
VS Visit Manual

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Before the VS Visit

This section covers several topics regarding the VS field visit. It is important to thoroughly review this material before you make the initial call to the Producers. You should familiarize yourself with the VS Visit questionnaire before you call the Producers so that you can give them an idea of the kinds of questions we will be asking.

Materials Received from NASS

General Dairy Management Questionnaire (GDMQ)

NOTE: Information obtained from NASS is confidential and MUST remain that way.

The data from the GDMQ completed by the NASS Enumerators were collected from January 1 to February 7, 2014. The data will be entered into a computer database by NASS and transferred to the NAHMS staff.

After data entry, the names and GDMQs of the Producers who agreed to have their names turned over to VS will be given to the Dairy 2014 NAHMS Coordinator in the appropriate State. To meet confidentiality requirements, NASS must obtain the operator's written permission to release the operator's name, address, and telephone number to APHIS personnel. Signing the Consent Form does not obligate the operator to participate in the rest of the study. Respondents do not need to make a decision about participating in the VS phase of the study until the time of the visit by the VS data collector. The VS data collector can explain the purpose and scope of the VS Visit at the time. Some Producers may need encouragement from you to participate in the VS phase.

NOTE: Make a copy of at least pages 1 through 3 and page 40 of the GDMQ to give to the designated VS data collector for his or her information about farms assigned.

For each farm you are assigned, the Coordinator will provide copies of pages 1 through 3 and page 40 of the GDMQ for your information. The Coordinator may choose to include additional pages (or a copy of the entire questionnaire).

Please review this information before calling the Producer. Prior knowledge of the site can be very helpful in interpreting the Producer's responses.

NOTE: After copying the questionnaire/pertinent pages, send the original GDMQs to NAHMS after blacking out the Producer's name, the company's name, and any other information that can breach confidentiality.

DO NOT black out the farm numbers (State, operation). PLEASE SHIP BY UPS all original GDMQs to the NAHMS staff within 2 weeks of receiving the last of the forms from NASS. DO NOT include signed consent forms. Ship to Abby Zehr, USDA-APHIS-VS, 2150 Centre Ave, Bldg B, MS 2E7, Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117, (970) 494-7252.

Lists and Labels

NASS will provide each Coordinator with a master list of the names/addresses of the Producers who signed the consent form to release their names to VS. Coordinators can ask their NASS contacts if mailing labels and/or and Excel list can also be provided.

Dairy 2014 Informational Sheet

The Dairy 2014 info sheet was mailed by NASS to the dairy Producers selected for the study along with an introductory letter. You will find a copy of the info sheet in your notebook and also a pdf copy on the SharePoint site.

Data Collection Materials

The following materials, which you will receive from your NAHMS Coordinator, are described more fully in this manual.

Producer Agreement

The "Dairy 2014 Producer Agreement" is the contract between APHIS and the Producer. Both pages must be filled out completely and signed before any farm information is obtained. Leave the yellow copy with the Producer and give the original to your NAHMS Coordinator.

NOTE: Please do NOT send the signed Producer Agreements to NAHMS staff. We cannot retain Producer identities and will return all completed agreements to you.

VS Visit questionnaire

Questions to be administered during the visit by VS or State representatives between March 10 and May 30, 2014.

VS Visit Reference Card

Contains teat dip and antibiotic information (i.e., trade/brand names and ingredient information) that can be used to help the Producer answer some of the questions. This handout is attached to the questionnaire and is also in the Questionnaires folder of the SharePoint site.

Biologic Sampling Kits

Kits to collect biologic samples will be shipped to the NAHMS Coordinators or directly to field staff. The kits include collection forms, specimen containers, and shipping information.

Coordinators can request kits through Abby Zehr, (970) 494-7252.

Before the Interview

Things to Do Prior to the Interview

Familiarize yourself with the site by reviewing the data your Coordinator gave to you from the General Dairy Management Questionnaire (GDMQ) conducted by NASS.

Familiarize yourself with the VS Visit questionnaire using this manual. Familiarize yourself with the biological-sampling collection procedures available on the SharePoint site: <http://animalhealth/CEAH/NAHMS/dairy2014/default.aspx>

Call the Producer and identify yourself. Explain how you obtained the Producer's name and ask if you can make an appointment to discuss the program.

Make an appointment for the interview. Get directions to the site, explain what will be covered and the time involved (about 1.5 to 2 hours to review the program and complete the VS Visit questionnaire). Tell the Producer that it will help to have production records available during the interview in order to answer some of the questions.

Items to Take on the VS Visit

Dairy 2014 Field Handbook, Producer info sheet, VS Visit questionnaire (includes Producer Agreement), letter to Producer's veterinarian with info sheets, calculator, and pen/pencils. Leave your name and telephone number with the Producer.

Items to Take for Biological Sampling (Environmental, Bulk Tank Milk, Calf Sampling, and Cow Assessments)

See the Biologics Manual.

Dairy 2014 Producer Agreement

The Dairy 2014 Producer Agreement is the contract between APHIS and the Producer. The first page of the agreement must be filled out completely and signed before any operation information is obtained.

The second page is completed after you explain the biological sampling to the Producer. On this page, the Producer will initial the appropriate blanks to indicate his or her interest in participating in biological sampling.

The YELLOW copy is given to the Producer; the WHITE copy is sent to the NAHMS Coordinator.

NOTE: Retain your copies of the Producer Agreements until notified by NAHMS staff to destroy them. DO NOT SEND THE AGREEMENTS TO THE FORT COLLINS STAFF; we are not to know the participating producers' identification information.

Confidentiality

Questions 3 and 4 of the agreement specifically state that data collected by NAHMS will be kept confidential and will not be used for regulatory purposes. The exception to data confidentiality is the suspicion or diagnosis of a dangerously contagious, infectious, or exotic disease foreign to the United States on the Producer's premises, such as foot-and-mouth disease.

Signatures

At the bottom of the first page of the Dairy 2014 Producer Agreement, the Federal or State representative signs and fills in the date on the appropriate line. The Producer or authorized representative signs and dates on the line indicated.

Biological Sampling

The Producer must initial the appropriate column for each type of biological sampling offered. Participation in any of the questions is voluntary. For example, if the Producer agrees to have bulk-tank milk, filters, and composite manure samples collected and tested, the **I AGREE TO PARTICIPATE** column for Question 10a must be initialed.



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Veterinary Services

NAHMS Dairy 2014 Producer Agreement



National Animal Health Monitoring System

2150 Centre Ave, Bldg B
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Form Approved
OMB Number 0579-0205
Approval expires: 09/30/2016

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the State of _____, and the Producer hereby enter into this National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) Dairy 2014 study PRODUCER AGREEMENT, the terms of which are set forth below.

