



NAHMS Antimicrobial Use on U.S. Swine Operations, 2017 Study

From May through August 2017, the USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), in collaboration with the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), will conduct a national study focusing on how antimicrobials are used on swine operations in the United States. The NAHMS Antimicrobial Use on U.S. Swine Operations, 2017 study represents a new data collection and reporting effort for NAHMS, intended to be repeated biennially. In particular, the study will examine antimicrobial use and stewardship practices on swine nursery and grower-finisher facilities with a capacity of at least 1,000 head.

Background

The USDA Antimicrobial Resistance Action Plan, released in 2015, recommended that USDA agencies perform enhanced monitoring of antimicrobial use in food-producing animals. In addition, beginning on January 1, 2017, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) initiated policy changes regarding the use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals. These changes include

- 1) Eliminating the use of medically important antimicrobials for growth promotion purposes in food-producing animals, and
- 2) Requiring veterinary oversight for use of medically important antimicrobials in animal feed or water.

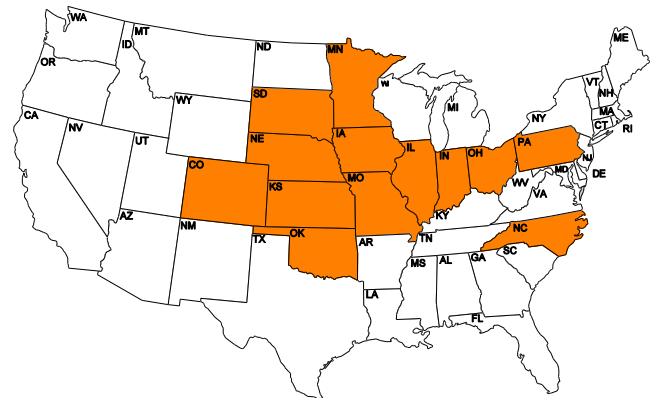
Study Objectives

The NAHMS Antimicrobial Use on U.S. Swine Operations, 2017 study will gather information on antimicrobial-use practices in 2016, before implementation of FDA policy changes. Specific objectives of the study follow:

- Describe antimicrobial-use practices in feed and water on production sites with a capacity of at least 1,000 weaned market pigs.

- Estimate the percentage of production sites using and the percentage of weaned market pigs receiving specific antimicrobials in feed and/or water by reasons for use.
- Provide baseline data on antimicrobial-use practices in place before implementation of FDA policy changes. This baseline can be used for evaluating trends over time.
- Describe antimicrobial stewardship practices on production sites with weaned market pigs.

States participating in the NAHMS Antimicrobial Use on U.S. Swine Operations, 2017 study



"We've always been committed to improving in a number of areas, especially regarding responsible antimicrobial use. We look forward to receiving the data provided by the upcoming NAHMS study, which will help inform us and the public on the antibiotic stewardship taking place on U.S. pig farms."

Brad Greenway,
Pig farmer from South Dakota and
America's Pig Farmer of the Year

Study activities

Swine nursery and grower-finisher operations with an inventory of at least 1,000 head in 13 States (see map on previous page) will be contacted and asked to provide information on antimicrobial use and stewardship practices. No biologic testing will be performed. The timeline for the study follows:

- In May 2017, representatives from NASS will contact swine operations to inquire about their interest in participating in the study. NASS' role will be to obtain producers' consent for study participation.
- Beginning July 2017, swine producers who agreed to participate in the study will be contacted by APHIS personnel to schedule an in-person interview, which will be conducted by an APHIS veterinarian.
- Data collection will end in August 2017.

How the U.S. pork industry and swine producers will benefit from participating in the study

- Information on antimicrobial-use practices will provide transparency to consumers and others regarding why antimicrobials are used in swine feed and/or water.
- Information will also be provided on the percentage of operations using specific antimicrobials in swine feed and/or water.
- Information from this study will provide a national snapshot of antimicrobial stewardship practices, such as recordkeeping related to antimicrobial use and whether a veterinarian was consulted when making the decision to use antimicrobials.

"The information gathered by the NAHMS study on antibiotic use will help us assure our customers that we use antibiotics responsibly and demonstrate that we are implementing the changes in Guidance 213 and the VFD rule."

Liz Wagstrom, DVM, MS, DACVPM
Chief Veterinarian, NPPC

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, goat, dairy cattle, swine, equine, 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.

Confidentiality

NAHMS is a statistical unit under the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA). All information acquired during the Antimicrobial Use on U.S. Swine Operations, 2017 study will be used for statistical purposes only and will be treated as confidential in accordance with CIPSEA guidelines. Only summary estimates based on the inference population will be reported. Data collected under CIPSEA are protected from Freedom of Information (FOIA) Requests.

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Photographs courtesy of the National Pork Board