

SUPPORT THE GOAT INDUSTRY

The Facts

The goat industry is the fastest growing livestock commodity in the United States. According to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, the U.S. goat population has increased 10 percent annually from 1985 to 2006. In addition, since 1997 the number of dairy goat farms has increased by 45 percent and the number of meat goat farms has increased by 18 percent. Currently, there are no national estimates of the health, productivity, or management practices of the U.S. goat industry. Having this information will help direct future research and educational efforts.

Your Input is Needed to Help Identify the Most Important Issues Facing the U.S. Goat Industry

The USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) is conducting a needs assessment to gather information from goat producers and industry stakeholders about the most important issues facing the U.S. goat industry. This information will be used to develop the objectives for the NAHMS Goat 2009 study, the first national look at the U.S. goat industry.

What is NAHMS about?

NAHMS was initiated in the early 1980s to collect, analyze, and disseminate information on animal health, animal production, animal welfare, product wholesomeness, and the environment. NAHMS has developed national estimates on disease prevalence and other factors related to the health of U.S. beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, equine, poultry, catfish, and sheep populations.

What does NAHMS do?

NAHMS works collaboratively with the industry to identify and address information gaps not being studied elsewhere. NAHMS national studies are confidential and voluntary and rely on producers' participation. The data collected provide producers and other entities with valuable information on livestock populations, diseases, management practices, risk factors, productivity, and biosecurity practices of the U.S. livestock industry.



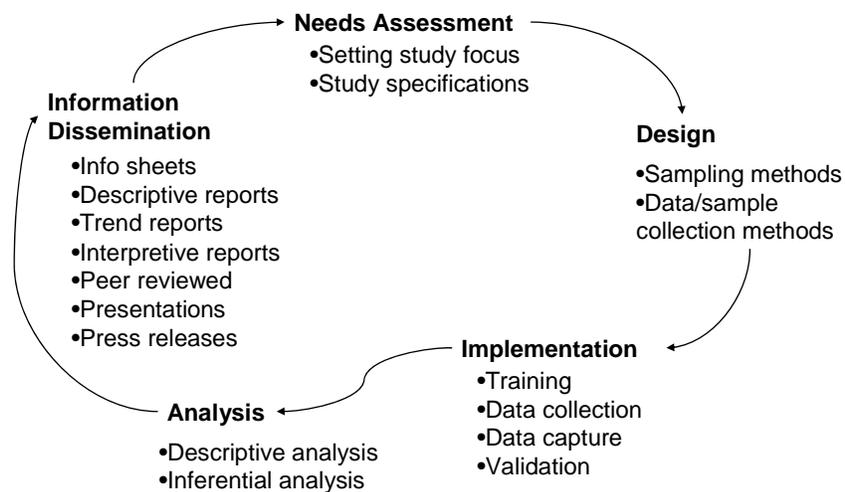
Photo Anson Eaglin

How can you help now?

Before designing a study, NAHMS conducts an extensive needs assessment, collecting input primarily from producers and industry groups to identify the information needs of the industry. Input and discussions from these diverse perspectives are gathered and distilled into what eventually becomes the study's focus and objectives. Then, an optimal study design is chosen to collect the necessary data, incorporating questionnaires and biologic sample collection.



NAHMS Study Process



The needs assessment process concluded in January 2008. Actual data collection for the study is scheduled to begin in summer 2009.

*Please take a few minutes to complete the assessment, which will be available online **October 19** at: <http://www.cvmb.colostate.edu/aphi/index.html>. **The needs assessment process is now completed and a final summary of the results will be available in summer 2008. Please do not complete any more needs assessments. Thank you for your help.***

Remember, your insight into the information needs of the goat industry is vital to the success of the NAHMS Goat 2009 study.

For further information about NAHMS visit: <http://nahms.aphis.usda.gov>