1. APHIS and/or the State of _____ will provide personnel who will be referred to as the Data Collector. The Data Collector and the Producer will participate together in implementing a statistically valid NAHMS study for determining national estimates of dairy health practices and for compiling health information to enhance dairy production. The Data Collector will complete one person-to-person interview with the Producer.
2. The Producer will assist APHIS by providing accurate information regarding dairy health and management practices related to the study objectives. The Producer retains the right to refuse any questions deemed inappropriate.
3. The Data Collector will protect the origin of the data by recording the data with the Producer's unique code number only. The Data Collector will not keep any key to the code after the completion of the study. The Data Collector and all other project personnel acknowledge that the Producer is providing information that he/she does not customarily share and is providing it with the expectation that it will not be made public. The one exception to this data protection is the suspicion or diagnosis of a dangerously contagious, infectious, or exotic disease foreign to the United States on the Producer's premises (e.g., foot-and-mouth disease), in which case further investigation and possible action may occur.
4. Data collected by the Data Collector *will not be used for regulatory purposes*. However, information on a Producer's animals revealed from sources unrelated to the Dairy 2014 study, such as testing and inspection for movement or sale of animals or tracebacks on testing done at slaughter, may cause regulatory action to be initiated by the State or APHIS.
5. APHIS may publish, or authorize others to publish, the aggregate (summary) findings acquired from NAHMS for the benefit of the dairy industry, private industry, and other interested groups, but will ensure that the identity of the Producer is withheld. APHIS may not publish, or authorize others to publish, individual responses.
6. After completion of data reporting by the Producer, APHIS will provide the Producer with several reports containing summary results from all participating Producers. The Producer can obtain any further information available from this study by accessing the NAHMS Web site.
7. The Producer will complete a brief evaluation of the Dairy 2014 study, the results of which will be used to assist APHIS in the design and implementation of future NAHMS surveys.
8. Any changes to or waivers of the terms of this PRODUCER AGREEMENT shall be binding on APHIS and the State of _____ and the Producer only if they are put in writing by each party.
9. The effective data collection period of this PRODUCER AGREEMENT shall begin with today's date of ____/____/____ and end no later than May 31, 2015.

Continued on next page.

_____/date
VS Employee, U.S. Department of Agriculture, APHIS
OR _____ Department of Agriculture

_____/date
Producer or authorized representative

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0579-0205. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 0.25 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collected.

NAHMS-313
JAN 2014

VS Visit

	I AGREE TO PARTICIPATE	I DO NOT AGREE TO PARTICIPATE
10. (Producer's initials needed in the appropriate column) The Producer consents and authorizes the Data Collector to:		
a. Collect bulk tank milk samples, milk filter samples, and environmental manure/slurry samples.	_____	_____
1. The bulk tank milk samples and milk filters will be tested for <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , <i>Listeria</i> , and <i>Campylobacter</i> . A producer report will contain results for <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>Listeria</i> , and <i>Campylobacter</i> .		
2. The environmental manure/slurry samples will be collected from six different areas around the operation. Samples will be tested for <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>Campylobacter</i> , and <i>E. coli</i> . A producer report will contain results for <i>Salmonella</i> and <i>Campylobacter</i> .		
b. Collect samples for the heifer calf component of the study.	_____	_____
1. A health card will be completed for 24 heifer calves sampled. Completing the card includes providing information on feeding practices, calf growth, and disease incidence from birth through weaning.		
2. Blood samples will be collected from up to 24 heifer calves between 1 and 5 days of age. First feeding colostrum samples will be collected from up to 12 of the above calves. Samples will be tested for total protein and IgG (passive transfer). A producer report will contain results of individual calf testing, which will provide a measure of colostrum management.		
3. Ear notches will be collected from the above heifer calves between 1 and 5 days of age. Samples will be tested on-farm for bovine viral diarrhea (BVD).		
4. Individual fecal samples will be collected from up to 12 of the above heifer calves at 2 to 4 weeks of age. Samples will be tested for enteric parasites (<i>Cryptosporidium</i> , <i>Giardia</i> , Microsporidia, and <i>Blastocystis</i>). A producer report will contain individual calf results.		

(white copy given to NAHMS Coordinator, yellow copy left with Producer)

VS Visit

Introduction

The VS Visit questionnaire is completed during the first interview. It includes questions about milk quality and milking procedures, personnel, reproduction, surgical procedures, hoof health, beef quality assurance, disease preparedness, health, death, and permanent removals, and drug use and residue avoidance.

Read all questions to the Producer and follow instructions carefully. DO NOT LEAVE ANY QUESTIONS BLANK unless instructed to skip. Questions left blank hinder data validation and analysis because it is not known if the question was missed accidentally or if the Producer did not have an answer. We may request you recontact the Producer for missing data or clarification.

NOTE: If the response is zero (0), enter the number 0; do not leave the response blank. If the Producer does not know, work with him or her to try to estimate the answer. If the Producer does not have an answer, use DK or NA (described below) to indicate why the question was not answered. Please write in the margins to explain unusual circumstances or answers.

If the Producer doesn't know, circle "DK" in the response line or write in "DK" and explain in the margin the problem the Producer had with the question. If a question is not applicable to the Producer, circle "NA" in the response line or write in "NA" and again explain in the margin.

If the answer is unusual or quality of the data is questionable, record the answer and write comments next to the question.

At times during the interview, a Producer may feel uncomfortable providing the requested data without consulting records. Producers should be given additional time to look up the information or report it by telephone to you later as long as the timeliness of data submission is not adversely affected. Also, some Producers may be reluctant to provide estimates where records are not available. In this case, the Producer should be encouraged to respond, and the circumstances for the response should be noted in the margin next to the pertinent question. We will take these notes into account when assessing overall data quality for the site.

Three dairy computer software programs—DairyComp 305, DHI-Plus and PCDart—have provided instructions the Producer can use to get estimates. See the Producer Cheat Sheet for more information.

Do not hesitate to write comments directly on the questionnaire. We would rather have a lengthy explanation for a strange answer than no explanation at all. If an answer does not make sense and has no explanation, we might have to ask your Coordinator to ask you to explain the answer, delaying data entry.

NAHMS is a voluntary program. If the Producer doesn't want to answer a question, respect this request, make a note on the questionnaire, and move on to the next question.

Return the completed questionnaire to your NAHMS Coordinator within 3 working days of the visit.

Nonrespondent Documentation

We must account for all farms turned over by NASS. If a Producer declines to participate, complete the "Office Use Only" section on page 30 of the questionnaire. Include the State, Operation Number, Site Number, Interviewer's Initials, date, time spent talking with the Producer, travel time (if any), and the Producer's reason for declining in question 4 of the "Office Use Only" section. Send this page to the coordinator within 3 days.

NOTE: You may copy page 30 of the questionnaire to complete for nonrespondents.

Initial Information

State FIPS

Enter the 2-digit FIPS code for the State: CA-06, CO-08, ID-16, IN-18, IA-19, KY-21, MI-26, MN-27, MO-29, NY-36, OH-39, PA-42, TX-48, VT-50, VA-51, WA-53, WI-55.

Operation

Enter the 4-digit ID number assigned by NASS. It is found on page 1 of the GDMQ.

NOTE: The 6-digit combination of the State and Operation numbers is often referred to as the Farm ID or NAHMS ID. For example, 05 0123.

Interviewer's initials

Enter up to three initials.

Date

Enter the interview date in MM/DD/YY format.

Section A—Milk Quality and Milking Procedures

Question 1. Bulk-tank somatic cell count

Somatic cell count is an indication of milk quality and udder health. Counts are reported in thousands of cells per milliliter. Please provide minimum, average, and maximum cell count for milk shipped during 2013.

Question 2. Who milks

Check one box only to indicate who milks the majority of cows on the operation.

What if most milking is done by a hired worker who is also a family member?

Check box 2—Family member(s). All family members of the owner/operator belong in this category, whether paid or unpaid.

Question 3. Forestripping

Forestrip is to pull 2–3 streams of foremilk from each quarter of the udder. This stimulates the cow to let the milk down and removes residual bacteria. Check box 1—Forestrip all cows—only if all cows are forestripped all or most of the time.

What if they usually forestrip but every now and then don't because of time constraints? Check box 1—Forestrip all cows—as it is the operation's usual practice.

What if there are two milkers in the parlor and one forestrips and the other doesn't? Check box 2—Forestrip some cows.

