

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE 403rd COMMISSION MEETING
Texas Animal Health Commission
May 21, 2019

The TAHC Commissioners met in the agency's headquarters, in Austin on Tuesday, May 21, 2019. Chairman Coleman Locke began the meeting at 8:35AM.

Item 1 – Welcome and Call to order by Chairman Locke

Commissioners Michael Vickers, Eric White, William Edmiston, Coleman Locke, Joe Leathers, Tommy Oates, Ken Jordan, Leo Vermedahl, Barret Klein, Keith Staggs, Wendee Langdon, and Jim Eggleston were present.

Item 2 – Approval of the minutes of the 402nd Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes of the 402nd Commission meeting held on December 11th, 2018, was made by Commissioner Leathers and seconded by Commissioner Jordan. The motion carried.

Item 3 – Report of the Executive Director, Field Animal Health Program Activities and Approval of Waiver Requests for the Period 12/11/2018 to 5/21/2019

Dr. Schwartz presented the following:

- **Opening remarks**
- **Agency Business**
 - **86th Legislative Session, January-May, 2019**
 - Budget consistent with 2018-2019 levels
 - Exceptional Items
 - Agency Modernization – IT Business Initiative: Database not funded
 - Additional general revenue funding in the amount of \$748,000 to be used to increase the salaries of Livestock Inspectors by \$3600 annually. Partially funded.
 - Executive Director Salary -request authority to reclassify the Executive Director's salary from Exempt Salary Group 4 to Exempt Salary Group 5 and authorization for the Commission to use the entire salary range, up to the maximum salary rate of \$197,415. The current executive director position is compensated at Salary Group 4 with a maximum salary of \$146,742.00 per year. Salary reclassification and partial salary increase approved.
 - Sunset review – agency self-evaluation due this summer
 - **Disease considerations**
 - Cattle Fever Ticks
 - Live Oak County CPQA released in December 2018 as anticipated
 - Discovery of ticks during voluntary scratch inspection at livestock market led to disclosure of four infested herds in Webb county approximately 24 miles outside the permanent quarantine zone. State and federal resources combined to contain and eliminate the outbreak.
 - Voluntary Cattle Dipping Incentive being initiated at markets

- Experimental cattle grazing on portions of USFWS Laguna Atascosa set to begin in June 2019. Fencing to be constructed on Boswell/Jenkins tract in June 2019.
 - Omnibus funding for applied research renewed for second year – novel and projects currently underway are being evaluated and prioritized for funding
 - External Cattle Fever Tick Program Review Team conducted at the request of USDA APHIS VS: Report completed March 2019. Supports continuation of current fever tick eradication approach. Recommendations for improvement: establish a buffer zone in Mexico mirroring the one in Texas; develop a response plan for acaricide resistant ticks; and develop a matrix to evaluate cost benefit of fever tick eradication measures.
 - APHIS published the final record of decision last fall for a strategic two-mile portion of fence to be constructed along the permanent tick quarantine line in Zapata County. TAHC has agreed to maintain the fence. Currently delayed due to property owner's concerns, and manpower limitations.
 - Efforts to address cattle fever tick incursions from Mexico: Establish a buffer zone in Mexico mirroring the one in Texas – recommended in the US/Mexico Joint Strategic Plan for Eradication of Invasive Cattle Fever Ticks, 2017-2021. The Bi-National Committee proposed an action plan to USDA and SENASICA at a meeting in Oaxaca, Mexico earlier this month. Requested a response in 45 days.
 - Additional ventilation being installed in agency spray-dip machines
 - Approval sought for purchase of additional vaccine supply
- Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD)
- The TAHC BVD Working Group held its inaugural meeting on February 14, 2019, and a meeting via conference call on April 22, 2019. Recommendations to commissioners are to establish rules that accomplish the following:
 - Make positive results to BVD antigen detection tests reportable
 - Allow retest of positive animals by TAHC or authorized veterinarian
 - Classify as BVDV PI animals positive on retest, and animals positive on an initial test but not retested. Retesting to be at discretion of the owner.
 - Require official electronic ID on retest, and brand if confirmed to be PI
 - Restrict movement of PI animals to slaughter, sale for slaughter, or feeding for slaughter in BVDV Approved Pens
 - Require annual review of BVD related rules by the working group
 - Consensus not reached on allow sale of PI animals through livestock markets
 - Grazing of cattle associated with BVDV Approved Pens is provided in draft rule proposal, but not discussed by the working group
- Bovine Trichomoniasis
- The TAHC Trich Working Group met April 23, 2019, and made the following recommendations:
 - Restrict pooling for official tests to herd surveillance only. No longer allow pooling for change of ownership/possession, adjacent testing, or management of affected herd.

