



For Immediate Release  
October 11, 2023

## Dr. Lewis R. "Bud" Dinges Selected as Texas State Veterinarian

AUSTIN, TX – The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) named Dr. Lewis R. "Bud" Dinges as the state veterinarian and TAHC executive director during a Commission meeting on October 3, 2023, at its headquarters in Austin.

The governor appointed TAHC commissioners representing the general public and livestock, poultry, and exotic animal agriculture industries accepted the recommendation of the selection panel in the scheduled public meeting. The Commission designated Dr. Dinges to begin his tenure October 16, 2023.

"It is with great pleasure that we promote Dr. Dinges to the position of TAHC executive director and state veterinarian," said TAHC Chairman Coleman Locke. "Dr. Dinges' extensive veterinary knowledge, diligent work ethic, and varied livestock education and experience will serve the industry exceptionally. The TAHC is grateful for the four years he's contributed with the agency and look forward to Dr. Dinges serving in this new role."



Dr. Dinges earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science at Texas A&M University and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine. His professional career began in a mixed animal practice, and over the years Dr. Dinges continued practicing in various private and corporate settings in Texas and beyond. Dr. Dinges contributed many years to the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Department of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery as a Clinical Assistant Professor and primary patient care provider for Texas Department of Criminal Justice animals.

As an involved leader in the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association's (TSCRA) Cattle Health and Well-Being (CHWB) Committee, Dr. Dinges collaborated with TAHC, Southern Animal Health Association, USDA, and other regulatory agency officials. This sparked his interest in regulatory veterinary medicine and led to leadership roles with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) CHWB Committee years later. The TAHC welcomed Dr. Dinges as a field veterinarian in 2019. He was later promoted to region director and currently serves as an agency veterinarian for the TAHC.

"Dr. Dinges is very active in the veterinary, equine, and cattle industries," said Chairman Locke. "His well-established credibility and proven experience in a variety of roles, associations and veterinary and animal agriculture organizations gives me great confidence in his ability to successfully carry out the agency's mission."

Dr. Andy Schwartz, TAHC's current executive director, announced his intent to retire at the 416<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting, July 11, 2023. His retirement will be effective January 2024. Dr. Schwartz will remain working alongside Dr. Dinges and the TAHC in the coming months to aid in the transition.

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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](http://www.tahc.texas.gov).*