[If question 3 = 5 (Do not forestrip any cows), SKIP to question 5.]

Question 4. When is forestripping performed

Check one box only to indicate when forestripping is performed.

Question 5. Premilking teat preparation routine

In the “Order in routine” column on the right, indicate with numbers to indicate the order in the milking routine for each specific procedure that the operation typically uses during its premilking teat preparation routine. If a procedure is not used, leave it blank. Only one specific procedure per general method should be marked in the “Order in routine” column. An example is provided below.

General method	Specific procedure	Order in routine
Wash pen	Wash animals in holding pen before they enter parlor	1 V107
Water hose	With disinfectant	V108
	Without disinfectant	V109
Dry wipe (to clean teats of debris, not to dry teats)	Single-use cloth towel	V110
	Multiple-use cloth towel	V111
	Single-use paper towel	V112
	Multiple-use paper towel	V113
Wet wipe	Single-use commercial teat wipes	V114
	Multiple-use commercial teat wipes	V115
	Single-use towel with commercial disinfectant	V116
	Multiple-use towel with commercial disinfectant	V117
	Single-use towel with homemade (not commercial) disinfectant	V118
	Multiple-use towel with homemade (not commercial) disinfectant	V019
	Multiple-use sponge with disinfectant	V120
Predip	Applied with sprayer with commercial disinfectant	2 V121
	Applied with sprayer with homemade (not commercial) disinfectant	V122
	Applied with predip cup with commercial disinfectant	V123
	Applied with predip cup with homemade (not commercial) disinfectant	V124
	Applied as foam with commercial disinfectant	V125
	Applied as foam with homemade (not commercial) disinfectant	V126
Dry teats (to dry after wet wipe or predip)	Air dry	V127
	Single-use cloth towel	3 V128
	Multiple-use cloth towel	V129
	Single-use paper towel	V130
Other	Multiple-use paper towel	V131
	Other (specify: _____) V132OTH	V132

Question 6. Postmilking teat-disinfection procedures

Enter only one code (1–7) to describe the primary postmilking procedure used for teat disinfection.

Question 7. Teat disinfectants

Enter one code (1–8) for the premilking and postdip teat disinfectants used primarily on this operation. If the disinfectant is unknown, write product brand name in the other category.

Question 8. Cold temperature teat disinfectant routine

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate if the operation stopped using a wet postdip product due to extremely cold temperatures in 2013.

Question 9. Barrier teat dip

Check one box only to indicate which best describes this operation's use of a barrier teat dip.

Question 10. Gloves

Check "Always" if the milkers wear gloves when milking ALL cows all or most of the time (not just certain cows, such as those with mastitis). These gloves do not need to be changed between cows to have a "Yes" response. Check "Sometimes" if gloves are worn part of the time or for certain cows. Check "Never" if wearing gloves is not a usual practice on the dairy.

What if the workers usually wear gloves when milking all cows but have run out and are currently not wearing them? If the operation's usual practice is to wear gloves for all cows, then check "Yes."

Question 11. Backflush system

A **backflush** system is used to clean milking units between cows to help prevent transmission of contagious mastitis pathogens. Flushing the entire milking system out after all cows have been milked (to clean milk out of the pipeline) is not a backflush system.

[If question 11 = No (A backflush system is not used), SKIP to question 13.]

Question 12. Use of backflush system

Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether the backflush system was used for every milking. In addition, check whether the backflush system is automatic or manually operated.

Question 13. Automatic takeoffs

Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether the operation uses automatic takeoffs.

What if the Producer calls it an automatic shutoff (or automatic detacher, or other similar terms)? If the milking unit shuts off automatically, and the unit usually falls off of the teats by itself, this would be considered an automatic takeoff.

Question 14. Vaccinations to prevent mastitis

Enter the average cost per cow of vaccinations used to prevent mastitis. If no vaccinations are given to prevent mastitis enter a zero in the blank.

Question 15. Milk cultures

Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate if the listed milk cultures were performed on this operation during 2013.

[If questions 15a–15c all = No, SKIP to question 19.]

[If question 15a = No, SKIP to question 17.]

Question 16. Selection for milk culturing

This question applies to individual cows selected for milk culturing. Check "Yes" or "No" for each listed category to indicate which types of cows were typically selected for milk culturing in 2013.

Question 17. Who performed milk cultures

Check “Yes” or “No” for each question to indicate who performed milk cultures during 2013. This question applies to cultures performed on individual cows, bulk-tank milk, or string samples.

Question 18. Organisms identified from milk cultures

Check “Yes” or “No” for each of the listed organisms to indicate whether it was identified from milk cultures.

Question 19. Who diagnoses mastitis

Check “Yes” or “No” for each of the listed persons to indicate if they are responsible for diagnosing mastitis.

Question 20. Mastitis treatment protocols

Check “Yes” or “No” for each of the listed questions to indicate if it is part of the mastitis treatment protocol.

[If question 20b = No (intramammary antibiotics (IMM)), SKIP to question 24.]

Question 21. Intramammary antibiotic treatment courses

Indicate the maximum number of intramammary antibiotic treatment courses used to treat mastitis in an individual cow before stopping treatment. “Treatment course” here refers to the entire duration of treatment with that antimicrobial. For example, the label for the intramammary antibiotic Pirsue® indicates it can be given at 24-hour intervals for up to 8 consecutive days. In this case, administering Pirsue for up to 8 consecutive days would be considered one course of treatment.

[If question 21 = 1, SKIP to question 23.]

Question 22. Different antibiotics for successive courses

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate if different antibiotics were used for successive courses to treat mastitis. If after finishing a course of treatment for mastitis and the cow’s mastitis has not resolved, has the operation switched to a different antibiotic to begin a new treatment course for any mastitis cases during 2013?

Question 23. Basis for treatment with intramammary antibiotics

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate the basis for treating a cow with IMM antibiotics.

Question 24. Average cost of treating a single case of mastitis

Indicate the average cost for treating a single case of clinical mastitis in a cow, broken down by the listed individual components involved in treatment. The average cost should include the entire treatment course which may be several days. In row 24f indicate the sum of all costs. For labor costs, estimate the average amount of time needed to care for a case of mastitis over the entire duration of treatment. If a veterinarian is consulted on occasion but not as a general rule for mastitis cases, one method of estimating a cost could be to estimate the veterinary cost for mastitis over the course of a year divided by the number of mastitis cases.

Question 25. Antibiotic residue testing

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate whether this operation performed any on-farm antibiotic-residue testing of milk during 2013.

[If question 25 = No, SKIP to question 28.]

Question 26. Antibiotic residue tests

Check one box only to indicate which test is most commonly used on this operation to screen for antibiotic residues in milk.

Question 27. Milk samples evaluated for antibiotic residues

For each milk source listed, check “Yes” or “No” to indicate whether samples from that source were evaluated for antibiotic residues during 2013.

Question 28. Dry-off protocols

Indicate the percentage of cows dried off based on the listed protocols. The total should equal 100%.

Question 29. Dry-off methods

Indicate the percentage of cows dried off using the listed methods. The total should equal 100%.

Question 30. Dry-off management practices

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate which management practices were used at dry off. If “Yes” is checked in rows 30c and 30d, indicate the number of hours the cows are generally without feed or water.

Question 31. Dry-off procedures

Complete the table on dry-cow treatments. If dry-cow antibiotics were not used on the operation, mark “Not used” and move to the “Internal teat sealant” column. Likewise, if no internal teat sealants were used on the operation, mark “Not used” and move to the “External teat sealant” column.

