

# Colorado Dairy News

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## NAHMS Dairy 2002 Released

Jason Lombard, DVM  
CSU, ILM and CEAH/USDA

First Johne's Disease  
Certification Course for  
Colorado Veterinarians

Center for Animal Health Monitoring (CAHM) has released Part I: Reference of Dairy Health and Management in the United States, 2002, an 82-page document describing health management for cows and heifers as well as biosecurity practices. Data were collected from 2,461 producers in 21 major dairy states representing 82.8 percent of U.S. dairy operations and 85.5 percent of the U.S. dairy cows. The document can be read online, or downloaded from:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/cahm/Dairy\\_Cattle/dairy.htm](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/cahm/Dairy_Cattle/dairy.htm)

Since most people involved with day to day activities on dairies would not be inclined to read results of the Dairy 2002 study from cover to cover, a few of the highlights are presented here.

### Biosecurity

Purchased cattle provide a great opportunity to introduce disease into an existing herd. Forty-five percent of all operations reported bringing new additions into their herd, but less than 40% of these operations implemented a quarantine for any of the new arrivals. As operation size increased, the number of farms reporting herd additions increased, which is what one would expect as herds grow larger from external expansion. Even in those herds that reported quarantining new additions, usually less than half of the animals purchased were actually quarantined. Since the stress associated with moving animals from one herd to another can cause exacerbation of infectious diseases, isolation of newly purchased and stressed animals is critical to prevent a herd outbreak.

Animals selected for purchase can be managed to decrease the risk of introducing disease to the existing herd. Vaccination of purchased cattle prior to arrival can decrease disease in those cattle, as well as decrease the transfer of disease to the existing herd. Slightly less than half of all operations reported vaccinating incoming cattle, prior to arrival, for Brucellosis, BVD, IBR, Leptospirosis, or Neospora. Testing of incoming cattle for certain diseases can also decrease the chances of a major herd outbreak. Over 75% of all operations reported not testing purchased cattle for Brucellosis, Johne's, BVD, or TB prior to bringing them onto the farm.

Evaluating new additions for udder health is also critical in the prevention of outbreaks of contagious mastitis. The recommendation has been to obtain a bulk tank SCC and culture from the herd being purchased and, ideally individual cow SCC and cultures. Although approximately 27% of operations that purchased dairy cows obtained individual cow SCC, less than 15% of operations had any culture information on purchased animals. Larger herds (>500 cows) were more likely to obtain udder health  
*(Please continue on page 3, under Dairy 2002)*

Earlier this month more than thirty veterinarians attended the first continuing education program for veterinarians licensed in Colorado who wish to become certified to test cattle in this state for Johne's Disease (JD). The event was held at Colorado State University in conjunction with Annual Conference for Veterinarians. Led by Drs Frank Garry from CSU-ILM, Allen Rousseau from Texas A & M, and Ron Ackerman, Assistant Colorado State Veterinarian, the course reviewed JD, current testing methodologies and interpretations, as well as the rules and regulations of the Colorado Voluntary Bovine JD Control Program.

The first step to participation is education about the disease and the program. A farm evaluation that assesses the risks for JD transmission is also needed. Colorado Veterinarians who perform diagnostic testing for JD are required to obtain state-sponsored training pertaining to the regulations and methods of JD tests. We urge you to contact your veterinarian and inquire about participation. A brochure explaining the program can be obtained from the State Veterinarian's office or our State Dairy Specialist, Bill Wailes.

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**Important Dates:**  
**Mark Your Calendar**

**March 1, 2003:**

Colorado Holstein Association Annual Meeting. For more information contact Keith Maxey, 970/356-4000 X-4475.

**March 12-14, 2003:**

Western Dairy Management Conference. John Ascuaga's Nugget, Reno, NV. For more information contact W.R. Wailes, Extension Dairy Specialist, Colorado State University, 970/491-5390.



