

Updating Weights of Criteria in the Readiness Rating
Richard P. Horwitz, August 1, 2014

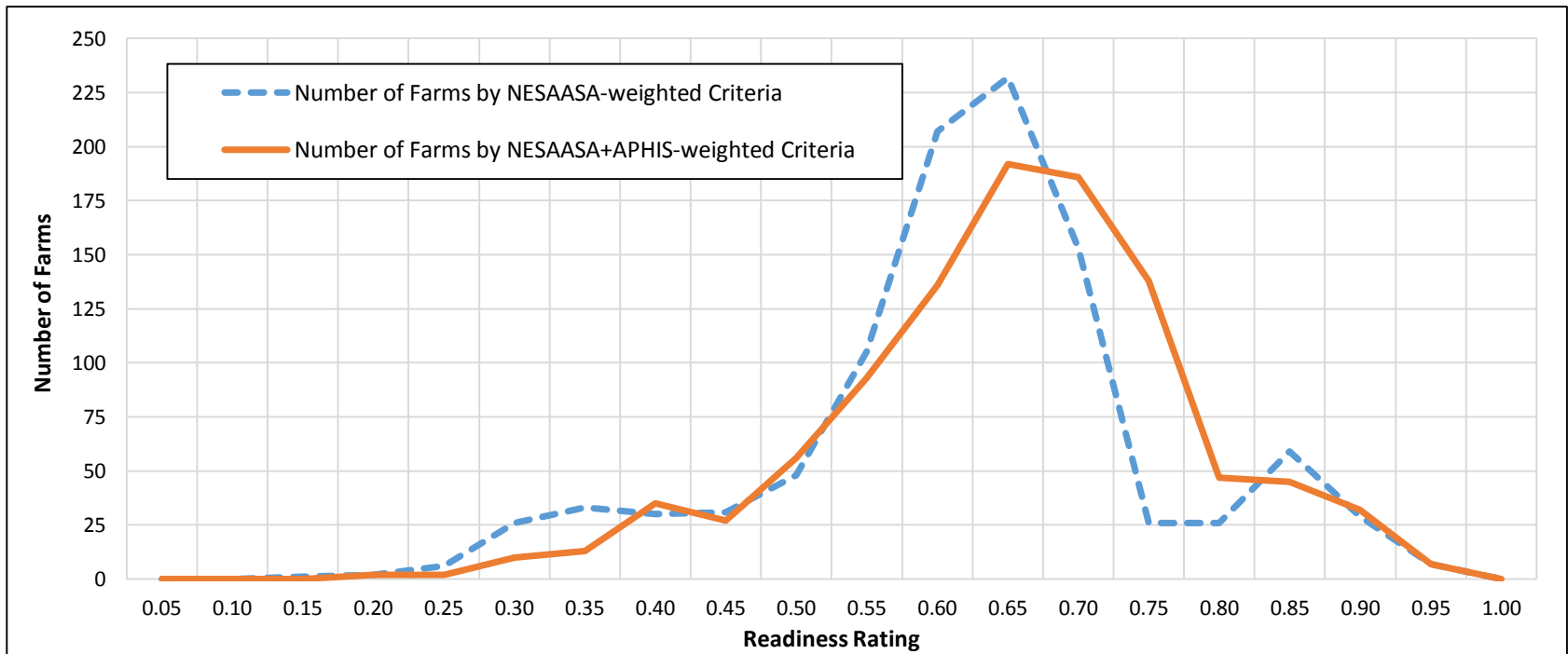
In 2012, the members of the [New England States Animal Agricultural Security Alliance \(NESAAASA\)](#) assigned weights to SMS biosecurity criteria for purposes of calculating Readiness Ratings. In 2014, NESAAASA welcomed the contribution of a new, independent round of weighing those criteria by four USDA-APHIS epidemiologists. Following an exercise of the plan (May, 2014), NESAAASA decided to use the weights that represent the **combined** judgment of these regional and national experts, identified below.

