



Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Veterinary Services

Strategy & Policy

Center for
Epidemiology and
Animal Health

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<<August xx, 2020>>

Dear Sir or Madam:

I'm writing to let you know that you have been selected to represent your fellow producers and participate in an important new study being conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). In September 2020, the USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) in conjunction with USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), will launch the Health Management on U.S. Feedlots 2020 study. The need and objectives for this study were developed in collaboration with the feedlot industry.

NAHMS periodically conducts national studies on the health and management practices of U.S. livestock, including goats, swine, dairy cattle, beef cattle, horses, bison, and sheep. NAHMS has conducted 2 studies of U.S. feedlots in the last 10 years: a comprehensive study of feedlot health and health management in 2011 and a study concentrating on antimicrobial use and stewardship practices in 2017. The current study will also be a focused study intended to capture a snapshot of cattle health and management practices on U.S. feedlots in 2020 and allowing for an evaluation of trends over time in these topics.

You are one of a select number of feedlot producers in your State chosen to participate in this study. Your participation in this study is voluntary, and involves the completion of 2 questionnaires. No biological samples will be collected. This study is being conducted under strong confidentiality laws that allow us to guarantee the protection of your individual responses. Your responses will be used only in combination with other responses from producers like you to report regional and national statistical estimates. Data collectors and analysts are required by law to complete training on confidentiality and are subject to substantial penalties for disclosing individual data, including fines and/or jail time.

Enclosed is information that describes this study in more detail. If you decide to participate in the study and return the enclosed consent form, a mail-out questionnaire will be sent to you for completion at a time that is convenient for you and return by mail. If you do not return the consent form and/or questionnaire by mail, a NASS representative will telephone you to see if you would like to participate and arrange for a convenient time and place to complete the Phase I questionnaire with you between September x and December x, 2020. Producers that choose to continue in the study will be visited by representatives from USDA's Veterinary Services (VS) or the California Department of Food and Agriculture (for producers in California) to complete the Phase II questionnaire.

Your voluntary participation is essential to the success of this important study. By participating, you will help provide valuable information on feedlot health and management practices in our country. Thank you in advance for your participation and for all of your contributions to the success of the U.S. feedlot industry.

Sincerely,

Amy Delgado, MS DVM PhD
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Enclosure (1)