

NAHMS Goat 2019 Study Launch



From July through December 2019, the USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), in collaboration with the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), will conduct its second national study focusing on the health and management of the U.S. goat population. The NAHMS Goat 2019 study is designed to take an in-depth look at U.S. goat operations and provide new and valuable information regarding goat health and management practices in the U.S.

"Data collection, management practices, research direction and marketing strategies are all vital for the well being of our goat industry. This NAHMS study is a critical part of the future development and advancement of our industry. Please take the time to accurately complete the study which will provide each participant specific information about the health of their flock as well as providing a quantum leap forward for our entire industry."

Tom Boyer
Producer and Past President of the American Goat Federation

Background

NAHMS is a voluntary, non-regulatory program within the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) Veterinary Services that collects scientifically accurate data for livestock, poultry and aquaculture industries periodically on a rotating basis.

Priority issues to be addressed by the study were identified from 1,272 responses received on a needs-assessment questionnaire and input from meetings held with representatives from various segments of the goat industry, stakeholders, and government agencies.

The NAHMS Goat 2019 study will:

- Describe changes in animal health, nutrition, and management practices in the U.S. goat industry from 2009 to 2019.
- Describe practices producers use to control internal parasites and reduce anthelmintic resistance.
- Describe antimicrobial stewardship on goat operations and estimate the prevalence of enteric pathogens and antimicrobial resistance patterns.
- Describe management practices associated with, and producer-reported occurrence of economically important goat diseases.
- Provide a serologic bank for future research.

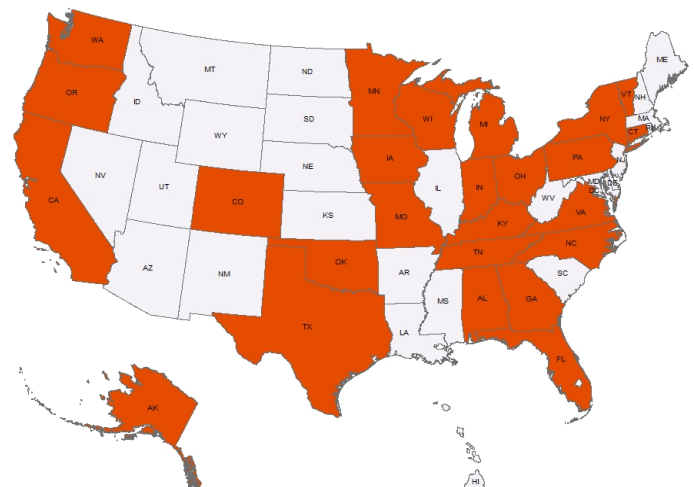
Study Objectives

NAHMS Goat 2019 is designed to provide individual participants and stakeholders with valuable information on the U.S. goat industry.

"The 2019 Goat Study is an opportunity for U.S. goat producers to have your voices heard: What are the issues that matter most to you? How can Cooperative Extension services, especially from Extension veterinarians, help you with these issues? The information provided from the results of this study will guide the priorities for future goat research and program opportunities."

Dr. Patty Scharko
American Association of Extension Veterinarians President

Figure 1. States participating in the NAHMS Goat 2019 study





Study Activities

Approximately 4,700 goat operations with an inventory of at least 5 adult goats in 25 of the major goat-producing States (see Fig. 1 map on previous page) will be asked to participate. These States represent 77.9 percent of U.S. goat operations and 82.7 percent of U.S. goats on operations with 5+ goats. Operations that choose to complete phase one and phase two questionnaires will be offered biologic testing.

Phase 1: In July 2019, NASS representatives will contact randomly selected goat operations. Consenting producers will be administered a goat production management questionnaire and asked if they would like to continue to Phase 2.

Phase 2: Beginning September 2019, goat producers who agreed to continue will be contacted by APHIS or State veterinary health professionals to schedule an in-person interview and collect biologic samples.

Data collection will end in December 2019.



Benefits to Participating

By fully participating in the NAHMS Goat 2019 study, producers will receive:

Gastrointestinal parasite fecal egg count test results

Scrapie resistant genotype results

Fecal culture results for *Salmonella*, *E coli*, and *Campylobacter*

Information from this study will provide producers with a benchmark for their operation, and the goat industry with a national snapshot of management practices and the health of goats in the U.S.

"... Through studies such as this one, we can evaluate the needs of our goat populations. We can be proactive and progressive in addressing the pressing needs we face using the most current data to support innovative ideas in improving the ways we care for our goats."

Dr. Susan Myers
AASRP President

"...in addition to providing useful feedback to participants about the health status of their goats the information from this study will play a critical role in prioritizing [goat] research needs and justifying research dollars..."

Dr. Joan Dean Rowe

American Dairy Goat Association member and breeder



Scientific Approach

NAHMS collects and reports accurate and useful information on animal health and management in the United States. Since 1990, NAHMS has developed national estimates on disease prevalence and other factors related to the health of U.S. beef cattle, sheep, goat, dairy cattle, swine, equine, poultry, and catfish populations.

The science-based results produced by NAHMS have proven to be of considerable value to the U.S. livestock, poultry, and aquaculture industries as well as to other animal health stakeholders.

NAHMS studies are:

National in scope, Science based, Statistically valid, Collaborative, Voluntary, and Confidential



Confidentiality

Because NAHMS relies on voluntary participation, the privacy of every participant is protected. Only those collecting the data know the identity of respondents. No name or contact information will be associated with individual data, and no data will be reported in a way that could reveal the identity of a participant. Data are presented only in an aggregate manner.



For More Information

USDA-APHIS-VS-CEAH NRRRC Building B,
M.S. 2E7 2150 Centre Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117 Phone: 866.907.8190
Email: NAHMS@aphis.usda.gov
Or visit NAHMS at: <http://nahms.aphis.usda.gov>
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