



## NEWS RELEASE

Texas Animal Health Commission

*"Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893"*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Texas State-Federal Laboratory joins National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN)

AUSTIN – The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) is pleased to announce that the Texas State-Federal Laboratory in Austin has been accepted into the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). The Texas State-Federal Laboratories are a collaborative effort of the TAHC and the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (USDA-APHIS-VS).

The Texas State-Federal Labs provide high quality diagnostics for bovine and swine brucellosis, as well as bovine tuberculosis testing, livestock parasite identification, and pseudorabies screening. The Texas labs provide testing for USDA slaughter surveillance from multiple states, which is increasingly important as similar laboratories in other states have closed in recent years.

“We see this as acknowledgement of the quality and consistent level of diagnostics provided by our lab,” said Dr. Andy Schwartz, TAHC Assistant Executive Director for Epidemiology and Laboratories. “We are happy to be able to offer continued service to the livestock industry of Texas, and we will continue to provide regional support for USDA surveillance efforts and other disease programs.”

Becoming a NAHLN member laboratory will also allow the TAHC to perform additional specialized testing for certain disease programs such as pseudorabies in swine. USDA-APHIS-VS and the NAHLN program set extensive evaluation criteria and requirements for laboratories to become a member of the network.

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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