Criteria for determining farm "Readiness" for milk pickup in a FMD emergency		NESAASA Only	APHIS Only	COMBINED
Security of the farm perimeter		19.00%	19.12%	19.08%
	Distance to the nearest neighbor with susceptible stock	3.59%	3.23%	3.51%
	Employees also working on another farm with FMD-susceptible animals	6.29%	5.55%	6.13%
	Gate to restrict access to farm or livestock areas	4.58%	4.35%	4.55%
	Signs with biosecurity advice for visitors	1.02%	1.07%	1.04%
	Potential for milk pick-up from outside the farm perimeter.	3.51%	4.91%	3.84%
Sanitation of the route from the public roadway to the milk bulk tank		25.59%	17.45%	23.22%
	Control point at farm entry	17.73%	8.13%	15.11%
	Clean lane	7.86%	9.31%	8.11%
	Lane free of agricultural run-off (e.g., from pens and pasture)	3.56%	4.47%	3.72%
	Separation between the lane for milk pickup and the routes of other farm traffic	3.15%	3.31%	3.16%
	Separation from cattle crossing	0.85%	1.07%	0.89%
	Separation from manure hauling	0.76%	0.63%	0.73%
	Separation from livestock shipments	0.84%	0.89%	0.85%
	Separation from feed delivery	0.34%	0.40%	0.35%
	Separation from employee parking	0.16%	0.16%	0.16%
	Separation from visitor parking	0.19%	0.16%	0.18%
	Permeability of travel surfaces	1.15%	1.54%	1.23%
Capacity to clean and disinfect dairy traffic		55.41%	63.43%	57.71%
	Functioning foot baths	7.74%	9.79%	8.30%
	Functioning wash station	25.28%	31.43%	26.85%
	Site for a wash station	10.24%	6.10%	9.39%
	Large enough	1.75%	2.56%	2.00%
	Separate from farm run-off	4.62%	1.24%	3.75%
	Not draining directly into a wetland or waterway	1.15%	1.25%	1.24%
	Able to contain waste wash water	2.72%	1.06%	2.39%
	Equipment and supplies for a wash station	12.15%	16.11%	13.18%

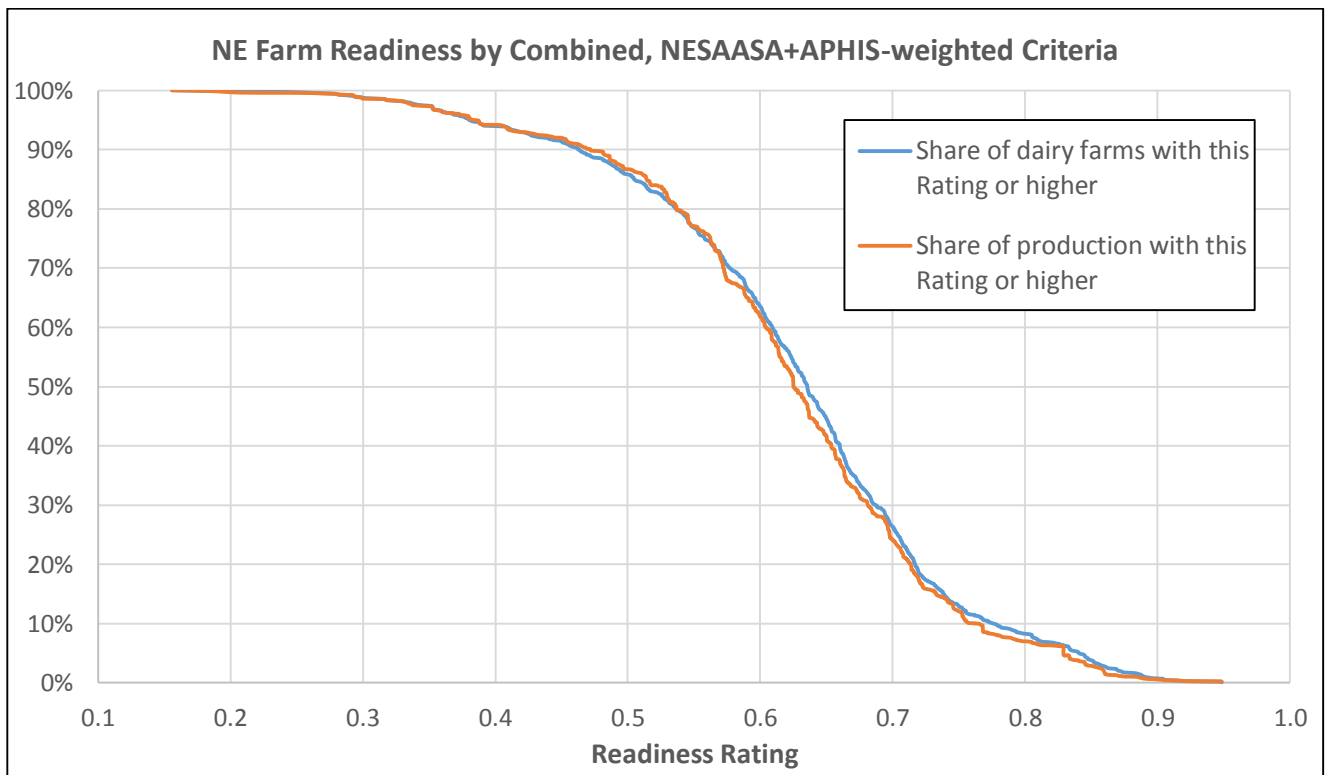
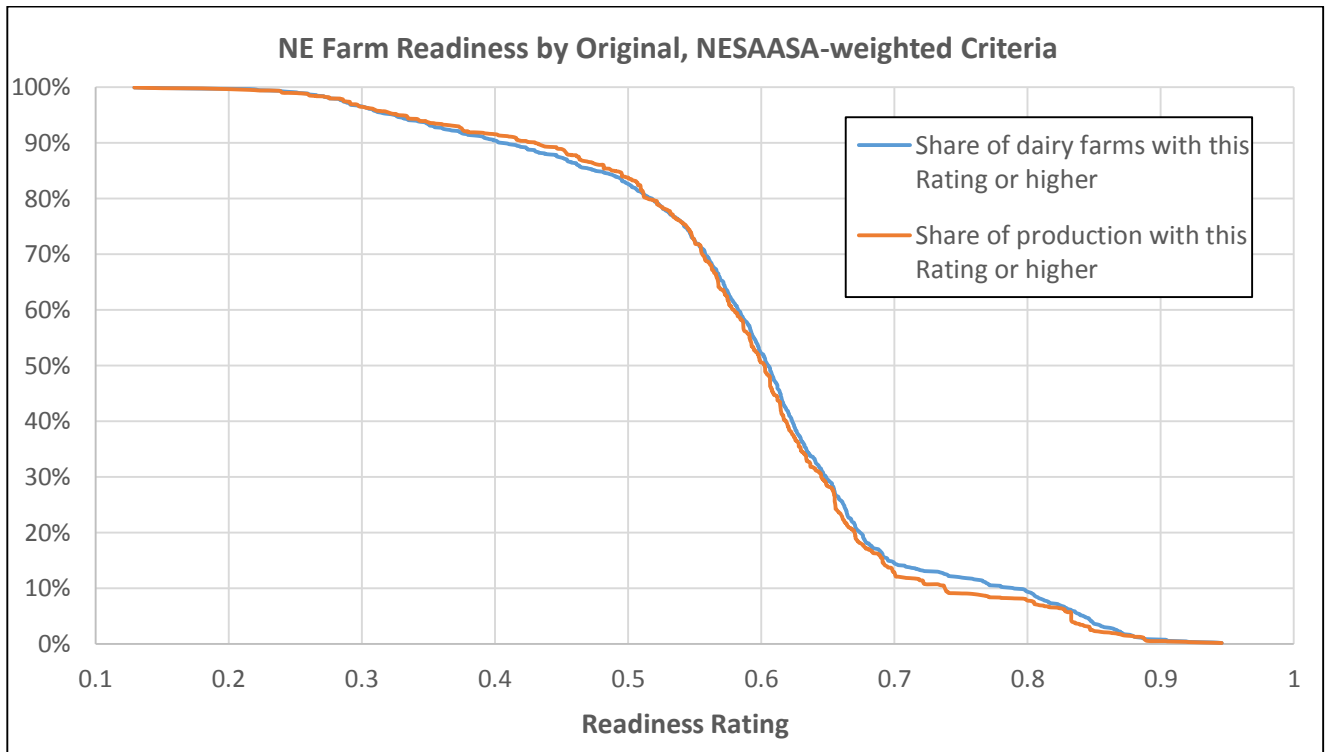
Readiness Ratings of Licensed Dairy Farms in New England

