



Highlights of NAHMS Dairy 2002: Part II: Changes in the U.S. Dairy Industry

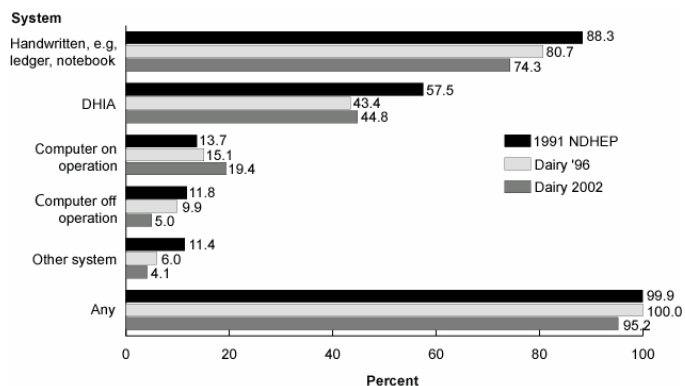
In 2002, the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) conducted a study of dairy operations in the United States. The Dairy 2002 study was conducted in 21 major dairy States and was designed to provide information to both participants and industry from operations representing 82.8 percent of U.S. dairy operations and 85.5 percent of U.S. dairy cows. Data were collected from December 31, 2001, to February 12, 2002.

The following highlights were excerpted from the report released in May 2003: *Dairy 2002 Part II: Changes in the United States Dairy Industry, 1991-2002*. Part II identifies changes in the dairy industry from 1991 to 2002, and specifically addresses changes identified from three NAHMS dairy studies: 1991 NDHEP, Dairy '96, and Dairy 2002.

- Almost one in two dairy operations has disappeared since 1991, with roughly a 4- to 5-percent decrease per year. Combined with the relatively slower decline in milk cow numbers, the result is nearly a 73 percent increase in average herd size.
- From 1991 to 2001, total annual U.S. milk production increased 11.9 percent. This increase was achieved with a concurrent 7.2 percent decline in number of milk cows and a 20.7 percent increase in milk production per cow.
- Between 1991 and 1996 there was a sharp decline in the percentage of operations that reported using Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA) record-keeping systems. However, the percentage of operations using DHIA record-keeping systems remained the same between 1996 and 2001 (Figure 1).
- Overall, a higher percentage of operations fed a total mixed ration in 2001 (47.0 percent of operations) than in 1995 (35.6 percent of operations).

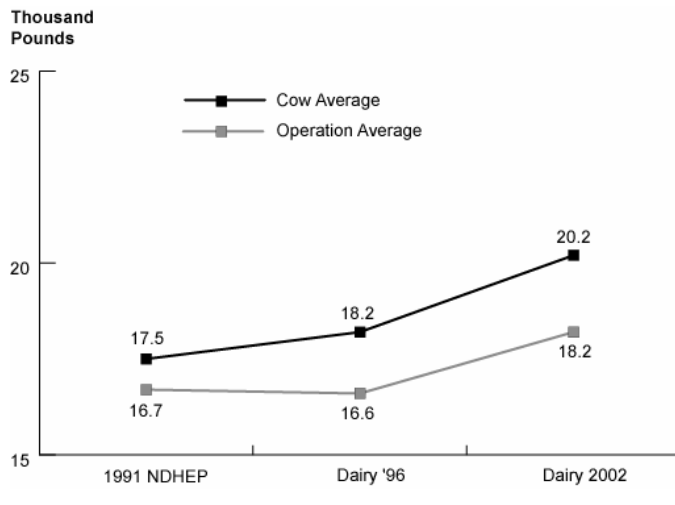
- Overall, the use of bovine somatotropin (bST) increased between 1995 and 2001, (9.4 percent and 15.2 percent of operations, respectively). The overall percentage of cows that were given bST during the current lactation (at the time of the interview) also increased between 1995 and 2001(10.1 percent and 22.3 percent, respectively).

Figure 1. Percent of Operations by Type of Individual Record-Keeping System Used



- From 1995 to 2001, rolling herd average milk production (cow average) increased 2,012 pounds (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Rolling Herd Average Milk Production



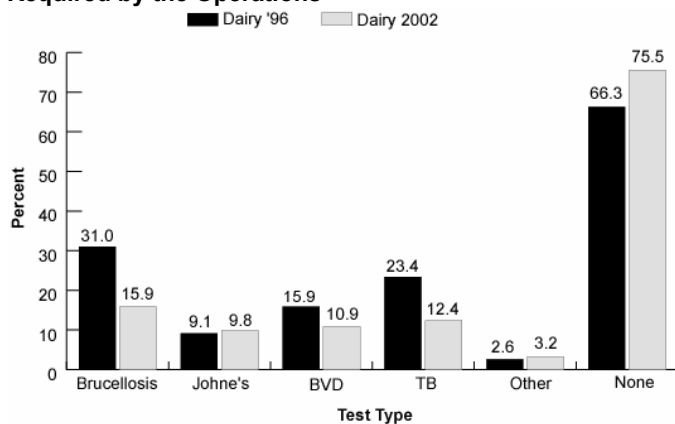
- There was essentially no change from 1995 to 2001 in the overall mortality of preweaned heifer calves born alive (10.8 percent and 10.5 percent of heifer calves, respectively). There was no change in heifer calf mortality due to scours/diarrhea between 1995 and 2001 (6.5 percent reported for both years).
- Basically, no change occurred between 1991 and 2001 in the percentage of operations that allowed calves to receive colostrum at first nursing. Approximately one-third of operations still use this practice.
- More operations were separating maternity housing from housing used for lactating cows between 1995 and 2001 (45.4 percent and 53.1 percent, respectively).
- Overall, a substantial decline occurred between 1995 and 2001 in the percentage of operations that, before bringing cattle on-farm, tested cattle for brucellosis (31.0 percent and 15.9 percent of operations, respectively) and tuberculosis (23.4 percent and 12.4 percent, respectively) (Figure 3).

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Figure 3. Percent of Operations* by Testing Normally Required by the Operations



*For operations that brought cattle onto the farm.

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