

December ??, 2013

Dear Producer:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will soon conduct an in-depth study of U.S. dairy operations. The Dairy 2014 study will yield critical data that will benefit the entire dairy industry. I hope we can count on your participation.

This study, which is the fifth national dairy study conducted by USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), will benefit you and your fellow dairy producers by:

- Producing current estimates on management practices, health status and productivity, and describing trends over the last 18 years;
- Estimating the prevalence of lameness and evaluating housing and management factors associated with lameness;
- Evaluating calf health from birth to weaning; and
- Helping guide future research and education efforts.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct the study in 17 States. A NASS representative will contact you in January to complete a questionnaire.

Please be assured that your survey responses will be kept strictly confidential as required by law and used only in combination with other responses to report regional estimates. We value your input and look forward to your cooperation in making the NAHMS Dairy 2014 study a success for the entire dairy industry.

Sincerely,

Name
Director
National Agricultural Statistics Service