- Allow virgin certification by owner on registered breeding bulls only
- Require seller to disclose exposed or potentially exposed status of females within the previous six months

- Chronic Wasting Disease
 - Traces received from affected elk herd in Oklahoma

- **National Issues**
 - Animal Disease Traceability (ADT)
 - Cattle Traceability Working Group
 - Producer Traceability Council – consensus points
 - Texas Traceability Pilot
 - USDA Grant Proposal for UHF Project

 - Brucellosis and Bovine Tuberculosis

A federal rule proposed in 2015 would have combined Brucellosis and Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) regulations in the CFR. Comments on the proposal were predominantly against its adoption, and no regulatory action was taken. At the urging of the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials and industry organizations, USDA APHIS formed working groups to address Brucellosis and TB rules separately.

 - Brucellosis rule on schedule for publication this fall
 - TB rule on schedule for publication next spring

 - African Swine Fever (ASF)

US Industry and regulatory officials are very concerned over the potential introduction of this devastating viral disease of swine. Agency staff continue to work intensively with state, federal, and industry partners on disease prevention and response plans.

- **Waiver Report - December 11th, 2018 to May 21, 2019**
 - 8 waivers requested and 8 approved:
 - Equine Infectious Anemia– **Approved** – allowed waiver EIA testing for feral horses bound for terminal destination due to safety risk for personnel testing the equine
 - Trichomoniasis – **Approved** – allowed bulls to enter Texas on expired test. Shipping was delayed due to inclement weather and bulls were isolated after initial test in preparation for transport
 - Tuberculosis – **Approved** – allowed entry of fallow deer from Florida before final results were returned from TB Tests. Deer were required to be isolated from susceptible species and easily accessible should a culture have come back positive.
 - Trichomoniasis – **Approved** – allowed a waiver for bulls, 12-18 months of age, to enter Texas without a negative Trich test. State Vet from origin state issued the request and confirmed that the bulls were isolated from females. All entered on official ID and a CVI, allowing for traceability if needed

- Avian Influenza – **Approved** – allowed entry of pullets due to shipping time constraints. Flock is AI and NPIP monitored and flock was previously AI tested negative
- Brucellosis – **Approved** – allowed entry of Dama Gazelle to a wildlife sanctuary on an expired test. Animal was kept isolated after testing. Retesting would place the animal at risk for injury
- Brucellosis – **Approved** – allowed entry of male Bongo with expired test due to safety risk of retesting. Animal was born in a zoo and poses little disease risk
- Brucellosis and Tuberculosis – **Approved** – allowed entry of Speke Gazelle that was left off previous shipment. Animal was isolated after negative test and poses little disease risk

A motion to APPROVE the actions of the Executive Director for the period from December 13, 2018 through May 21, 2019 was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Vickers. The motion carried.

Item 4 - Presentation of Epidemiology, and Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Activities

Dr. Susan Rollo, State Epidemiologist, presented the following report:

I. Cattle

A. Tuberculosis (TB):

1. Status of the infected Herds in Parmer and Lamb Counties: Two organic dairies and a feed yard (~11,000 head) completed an assessment test in April 2015 then **13** removal tests. One positive cow was disclosed in April 2018 and one positive cow was disclosed in April 2019. To date, a total of 68 confirmed MB compatible animals from this complex has been disclosed including the original 6 steers that traced to this herd. The dairy continues to pursue the “test out” option and the 14th removal test is scheduled this month.

