

Externship at USDA/CEAH/NAHMS

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SAVMA Symposium

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USDA/CEAH

- United States Department of Agriculture
- APHIS
- Veterinary Services
- Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health
 - Made up of four centers

Organization

- CEAH is made up of 4 centers:
 1. Center for Animal Disease Information and Analysis
 2. Center for Emerging Issues
 3. National Surveillance Unit
 4. NAHMS- National Animal Health Monitoring System

NAHMS

- National Animal Health Monitoring System
 - Collects, analyzes and disseminates data on animal health, management and productivity in the United States
 - National studies conducted on a regular basis on the health and management of U.S. domestic livestock

NAHMS

Livestock Populations Studied

- Aquaculture
- Beef
- Dairy
- Equine
- Poultry
- Sheep
- Swine

NAHMS Dairy Survey

- Comprehensive questionnaires to producers across the US
- Data collected on wide range of health, management and disease issues.
- Studies are designed to meet the needs of the industry and other stakeholders.



http://www.extension.iastate.edu/feci/dairy/pics/dairy_cow.jpg

NAHMS Dairy Survey

- Survey designed to address important issues currently faced by the industry:

Some issues addressed:

- Trends in herd health and management
- Calf health and nutrition
- Prevalence of specific diseases in herds (i.e. BLV and Johne's)
- Biosecurity practices
- Prevalence of pathogens of concern for food safety and describe patterns of antimicrobial resistance.

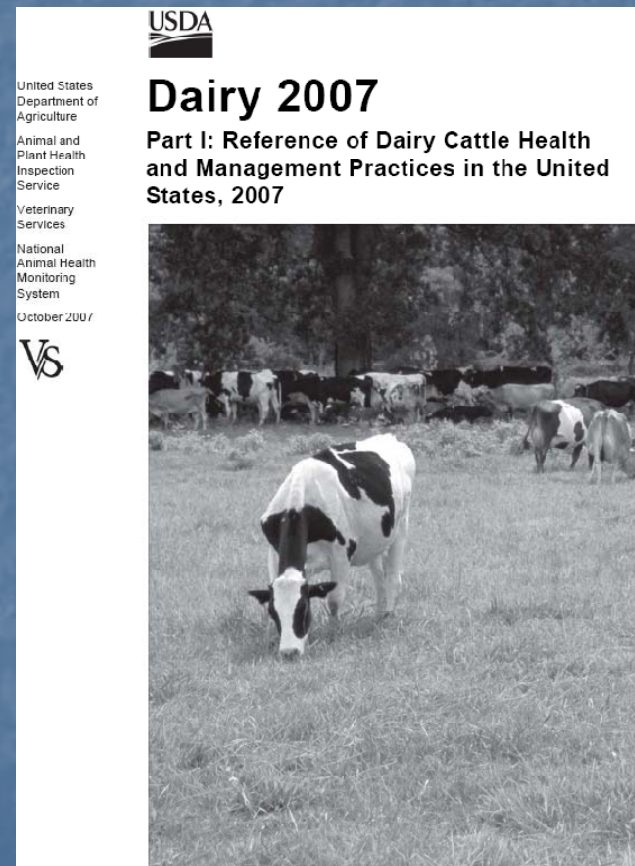
NAHMS Dairy Survey

- Review and analysis of data collected in presented to the public in numerous reports and information sheets on issues relevant to the industry:

Examples:

General reports on management practices.

Info sheets on topics such as nutrient management, biosecurity, anti-microbial resistance, Johne's disease, etc.



Externship at NAHMS

- Why?
 - Interest in veterinary public health – public practice, epidemiology
 - Interest in learning what it would be like to work for USDA
 - Interest in completing requirements for MPH
 - Wanted to see a different part of the US

Externship at NAHMS

- How?
 - Applied through Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine
Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine
 - Once accepted into Externship program, worked with Iowa State to get credit for it for vet school and with University of Minnesota to get credit towards my MPH.
 - Traveled to Ft. Collins to spend a month at CEAH/NAHMS

Externship at NAHMS

- What?
 - Data from 2006 Dairy Survey had recently come in and was being analyzed.
 - Worked on most recent data on Dairy Industry.
 - Preceptor had list of potential projects.

Externship at NAHMS

- Projects:
 - Outlines for info sheets and reports
 - Worked on verification process for data
 - Prepared draft of Biosecurity report
 - Reviewed questionnaires and thought about the type of data questions would elicit.
 - Prepared report outline
 - Analyzed data from surveys to find trends, patterns.
 - Written analysis of findings.

Other Activities at CEAH

- Opportunity to visit other Centers at CEAH, meet people, and learn about their jobs.
- Opportunity to meet with VS – Regional Veterinary Services/Federal Vets – learn about their jobs, available positions
- Spent a day with a federal vet in Denver.

Benefits of the Externship

- Learned about NAHMS, CEAH and working for USDA
- Got credit not only for vet school, but also for my MPH.
- Worked on an interesting project and learned a lot about surveys, statistical analysis, the Dairy Industry, Dairy Health issues, and Biosecurity.

Any Questions?

- Thanks to:
 - Dr. Linda Detweiller
 - Dr. Nora Wineland and Dr. Jason Lombard and all the people at NAHMS who made this a great experience.

