



NEWS RELEASE

Texas Animal Health Commission

“Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893”

Dee Ellis, DVM, MPA • Executive Director

P.O. Box 12966 • Austin, Texas 78711 • (800) 550-8242 <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us>

For more information contact the Public Information office at 1-800-550-8242, ext. 710 or at bonnie.ramirez@tahc.state.tx.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 26, 2010

USDA ISSUES FEDERAL ORDER MODIFYING ELEMENTS OF BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS ERADICATION PROGRAM

AUSTIN - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issued a federal order on April 15 that modifies certain elements of the bovine tuberculosis (TB) eradication program. The Federal Order is intended as an interim measure until federal revised bovine tuberculosis regulations can be proposed for review and public comment, and final rules issued. In the interim, APHIS will not downgrade an accredited-free State or zone or any part of an accredited-free State or zone in which tuberculosis affected herds are confirmed, provided the Administrator determines that the State Animal Health Officials are meeting certain criteria. Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA) status states with a wildlife reservoir or that have never been “Free” do not qualify for the relief of this order. The immediate result of this order is that Texas will now accept beef cattle (*not dairy cattle*) from the MAA state of California and the MAA zone of New Mexico without previously imposed restrictions, as if they are originating from a TB “Free” state. As previously mentioned, this federal order modification does ***not*** affect current dairy cattle entry requirements into Texas.

The complete details of this order can be found on the following website http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2010/04/printable/federal_order_tb.pdf. For more detailed information on Texas entry requirements, contact the TAHC Program Records department at 512-719-0777 or visit http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2010/04/printable/tb_federal_order.pdf or http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/content/printable_version/faq_bovine_tb_fed_order.pdf.

The Texas Animal Health Commission works to protect the health of all Texas livestock, including: cattle, swine, poultry, sheep, goats, equine animals, and exotic livestock. The agency’s mission and role is to assure the marketability and mobility of Texas livestock.

###