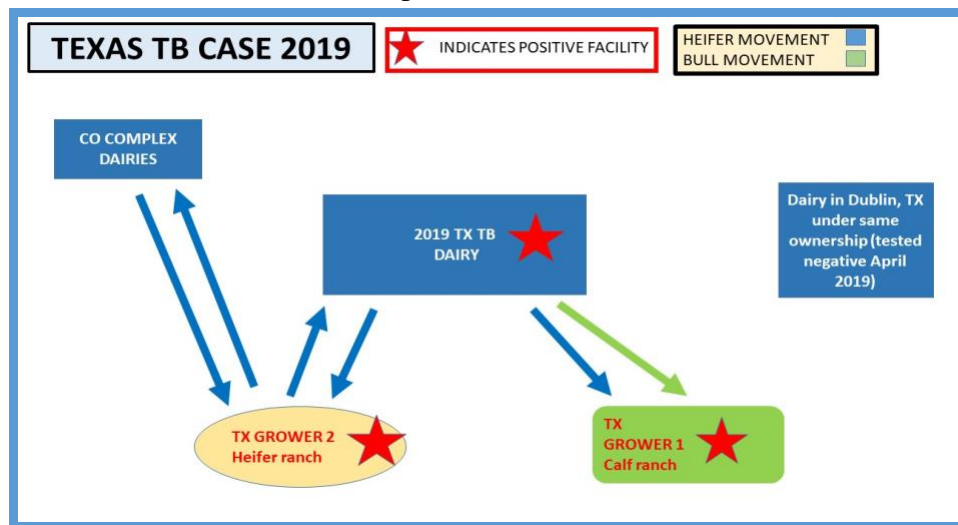
2. Status of new TB confirmed animal originating on a dairy in Bailey County (feed yard and associated dairy in Parmer/Bailey): A 4 year old cow was confirmed with TB when the dairy underwent area testing. The new dairy began operations in the spring of 2016 under the same ownership as the complex listed in #1. The cow did not have a history of a previous TB test, yet the whole genome sequencing of the TB strain indicates an association with the strain in the complex #1. Two whole herd tests did not disclose any additional positive cows and the herd complex is scheduled for a 6 month verification test in August. In addition, the herd management is gathering data on brokered cattle sold from the infected dairy.

3. New TB confirmed animals originated from an organic dairy in Sherman County. Two associated grower operations that are epidemiologically linked to the positive dairy are also confirmed TB positive in Dallam County (Figure 1).

The ~8,700 head dairy was previously tested annually 2015- 2017 with negative test results since the complex received some trace heifers from complex #1. During the annual December 2018 test, a high rate of responders were disclosed. After the federal shut-down ended, further testing disclosed a high percentage of grossly lesioned cattle on necropsy. To date, 63 cows are confirmed since the first diagnosis in February 11, 2019. One grower facility is a ~70,000 head calf ranch. To date, one positive heifer was disclosed on 3/1/2019 when all trace cattle from the dairy were tested. An assessment test of any associated heifers with the positive or other heifers originating from the index

is ongoing with ~12,000 head tested so far. All index origin heifers have been removed and tested with only the 1 positive. In addition to testing at the premises, epidemiologically linked dairies in Oklahoma and 2 in Kansas, and 1 in Texas also have required whole herd testing that is ongoing. This calf ranch receives heifer and bull calves from 46 sources and they supply heifers to 42 locations including in TX, CO, KS, OK, MO, and NM. A second heifer raiser premises that manages heifers for this dairy and another dairy under the same ownership in Colorado had one positive heifer disclosed on April 8, 2019 on the first whole herd test of ~4500 head. A second test is planned for June.

Figure 1. New Texas TB Case and associated premises



Although cultures are ongoing, two unique genetic strains have been disclosed in the dairy. Of 47 total cultured to date, 46 cultures disclosed a strain with last known linkage with cattle in central Mexico. One cow had a lesion that cultured a genetically unique strain to the US and not similar to previous strains introduced into the US from Mexico. The lineage of the unique strain was closest to a strain from the Iberian Peninsula that was shared with NVSL previously. This indicates a second introduction into the herd. On a public health note, the dairy is working with the DSHS TB group to get employees tested. Traces are ongoing including trace outs to local markets, bull calves, and heifer calves from the dairy and calf ranch. In addition, other epidemiologically linked dairies under the same ownership are being tested including one in Dublin and several in Colorado. The Dublin associated dairy tested negative on the initial assessment test. Some index origin heifers sold through the grower facility to a market resulted in additional dairies in other states including CA, ID, AZ, and ND (to date) considered as exposed thus resulting in additional tests. Due to the number of states involved in this investigation, a national situation report has been managed by USDA cattle health personnel.

