Overview of US Animal Agriculture

2008 ICAR Meeting
June 18, 2008

Jay Mattison
CEO and Administrator
National DHIA

United States of America

“A country of 50 states over a large land area working together”
Base of US Agriculture

A deviation of European agriculture implemented by European refugees.....

1700 and 1800s
How US Agriculture was formed

- **Dairy**
  - Scandinavian, German, Dutch and Portuguese
  - Northeast, Upper Midwest, West
  - Homesteading in the 1800s

- **Beef**
  - Irish, Spanish
  - Western US

- **Swine**
  - English, German, Polish
  - Northeast in late 1700s
  - Spread west in 1800s

- **Sheep**
  - English, Basque
  - Western US (Colorado, Montana)
  - “Wars” with cattle ranchers
USA

- 303 million population
- 9.16 million square km land area
- 18.1% arable land
- About twice the land size of EU 27
EU - 27

- 491 million population
- 4.32 million square km land area
- 22.1% arable land
- About 50% of the land size of USA
China

- 1.3 billion population
- 9.32 million square km land area
- 27.1% arable land
- About the same land size as USA
US Animal Agriculture

“Working to produce animal protein and products for consumption”

USA Dairy

- 24.2 million milking cows in 1940
- 9.1 million milking cows in 2007
- 90% of the cows >50 cow herds
- 35% of the cows >500 plus cow herds
- About 70,000 producers
- Family run operations that have expanded
USA Beef

- 97 million beef cattle in 2007
- 32.8 cows and heifers calved
- 37.2 million head harvested
- 75% of the calves from <150 cow herds
- 85% of the harvest >500 animal feedlots

USA Swine

- 63 million head in 2007
- 3.4 million sows and gilts farrowed
- 102 million head harvested
- 85% of the harvest from 1,000<animal herds
- Vertical integration
- About 57,000 producers
USA Sheep

- 7.7 million head in 2007
- 4.6 million ewes lambed
- 5.8 million head harvested
- 60% of the harvest from < 100 animal herds
- Some feedlots
- About 360,000 producers

USA Horses

- 6.9 million horses in 2007
- 1.97 million recreational
- 2.97 million showing
- 1.26 million farm, ranch and polo
- 725,000 racing horses
Future Holds
Information for wise decision making

Example
Dihydrogen Monoxide
H₂O
The Message of US Animal Agriculture

Data for Decision making

It is large and diverse

USA Agriculture

Thank you for the opportunity to show and tell the story.