APHIS Releases Second Report From the Beef Feedlot 2021 Study

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has released *Health and Management Practices on U.S. Feedlots, 2021*, the second report from its 2021 study of the U.S. feedlot industry.

About the Feedlot 2021 Study

Feedlot 2021 is the fifth national study of U.S. feedlots conducted by APHIS' National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS). The study included 22 States, with small feedlots participating from 18 States and large feedlots from 17 States. The study collected data on:

- Management practices on U.S. feedlots with 50 or more head
- Prevalence of important feedlot cattle diseases
- Antibiotic use and stewardship practices on U.S. feedlots
- Trends in feedlot cattle health management practices and important feedlot cattle diseases

Feedlot 2021 Report Highlights

- **Respiratory Disease:** Overall, 12.2 percent of cattle on U.S. feedlots were affected with respiratory disease in 2020. A higher percentage of cattle under 400 pounds at arrival (25.9 percent) developed respiratory disease in 2020 compared with cattle 700 pounds or more at arrival (9.6 percent). On small

feedlots, there were no differences by arrival weight in the percentage of cattle affected by respiratory disease, but on large feedlots, a higher percentage of cattle under 400 pounds at arrival (31.0 percent) were affected by respiratory disease in 2020 compared with cattle 700 pounds or more at arrival (10.4 percent).

- **Arrival Procedures:** Cattle are often “processed” after arrival to the feedlot where a pen or group of cattle is run through a chute to have one or more procedures, such as vaccinations, performed while they are immobilized in the chute. Overall, 75.9 percent of feedlots processed any cattle as a group within 4 weeks of arrival. Most of these feedlots vaccinated all cattle against bovine viral diarrhea (80.8 percent), clostridial diseases (70.1 percent), or any respiratory diseases (87.6 percent), and 83.7 percent administered a parasiticide to all cattle. Additionally, 58.4 percent of these feedlots did not need to castrate any male calves because all male calves were castrated prior to arrival.
- **Antibiotic Use:** Most feedlots (90.2 percent) used antibiotics for at least one animal in 2020. Overall, 83.7 percent of feedlots used injectable or bolus-dosed antibiotics for at least one animal, 69.9 percent used medically or non-medically important antibiotics in feed for at least some cattle, and 5.9 percent used antibiotics in water for at least some cattle. For feedlots that used any injectable or bolus-dosed antibiotics in 2020, the majority said that veterinarian recommendations (82.4 percent), personal experience (83.7 percent), and duration of action (62.4 percent) were either extremely important or very important in the selection of these antibiotics.
- **Biosecurity:** A higher percentage of large feedlots (30.3 percent) than small feedlots (5.6 percent) had a written or electronic biosecurity plan in 2020. The vast majority (91.8 percent) of feedlots did not share a fence line with another operation with the possibility of nose-to-nose contact with other cattle, bison, or other domestic ruminants in 2020. For feedlots that did not share a fence line with another operation with the possibility of nose-to-nose contact with other cattle, bison, or other domestic ruminants, the average distance to the nearest operation with cattle, bison, or other domestic ruminants was 1.7 miles.

Learn More

The second report from the Feedlot 2021 study is available at *Health and Management Practices on U.S. Feedlots, 2021*. For more information about other NAHMS studies, visit National Animal Health Monitoring System.

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