



## NAHMS Equine Health Study Update

### Introduction

The US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) announced the launch of an equestrian health study called "Equine 2015" that began in May. This is NAHMS third national study of the U.S. equine health issues; the previous studies were conducted in 1998 and 2005.

Equine 2015 is designed to provide participants, the horse industry, and animal-health officials with information on the nation's equine population that will serve as a basis for education, service, and research related to equine health and management. The study will also provide the horse industry with new and valuable information regarding trends in the industry for 1998, 2005, and 2015.

### NAHMS Study

Starting in 2013, NAHMS asked equine owners, industry stakeholders, and government officials to provide input and define the health information needs of the equine industry for the study.

From this process, seven primary study objectives were identified:

- Trends in equine care and health management for study years 1998, 2005, and 2015.
- The occurrence of owner-reported lameness and practices associated with the management of lameness.
- Health and management practices associated with important equine infectious diseases.
- Animal health related costs of equine ownership.
- Control practices for gastrointestinal parasites.
- Presence of ticks and tick-control practices used on equine operations.
- The collection of equine sera along with equine demographic information in order to create a serum bank for future studies.

To collect data for the study, representatives from the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) visited randomly selected equine operations in 28 states. NASS representatives conducted personal interviews and collected other information from participating operations.

For more information about NAHMS Equine 2015 study, visit the NAHMS website at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/nahms> (go to the equine section).

### Status

Phase 1 of the study has been completed, but the continuation of the study is currently on hold due to the USDA's response to the High Path Avian Influenza outbreak of 2015. The Study is planned to continue when resources become available.

### **AHC Position**

The American Horse Council supported the initiating of the study and encouraged anyone contacted by NAHMS to participate.

