

USDA Releases Report from the National Study of Small-Enterprise Swine Operations

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has released a report from its national study of swine operations with 100 or fewer pigs. APHIS' National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) produced the report entitled, *Reference of Management Practices on Small-Enterprise Swine Operations in the United States, 2007*. The report focuses on the health and management practices of the nation's small swine operations—including those considered at risk for exposure to feral swine and transmission of classical swine fever and pseudorabies.

NAHMS designed the Small-Enterprise Swine 2007 study to serve as a basis of information for education and research programs on the nation's swine population. Thirty-one states, which account for 84.4 percent of U.S. operations with fewer than 100 pigs and for 88.3 percent of swine on operations of that size, participated in the study. Here are a few highlights from the Small-Enterprise Swine 2007 study:

- Only 28.6 percent of small operations (1–24 pigs) had sows or gilts for breeding on July 1, 2007. In comparison, 70.4 percent of large operations (50–99 pigs) and 66.6 percent of medium operations (25–49 pigs) had sows or gilts for breeding on that same date.
- The majority of operations (69.8 percent) did not have boars or young males for breeding.
- Overall, litters produced from July 2006 through June 2007 contained an average of 8.8 piglets, of which an average of 8.0 were born alive and 7.3 were weaned.

- A higher percentage of operations in the West and South regions (65.5 and 61.8 percent, respectively) used a purchased commercial diet as a feed source than in the Northeast or Central regions (36.1 and 33.0 percent, respectively).
- More than 75 percent of medium and large operations housed sows during the previous 12 months; most commonly (in 46.3 percent of the medium operations and 55.8 percent of the large operations), sows were housed separately from market hogs.
- Nearly one out of four producers (23.9 percent) indicated that feral swine were present in their county. Of these operations, feral swine were seen on more than one-third of operations in the South region (35.0 percent).

Reference of Management Practices on Small-Enterprise Swine Operations in the United States 2007 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.

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