Photo by NAHMS project coordinator Judy Rodriguez.

Data Collection

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will randomly select a sample of small-enterprise chicken operations (1,000 to 19,999 chickens). If your operation is selected to participate, NASS will send you a letter during summer 2007 explaining the study. Shortly thereafter, a study questionnaire will be mailed to you. If the questionnaire is not returned, a NASS representative will contact you via telephone and offer you the opportunity to complete the questionnaire at that time. Participation in the study is absolutely voluntary and strictly confidential. Because of the limited information that currently exists on this segment of the chicken industry, your participation in the study is very important.

Confidentiality

Because NAHMS studies rely on voluntary participation, APHIS protects the privacy of every participant. Only those collecting the data will know the identity of the respondent. No name or address is ever recorded in any APHIS database. No data will be reported on any individual or in a manner that would allow the identification of an individual.

NAHMS Studies

NAHMS has developed national estimates on disease prevalence and other factors related to the health of U.S. dairy cattle, swine, beef cattle, equine, poultry, catfish, and sheep. The science-based results produced by NAHMS have proven to be of considerable value to the U.S. livestock, poultry, and aquaculture industries. NAHMS studies are

National in scope,
Voluntary and confidential,
Statistically valid,
Scientific, and
Collaborative in nature.

"Data collected by this survey will help identify the research and information needs of an emerging segment of the poultry industry."

—Donna Carver, D.V.M., Ph.D.,
Diplomate, American College of Poultry Veterinarians
Associate Professor and Extension Veterinarian
North Carolina State University

For more information about the Small-Enterprise Chicken Study 2007, please contact

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Veterinary Services, Attention: NAHMS
NRRC Building B, Mailstop 2E7
2150 Centre Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80526–8117

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E-mail: NAHMS@aphis.usda.gov

Or visit NAHMS on the Web at <http://nahms.aphis.usda.gov>.

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Small-Enterprise Chicken Study 2007

A "First Look" at Small-Enterprise Chicken Operations in the United States

Small-Enterprise Chicken Study 2007

In July and August 2007, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) Center for Animal Disease Information and Analysis and National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) will conduct the Small-Enterprise Chicken Study 2007, the first APHIS national study of operations with 1,000 to 19,999 chickens.

ARS photo by Stephen Ausmus.

Study Focus

The Small-Enterprise Chicken Study 2007 is designed to provide individual participants and stakeholders with valuable information on this important segment of the Nation's poultry industry. The information will help researchers analyze the potential spread of poultry diseases and possible response measures to the diseases. The Small-Enterprise Chicken Study 2007 will

- Describe characteristics of small-enterprise operations, including bird species on hand, seasonal inventory, and marketing of free-range chickens or eggs and organic or other niche-market products;
- Describe movements of animals, people, waste products, vehicles, and equipment on and off operations, and estimate the distances associated with these movements; and
- Examine biosecurity practices, including bird access to the outdoors.

"Better information always helps in making better decisions. Surveys like this help us all to understand where the real needs are in poultry production and keep us focused on finding the solutions to those issues."

—Carol Cardona, D.V.M., Ph.D.,
Diplomate, American College of Poultry Veterinarians
Associate Veterinarian/Extension Specialist
Veterinary Medicine Extension
University of California, Davis

USDA photo by Joe Valbuena.

How You Can Help

By participating in the Small-Enterprise Chicken Study 2007, you will help the industry and your own operation by contributing to the development of reliable and valuable information that will be used to

- Help develop disease-simulation models that may be used for emergency pre-paredness and to compare disease control strategies and estimate resources needed in the event of a disease outbreak;
- Assist university researchers, extension agents, producer groups, and others to identify and focus educational efforts on vital issues related to poultry health and productivity; and
- Assist animal-health officials, policymakers, and industry in making informed decisions.