

## USDA to Launch National Swine Study

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) is launching its fourth national study of U.S. swine health and health management. The NAHMS Swine 2006 study will address priority issues facing the swine industry. Representatives from USDA will visit swine producers from July 1 through Aug. 15 to conduct the first phase of Swine 2006. Data for the study will be collected from producers in 17 of the nation's top pork-producing states.

The three previous swine industry studies were conducted in 1990, 1995 and 2000. Major objectives for Swine 2006 include

- Descriptions of swine-management practices used during the gestation, farrowing, nursery and grower/finisher phases of production;
- Prevalence and risk factors determination for a variety of pathogens found in nursery and grower/finisher pigs;
- Examination of vaccination and antimicrobial-use practices;
- Determination of the prevalence of nonambulatory swine and the risk factors responsible for nonambulatory swine;
- Identification of production practices that reduce manure nutrient content; and
- An overview of U.S. swine management and health changes from 1990 through 2006.

Participation in the Swine 2006 study is voluntary. As always, links between NAHMS data and operations where the data were collected are confidential and not included in national databases.

**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 Teresa Howes at (970) 494-7410 or e-mail [teresa.k.howes@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:teresa.k.howes@aphis.usda.gov).

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