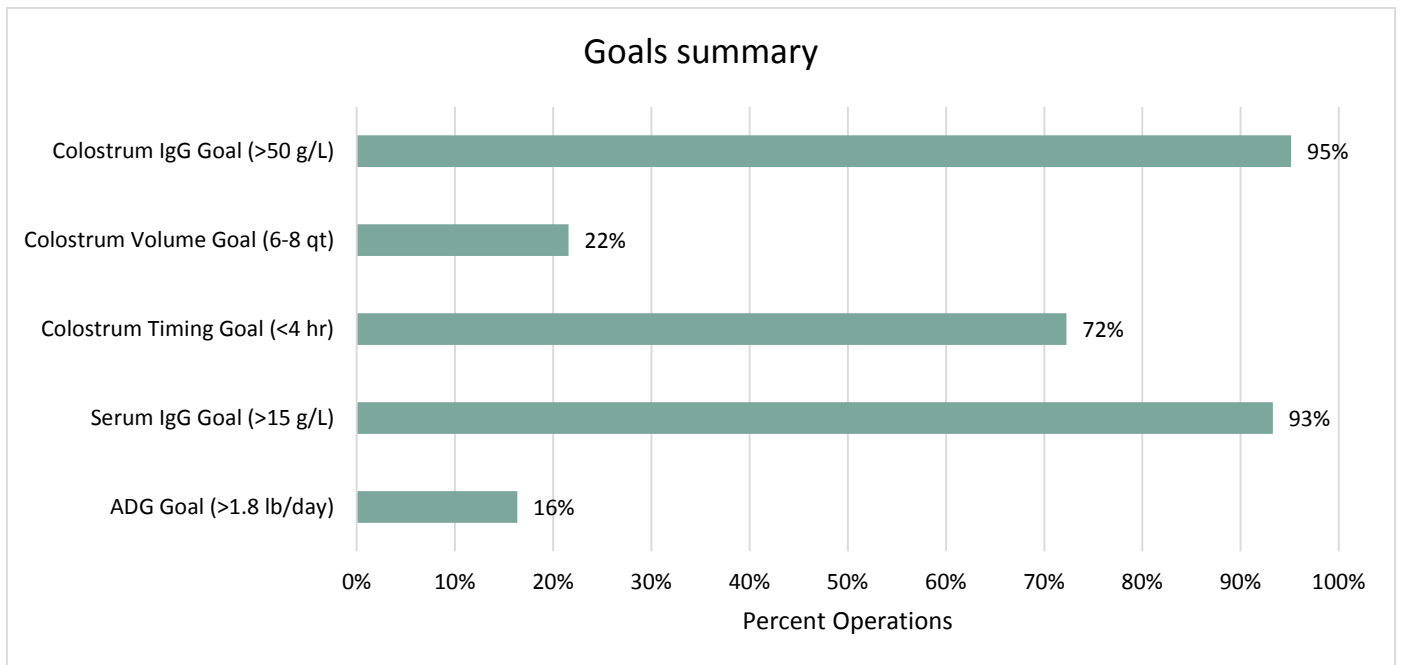
Holstein was the predominant breed (90 percent of calves). The primary liquid feed type was determined for each operation based on responses from the Heifer Calf Health Card. Whole/waste milk was fed by the most operations (42 percent), followed by milk replacer (33 percent), and a combination of the two (25 percent). Average daily gain was highest on operations that fed a combination diet (1.7 lb/day), followed by whole/waste milk (1.6 lb/day), and milk replacer (1.5 lb/day). Amount fed was highest on operations that fed whole/waste milk (6.2 qt/day), followed by a combination diet (5.6 qt/day), and milk replacer (5.5 qt/day).



Biologic sample testing was a main element of the calf component and included testing colostrum, serum, and fecal samples. The figures below represent the number of samples submitted for each test. One or more heifer calf fecal samples were positive for *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* on 94 percent and 99 percent of operations, respectively.

