

## USDA Releases Seventh Report from Dairy 2007 Study

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has released the latest report from its Dairy 2007 study. The interpretive report, *Biosecurity Practices on U.S. Dairy Operations, 1991-2007*, was produced by APHIS' National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS).

Dairy 2007 is NAHMS' fourth national study of the U.S. dairy industry. The study was designed to provide participants, industry and animal health officials with information on the nation's dairy population that will serve as a basis for education and research. Seventeen states participated in the study. These states accounted for 79.5 percent of U.S. dairy operations and 82.5 percent of the nation's dairy cows. Here are a few highlights from the latest Dairy 2007 report:

- In 2002 and 2007, most producers were fairly knowledgeable or knew some basics about foot-and-mouth disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), Johne's disease and *Mycoplasma* mastitis; however, the majority of producers were unfamiliar with heartwater, screwworm, bluetongue, vesicular stomatitis and hemorrhagic bowel syndrome.
- Most producers in 2002 and 2007 indicated that they would use their private veterinarian for disease information if a foreign animal disease occurred in the United States or if they suspected that a foreign animal disease was on their operation.
- In 2007, the most common classes of cattle brought onto the operation from outside sources were: lactating dairy cows, added by 13.8 percent of operations; weaned dairy bulls, added by 12.5 percent of operations and bred dairy heifers, added by 12.2 percent of operations.
- On operations with 500 or more cows, almost one-half of cow replacements (47.8 percent) were born on the operation but raised off-site. In 2007, nearly two-thirds of operations that sent heifers off-site to be raised (63.8 percent) sent them to a rearing facility where they had contact with cattle from other operations.

- Of operations bringing dairy cattle from outside sources onto the operation in 2007, less than one-half (47.2 percent) required vaccination of new additions prior to arrival; approximately one out of five operations (20.3 percent) quarantined new additions and nearly one-fourth of operations (23.3 percent) required testing for new additions.

*Biosecurity Practices on U.S. Dairy Operations, 1991-2007* is available at the NAHMS Web site:

<http://nahms.aphis.usda.gov>.

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For additional information about this topic contact Lyndsay Cole at (970) 494-7410 or e-mail

[lyndsay.m.cole@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:lyndsay.m.cole@aphis.usda.gov).

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