

## USDA Announces Nonambulatory Livestock Study

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will launch its *National Nonambulatory Livestock Study* in 2005. The study will provide the first statistically reliable estimates on the number of nonambulatory cattle, goats, horses, pigs and sheep in the United States, as well as insight as to how these animals are handled on the farm. Data collection for cattle, sheep and goats is nearly complete. The next phase begins April 1 and focuses on the U.S. dairy industry.

The study is a multi-phase collaborative effort among producers, the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, along with its Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's veterinary services (VS) program.

The *National Nonambulatory Livestock Study*, which will be conducted by VS' National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) will:

- Determine the extent of nonambulatory cattle, goats, horses, pigs and sheep on U.S. farms;
- Describe how various livestock industries handle nonambulatory animals;
- Ascertain the disposition of nonambulatory live stock at a national level;
- Enable industry leaders and legislators to make science-based decisions on the sensitive issues regarding nonambulatory animals;
- Provide veterinarians and producers with information about species' differences in relation to nonambulatory animals; and
- Help evaluate feasible and humane handling practices for managing nonambulatory cattle, goats, horses, pigs, and sheep.

Participation in the *National Nonambulatory Livestock Study* is voluntary. As always, links between NAHMS data and operations where the data were collected are confidential and not included in national databases.

Note to Stakeholders: Stakeholder announcements and other APHIS information are available on the Internet. Go to the APHIS home page at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov> and click on the "News" button. For additional information on this topic, contact Suzan Holl (301) 734-6464 or [suzan.holl@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:suzan.holl@aphis.usda.gov)

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