National Animal Health Monitoring System, Dairy 2007

The Dairy 2007 Study

In January 2007, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) will launch its fourth national study of the U.S. dairy industry, Dairy 2007. Dairy producers from 17 of the Nation's top dairy States* will be asked to participate in this valuable study. It will take an indepth look at the priority health and health-management issues facing the U.S. dairy industry.

Study Focus

Dairy 2007 is a national study designed to provide individual participants, stakeholders, and the dairy industry as a whole with valuable information representing 79.3 percent of U.S. dairy herds and 82.0 percent of U.S. dairy cows. Dairy 2007 will

- Describe trends in dairy-cattle health and management practices,
- Evaluate management factors related to cow comfort and removal rates,
- Describe dairy-calf health and nutrition from birth to weaning and evaluate heifer disease-prevention practices,
- Estimate the prevalence of herds infected with bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) virus,
- Describe current milking procedures and estimate the prevalence of contagious mastitis pathogens,
- Estimate the herd-level prevalence and associated costs of *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis,*
- Describe current biosecurity practices and determine producer motivation for implementing or not implementing biosecurity practices, and
- Determine the prevalence of specific food-safety pathogens and describe antimicrobial resistance patterns.

*California, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

How You Can Help

By participating in Dairy 2007, you will help the industry and your own operation by contributing to the development of reliable and valuable information that will be used to

- Define and evaluate current management practices and trends,
- Help policymakers and industry make informed decisions,
- Assist researchers and private enterprise to identify and focus on vital issues related to dairy-cattle health and productivity, and
- Conduct economic analyses of the health and production of the U.S. dairy industry.

Testing Options

Results from tests on biological and environmental samples will be provided to participating producers at the conclusion of the study.

Evaluation of Passive Transfer
Goal: Estimate the percentage of calves that receive adequate immunoglobulins through colostrum by measuring serum proteins in calves 1 to 3 days of age.

BVD
Goal: Evaluate herds for animals persistently infected with BVD virus. Bulk-tank milk samples will be collected from each participating herd.

Mastitis Pathogens
Goal: Estimate the herd-level prevalence of contagious mastitis pathogens *(Streptococcus agalactiae, Staphylococcus aureus,* and *Mycoplasma)*. Bulk-tank milk samples will be collected from each participating herd.

Johne's Disease
Goal: Estimate the herd-level prevalence of *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*. Six composite environmental samples will be collected from each participating herd.

Food-Safety Pathogens
Goal: Estimate the prevalence of specific food-safety pathogens such as *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* via testing of fecal samples.

How Dairy Producers Benefit

By fully participating in the Dairy 2007 study, you will receive

- A cow-comfort evaluation of your herd,
- A bulk-tank milk culture for contagious mastitis pathogens,
- Environmental sample results that will help determine whether your herd has Johne's disease, and
- Several reports and information sheets that will allow you to compare your operation to others in the dairy industry.

"The NAHMS Dairy 2007 study is a grass-roots effort to gather valuable health data about the most important asset on America's dairy farms—the dairy cow and her offspring. This study will greatly benefit both the scientific community and U.S. dairy producers."

—Bill Wailes
Department Head, Animal Sciences
Extension Dairy Specialist
Colorado State University

What Your Participation Involves

Participation in all NAHMS studies is voluntary. If you are selected to participate in Dairy 2007 and decide to do so, representatives from the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will visit you to complete a questionnaire. If you are eligible and choose to continue in the study, veterinary medical officers (VMOs) and/or animal health technicians (AHTs) will visit and explain further phases of the study.

- NASS will contact selected dairy producers between January 1 and January 31, 2007.
- VMOs and/or AHTs will visit between February 26 and April 30, 2007.
- At the producer's option, VMOs and/or AHTs may make a second visit to some operations between May 1 and July 31, 2007.

A Scientific Approach

APHIS established NAHMS to collect accurate and valuable 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. dairy cattle, swine, beef cattle, equine, poultry, catfish, and sheep. The science-based results produced by NAHMS have proven to be of considerable value to the U.S. livestock, poultry, and aquaculture industries. NAHMS studies are

- National in scope,
- Voluntary and confidential,
- Statistically valid,
- Scientific, and
- Collaborative in nature.

"Dairy 2007 is a study all dairymen should participate in. The NAHMS Dairy '96 and Dairy 2002 studies provided invaluable information that helped guide the development and implementation of the National Johne's Disease Control Program and helped update the Bovine TB Eradication Program. Information from NAHMS dairy studies has helped USDA and our university system better focus available research dollars to address the most urgent animal health and dairy management issues. I hope all producers selected to participate in Dairy 2007 will do so knowing that they will be making a valuable contribution to our overall knowledge of the U.S. dairy industry."

—John Adams
Director of Animal Health and Farm Services
National Milk Producers Federation

"Data gathered during the Dairy 2007 study will help enhance the health and productivity of our industry by providing valuable information on many important issues, such as lameness, cow comfort, herd retention, disease prevalence, and control practices. I strongly encourage dairy producers to participate in this essential study."

—M. Gatz Riddell, Jr., D.V.M.
Executive Vice President
American Association of Bovine Practitioners

Confidentiality

Because NAHMS' studies rely on voluntary participation, APHIS protects the privacy of every participant. Only those collecting the data know the identity of the respondent. No name or address is ever recorded in any APHIS database. No data will be reported on any individual or in a manner that would allow the identification of an individual.

For More Information

To find out more about Dairy 2007, please contact

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Or visit NAHMS at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/nahms>.

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Dairy 2007

An Indepth Look at the U.S. Dairy Industry