From September 2020 through March 2021, the USDA’s National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), in collaboration with the National Agricultural Statistics Service, will conduct a national study focusing on cattle health and management on U.S. feedlots with at least 50 head. The NAHMS Health Management on U.S. Feedlots, 2020 study is designed to provide a snapshot of current feedlot cattle health management practices. The information collected will also allow for the analysis of trends in specific topics related to cattle health, based on previous NAHMS feedlot studies.

**Background**

NAHMS collects scientifically accurate data for U.S. livestock, poultry, and aquaculture industries on a rotating basis. NAHMS studies are voluntary and confidential. For this feedlot study, priority issues facing the industry regarding cattle health were identified via responses to a needs assessment questionnaire and from discussions with representatives from various segments of the feedlot industry, including producer associations, feedlot veterinarians, and university and extension experts.

**Study Objectives**

The NAHMS Health Management on U.S. Feedlots, 2020 study is designed to provide stakeholders with valuable information about the U.S. feedlot industry. This study will

- Describe health management practices on U.S. feedlots with 50 or more head,
- Estimate the prevalence of important feedlot cattle diseases,
- Describe antibiotic use and stewardship practices on U.S. feedlots,
- Describe producers’ overall preparedness for changes to the Veterinary Feed Directive, and
- Describe trends in feedlot cattle health management practices and important feedlot cattle diseases.

**Figure 1.** States participating in the NAHMS Health Management on U.S. Feedlots, 2020 study, by feedlot capacity

“The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association appreciates the efforts of NAHMS to provide accurate and robust data for the U.S. beef cattle industry that can be used to detail trends in health management and antimicrobial use for feedyard cattle.”

Mary Ann Kniebel, Vice Chair of NCBA’s Cattle Health and Well-Being Committee

“The NAHMS reports for Cow/Calf and Feedlot have for decades provided solid, non-biased information to rancher and feedlot managers to help them understand how their colleagues in the beef industry manage cattle. From my long history as a veterinarian serving beef producers, I ask you to sincerely consider supporting the NAHMS survey efforts.”

Dee Griffin, DVM, Director, VERO (Veterinary Education, Research & Outreach) Program, Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine
Participating in any NAHMS study is voluntary. If you are selected to participate in the Health Management on U.S. Feedlots, 2020 study and decide to do so, your answers will statistically represent many other producers in your State. Representatives from NASS will visit participating operations from September through December 2020 to complete a questionnaire. If participants choose to continue in the study, USDA or State veterinary health professionals will visit feedlots from February 2021 through March 2021 to complete a second questionnaire.

Benefits to Participating

Reports published from this study will benefit the U.S. feedlot industry by providing current and scientifically valid estimates to

- Aid in understanding disease preparedness strengths and vulnerabilities,
- Help policymakers and industry stakeholders make informed decisions,
- Identify research and development needs on vital issues related to feedlot cattle health,
- Enable economic analyses of the health and productivity of the U.S. feedlot industry,
- Identify educational needs and opportunities related to feedlot cattle health,
- Provide benchmark data on important feedlot cattle health management practices to inform quality assurance programs, and
- Provide transparent, credible, independent information on U.S. feedlot industry practices that is not collected by the industry itself.

Scientific Approach

NAHMS was established to collect accurate and valuable information on animal health and management in the United States. NAHMS studies are national in scope, science based, statistically valid, collaborative, voluntary, and anonymous.

Confidentiality

NAHMS is a recognized statistical unit by the Office of Management and Budget. All information acquired for the NAHMS Health Management on U.S. Feedlots, 2020 study will be used for statistical purposes only and will be treated as confidential in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA). Only summary estimates based on the inference population will be reported. Data collected under CIPSEA are protected from Freedom of Information requests.

For More Information

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