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***A Message From Your Extension Dairy Specialist.....***

**Western Dairy Management Conference, March 12-14, 2003.** Information and registration materials have been sent out to each of the dairy producers in Colorado for the Western Dairy Management Conference to be held at Reno, NV on March 12-14. Detailed information is also available on the internet at [www.wdmc.org](http://www.wdmc.org). We have received information that the rooms are going fast so those of you who would like to reserve a room, please contact John Ascuaga's Nugget, Reno, NV at 1/800-648-1171 for reservations. We have a tremendous program with the best speakers in the world to talk to you about nutrition, replacement heifers, managing reproduction, milking equipment and facilities, herd health, manure management, and business and personnel management.

**New EPA Environmental Rules to Cost the Dairy Industry.** On Monday, December 16, the environmental protection agency unveiled its final rule on concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO's). These rules apply to all dairy producers with herd size of 700 lactating and dry cows or more. Because of the complexity of the new rule, some dairy farms smaller than 700 cows and located in environmentally sensitive regions could be designated CAFO's. These will have to acquire permits under the clean water act, develop nutrient management plans, improve record-keeping and monitoring, and enhanced nutrient handling activities. All consultants working with the environmental rules and regulations in Colorado will have information regarding application for permits in Colorado. I would advise all of you to at least engage in that process as soon as possible.

*William R. Wailes, Colorado Extension Dairy Specialist*

***Commodity Price Quotes***

<b>By-Product Feeds</b>	<b>Price/Ton Spot Loads</b>	<b>Price/Ton February-June 2003</b>
Bakery Waste	\$104.00	NQ
Blood Meal	\$360.00	NQ
Corn Gluten Feed	\$93.00	\$93.00
Corn Gluten Meal	\$285.00	NQ
Corn Hominy	\$103.00	\$103.00
Flaked Corn	\$5.90/cwt	NQ
Whole Corn	\$5.40/cwt	NQ
Cottonseed Meal	\$182.00	NQ
Whole Cottonseed	\$179.00	\$185.00
Distillers Grains	\$117.00	NQ
Pork - Meat & Bone Meal	\$210.00	NQ
Tallow	\$0.18/lb.	NQ
SBM - 48%	\$186.00	\$186.00
Wheat Middlings	\$88.00	\$85.00
Soybean Hulls;Meal/Pellets	\$114	NQ
Canola Meal	\$170.00	NQ

These price quotes are delivery at Greeley, Co

*(Dairy 2002, continued from page 1)*

information compared to herds less than 500 cows. It is surprising with all the press coverage on expansion and biosecurity that 75% of expanding farms are doing little or nothing to protect their herd from infectious and costly diseases.

### ***Dairy Heifer Deaths***

Dairy operations lose a significant number of calves before weaning as compared to beef operations. Overall, 8.7% of dairy heifers born alive died prior to weaning, compared to 3.5% of beef calves as reported in NAHMS Beef '97. The time frame from birth to weaning is much shorter for dairy heifers than for beef calves; however, dairy heifer death loss is almost 2.5 times as great in one fourth the time frame. Large dairy operations had the lowest calf deaths losses at 7.7%.

Although the Dairy 2002 study did not ask dairy producers about calves born dead, the Beef '97 estimates suggest that half of the total calf losses to weaning are calves born dead. If this is extrapolated to the dairy industry, between 15 and 20% of all calves do not live until weaning; this also is true with the dairies that ILM has been tracking. The numbers represented by the Dairy 2002 study were only heifer calves that arguably receive more attention than their male counterparts, suggesting that overall death loss was probably even higher. Management practices that reduce calf loss during or immediately subsequent to calving need to be reviewed and improved to decrease calf deaths. The dairy industry can not accept this level of calf death loss from an economic or from an animal welfare standpoint.