Question 32. Dry cow intramammary antibiotics

Enter the percentage of cows that were treated with dry cow intramammary antibiotics at drying off during 2013.

[If question 32 = 0% (No cows treated with intramammary antibiotics at dry-off), SKIP to question 35.]

Question 33. Clean teat ends with alcohol pads

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate if it was standard procedure to clean teat ends with alcohol pads prior to administering dry-cow IMM antibiotics. (Alcohol pads are typically packaged along with IMM antibiotics).

Question 34. Types of dry-cow intramammary antibiotics given to cows

For each of the dry-cow IMM antibiotics listed, enter the percentage of dry cows that were given the antibiotic in 2013 at drying off. If the Producer doesn’t know, write in the margin what is known.

Question 35. Cost per cow of IMM antibiotics and teat sealants at dry-off

Indicate the average cost per cow of IMM antibiotics and teat sealants normally used at dry off. If none are used enter 0. For this question, include the product cost only—do not include labor costs

Section B—Personnel

Question 1. People working in operation of the dairy

Enter the number of full-time and part-time people associated with running the dairy, whether owners, family members, or employees, and including those both paid and unpaid.

What if one family member spends about 80% of his time with crop activities but works in the dairy doing equipment maintenance full-time during the winter?

Include him in the number for part-time employees.

What if friends or neighbors occasionally help out? We are most interested in learning how many people come and go on the dairy facilities and could possibly affect dairy biosecurity. If friends or neighbors work on the dairy at least once per month, include these people in the count for part-time people working on the dairy.

Question 2. Training personnel

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate if training was provided during 2013 for each of the listed procedures. If “Yes,” enter the training personnel code that best describes the primary person responsible for the training. “Responsible for the training” here means the person who conducted the training.

[If question 2a = No, SKIP to question 5.]

Question 3. Milker-training

Check one box only to indicate how often milkers were trained during 2013.

Question 4. Milker-training methods

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate if the listed milker-training methods were used.

Question 5. Raw milk consumption by personnel

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate if any dairy personnel (i.e., owners or their family members, or workers) consumed raw milk from the dairy.

Question 6. Raw milk sold

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate if any raw milk was sold on the dairy for consumption by nondairy personnel. This includes cow shares (e.g., in those States where it is legal to buy a share of a cow and thus allowing access to raw milk from that cow) or direct purchase of fluid milk (e.g., in those States where sales of raw fluid milk is legal).

Section C—Reproduction

Question 1. Timed-AI programs

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate whether timed-AI programs were used to manage reproduction in heifers or cows.

[If questions 1a and 1b = No (No timed-AI programs used in heifers or cows), SKIP to question 3.]

Question 2. Years of timed-AI programs

Enter the number of years that timed-AI programs have been used on this operation (use fraction to nearest quarter year).

Question 3. Electronic heat-monitoring systems

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate whether any electronic heat-monitoring systems were used during 2013 to detect estrus. An electronic heat-monitoring system such as HeatWatch® includes an electronic monitor glued to a cow’s tailhead that is activated when the cow is mounted, after which a signal is transmitted to a computer. The computer records the date, time of day, and length of each mount along with the cow’s individual identification number. Another example of an electronic heat-monitoring system is Mount Count® which is a self-contained unit that is attached to a cow’s tailhead and is activated when the cow is mounted. The unit records each mount and alerts the user by flashing lights that indicate the cow is in estrus.

Question 4. Controlled internal drug release (CIDR) insert

In the first part of the question, check “Yes” or “No” to indicate whether a controlled internal drug release (CIDR) insert was used on the operation in 2013.

If a CIDR insert was used on this operation in 2013, check “Yes” or “No” for each question listed in the second part of the question to indicate how the CIDR inserts were used on the operation.

Question 5. First-service breeding practices

Enter one code (1–8) for heifers and one for cows that best describes the first-service breeding practices for the majority of heifers and cows on this operation in 2013.

Question 6. Second-service breeding practices

Enter one code (1–8) for heifers and one for cows that best describes the breeding practices used for the majority of heifers and cows that underwent two or more breedings during 2013.

Question 7. Bulls used

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate if any bulls were used for breeding.

[If question 7 = No, SKIP to question 9.]

Question 8. AI prior to bull breeding

Indicate how many times, on average, AI was performed on an individual cow before using a bull for breeding. If only a bull was used for breeding enter zero.

Question 9. Embryo transplantation

For the first part of the question, check “Yes” or “No” to indicate whether any heifers or cows had embryos transplanted into them in 2013.

If “Yes” (heifers or cows did have embryos transplanted in 2013), indicate the number of fresh, frozen, and total embryos implanted into both heifers and cows in 2013. Please be sure to answer questions 13a, 13b, and 13c for both heifers and cows.

Question 10. Method of pregnancies conceived

For each of the listed conception methods, write in the percentage of pregnancies conceived through that method in 2013. Please ensure that the percentages for all pregnancies add up to 100%.

[If questions 10b and 10c = 0% (No AI conceptions), SKIP to question 14.]

Question 11. Person performing AI services

Check one box only to indicate who performed the majority of AI services in 2013.

Question 12. AI service training

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate whether the person who is responsible for the majority of AI services (question 11) has been formally trained (i.e., lecture and lab) in performing AI.

What if the person has received on-the-job training with an AI service technician but has not completed a formal course with both lecture and lab? Check “No.”

Question 13. Number inseminated

For heifers and for cows, enter the percentages that were inseminated with **sexed** semen in 2013. Enter zero if no sexed semen used.

Question 14. Pregnancy status

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate which of the listed methods of determining pregnancy status were used routinely on the operation during 2013.

What if a couple of cows had blood tests to determine pregnancy status? Check “No” for question 22c. We’re interested in what methods are used routinely on the operation for diagnosing pregnancy, not those used rarely under unusual circumstances.

[If questions 14a through 14f = No, SKIP to section D.]

Question 15. Frequency of pregnancy exams

Check one box only to best describe how frequently pregnancy exams were performed in 2013. For example, if your veterinarian usually comes every 2 weeks and checks cows for pregnancy, select “Every 2 weeks.”

[If question 19 = 5 (No pregnancy exams performed), SKIP to question 27.]

Question 16. Who performed pregnancy exams

Check one box only to indicate who performed the majority of pregnancy exams in 2013.

Question 17. Pregnancy diagnosis

Enter the number of days postbreeding that pregnancy diagnosis was usually made via palpation or ultrasound during 2013.

[If question 14b = No (ultrasound not used), SKIP to section D.]

Question 18. Ultrasound diagnosis

Enter the year (e.g., 2004) that ultrasound was first used routinely for diagnosing pregnancy on the operation.

Question 19. Ownership of ultrasound equipment

Check the box that best indicates who owned the ultrasound equipment that was used for the majority of pregnancy diagnoses on the operation in 2013.

Question 20. Ultrasound information collected

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate which other pieces of information were also collected/evaluated during ultrasound exams during 2013.

What if the gender of the fetus of one older high-producing cow was checked before she was sold to another dairy? Check “Yes” for question 20e. In this case, we want to know all the uses of ultrasound on the operation in 2013, not just the routine ones.

Section D—Surgical Procedures

Question 1. Calf dehorning

Enter “Yes” or “No” to indicate whether heifer calves were routinely disbudded/dehorned on the operation during 2013.

[If question 1= No (Heifer calves were not routinely dehorned on the operation during 2013), SKIP to question 5.]