4. TB slaughter trace cases in the FY2018-19: To date, one slaughter trace investigation was initiated and work completed in FY2019.

B. Trichomoniasis: The Working group met on April 23, 2019. Three areas that required changes to rules or at least warrants further discussion were identified. The first was test pooling at the lab. The WG recommended that test pooling should be prohibited when testing bulls from a known positive herd, when testing bulls for change of ownership, and testing bulls

from adjacent herds. The second item was a change to the definition of a virgin bull. The WG recommended that virgin bulls should only be recognized if a bull originates from a known pure bred or recognized registered breeder. The third item was a need to further identify cows that originate from a positive herd at the market. One potential change may be the requirement to disclose when changing ownership that females originated from a positive herd even up to 6 months after bulls are removed. In addition to these consensus items, the formulation of a future surveillance plan was suggested and will be discussed among TAHC staff.

Test prevalence and total herds per region are provided (see Table 1 and 2).

Table 1. Summary of Trichomoniasis test prevalence by year

Year	TVMDL Grand Total		Total Test Prevalence
	Total Bulls	Total Positive Bulls	
2013	5,272	122	2.3%
2014	31,613	777	2.5%
2015	41,162	592	1.4%
2016	48,420	493	1.0%
2017	48,126	443	0.9%
2018	26,988	336	1.2%

Table 2. Total positive herds by region

Region	# of Positive Herds	Positives	Total Bulls Tested	Percent Positive
Amarillo	14	30	231	13%
Beeville	13	73	331	22%
Laredo	1	2	21	10%
Rockdale	54	113	816	14%
Stephenville	45	136	531	26%
Sulphur Springs	34	66	328	20%
Total	161	420	2258	19%

C. Cattle Fever Tick: The Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program is a cooperative activity between TAHC and USDA-VS. The number of newly discovered infested premises in South Texas (in Permanent and Temporary Preventive Quarantine Areas) has decreased by 47 premises since this last commission meeting and currently there is 155 total infestations disclosed. The epidemiology group completed a tick review in January of the work conducted in Live Oak CPQA. In addition, the group completed a review in April of work conducted in a CPQA in Starr County. The reports were provided to the Executive Director and Cattle Fever Tick Program Director who subsequently released the areas. A new infestation was identified in the last few weeks in Webb County from cattle that were voluntarily scratched at a vat in South Texas. The cattle originated on a premises that is ~25 miles from other the Permanent Fever Tick Quarantine Zone. This new infestation resulted in a new CPQA and to date, a total of 4 premises are infested. In addition, a trace out premises in Jim Hogg County is

an exposed and Beeville Region is conducting surveillance in that area. Additional traces are in progress.

II. Swine

A. **Swine Brucellosis (SB)**: One infected herd was quarantined in Cass County on 12/7/2018.

B. **Pseudorabies (PRV)**: One herd in Live Oak County was quarantined on 2/6/2019. Test and removal is ongoing.

III. Equine

A. **Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA)**: TAHC continues to disclose new EIA cases among racing quarter horses when tested for movement. To date in 2018, 24 new cases were disclosed. In 2019, there has been 13 cases. In January, a group of positive horses were disclosed at a racing barn when Arkansas notified our staff of a potential trace. Once the entire herd of 22 was tested, there were 9 positive for EIA, 8 positive for piroplasmiasis and 7 of those were dual infected. In addition, a trace horse was positive for both diseases in Van Zandt County.

Besides the large group, a pleasure horse in Kimble County tested positive. The Kimble County premises previously had a few positive horses and local vector transmission seems likely. Based on test history, it appears there is a longer incubation period than expected.

B. **Equine Piroplasmiasis (EP)**: To date, there have been 16 EP cases disclosed in racing quarter horses including the horses mentioned above that were dually infected.

TAHC will work with the Texas Racing Commission and Agri-life Extension as well as other groups on some outreach strategies with veterinarians and the demographic groups that are associated with risky practices that lead to the spread of infectious diseases in horses.

