



For Immediate Release
August 30, 2023

Anthrax Confirmed in a Briscoe County Beef Cow

AUSTIN, TX – Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) officials received confirmation of anthrax in a beef cow, on a premises in Briscoe County on August 25, 2023. This is the first case of anthrax in the county this year.

The premises is located 5 miles north of Silverton, Texas, and has been quarantined. TAHC rules require proper disposal of affected carcasses on the premises prior to release of the quarantine.

“TAHC personnel are closely monitoring the case in Briscoe County,” said Dr. Andy Schwartz, TAHC State Veterinarian and Executive Director. “This is not the first time we have seen anthrax in the county. This case serves as a great reminder to monitor susceptible animals and speak with a veterinary practitioner if you suspect your animals are exposed, and to vaccinate before your animals are exposed.”

Anthrax is a bacterial disease caused by *Bacillus anthracis*, which is a naturally occurring organism with worldwide distribution, including certain parts of Texas. Anthrax cases in Texas are most often found in a triangular area bound by the towns of Uvalde, Ozona, and Eagle Pass. However, anthrax was confirmed in Briscoe County in 2020 and other locations in the Texas panhandle have been identified since then.

An increase in anthrax cases after periods of wet, cool weather, followed by hot, dry conditions is common. In these conditions, animals ingest the odorless, colorless, and tasteless anthrax bacteria when they consume contaminated grass and hay or by inhaling the spores. Outbreaks usually end when cooler weather arrives. In this case, weather conditions were favorable for the infection.

After exposure to anthrax, animals typically show clinical signs within three to seven days. Once clinical signs appear, death usually occurs within 48 hours. Acute fever followed by rapid death with bloody discharge from body openings are signs of anthrax in livestock. If a noticeable amount of deer or exotic wildlife are found dead, and carcasses show bleeding characteristic of anthrax, remove livestock from access to carcasses immediately. Owners of livestock and animals displaying clinical signs consistent with anthrax or experiencing death of animals should contact a private veterinary practitioner or a [TAHC official](#) immediately.

Producers are encouraged to follow basic sanitation precautions when handling affected livestock or carcasses. The TAHC encourages wearing protective gloves and long sleeve shirts and washing thoroughly afterward to prevent accidental spread of the bacteria to people. For more information on how anthrax affects humans please visit <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/IDCU/disease/anthrax/Information.aspx>.

For more information about anthrax, visit:

- TAHC Anthrax Factsheet: https://www.tahc.texas.gov/news/brochures/TAHCFactsheet_Anthrax.pdf



- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Anthrax Publication: <https://agriflifeextension.tamu.edu/asset-external/anthrax-conditions-symptoms-and-advice-for-landowners/>
- Contact your local [TAHC Region Office](#)

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The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) was established in 1893 as the Livestock Sanitary Commission and charged with protecting the state's domestic animals "from all contagious or infectious diseases of a malignant character." TAHC remains true to this charge while evolving with the times to protect the health and marketability of all Texas livestock and poultry. Learn more about the TAHC by visiting www.tahc.texas.gov.