



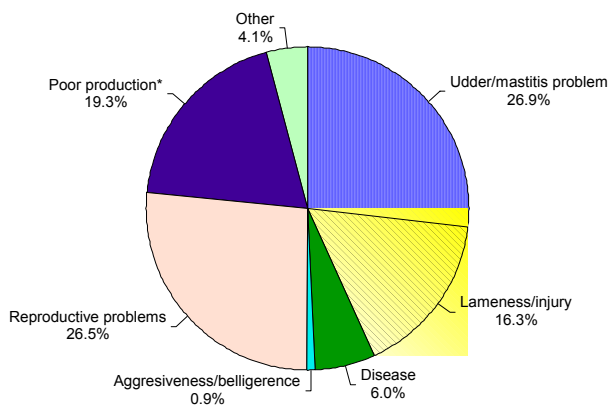
Highlights of NAHMS Dairy 2002: Part 1

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 December 2002: *Dairy 2002 Part I: Reference of Dairy Health and Management in the United States, 2002*.

- The majority of cows were culled for udder health and reproductive problems, 26.9 percent and 26.5 percent, respectively. Poor production from an unknown cause accounted for 19.3 percent of culled cows (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Percent of Dairy Cows Culled, by Producer-reported Reason for Culling.

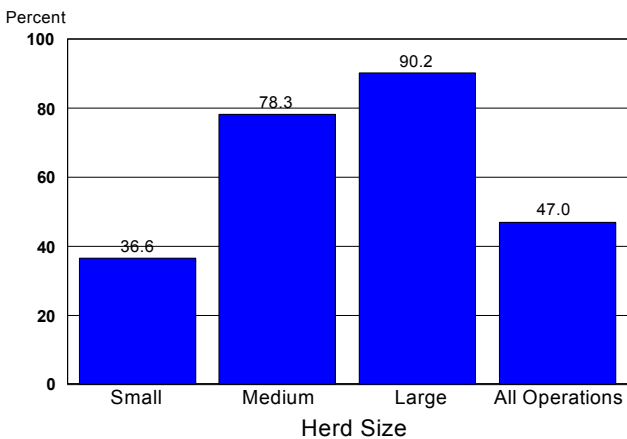


*Unrelated to the other listed problems

- Clinical mastitis, infertility problems, and lameness were the conditions reported most commonly for all operations, with 14.7 percent, 11.9 percent, and 11.6 percent of cows reported to have experienced these conditions, respectively.
- Overall, 8.7 percent of dairy heifers born alive died before weaning. Nearly 2 percent of weaned heifers died between weaning and calving, and 4.8 percent (as a percentage of the January 1, 2002, cow inventory) of cows died during 2001.
- Overall, 15.2 percent of operations used bovine Somatotropin (bST), and 22.3 percent of cows received the hormone.
- Preventive practices for dairy replacement heifers were very common. Only 5.1 percent of operations representing just 2.5 percent of heifers did not use any preventive practices.
- A total of 98.1 percent of producers reported that heifers were born and raised on their operation, accounting for 89.5 percent of dairy heifers. Heifers were born on the operation but raised elsewhere on 3.6 percent of operations, accounting for 7.2 percent of dairy heifers.
- During **winter**, deer had contact sometimes or most of the time with cattle pasture (78.1 percent of operations), hay (55.1 percent of operations), or water sources (39.7 percent of operations).
- During **summer**, deer had contact sometimes or most of the time with cattle pasture (93.5 percent of operations), hay (69.7 percent of operations) or water sources (58.9 percent of operations).
- Rendering was the most common method of disposal for dead calves (43.8 percent of operations) and dead cows (62.4 percent of operations). Burial was the second most prevalent method, followed by composting.
- The rolling herd average (RHA) was 18,235 pounds of milk per cow (averaged across all operations) per year. RHA increased as herd size increased.

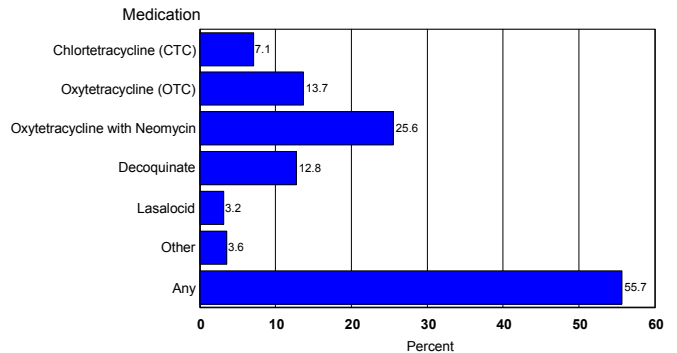
- Operations with on-farm computer record-keeping systems had a higher RHA (20,024 pounds of) than operations with off-farm computer record-keeping systems (19,631 pounds) and operations with no computer record-keeping systems (16,371 pounds).
- The majority (90.2 percent) of large operations (500 or more cows) fed a total mixed ration (TMR), while 78.3 percent of medium operations (100 to 499 cows) and 36.6 percent of small operations (less than 100 cows) fed a TMR (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Percent of Operations that Fed a Total Mixed Ration, by Herd Size.



- Oral drenching with an energy source at the time of calving may be effective in reducing energy deficits and improving milk production (Stokes, et. al.). Overall, 20.1 percent of operations reported drenching, with 28.9 percent of cows receiving an oral drench at the time of freshening.
- Waste milk was fed to dairy heifer calves on 87.2 percent of operations but was pasteurized prior to feeding on only 1.0 percent of operations.
- A total of 55.7 percent of operations used milk replacer that contained medication. Oxytetracycline with neomycin was the medication most common (25.6 percent of operations) in medicated milk replacers (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Percent of Operations that Fed Medicated Milk Replacer to Dairy Heifer Calves During 2001, by Medication Used.



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