

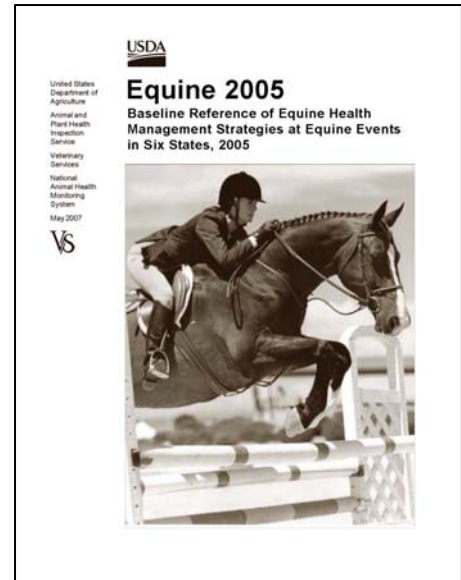
Highlights of Equine 2005 Baseline Reference of Equine Health Management Strategies at Equine Events in Six States

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Animal Health Monitoring System's (NAHMS) Equine 2005 Events Study focused on describing health-management factors at equine events that could impact the occurrence and potential spread of equine infectious diseases. Equine infectious diseases can result in lost use of animals and in some cases death. There are many potential control points for preventing or minimizing the impact of equine infectious-disease outbreaks, including precautions that reduce exposure to infectious agents, optimization of resistance through vaccination if exposure occurs, and early identification of outbreaks—all of which can limit the spread of disease.

When animals from multiple locations or sources are brought together for various events there is a possibility for the spread of infectious and contagious disease agents. Examples of events where equids congregate include sales or auctions, shows, horse trials, western events, fairs, rodeos, race meets, polo matches, organized trail rides, and training clinics.

A disease occurrence at an equine event could necessitate locating participating owners/trainers and their equids in order to communicate important disease-control information. The NAHMS Equine 2005 Events Study looks at the type of information recorded by event coordinators/organizers regarding event participants and their equids and explores animal-health control strategies employed at the events.

For the Equine 2005 Events Study, NAHMS staff developed a list of equine events for the six participating States (California, Colorado, Florida, Kentucky, New York, and Texas). This list served as the sampling frame for the study. A statistically valid sample was selected such that inferences could be made to major equine events in the State. Events likely to have a small number of local



equids—such as jackpot roping, local lessons, or shows—were excluded from the study. The study sample yielded 252 participating events representing the 3,227 events on the list. Start dates for these events occurred between January 1 and December 31, 2005. Data collection took place from January 9, 2005, to April 25, 2006.

Study Focus

The Equine 2005 Events Study took an in-depth look at:

- **Event characteristics**—including event types, origin of participating equids, average duration of events, duration equids were on event premises, and number of equids at events.
- **Characteristics of equids**—including age and types of equids.
- **Livestock present at events**—i.e., types of other livestock.
- **Requirements for attending equids**—including health certificates, equine infectious anemia (EIA) tests, individual animal identification, and vaccination.
- **Equine management during events**—including veterinarian hired or provided to monitor for illness or provide care, equine housing, insect control, security methods,

record keeping, destination of equids following events, and method of contacting participants after events.

Study Estimates

For reporting purposes, events were defined by scope. For example, at events with a State scope all attending equids came from within State. Participating equids at events with a Regional scope came from within State and from outside State but not farther than adjoining States. For events with a National scope attending equids came from within State, from outside State, and potentially from outside the United States.

Here are few highlights from the Equine 2005 Events Study:

- The most common event type was show/trial (57.7 percent of events) followed by western event/fair/rodeo (21.9 percent of events). Race/polo events accounted for 6.1 percent of all events. Event types in the "other" category accounted for 14.3 percent of all events and included trail ride, endurance ride, training clinic, sale, auction, and shooting event. Events in Colorado and Texas had a higher percentage of western event/rodeo/fair events compared to events in most of the other States.
- For all events, an average of 151.0 equids were at the event on a typical day. The average number of equids at National events (240.9) on a typical day was higher than the average number of equids at Regional and State events (106.1 and 87.2, respectively).
- Overall, 57.1 percent of events did not require a health certificate for equids attending the event, while 20.3 percent required a health certificate for all equids, and 22.4 percent required a health certificate only for equids from out of State. A higher percentage of events in Kentucky had some type of health requirement compared to the other States.
- A higher percentage of National events (64.9 percent) had some health-certificate requirement compared to Regional and State events (35.1 and 24.9 percent, respectively).

- A higher percentage of race/polo events (57.9 percent) required a health certificate for *all* equids compared to show/trial events (14.5 percent).
- Overall, nearly two of three events (64.7 percent) required an EIA (Coggins) test for attending equids.
- EIA tests are often required for horses traveling interstate, and particularly for horses traveling between regions. Four of five National events (79.9 percent) required an EIA test for attending equids compared to State events (47.3 percent).
- Overall, 14.3 percent of events had some vaccination requirement for attending equids.
- A higher percentage of race/polo events (52.7 percent) required some type of vaccinations for attending equids compared to show/trial and western event/fair/rodeo events (11.8 and 6.5 percent, respectively).

Visit the NAHMS Web site at <http://nahms.aphis.usda.gov> for the complete Equine 2005 Events report as well as reports and information sheets on other NAHMS studies.

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