

The First-ever National Study of U.S. Dairy Heifer-raising Operations

Dairy Heifer Raiser 2011

Off-site heifer-raising operations are becoming more common and are now used by about 1 of 10 U.S. dairy operations. Almost one-half of dairy operations with 500 or more cows raise at least some heifers off-site. The USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) is conducting the Nation's first study of this growing segment of the U.S. dairy industry. This important study will describe current management practices used on heifer-raising facilities and identify future challenges facing industry. Dairy operations from 21 States* will participate in the study.

How you can help

A collaborative study of this type and national scope has never been undertaken for the U.S. dairy heifer-raiser industry. However, the success of the study depends on the voluntary participation of producers. By participating, you will help the industry and your own operation by contributing to the development of valuable information that will be used to evaluate different aspects of management—including feeding and housing—and to identify biosecurity practices that will help minimize disease transmission.

What your participation involves

Participation in all NAHMS studies is voluntary. If you choose to participate in Dairy Heifer Raiser 2011, you will be asked to complete a single questionnaire which will be administered by a Federal or State animal health official from April 1 through August 31, 2011.

*Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, North Dakota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin

How you will benefit

In addition to gaining valuable information about the health and management practices of the U.S. heifer-raiser industry, you will receive a customized report comparing study results from your operation with results from other operations in your State or region. You will also receive, upon request, a comprehensive report detailing results from all 21 participating States.

How you can sign up

If you are a dairy heifer raiser interested in participating in this study, contact the appropriate animal health official in your State. If you are not sure whom to contact, call Ms. Abby Fienhold at 1-866-907-8190. Ms. Fienhold will coordinate your participation with your State's study coordinator.

If you raised dairy heifers during 2010 for at least one operation other than your own, you are eligible to participate in this important study.



Photograph courtesy of Dr. Jason Lombard



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*A Study of Operations that Specialize
in Raising Dairy Heifers*

For more information, contact:

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