

## **NAHRS Marks 10-Year Anniversary**

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The National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS) is marking its 10-year anniversary this year. NAHRS is a joint effort of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD), and USDA-APHIS, and is coordinated by the National Surveillance Unit. The system was designed to gather data from State animal health officials on the presence of confirmed OIE-reportable diseases in specific livestock, poultry, and aquaculture species in the United States.

NAHRS is a voluntary, cooperative system for reporting animal diseases. States that do not participate in NAHRS are still required to report to the FAD surveillance and APHIS-VS national program disease surveillance data systems. The program began in 1999 following a pilot project with data collected from seven States in 1998. In the first official reporting year, 29 States participated. An effort to recruit all States to participate in the NAHRS was initiated and by 2008, participation had grown significantly, with 48 States reporting disease information.

### **Enhanced aquaculture reporting**

Efforts to enhance aquaculture disease reporting continued in 2008 with expansion of the NAHRS online reporting application to include all OIE-reportable aquaculture diseases. This reporting application is being launched this year.

### **Online NAHRS reporting**

The NAHRS online reporting tool enables State animal health officials to complete their monthly NAHRS reports via the Internet, with assurance of secure data transfer and information confidentiality. State animal health officials may also use the NAHRS online tool to view summary reports as well as past monthly reports.

### **National List of Reportable Animal Diseases (NLRAD)**

VS, in cooperation with USAHA, AAVLD, State animal health officials, and industry representatives, is exploring the development of a NLRAD and appropriate reporting criteria. A NLRAD would enhance current animal disease reporting requirements through individual State reportable disease lists and Federal regulatory reporting requirements. The NAHRS steering committee will work directly with VS to develop a NLRAD. More information is available at the NAHRS Web site, <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/ncahs/nahrs/>.