



How You Will Benefit

By participating in the Goat 2009 study, you will receive a variety of reports and information sheets that will enable you to compare your operation—including management decisions and practices—with others in the goat industry.

If you also participate in the biological sampling components of the study, you will receive test results for your herd that could help guide management practices. Offered at no cost to you, these testing options will provide

- Information about internal parasites in your herd and their resistance to anthelmintics, which could help you improve your deworming protocol;
- Environmental and serological sample results that will help evaluate whether your goat herd has Johne's disease; and
- Information on strain(s) of sore mouth, if present on your operation.

*Operations with fewer than 10 goats at the time of sample selection will follow a different process that will involve completing only a short questionnaire by mail or, if preferred, by followup telephone call. This process also is voluntary and strictly confidential.

"This study is valuable to the dairy goat industry and important to participate in to provide information for further research for our beloved dairy goats."

—Jennifer Lynn Bice

Owner and cheesemaker, Redwood Hill Farm & Creamery, Sebastopol, CA

What Your Participation Involves

Participation in all NAHMS studies is voluntary, and operations are selected randomly. If you are selected for Goat 2009*, you can expect the following general activities and schedule.

- From July through mid-August 2009, study administrators from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will visit you to complete a questionnaire.
- If you choose to continue in the study, veterinary medical officers and/or animal health technicians will visit you from September through December 2009 for the second phase of the study, which will include a questionnaire and (if desired) biological sampling.

A Scientific Approach

APHIS established NAHMS to collect and report accurate and valuable 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, dairy cattle, swine, equine, poultry, catfish, and sheep populations.

Confidentiality

Because NAHMS' studies rely on voluntary participation, APHIS protects the privacy of every participant. Only those collecting the data 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.

"...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...."

—Joan Dean Rowe, DVM, MPVM, PhD

American Dairy Goat Association member and breeder

For More Information

To find out more about Goat 2009, please contact:

USDA-APHIS

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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Goat 2009

An In-Depth Look at the U.S. Goat Industry





The Goat 2009 Study

In July 2009, the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS)—a unit within the Veterinary Services (VS) program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)—will launch its first national study of the goat industry, which is the fastest growing livestock commodity in the United States. Producers from 21 States* with the Nation's largest goat inventories will be asked to participate in Goat 2009. The study will examine the priority health and health-management issues facing the meat, dairy, and fiber segments of the U.S. goat industry.

The Goat 2009 study is

- Voluntary and confidential,
- Scientifically developed and statistically valid,
- National in scope,
- Collaborative in nature, and
- Dedicated to learning about the health of the national goat population.

"With the rise in domestic goat numbers, it was determined that NAHMS needed to study new production practices, as well as introduction of goats into nontraditional goat production areas. With the expansion of meat-type goat production, we have new guidelines and production practices to study. To help make your goat operation more successful and to have the latest information about goat production, we need YOUR help."

—Marvin F. Shurley

Former President, American Meat Goat Association

*Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Study Focus

Goat 2009 is designed to provide individual participants, stakeholders, and the industry with valuable information about the health, productivity, and management practices of the U.S. goat industry. Data will represent 78.4 percent of U.S. goat operations and 85.3 percent of U.S. goats.

APHIS received input on industry priorities from 1,264 stakeholders and worked with producers, veterinarians, academicians, and other industry specialists to identify the objectives of Goat 2009:

- Determine producer awareness of VS program diseases and describe management and biosecurity practices important for the control of infectious diseases (including brucellosis, scrapie, caprine arthritis encephalitis [CAE], Johne's disease, and caseous lymphadenitis). Provide a baseline description of animal health, nutrition, and management practices in the U.S. goat industry.
- Estimate the prevalence of
 - *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis* (Johne's disease) infection, and
 - Internal parasitism and anthelmintic resistance.
- Characterize contagious ecthyma (sore mouth) in U.S. goats. Determine producer awareness of zoonotic potential and practices to prevent sore mouth transmission and assess producer interest in an improved vaccine for sore mouth.
- Examine factors (e.g., genetic and management) that correlate with CAE virus levels.
- Provide genetic and serological banks for future research.

APHIS will achieve these objectives in collaboration with domestic and global partners, including universities and other Federal agencies.

How You Can Help

As a participating goat producer, you will benefit the industry and your own operation by helping to develop reliable information that will be used to:

- Educate the producers and veterinarians of tomorrow,
- Help policymakers and industry representatives make informed decisions,
- Measure the impacts of disease,
- Evaluate the potential impacts of diseases affecting both goats and humans,
- Assist researchers and private enterprises to identify and focus on vital issues related to goat health and productivity, and
- Conduct economic analyses of the health and productivity of the U.S. goat industry.

"...By participating in the study, you'll receive results of biological testing on your goats; help guide future research and education; contribute to prevention, treatment, and control of local and national diseases; and help develop important baseline knowledge about our expanding, multi-faceted goat industry."

—Joe David Ross, DVM

Rancher, breeder, and retired veterinarian