	NESAASA-Weighted Readiness Ratings	NESAASA+APHIS-Weighted Readiness Ratings
Mean	0.596	0.626
Median	0.605	0.635
Mode	0.612	0.701
Standard Deviation	0.135	0.125
Range	0.817	0.793
Minimum	0.129	0.156
Maximum	0.946	0.949
Count	1021	1021

Frequency Distribution: Number of Farms by Readiness Rating, 2014



Cumulative Frequency: Dairy Continuity by Minimum Readiness Rating



Participants in weighing biosecurity criteria for the Readiness Rating, 2012-2014:

State Animal Health Officials (SAHOs):

Connecticut

Mary Jane Lis, State Veterinarian

Bruce Sherman, Director, Regulation and Inspection

Maine

Michelle Walsh, State Veterinarian

Elizabeth McEvoy, Assistant State Veterinarian

Don Hoenig, State Veterinarian (Retired)

Massachusetts

Michael Cahill, Director, Animal Health

Lorraine O'Connor, State Veterinarian

New Hampshire

Stephen Crawford, State Veterinarian

Rhode Island

Peter Belinsky, State Public Health Veterinarian

Scott Marshall, State Veterinarian

Vermont

Kristin Haas, State Veterinarian

Shelley Mehlenbacher, Assistant State Veterinarian

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services, District 1, Surveillance, Preparedness and Response Services (SPRS):

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