

NAHMS Dairy 2002 Producer Evaluation Results

March 2003

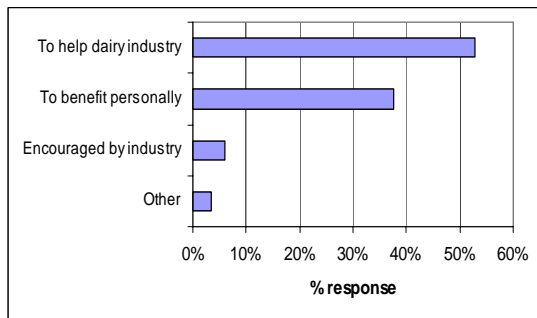
The National Animal Health Monitoring System conducted the third national dairy study, NAHMS Dairy 2002, on operations in 21 major dairy States with one or more cows. Data were collected from December 31, 2001, to February 12, 2002, by

NASS enumerators; subsequent data were collected on operations with 30 or more dairy cows from February 25 to April 30, 2002, by Veterinary Medical Officers (VMOs).



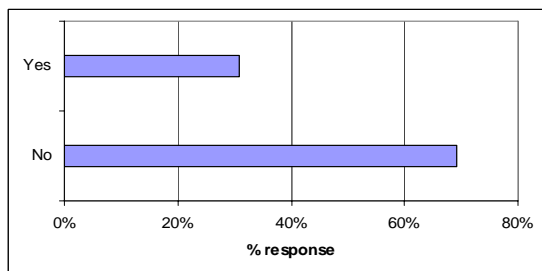
Following the Dairy 2002 study, evaluation forms were sent to 1,013 producers, those who completed the VMO portion of the study. As of February 26, 2003, 300 producers had completed and returned a study evaluation (30 percent response rate). The number responding to each question varied slightly. Evaluations were received from 19 of the 21 States participating in the study. The following text and charts summarize the results from the producers.

The two main reasons producers gave for participating in the dairy study were to help the dairy industry (87 percent) and to benefit personally from the study (62 percent).



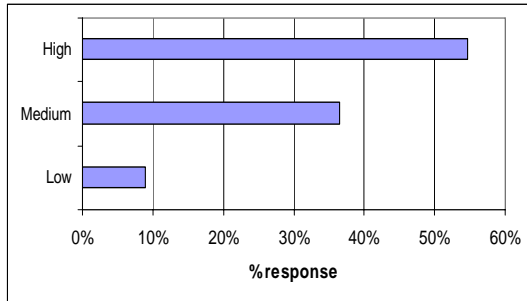
Reason for participating in study	# responses	% response
<i>(Check all that apply.)</i>		
To help dairy industry	261	87%
To benefit personally	186	62%
Encouraged by industry	30	10%
Other	17	6%

Before participation in the study, only 31 percent of the respondents had heard of the Dairy 2002 study.



Previously heard of the study	# responses	% response
Yes	91	31%
No	204	69%
Total	295	100%

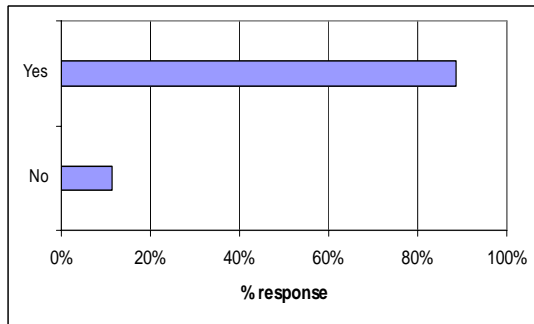
Blood testing was a significant reason for 55 percent of the respondents to participate in the study.



Importance of blood testing	# responses	% response
High	159	55%
Medium	106	36%
Low	26	9%
Total	291	100%

Nearly half (48 percent) rated fecal testing as an important factor in their decision to participate, and 53 percent rated milk testing as highly important. Producers were also interested in obtaining information on diseases, specifically Johne's disease, through the study.

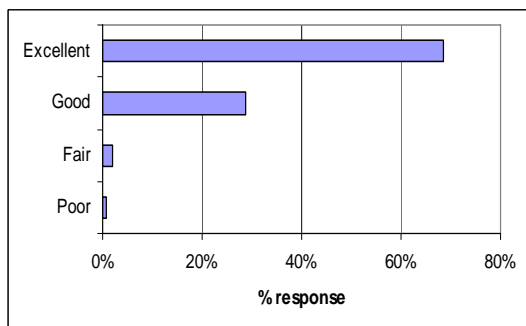
Eighty-nine percent of respondents said they would participate in another NAHMS study.



Willingness to participate in another study	# responses	% response
Yes	243	89%
No	31	11%
Total	274	100%

Additionally, 93 percent would recommend participation to other producers.

Overall, satisfaction with the NAHMS Data Collectors was very high; 69 percent rated them excellent and 29 percent rated them good.



Satisfaction with Data Collector	# responses	% response
Excellent	198	69%
Good	83	29%
Fair	6	2%
Poor	2	1%
Total	289	100%

Some producers noted that they were slow to receive the results of testing. Many producers, however, would recommend participation in a national study to others, noting industry benefit and information about diseases, as important factors.