C. **Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM)**: To date, there has been 2 horses which meet the case definition for EHM in Texas in April. Both horses were event horses and over 12 years of age. The 2019 cases are similar to the 2018 EHM cases in signalment and activity level of the horses involved and the virus again appears to be less virulent since local spread was not characterized.

IV. Poultry

A. **Avian Influenza**: No positive avian influenza cases have been disclosed in 2019 with the exception of one LPAI H5N2 disclosed in a blue-winged teal that was sampled in November and reported to TAHC on 5/8/2019.

B. **ILT**: Sulfur Springs Region has been following up on several breeder flocks ages 23-38 weeks that have had positive ILT results in Cass, Hopkins, and Wood Counties. Flocks have had mild to no symptoms related to these results which have been consistently near the PCR cut-off value for the disease (meaning very low amount of DNA present). Although the flocks are vaccinated with the Tissue-culture origin vaccines, some birds may be missed when applying the vaccine via eye drops. Another theory is since the results are near the cut-off, a potential cross reaction may be occurring. A follow-up discussion with the producer's head veterinarian and the vaccine company is being scheduled by Dr. Hayes.

C. **VND**: TAHC was notified on January 10, 2019 of an epidemiologically linked premises in Lubbock County to a newly identified positive commercial premises in California. The premises was linked due to being under the ownership although no birds moved between the two states. A testing plan was devised and all results were negative.

V. Sheep and Goats

A. **Scrapie:** The first positive scrapie case in Texas since 2008 was identified in the Panhandle in April 2016 and the flock and premises remains under quarantine.

VI. Cervids

A. **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD):** Five positive captive breeder herds have been disclosed since July 2015. Three herds are depopulated and two larger herds are managed under a herd plan.

In addition, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, and Texas Animal Health Commission provided a CWD Symposium to address the disease status and current research in diagnostic as well as management strategies to mitigate the disease in Texas. As the state epidemiologist, I had the opportunity to provide the epidemiology of the disease in the 5 captive herds as well as the status of the data collected in collaboration with researchers on the subject. The summary of CWD in Texas by species is provided in Table 3.

Table 3. CWD in Texas by Species and State Fiscal Year (Dec 3, 2018)

Fiscal Year	Free-ranging Mule Deer	Captive WTD	Free-ranging WTD	Capt Ex CWD Susceptible Species	Free-ranging Elk	Total by year
2012	2	0	0	0	0	2
2013	4	0	0	0	0	4
2014	0	0	0	0	0	0
2015	1	4	0	0	0	5
2016	2	21	0	0	0	23
2017	10	8	2	0	1	21
2018	5	69	4	2	0	80
2019	2	6	1	0	0	9
Total	26	108	7	2	1	144

TAHC continues to encourage exotic producers or owners to submit samples on any natural mortalities or hunter harvested exotics annually for CWD sampling. Since May 1, 2018 there has been at total of 215 samples from elk, red stag, or sika deer tested for CWD in Texas. This is a decrease of about 100 total sampled in the previous year (see Table 4 and Figure 3). In addition, Figure 4 was shared by TPWD and provides the numbers of exotics tested through TPWD check stations, road kills, or management areas. To note, the total number of permitted movements of exotics from other states into Texas is provided in Table 5.

Table 4. Exotic CWD Susceptible Species Surveillance since May 1, 2018

	Total	Elk	Red Deer	Sika
General Surveillance	155	46	74	35
Zone Surveillance	16	6	7	3
Positive Herds	44	27	15	2
Total	215	79	96	40