Question 2. Percentage disbudded/dehorned by method

Answer this question for 2013. For each of the dehorning methods listed, enter the percentage of all heifer calves dehorned by that method in the first column and the average age in weeks of calves at dehorning in the second column. In the third column, check “Yes” or “No” to indicate whether analgesics or anesthetics were administered to calves during the dehorning procedure.

Please ensure that the total for the first column is less than or equal to 100%.

Question 3. Chemical disinfection of surgical equipment

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate whether surgical equipment that typically causes bleeding during dehorning is chemically disinfected between **each** animal. If surgical equipment that causes bleeding is not used to dehorn calves, check “NA.”

Question 4. Who dehorn

Check one box only to indicate who dehorn the majority of calves on this operation.

Question 5. Did the operation use polled bulls

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate whether this operation used any polled bulls for AI or natural services during 2013.

Question 6. Removal of extra teats

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate whether extra teats were routinely removed from heifer calves on the operation during 2013.

[If question 6 = No (Extra teats were not routinely removed), SKIP to question 9.]

Question 7. Age when extra teats removed

Enter a number for the usual age of calves in weeks when extra teats were removed.

Question 8. Use of anesthesia/analgesics during removal of extra teats

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate whether analgesics or anesthetics were administered to calves during the removal of extra teats.

Question 9. Percentage of dairy cows with docked tails

Enter the percentage of ALL dairy cows on the operation that have docked tails.

What if the dairy has stopped docking tails, so the only animals with docked tails are older cows? Enter the percentage of cows on the operation with docked tails.

Should bred heifers with undocked tails be included in the percentage? No; do not include heifers in the answer; this question asks only about dairy cows.

[If question 9 = 0 (No dairy cows have docked tails), SKIP to question 14.]

Question 10. Tail-docking performed on the operation

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate whether tail-docking procedures were performed on any cattle on the operation during 2013.

What if the only dairy cows on the operation that have docked tails were purchased at auction? Skip to question 14 since tail docking procedures were not performed on the operation in 2013.

Question 11. Docking procedure

Check one box only to indicate which procedure was most commonly used to dock tails in 2013.

Question 12. Age at tail docking

Check one box only to indicate the usual age of most dairy animals when tails were docked in 2013.

Question 13. Use of anesthesia/analgesics during tail docking

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate whether analgesics or anesthetics were administered to animals during tail docking.

Question 14. Castration of bull calves

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate whether bull calves were routinely castrated on the operation during 2013. If the operator typically castrates most bull calves but leaves a few intact for breeding, answer “Yes” and continue with the section.

[If question 14 = No (Bull calves not routinely castrated), SKIP to section E.]

Question 15. Castration method

Check one box only to indicate what method was used most commonly to castrate bull calves on this operation.

Question 16. Age at castration

Enter the age in weeks at which bull calves were routinely castrated on this operation.

Question 17. Use of anesthesia/analgesics during castration

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate whether analgesics or anesthetics were administered to bull calves during castration.

Section E—Hoof Health

Please read this note to the producer:

An animal can be counted as having more than one case of lameness or gait abnormality if the animal recovered completely from one case but then became lame again for any reason.

Question 1. Lameness

Enter the percentage of bred heifers and cows that were identified as lame (i.e., gait abnormality) during 2013. If bred heifers were not housed on the operation during 2013, enter -1 (i.e., negative one).

Question 2. Digital dermatitis and foot rot

Digital dermatitis is often called hairy-heel warts, hairy footwart, strawberry foot disease, or raspberry heel. It is characterized primarily by lesions near the interdigital cleft/heel bulb of the hind feet. It may progress and develop into large, raised lesions that may be painful and prone to bleeding.

Footrot is also called necrotic pododermatitis, interdigital necrobacillosis, or foul foot. It is a highly contagious disease affecting the interdigital (between the toes) tissue and tends to be seasonal with the highest occurrence during wet seasons. It is characterized by pain, lameness, and swelling of the interdigital tissue, which spreads the toes. Liquefactive necrosis (tissue death) in the interdigital space accompanied by a foul odor is a common sign.

For bred heifers and for cows, enter the percentage of the lameness cases from question 1 that were due to digital dermatitis (hairy-heel warts) and footrot. For example, if 20% of cows were identified as lame during 2013 (from question 1), and 50% of the lameness cases in cows were due to digital dermatitis, enter “50%” in the hairy heel warts column for cows. If none of the lameness cases in cows was due to footrot, enter 0% in the footrot column for cows. Note that the percentage of lameness cases due to hairy-heel warts and foot rot need not sum to 100% for cows and for heifers.

We realize the answer to this question could be an estimate.

Question 3. Person responsible for identifying lame cows

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate if any of the listed people were responsible for identifying lame cows during 2013. This implies the cows were identified for further evaluation and treatment.

Question 4. Time until cows received treatment

Check one box only to indicate how soon after being identified as lame that cows typically received treatment.

Question 5. Footbath

Check one box only that best describes the use of a footbath for cows on this operation during 2013.

[If question 5 = 3 (No footbath used), SKIP to question 9.]

Question 6. Frequency of footbaths

Check one box only to indicate how frequently footbaths were used during 2013.

Question 7. Footbath medications

Check one box only to indicate the footbath medication that was used most commonly on this operation in 2013.

Question 8. Number of cows going through footbath before cleaning

Indicate the approximate number of cows that step through a footbath before it is drained, cleaned, and replenished with fresh medication.

Question 9. Hooves trimmed

Check only one that best describes how frequently cows typically had their hooves trimmed during 2013.

[If question 9 = 5 (No cows had hooves trimmed in 2013), SKIP to section F.]

Question 10. Who trimmed hooves

Check one box only to describe who trimmed the majority of cows' hooves in 2013.

Question 11. Visits for trimming hooves or evaluating lame cows

Enter the number of visits made by each of the listed personnel to this operation in 2013 to trim hooves or evaluate lame cows.

Section F—Beef Quality Assurance

Question 1. Number injections

Enter the number of injections of any kind that a typical dairy cow on the operation received during 2013. This includes any type of injection a typical cow receives on the operation, including antibiotics, vaccinations, production enhancement, and reproductive injections.

Question 2. Changing needles

For 2013, check one box only to indicate how many injections farm personnel **usually** gave with one needle before changing needles.

Question 3. Percentage of injections by route

For each injection route listed, enter the percentage of all injections that were administered by that route. Total should add to 100%.

What if the operator doesn't know specifics about injections given by the veterinarian, and the veterinarian gave half of all injections on the operation? Ask the operator to answer based on his/her knowledge of all injections given on the operation.

[If question 3a = 0, (No intramuscular injections in 2013), SKIP to question 5.]

Question 4. Percentage of IM injections for certain purposes

Enter the percentage of IM injections that were administered for each of the listed purposes: antibiotic administration, production enhancement, reproduction, vaccination, or other. Production enhancements include nontherapeutic injections, such as oxytocin for milk let-down. Total should add to 100%.

Using the diagram of body locations for this question (neck, shoulder, upper hip, or hind leg), indicate the primary IM injection location for each purpose listed (antibiotic, production enhancement, reproductive, vaccination, other).

Question 5. Cattle-handling facilities for injections

For each of the injection types listed, enter one code (1–7) for heifers and one code (1–7) for cows to indicate which type of cattle-handling facility was used for giving the majority of that type of injection.

Section G—Disease Preparedness**Question 1. Familiarity with diseases**

Check one box only for each disease listed, giving the best estimation of how familiar the Producer is with the disease. Use the Producer's definition for "Fairly knowledgeable" (i.e., take his word for it; don't test him to verify he is fairly knowledgeable).

