



# NAHMS Health Management on U.S. Feedlots 2021 Study Launch

From March through August 2021, the USDA’s National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), in collaboration with the National Agricultural Statistics Service, will conduct a national study focusing on cattle health and management on U.S. feedlots with at least 50 head. The NAHMS Health Management on U.S. Feedlots, 2021 study is designed to provide a snapshot of current feedlot cattle health management practices. The information collected will also allow for the analysis of trends in specific topics related to cattle health, based on previous NAHMS feedlot studies.



## Background



NAHMS collects scientifically accurate data for U.S. livestock, poultry, and aquaculture industries on a rotating basis. NAHMS studies are voluntary and confidential. For this feedlot study, priority issues facing the industry regarding cattle health were identified via responses to a needs assessment questionnaire and from discussions with representatives from various segments of the feedlot industry, including producer associations, feedlot veterinarians, and university and extension experts.

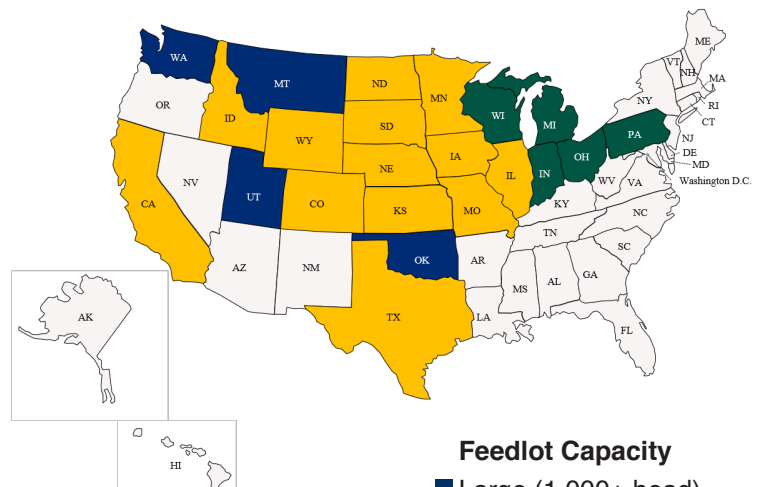


## Study Objectives

The NAHMS Health Management on U.S. Feedlots, 2021 study is designed to provide stakeholders with valuable information about the U.S. feedlot industry. This study will

- Describe health management practices on U.S. feedlots with 50 or more head,
- Estimate the prevalence of important feedlot cattle diseases,
- Describe antibiotic use and stewardship practices on U.S. feedlots, and
- Describe trends in feedlot cattle health management practices and important feedlot cattle diseases.

**Figure 1.** States participating in the NAHMS Health Management on U.S. Feedlots, 2021 study, by feedlot capacity

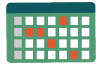


*“The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association appreciates the efforts of NAHMS to provide accurate and robust data for the U.S. beef cattle industry that can be used to detail trends in health management and antimicrobial use for feedyard cattle.”*

**Mary Ann Kniebel, Vice Chair of NCBA’s Cattle Health and Well-Being Committee**

*“The NAHMS reports for Cow/Calf and Feedlot have for decades provided solid, non-biased information to rancher and feedlot managers to help them understand how their colleagues in the beef industry manage cattle. From my long history as a veterinarian serving beef producers, I ask you to sincerely consider supporting the NAHMS survey efforts.”*

**Dee Griffin, DVM, Director, VERO (Veterinary Education, Research & Outreach) Program, Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine**



## Study Activities

Participating in any NAHMS study is voluntary. If you are selected to participate in the Health Management on U.S. Feedlots, 2021 study and decide to do so, your answers will statistically represent many other producers in your State.

Representatives from NASS will visit participating operations from March through April 2021 to complete a questionnaire. If participants choose to continue in the study, USDA or State veterinary health professionals will visit feedlots from June through August 2021 to complete a second questionnaire.



## Benefits to Participating

Reports published from this study will benefit the U.S. feedlot industry by providing current and scientifically valid estimates to

- Aid in understanding disease preparedness strengths and vulnerabilities,
- Help policymakers and industry stakeholders make informed decisions,
- Identify research and development needs on vital issues related to feedlot cattle health,
- Enable economic analyses of the health and productivity of the U.S. feedlot industry,
- Identify educational needs and opportunities related to feedlot cattle health,
- Provide benchmark data on important feedlot cattle health management practices to inform quality assurance programs, and
- Provide transparent, credible, independent information on U.S. feedlot industry practices that is not collected by the industry itself.

### NAHMS Feedlot Studies Have Impact!

- The NAHMS Feedlot 1994 and 1999 studies helped pioneer further research into injection sites, branding locations, and cattle handling practices, which led to data benchmarking for beef quality assurance programs.
- The NAHMS Feedlot 1994 study provided the industry's first look into the prevalence of *E. coli* O157:H7 shedding by feedlot cattle.
- The NAHMS Feedlot 2011 study provided data that were used to inform an economic analysis focusing on the market impacts of reducing the prevalence of bovine respiratory disease in feedlot cattle.
- Almost 1,500 scientific and industry publications have referenced NAHMS feedlot data since 1990.

*"NAHMS studies provide critical information for animal science, veterinary science, and many other disciplines involving teaching and research in beef feedlot production. These data are used as a component of the Beef Checkoff's National Beef Quality Audit every 5 years, as well as a plethora of other applied research efforts. We should all support and advocate for contributing to this study!"*

**Keith Belk, Ph.D., Animal Sciences Department Head at Colorado State University**

*"NAHMS provides us with a snapshot of how our industry partners are operating their business and making decisions, serving as a benchmark and gut-check for us in making decisions on how to run our business. This helps us stay open-minded and current in today's practice of feeding cattle."*

**Josh Szasz, DVM, Ph.D., Five Rivers Cattle Feeding**



## Scientific Approach

NAHMS was established to collect accurate and valuable information on animal health and management in the United States. NAHMS studies are national in scope, science based, statistically valid, collaborative, voluntary, and anonymous.



## Confidentiality

NAHMS is a recognized statistical unit by the Office of Management and Budget. All information acquired for the NAHMS Health Management on U.S. Feedlots, 2021 study will be used for statistical purposes only and will be treated as confidential in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA). Only summary estimates based on the inference population will be reported. Data collected under CIPSEA are protected from Freedom of Information requests.



## For More Information

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