National Pork Board

pork checkoff

July 18, 2006

To Potential NAHMS Participants:

The National Pork Board Swine Health Committee has discussed the National Animal Health Monitoring System and following is the statement of the chairman, Jim Niewold, a pork producer from Illinois, on behalf of the committee:

The National Animal Health Monitoring System is the only statistically valid, industry-wide survey of swine health, production practices and general industry information that is supported by USDA. The information gained from the survey has been used in the following ways:

- **Developing Educational Programs:** The data collected during NAHMS surveys has provided information used in the development of Pork Quality Assurance Program, Take Care – Use Antibiotics Responsibly Program, Swine Welfare Assurance Program and other producer educational programs and materials.
- **Setting Research Agendas:** NAHMS data has provided USDA and allied industries pork production information that has been used to prioritize government swine research programs.
- **Informing Decision Makers about the U.S. Pork Industry:** Data from the NAHMS surveys have been used to inform regulators, public health officials, and consumer activists about industry practices.
- **Understanding Emerging and Preventing Foreign Animal Diseases:** The NAHMS survey has enabled identification of at risk populations and practices and has provided a means for designing surveillance systems to address these specific populations.
- **Supporting International Trade:** The NAHMS results have been used on numerous occasions to maintain our current international trade arrangements and to gain acceptance into new international markets. Data from NAHMS is considered to be credible as national, government-generated data.

NAHMS is an important tool for benchmarking the health of the nation's swine herd.

Respectfully,

Jim Niewold
Chair, Checkoff Swine Health Committee
National Pork Board