The majority (62%) of dairy heifer calf deaths prior to weaning were caused by diarrhea or other digestive problems, followed by respiratory problems at 21%. Combined, these two causes of death accounted for more than 80% of deaths in heifer calves born alive. Since diarrhea and respiratory problems are often infectious diseases that can be managed by proper nutrition and environment, there is an opportunity to make a significant impact in reducing death loss.

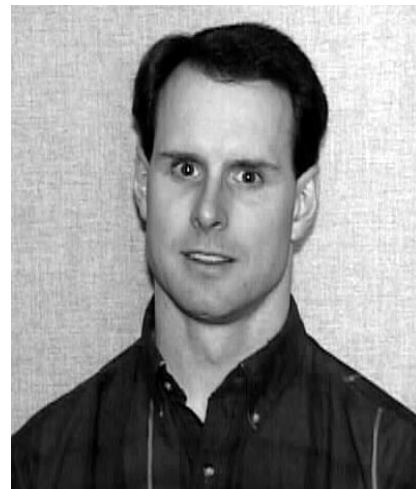
### ***Heifer Prewaning Feeding Practices***

Waste milk was fed to all or a portion of dairy heifer calves on 87.2% of operations. Although waste milk is a relatively inexpensive source of nutrition for suckling calves, it does not come without costs. Diseases such as Johne's, Mycoplasma and BLV can all be transmitted through raw waste milk. While pasteurization of waste milk can significantly reduce or eliminate calf exposure to these pathogens, only 1% of all operations reported feeding pasteurized waste milk to calves, while 11.3% of large herds used pasteurization techniques. Pasteurization of waste milk can be a cost effective approach to reducing disease in calves.

Medicated milk-replacer was used on 55.7% of operations with Oxytetracycline combined with neomycin as the most common medication. Although more expensive than waste milk, feeding medicated milk-replacers to calves reduces the potential for diseases transmitted through raw milk and is also intended to decrease the incidence of diarrhea and pneumonia in unweaned calves. Prophylactic use of antibiotics in this situation is being more closely scrutinized by the government and medical communities as a potential cause of bacterial resistance. Experts believe that it is only a matter of time before all prophylactic use of antibiotics is banned from food animals. This would make the management of young calves even more critical in preventing illness and deaths in unweaned calves.

*For questions regarding the Dairy 2002 study, contact Dr. Jason Lombard or Dr. Brian McCluskey @ (970)494-7000.*

### ***Dr Jason Lombard Returns to CSU to Join the ILM***



Jason Lombard was raised in southern Colorado where he spent considerable time around beef cattle. In 1986 while an undergraduate student at CSU he worked at the CSU Dairy for Bill Wailes until the CSU Dairy closed in 1989. He continued to work at another local dairy during his veterinary training. In 1993 Jason received his DVM from CSU and headed to dairy practice in Wisconsin. During the following 9 years he worked for 2 different dairy practices before becoming a partner in the second. Business and employee management were intriguing, usually difficult, and often rewarding aspects of his practice experience.

