



NEWS RELEASE

Texas Animal Health Commission

"Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 3, 2011

TAHC Releases a Portion of the Fever Tick Temporary Quarantine Area in Starr County

AUSTIN - The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) is announcing the release of a portion of the remaining temporary preventative fever tick quarantine area (TPQA) in South Texas (Starr County,) effective November 2.

The TAHC established a TPQA for portions of Starr County on July 3, 2007 following findings of cattle fever tick infestations on multiple premises. The size of the area released in Starr County consists of 42,111 acres.

Cattle fever ticks are capable of carrying and transmitting '*babesia*', a blood parasite deadly to cattle. The fever ticks are common in Mexico, but are not normally found in Texas.

The release of a portion of the Starr County quarantine zone rescinds all movement restrictions placed on the livestock and wildlife within the 42,111 acres. A full description of the remaining Starr County property under quarantine can be found at <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/>

"Releasing another area in the TPQA continues to confirm that the cooperative efforts between the USDA-Veterinary Services Tick Force, TAHC, the Texas cattle industry and local land owners, are working successfully," said Dr. Ellis. "The TAHC and USDA will continue to work closely with local land owners to maintain an effective surveillance program to that fever ticks do not reoccur in the area."

For more information about the cattle fever tick, visit the TAHC web site at http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal_health/fevertick/fevertick.html.

Founded in 1893, 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.

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