<p>NOTE: Redwater is NOT heartwater. Heartwater is caused by <i>Cowdria</i>, a blood parasite. Redwater is a term used for a number of "diseases" (bacillary hemoglobinuria, babesiosis, hypophosphatemia in high-producing cows).</p>

Question 2. Participation in Johne's disease control programs

Check "Yes" or "No" for each kind of Johne's disease control program listed. Notice the option of producers participating prior to 2013 but not currently participating.

Question 3. Colostrum from Johne's test-positive cows

Check the box that best answers this question.

Question 4. Sources of information for foreign animal disease outbreak

Check one box only for each source of information to indicate how likely the Producer would be to use that source to obtain information about an outbreak of a foreign animal disease such as foot-and-mouth disease.

Question 5. Foreign animal disease resources

Check “Yes” or “No” as to whether the Producer would contact each of the listed resources if he/she had an animal suspected of having foot-and-mouth disease or another foreign animal disease. Please provide an answer for each question.

Question 6. Daily milk production decrease before contacting veterinarian

Indicate the approximate percent daily decrease in milk production that would trigger the Producer to contact a veterinarian to investigate a potential herd disease problem.

Question 7. Herd disease problems

Enter the level of change (percentage or number) at which the Producer would contact a veterinarian for each of the listed signs of a herd disease problem.

What if 10 cows have fever one week and 15 cows have fever a month later? Is that considered a short time period? By “short time period,” we mean that the incidents occur close enough together that they are likely related, and this length of time will depend on the health event and the Producer. In the case of the cows with fever, these events occurred far enough apart that they might not be related. However, if several cows aborted one week and several more cows aborted a month later, these might be considered within the same time period and to be a potential herd disease problem because of the latent effects of fetal exposure.

What if the dairy cows are under the regular care of a veterinarian? Answer at what percentage or number for each question the veterinarian would investigate the problem. Investigation could simply be clinical exams and/or diagnostic testing.

Question 8. Biosecurity practices

Check “Yes” or “No” as to whether the Producer uses any of the listed procedures for biosecurity.

What if visitors are allowed to watch milking from an observation area but do not have contact with the cows? If there are guidelines to determine when and where visitors can go in the animal areas of the dairy, check “Yes” for question 8a.

What if there are set procedures that are not written down? Check “No” for question 8c as the procedures are not written.

Question 9. Visits to the operation

For the first part of the question, for an average week, enter “Yes” or “No” if there were any visits made by people who came onto the operation, including employees, veterinarians, nutritionist, hoof trimmer, milk hauler, neighbors, friends, tour groups, etc.

For the second part of the question, indicate how many of those visits occurred throughout the year.

For the third part of the question, indicate “Yes” or “No” if any of the visits involved contact with animals on the operation. “Contact with animals” here includes physical contact such as by a veterinarian administering treatments, or it can also include walking in areas or pens where cattle are housed.

Question 10. Records kept of visitors to the operation

Check “Yes” or “No” as to whether records were typically kept of visitors to the operation. These can be paper or electronic (computerized) records.

Question 11. Specific biosecurity practices

Check whether the Producer uses the listed practices for biosecurity. Please mark one answer for each question, 11a–11j.

#11d—Include cats in rodent control if they are on the operation for the sole purpose of rodent control (e.g., barn cats). If the cats are family pets and are not free roaming on the operation, they would not be considered rodent control.

#11f—Elk and deer can be either wild or domestic.

What if the operation’s cattle are in contact with horses and alpacas on the operation but not in contact with the neighbor’s horses? Answer “No,” because practices to prevent cattle contact with other livestock are not in place.

#11g—Determine if anything is being done to keep other livestock and wildlife such as elk, deer, and raccoons away from access to cattle feed. Cattle feed may include hay, silage, stored grain, and feedstuffs in bunks or pasture. Control could include high fences, enclosed feeding areas, and enclosed storage areas.

#11h—Closed herd means that ALL replacements, including bulls, are from this operation. A closed herd doesn’t have contact with cattle from other operations. The operation is NOT a closed herd if a few selected animals are purchased, even if they are tested first.

What if the heifers are moved to another operation and returned after breeding? If the heifers are not commingled with cattle from another operation, the herd is considered closed.

What if cows leave the operation but return (e.g., cows going to fairs or for medical treatment)? If the animals have contact with animals from other operations, then the herd is not closed.

#11i—This question is asking about vehicles in the animal area. Vehicles such as a school bus or veterinarian's truck stopped at the office and main parking area would not be included in this question.

#11j—Restrictions on employee livestock ownership may include criteria such as the employee cannot own or care for any dairy cattle on other livestock operations.

Question 12. Equipment cleaning procedures

Mark the box that most closely corresponds to how often in 2013 the operation used the same equipment to handle both manure and cattle feed. Use "Routinely" if the operation usually or regularly uses the same equipment for both tasks, and use "Sometimes" if the operation uses the same equipment to handle both manure and cattle feed occasionally but not as a regular practice.

If the same equipment is ever used to handle both manure and cattle feed ("Routinely" and "Sometimes" answers), please continue with the question about cleaning procedures for the equipment between uses for manure and cattle feed. Check the box that best describes cleaning procedures usually done with equipment after it is used to handle manure and before it is used to handle cattle feed.

Question 13. Sharing heavy equipment

Examples of heavy equipment include tractors, feeding equipment, manure spreaders, and livestock trailers. Check "Yes," even if the equipment was cleaned before and after use. Check "Yes" if the equipment was shared between different company operations or family operations.

What if the neighbor's tractor broke down and he had to borrow one of the dairy operation's tractors for one day while his was being fixed? Please mark "Yes" for shared equipment, even if this was the only time equipment was shared.

[If question 13 = No, SKIP to question 16.]

Question 14. How often equipment shared

Enter the number of times this operation shared equipment in 2013.

What if the operation borrowed a manure spreader four times in 2013, for a week each time? Please enter 4 on the appropriate line. We're interested in the number of times equipment was moved between operations, not the total number of days the shared equipment was used.

Question 15. Cleaning procedures

Check one box only to describe this operation's procedures for cleaning shared equipment before using it on the operation.

What if the neighbor who borrowed the tractor washed it thoroughly before he returned it, and the operator decided it didn't need any more cleaning? We're interested in what happens to the equipment between uses on different operations, so check the appropriate box if you know how the neighbor cleaned the tractor. If cleaning procedure was unknown, but the tractor was returned clean, select "Other" and specify "Cleaned by neighbor – unknown procedure."

Questions 16 to 23 evaluate this operation's ability to meet guidelines that might be implemented given a foreign animal disease outbreak (emergency situation). Assume that the practices described in these questions would need to be implemented before this operation would be allowed to ship milk. "Dairy operation" refers to the area where cattle are housed, pastured, milked, and fed.

Question 16. Single access point

Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether the operation could implement a strategy in which all traffic would have to enter and exit the dairy operation through a single access point. If "Yes" is marked, indicate how many days it would take to implement such a strategy. "Access point" here means access by vehicles. If the operation has several access points but they could be secured by a locked gate such that only a single access point was used, check "Yes."

Question 17. Access point(s) secured by locked gate

Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether all access points to the dairy operation could be secured by a locked gate. As mentioned above, the "dairy operation" means the area where cattle are housed, pastured, milked, and fed.

Question 18. Someone to regulate all traffic on and off the operation

Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether personnel could be assigned to regulate all traffic on and off the operation. This could be one person or multiple people at one time, depending on the number of access points to the operation.

Question 19. Sign at entrance indicating no entry without permission

Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether there is a sign at the entrance to the operation indicating no entry without permission.

