

USDA Releases Second Report from Beef 2007–08 Study

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has released the second descriptive report from its Beef 2007–08 study. The report, *Part II: Reference of Beef Cow-calf Management Practices in the United States, 2007–08*, was produced by APHIS' National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS).

Beef 2007–08 is the third national study of the U.S. beef cow-calf industry conducted by NAHMS. The latest study was designed to serve as a basis of information for education and research programs on the nation's beef cow-calf population. Twenty-four states participated in the study. These states accounted for 79.6 percent of U.S. beef-cow operations and 87.8 percent of the nation's beef cows. Here are a few highlights from the second Beef 2007-08 descriptive report:

- About one-half of all operations (50.8 percent) consulted a veterinarian for some reason during the previous 12 months. Interaction with a veterinarian was more common among herds with 200 or more cows compared with operations with fewer than 50 cows. According to the study, 82.2 percent of operations with 200 or more cows consulted a veterinarian during the previous 12-month period; in comparison, 43.2 percent of operations with fewer than 50 cows consulted a veterinarian during that same time.
- In general, producers were familiar with specific diseases such as foot-and-mouth, brucellosis, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, anthrax and bovine viral diarrhea. In fact, less than 15 percent of producers had never heard of these diseases. Other diseases—such as rinderpest, vesicular stomatitis, anaplasmosis, Johne's disease and bluetongue—were not as familiar to producers, with more than 35 percent reporting that they had not heard of these diseases.
- Of operations that sent cattle to an off-site event for a period of time, 53.6 percent routinely isolated any animals after their return. However, 33.1 percent of operations that sent animals to an off-site event never isolated any returning animals.

- One out of three operations (34.5 percent) brought cattle onto the operation during the previous 12 months. Weaned beef bulls were added on the highest percentage of operations (19.5 percent). However, weaned steers accounted for the highest percentage of animals brought onto operations (49.9 percent).
- Most producers (85.1 percent) were very likely to get information from a private veterinarian in the event of a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in the United States. By far, the highest percentage of producers would seek information from a private veterinarian during a foreign animal disease outbreak compared with all other potential sources. By knowing who producers will turn to for information during an emergency, responders are able to target the dissemination routes of information critical to the emergency response effort.

Part II: Reference of Beef Cow-calf Management Practices in the United States, 2007–08 is available at the NAHMS Web site: <http://nahms.aphis.usda.gov>.

Note to Stakeholders: Stakeholder announcements and other APHIS information are available on the Internet. Go to the APHIS home page at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov> and click on the "Newsroom" button. For additional information on this topic, contact Lindsay Griffin at (970) 494-7410 or e-mail: lyndsay.m.griffin@aphis.usda.gov.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.