



NEWS RELEASE

Texas Animal Health Commission

"Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 17, 2011

TAHC Accepting Comments on New Rule Proposals

AUSTIN – The Texas Animal Health Commission (Commission) is currently accepting public comments on rule proposals that were authorized during the May 24 Commission meeting. These rules may be commented on until July 18, 2011.

The Commission proposes amendments to Chapter 59, entitled “Certificate of Veterinary Inspections (CVI)”. In 2005, the Commission established a fee of \$5 for each certificate. The Commission is proposing to raise the fee from \$5 to \$7 per certificate.

The Commission also proposed amendments to Chapter 38, entitled "Trichomoniasis (Trich)" and to Chapter 51, entitled “Entry Requirement”. The proposals are to amend the regulations in response to various recommendations from the Bovine Trichomoniasis Working Group (BTWG). Representatives of the BTWG met on May 4 to review specific requests for program changes received and to evaluate the effectiveness of current rules. Requests were received from cattle producers, auction market operators, veterinarians, and other interested stakeholders. A summary of the proposed changes are outlined below.

- Texas will no longer accept virgin status for out of state bulls. All bulls over 12 months of age must be tested, bulls under 12 months of age are exempt unless known to have bred female cattle
- Untested bulls from out of state can directly enter Texas “Trich certified” feedyards on a USDA VS 1-27 permit and TAHC entry permit
- Infected bulls from other states can be permitted to a Texas market on a VS 1-27 for sale for slaughter only
- Require bulls exempt from entry test be Certified Semen Services (CSS) resident bull rather than just located at CSS facility
- Laboratory pooled samples can be utilized for one of two required releasing tests
- TAHC will create “Control herd status” for a maximum of 3 years. In exchange for only having to test once per year rather than having to meet requirements for release of quarantine - herds will not be allowed to sell breeding or virgin bulls, and must work with a vet to develop a herd plan to eliminate Trich from the herd

- Create maximum time to retest infected herds as 60 days from 1st herd test
- Positive bull's retested negative by PCR will be required to be tested a 3rd time by PCR and the third test will be used to classify the animal
- Change terminology to read that positive bulls can be rendered "incapable of breeding" rather than rendered "sterile". TAHC will maintain a list of veterinarians approved to perform procedures available to render a bull incapable of breeding
- Require that bulls removed from herds in the 3 year Certified Free application process be tested prior to leaving the herd – it will not be an option to send a bull directly to slaughter without testing prior to receiving Free status

A detailed description of the proposed rules can be found on the TAHC web site at <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us> under Rule Proposals.

Comments on the TAHC's proposed regulations must be submitted in writing to Delores Holubec, Texas Animal Health Commission, 2105 Kramer Lane, Austin, Texas 78758, by fax at (512) 719-0721 or by e-mail at comments@tahc.state.tx.us .

Comments must be received by 5 p.m., Monday, July 18. The Commission appreciates any comments on issues addressed in this document for consideration during drafting of the rule.

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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