What if there is not a sign at the access point(s) to the operation (i.e., where vehicles leave the road to enter the operation) but there is a sign on the building housing the office and milking parlor? We're primarily interested in whether signs are present at access points to the operation, so select "No" here.

Question 20. Area that could be used as a vehicle wash station

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate whether there is an area close to the access point that could be used as a wash station for vehicles. A wash station would require a gravel or concrete pad as well as access to water and power, but the question is not asking whether these are currently present, only if they could be. If there is no way that all traffic on and off the operation could be regulated such that vehicles could be required to use a wash station, enter “No” here.

Question 21. Commercial truck wash

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate if there is currently a commercial truck wash nearby such that trucks leaving the operation could be washed before driving past other livestock operations. “Other livestock operations” here means livestock are present regardless of number of head. So a neighbor with one beef cow or a neighbor with 5,000 hogs would each be considered a livestock operation.

Question 22. Construction of truck/vehicle wash

Enter the approximate number of days it would take to construct a truck/vehicle wash (temporary or permanent) at the access point to the operation. The washing station would require a gravel or concrete pad and access to water and power. As in question 20, if there is no way that all traffic on and off the operation could be regulated such that vehicles could be required to use a wash station, enter “NA” here.

Question 23. Availability of Questions for truck/vehicle washing station

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate if the questions listed are already on the operation (or are available within a day’s notice) for use at the truck/vehicle washing station. With regard to water and power sources, if new lines or pipes will need to be installed, then enter “No” if the installation will take more than a day’s notice.

Section H—Health, Deaths and Permanent Removals

Question 1. Number of culled cows

Excluding deaths, indicate the number of dairy cows permanently removed from the operation during 2013. This applies to cows only, not other types of cattle. *This question is a repeat from the NASS questionnaire page 3, section 1, question 16d.*

[If question 1 = 0, SKIP to question 3.]

Question 2. Destinations of dairy cows that were permanently removed from the herd

This question applies to the permanently removed cows from question 1. For each destination listed in column 1, complete the information in columns 2–8. As in question 1, exclude cows that died.

For column 2, enter the percentage of removed cows sent to each of the listed destinations. If no cows were sent to a particular destination, skip to the next row. The total percentage from column 2, options 2a–2d should equal 100%. In column 3 enter the number of shipments that left the operation during 2013 for each of the destinations, and then in row 2e provide a total number of shipments during 2013. Note that a shipment is considered a group of animals moved at once, regardless of the number of vehicles needed to move them. In column 4, enter the average price per head for the last shipment sold to each of the destinations during 2013. In columns 5–7, for each of the destinations listed, enter a distance code for the average, minimum, and maximum distances that permanently removed cows were transported during 2013. In column 8, indicate “Yes” or “No” for whether any shipments crossed State lines.

Question 3. Number of cows that died

Indicate how many dairy cows died on the operation during 2013. This question is a repeat from the NASS questionnaire page 3, section 1, question 16e.

Question 4. Cow deaths

Of the total cow deaths on the operation during 2013, enter the percentage of deaths that were due to euthanasia and the percentage due to cows that died on their own. The sum of 4a and 4b should equal 100%.

Question 5. Necropsy of dairy cows that died to determine the cause of death

Of the cows that died during 2013, enter the percentage of dairy cows that were necropsied to determine cause of death. *If there were no cow deaths enter -1.*

Question 6. Stage of lactation for cows that were permanently removed or died

For the cows that were permanently removed during 2013, enter the percentages of those cows that were in each of the listed stages of lactation. The total should equal 100%. Then do the same for cows that died during 2013.

Question 7. Parity of cows that were permanently removed or died

For the cows that were permanently removed during 2013, enter the percentages of those cows that were in each of the listed parities (i.e., number of lactations). The total should equal 100%. Then do the same for cows that died during 2013.

Question 8. Health conditions of cows and removals and deaths

In question 8, enter “Yes” or “No” as to whether any dairy cows on the operation were affected with, removed because of, or died from each of the listed health conditions 8a–8p. If “Yes” is marked for any health condition, in the columns to the right also enter the number of head affected with the condition, the number of head removed because of the condition, and the number of head that died because of the condition. If the reason for death is not known, include that cow under 8p (unknown reason). In the last row, add up the total number removed and the total number that died. The sum of the number removed should equal the number from question 1. The sum of the number of deaths should equal the number from question 3.

Question 9. Heifer deaths

Enter the number of preweaned heifers and the number of weaned heifers that died on the operation during 2013.

[If question 9 = 0 for both columns, SKIP to question 13.]

Question 10. Percent of heifer deaths

For 2013, enter the percentage of preweaned and weaned dairy heifers that were euthanized, as well as the percentages that died on their own (without euthanasia). The total for preweaned heifers (and for weaned heifers) should equal 100%.

Question 11. Percent of heifers that died or were euthanized by reason

Of the total preweaned heifers that died during 2013 (i.e., died on their own or were euthanized), indicate the percentage that died by primary reason for death or euthanasia. Repeat for weaned heifers that died during 2013 (i.e., died on their own or were euthanized). The sum of the total percentages for preweaned heifers and weaned heifers should each equal 100%.

Question 12. Necropsy of dairy heifers

Of the preweaned and weaned dairy heifers that died on their own or were euthanized during 2013, enter the percentage of total heifers (preweaned and weaned) that were necropsied to determine cause of death.

Question 13. Disposal of dead heifers and cows

Enter the appropriate code for the primary method of carcass disposal for each type of animal: preweaned heifers, weaned heifers, and cows.

Section I—Drug Use and Residue Avoidance

Question 1. Antibiotic use

To answer this question “Yes,” medications **MUST** have been used during 2013 **IN THE RATIONS or WATER** of weaned heifers that had not yet calved to prevent disease or promote growth.

[If question 1 = No, SKIP to question 3.]

Question 2. Percent of heifers receiving medications in feed

For weaned heifers and pregnant heifers, complete the first two rows in the table to determine if the rest of the table should be completed. If appropriate, for each of the medications listed, enter the percentage of weaned heifers and/or pregnant heifers that received the medication in feed or water.

Question 3. Drugs administered with milk or meat withdrawal

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate if any drugs that required a milk or meat withdrawal were administered to dairy heifers or cows during 2013. This applies to any drugs with a withdrawal period, not just antibiotics. Withdrawal period refers to an amount of time that must pass between administering a drug (including those approved for use in organic dairy production) and when milk can be sold or the cow can be sent to market.

[If question 3 = No skip to Office Use section.]

Question 4. Administration of any antibiotics

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate if any antibiotics were administered to dairy heifers or cows during 2013.

[If question 4 = No, SKIP to question 9.]

Question 5. Antibiotics used to treat diseases or disorders

NOTE: Answer the questions keeping in mind that the antibiotics are used for diseases or disorders (NOT FOR PREVENTION). We need numbers, not percentages. We realize that the response may be the Producer’s best guess. If the Producer just can’t give a good estimate, make a note in the margin and skip the question.

For each of the age categories (preweaned heifers, heifers weaned but not yet calved, and cows), determine the number of animals affected in 2013 with the listed diseases and the number of those animals treated with antibiotics. If any class of animal is not housed on the operation for the entire time in that animal class (e.g., if weaned heifers are not housed on the operation from weaning to calving, or if preweaned heifers are not housed on the operation from birth to weaning), mark out and note they are not housed on the operation.

Using the attached VS Visit Reference Card, which lists commonly used antibiotics and their active ingredients, write in the code for the primary and secondary antibiotics used. The **primary** antibiotic is the Producer’s first choice in treating the disease or disorder listed for each class of animal. The **secondary** antibiotic is the Producer’s second choice for treating the disease or disorder for each class of animal.