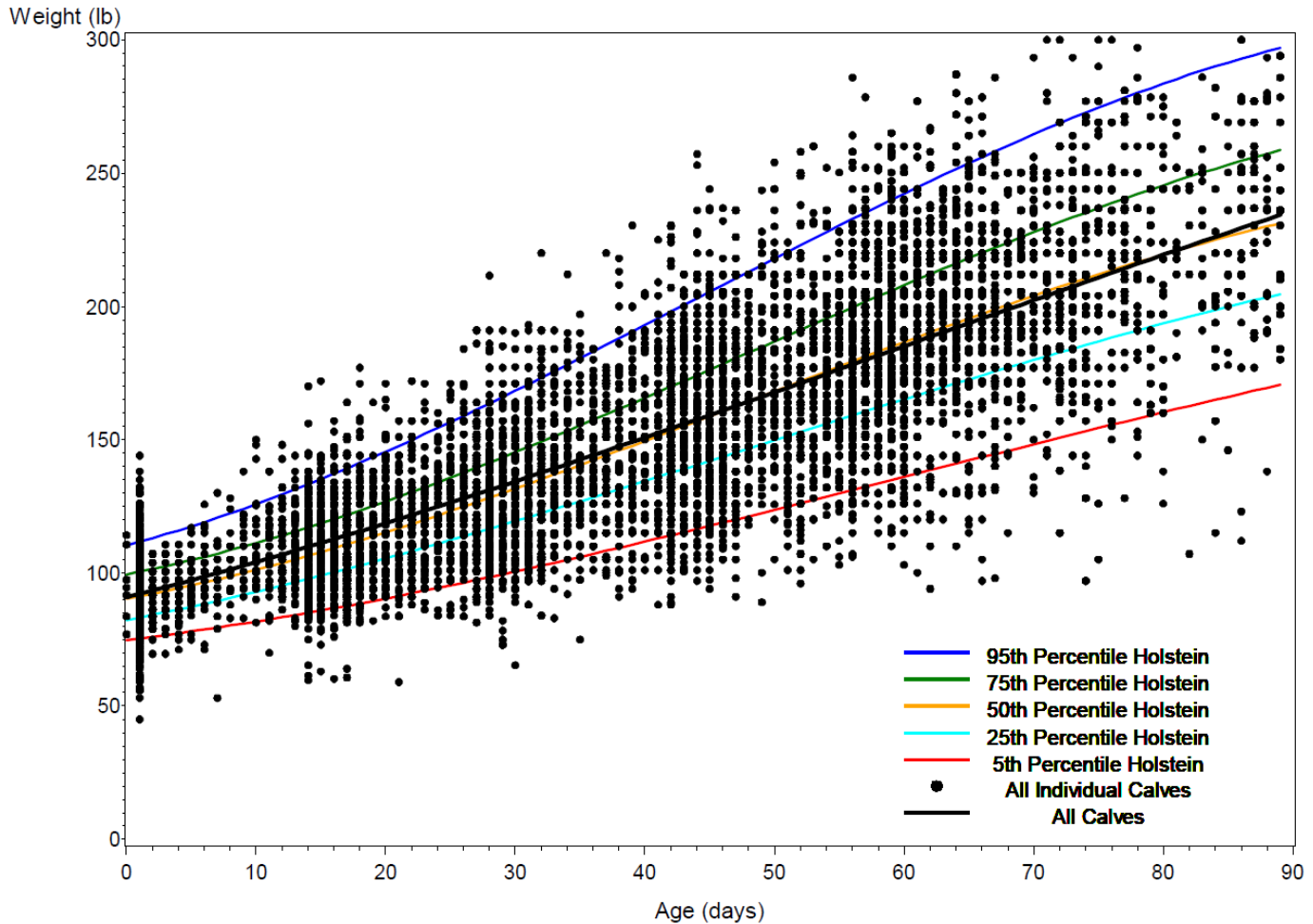


The Final Heifer Calf Health Report specifies goals for colostrum management, serum IgG levels, and average daily gain based on current scientific literature and expert opinions. Below are the percentages of operations that met the goals outlined in the report. Most operations (95 percent) had excellent colostrum quality based on IgG levels greater than 50 g/L, and most operations (72 percent) administered the first colostrum within the first 4 hours of life. Only 22 percent of operations met the goal of providing at least 6-8 quarts of colostrum within 24 hours following birth. Most operations (93 percent) had excellent passive transfer (serum IgG greater than 15 g/L). Only 16 percent of operations met the goal of average daily gain greater than 1.8 lb/day, indicating an area for improvement.



The preweaning growth chart in the Final Heifer Calf Health Report plotted weights of your individual calves. The chart below shows all calves enrolled in the study. The percentiles were created based on the projected growth curves of all Holstein calves enrolled in the study.

Preweaning Growth Chart for All Calves



Thank you again for your participation in the calf component of the USDA NAHMS 2014 Dairy Study.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Dr. Jason Lombard at (970) 494-7245 or at Jason.E.Lombard@aphis.usda.gov