Figure 3. Exotic CWD testing since May 1, 2018

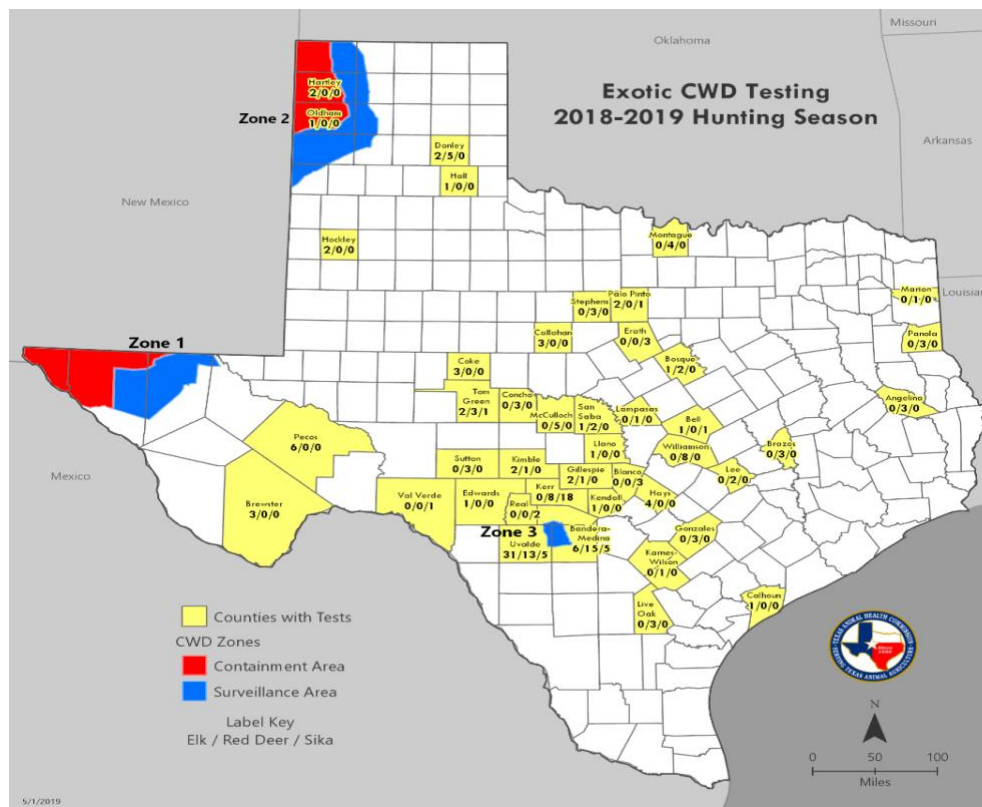


Figure 4. 2018-19 TPWD Exotic Sampling (courtesy of Alan Cain)

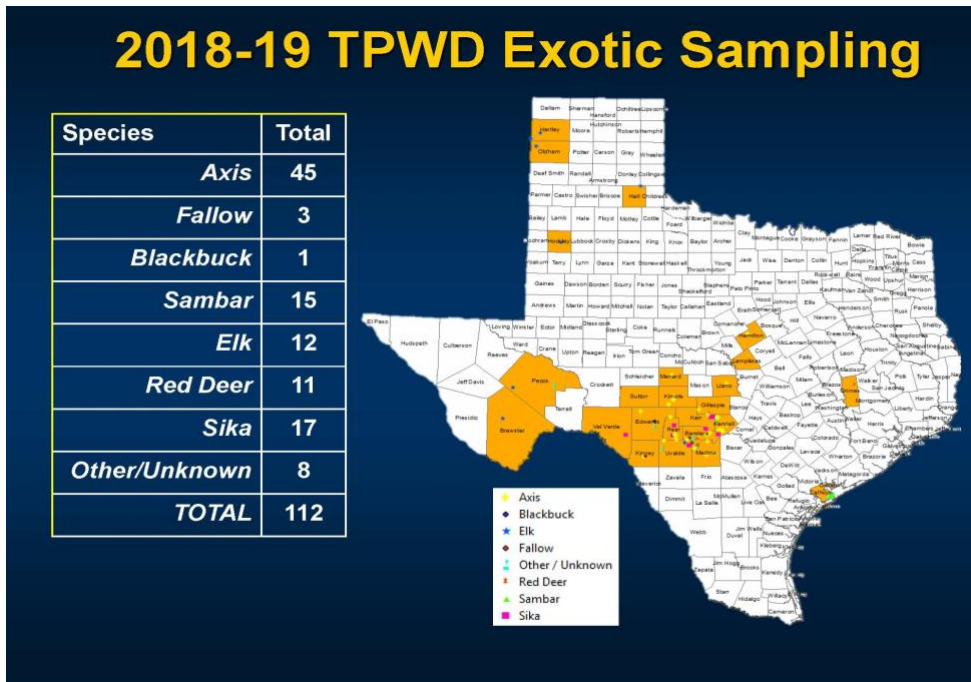


Table 5. Number of Exotic CWD Species entering Texas by Fiscal Year

Species	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Elk	106	142	104	134	121	102
Red Deer	114	81	172	239	273	347
Sika	0	11	12	0	14	9
Total	220	234	288	373	408	458