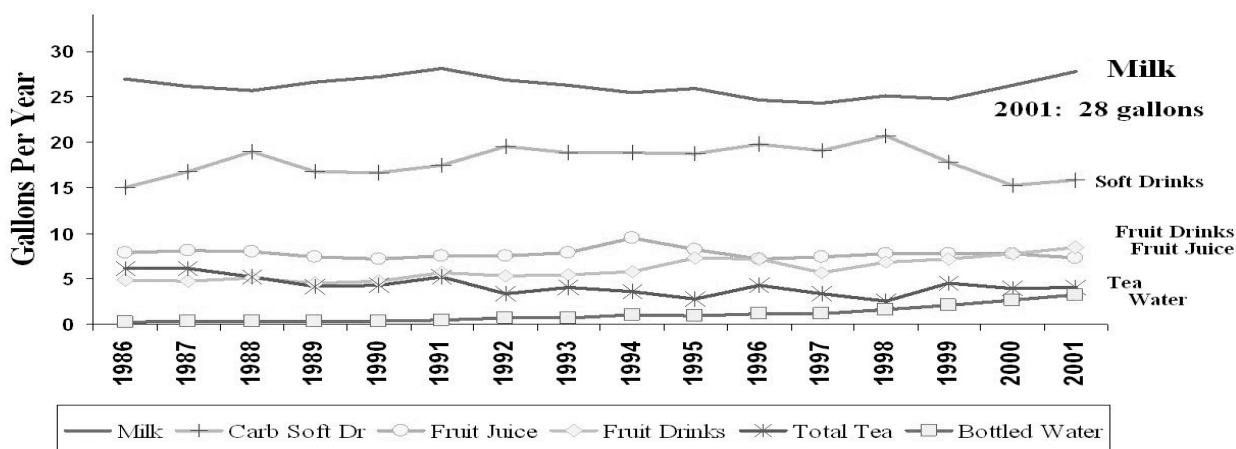
This fall Jason joined the ILM team for graduate studies. His main focus is on Johne's Disease and the NAHMS Dairy 2002 study. His specific graduate project is an evaluation of the economic costs of Johne's disease on production utilizing DHIA records, and comparing milk ELISA and serum ELISA Johne's tests. He is also involved in research on the effect of dystocia on cows and calves on dairy farms.

If you have not met Jason on the farm yet, you are probably familiar with his work since he compiled the snazzy booklet on the Colorado Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease program available through the State Veterinarian's office.

## *Dairy Check Off News: Kids ages 6-12 are drinking more milk!*

A 2001 analysis has shown that milk consumption by this age group rose 6.1 percent to nearly 28 gallons per year—the highest level since 1991! One reason: Your dairy checkoff has beefed up efforts to reach kids in this important age group. It has sponsored more milk ads on kid-oriented TV programs, helped improve milk's image through better packaging, encouraged use milk vending machines and school breakfast programs in schools and provided teachers with excellent classroom programs to underscore the importance of milk in students' diet. The competition is fierce and soft drink companies have deep pockets. But through your checkoff program, you're helping make milk their first choice.

### **Kids' Per Capita Fluid Milk Consumption Hits 10 Year High**



**Annual fluid milk beverage consumption among kids reached 28 gallons per capita in 2001 - the highest level since 1991. The dairy checkoff has specifically targeted kids and Moms in the past few years and aims to push kids' consumption levels even higher through targeted, producer-funded advertising, retail, school marketing and public relations programs.**

*Source: Share of Intake Panel Study (SIP) conducted by NFO WorldGroup. SIP monitors individuals' beverage consumption both at home & away from home through a national panel of 12,000 individuals per year.*

*Note: Beverage use only; \*average two week period*

## *USDA Proposes Livestock and Meat Marketing Claims Standards*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is soliciting comments on proposed minimum standards for livestock and meat industry production/marketing claims. These proposed minimum requirements, when adopted, will become the United States Standards for Livestock and Meat Marketing Claims. They may be found on the internet at < <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/stand/claim.htm>>. Comments may be submitted to Chief, Standardization Branch, AMS Livestock and Seed Program, USDA Stop 0254, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-0254; telephone (202) 720-4486; fax (202) 720-1112; or e-mail [marketingclaim@usda.gov](mailto:marketingclaim@usda.gov). Comments must be submitted on or before March 31, 2003.

Increasingly, livestock and meat producers are using production and/or processing claims to distinguish their products in the marketplace. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, through its voluntary certification and/or audit programs, verifies the accuracy of these claims. The proposed standards will establish the minimum requirements for those livestock and meat producers who choose to operate a USDA certified or verified program involving marketing claims. Standards include claims associated with antibiotic use, breed criteria, free range living, geographic location, definition of grain feed/ grass fed, and vitamin E feeding. While these claims may not directly relate to production of milk, dairy producers will be interested in the verbage and process if considering enteringsimilar niche markets with their products. Additional information about the National Organic Program can be found on the web at < <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/>>.