NOTE: Hormones, probiotics, iodine, Pepto-Bismol, and anti-inflammatories are NOT antibiotics and if used for treatment purposes, should not be recorded here.

The number of affected cows for each of the disease categories should already be captured on page 24, section H, question 8.

What if all animals are treated when only a few are affected? The question asks about the treatment of the AFFECTED animals, not the unaffected ones. So count only the affected animals treated. The number of treated animals should not be greater than the number affected.

Question 6. Antibiotics administered in an extra-label fashion

Check “Yes”, “No”, or “Don’t know” to indicate if any antibiotics were administered in an extra-label fashion to any class of dairy animal during 2013. Extra-label (or off-label) use of antibiotics means the antibiotic was given in a manner other than as specified on the manufacturer label—e.g., at a dose, route of administration, or indication (targeted disease) other than what is printed on the manufacturer label. Veterinarians commonly prescribe drugs in an extra-label manner. An example of a drug used in an extra-label manner would be if your veterinarian prescribed Naxcel® to treat calf diarrhea. The Naxcel product label states that it is indicated for treatment of bovine respiratory disease and for foot rot. Using it for treatment of calf diarrhea is considered an extra-label use.

Question 7. Cultures and sensitivity used to guide treatments

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate if cultures and sensitivity results were used during 2013 to guide treatment decisions (e.g., which drugs to use) for each of the listed disease conditions.

Question 8. Sources of information used to determine which drugs to use

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate each of the listed sources of information were used to determine which drugs to use for treating cattle during 2013.

Question 9. Primary source used to guide treatment decisions

Use the sources of information from question 8 to respond to this question. Enter the primary source of information used for each of the listed treatment decisions during 2013. For example, if a veterinarian was the primary source of information used to determine what drugs to use, enter “b” for 9a.

Question 10. Treatment records

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate if a written or computerized record was kept during 2013 for each cow that received any treatment that required a milk or meat withdrawal period. Drugs other than antibiotics may require a withdrawal period. For example the analgesic Banamine® has both a milk and meat withdrawal period.

Question 11. Marking of cows to indicate treatment

Check any of the listed options that were used during 2013 to mark cows that received a treatment that required a withdrawal period. Marking cows in some manner can help milkers determine if a cow’s milk should go in the bulk tank.

Question 12. Any drugs administered with milk withdrawal

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate if any drugs were administered to cows that required a milk withdrawal period during 2013.

[If question 12 = No, SKIP to question 14.]

Question 13. Management of cows with milk withdrawal

Check “Yes” or “No” to indicate if each of the listed management practices were used during 2013 for cows treated with drugs that required a milk withdrawal period (i.e., were these practices used for cows during the milk withdrawal period). Note that the last option (milking untreated quarters of treated cows) is not a recommended practice to prevent milk residues.

Question 14. Practices for treated cows prior to return to milking or sold

Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate if each of the listed practices were used during 2013 to determine when treated cows could return to milking or be sold for beef. The testing in questions 14c, 14d, and 14e refers to drug residue detection testing.

Office Use Only

This section is to be completed at the time you leave the site, perhaps after getting into your vehicle to depart.

State FIPS

Enter the 2-digit FIPS code for the State. CA-06, CO-08, ID-16, IN-18, IA-19, KY-21, MI-26, MN-27, MO-29, NY-36, OH-39, PA-42, TX-48, VT-50, VA-51, WA-53, WI-55.

Operation

Enter the 4-digit ID number assigned by NASS. It is found on page 1 of the GDMQ and is called ID.

NOTE: The 6-digit combination of the State and Operation numbers is often referred to as the Farm ID or NAHMS ID. For example, 05 0123.

Interviewer's initials

Enter up to three initials.

Date

Enter the interview date in MM/DD/YY format.

Question 1. Total time for interview

Enter the total time (in minutes) spent on the interview portion of the survey, including explaining the program and conducting the survey. Do not include general discussions that are not focused on the Dairy 2014 study.

If two or more people representing VS are at the interview (e.g., VMO and AHT), enter the TOTAL time for all. Do not include travel time. Do not include the Producer's time.

Question 2. Total time traveled

Enter the total time traveled (round-trip) to conduct this interview. This time would be from the last location (where you are coming from) to the next location (where you are going to).

If two or more people representing VS are at the interview (e.g., VMO and AHT), enter the TOTAL travel time for all.

Examples:

A VMO traveled 30 minutes each way and an AHT 15 minutes each way. Total time = 90 min.

A VMO and State collector traveled together 30 minutes each way to the site. Total travel time = 120 minutes (60 minutes round trip x 2 people).

Question 3. Data collectors

For each of the listed categories, enter the number of people representing VS on this visit.

Question 4. Response code

If the Producer completed the questionnaire, the response code is 99.

99 - Survey completed

Nonrespondents

If the Producer declines to participate, enter the code that best describes the reason and write the specific reason in the comment line.

00 - Producer not contacted by the VMO

01 - Poor time of year to contact or no time

02 - Does not want anyone on operation

03 - Bad experience with government veterinarians

04 - Does not want to do another survey or divulge information

05 - Told NASS they did not want to be contacted

06 - Ineligible (no dairy cows)

07 - Other reason (explain below)

Question 5. Producer Data Quality

Producer Data Quality (PDQ) provides a measure of the accuracy and completeness of the data reported by the respondent. Enter the code that indicates your opinion of the quality of the Producer's responses. The purpose is to provide a general indicator of the data quality that will be available during the reporting and analysis processes. Other data values or data relationships may be weighted or judged accordingly based on the data quality code.

NOTE: Enter the code for the PDQ after the interview and prior to returning the questionnaire to the NAHMS Coordinator.

Good/Excellent

Interviewee has a good or thorough knowledge of the site and complete information. There is no question about the validity of the overall data this person provided.

OK

Interviewee has a fair knowledge of the site. Data are based on the Interviewee's best and earnest recollection and knowledge. Records may not have been consulted or were questionable.

Poor

Interviewee has little understanding of the site and the industry in general. Information is inconsistent and often fabricated or based on guesses.

Question 6. Respondent's position

Enter the code that best describes the position of the interviewee.

NOTE: Be sure to confirm question 6 with the interviewee before leaving the site.

Comments

Write in the comments space any comments that may be of use in the analysis of the data. If the Producer declined to participate, write in the specific reason.

Signature

Sign the questionnaire before mailing to the Coordinator. Your signature indicates that the questionnaire was reviewed for completeness, ease of reading, quality checks, and explanations where necessary (such as for data that are incomplete or estimated).

Field Data Quality – completed by the NAHMS Coordinator

Field Data Quality provides a measure of the accuracy and completeness of the data as submitted. Each NAHMS Coordinator, while editing the questionnaire, will enter a code that indicates his or her opinion of the quality of the completion of the questionnaire.

NOTE: This is not a VMO rating. It is a data quality rating.

Good/Excellent

Questionnaire is complete, legible, and free of errors or the few errors are easy to correct. Explanations for missing or questionable responses are written on the form. Data can be edited without difficulty.

OK

Questionnaire contains some illegible responses, incomplete sections, or obvious errors. Some totals do not reconcile, and explanations for missing or questionable responses are missing or not legible. Data are difficult to edit but, with effort, can be reconciled.

Poor

Questionnaire is not complete, is not legible, contains many obvious errors, and totals do not reconcile. Explanations for missing or questionable responses are absent or not legible. Data cannot be edited and may need to be discarded.