Elk Traces outs: In April, Texas was notified by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture of a newly identified positive CWD elk herd that was in the herd certification program for 20 years. Four Texas elk herds have received elk from this herd dating back to 2014 including herds in Collingsworth, Gillespie, Young, and Bosque counties. Individual herd plans are under development for each one of these premises which will include surveillance on elk, WTD, and/or Mule deer on the premises.

VII. Program Records Activities:

Table 6. Total CVIs received in TX by type

2018 Totals	Incoming	Outgoing	TX to TX
Paper	22353	18255	15895
17-30's	1205	15	2117
GVL	8896	13318	12035
CO/KS	1970	0	0

mCVI / AgView	3057	182	120
TAHC eCVI	0	1600	652
VSPS	1233	1351	417
New Planet Technologies	12	0	0
other state's electronic	236	0	0
Vet Sentry	37	0	0
<i>total electronic</i>	15441	16451	13224
<i>total paper</i>	23558	18270	18012

Figure 5. Total CVI use by state

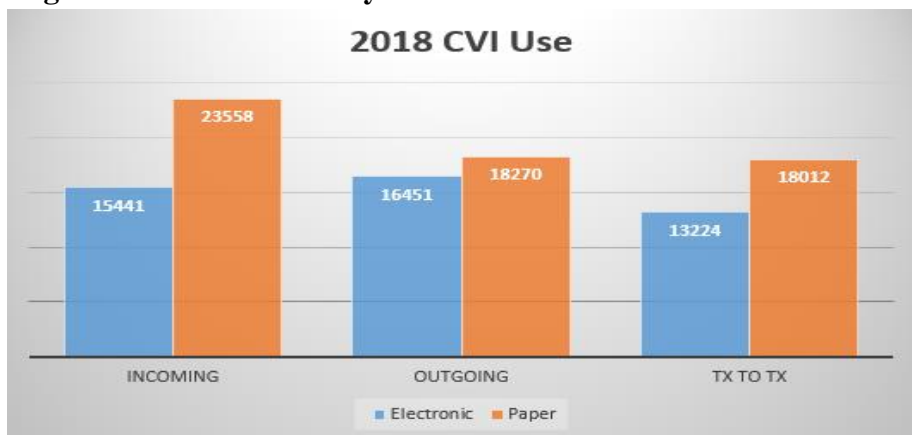
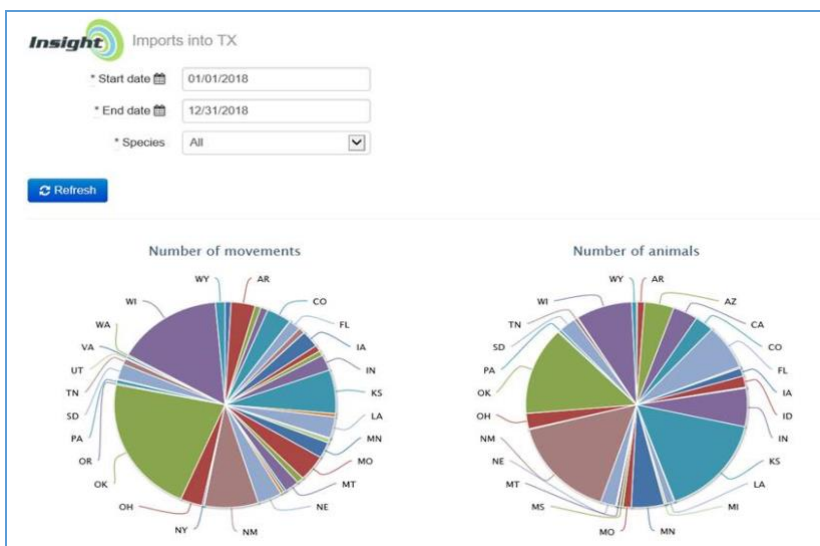
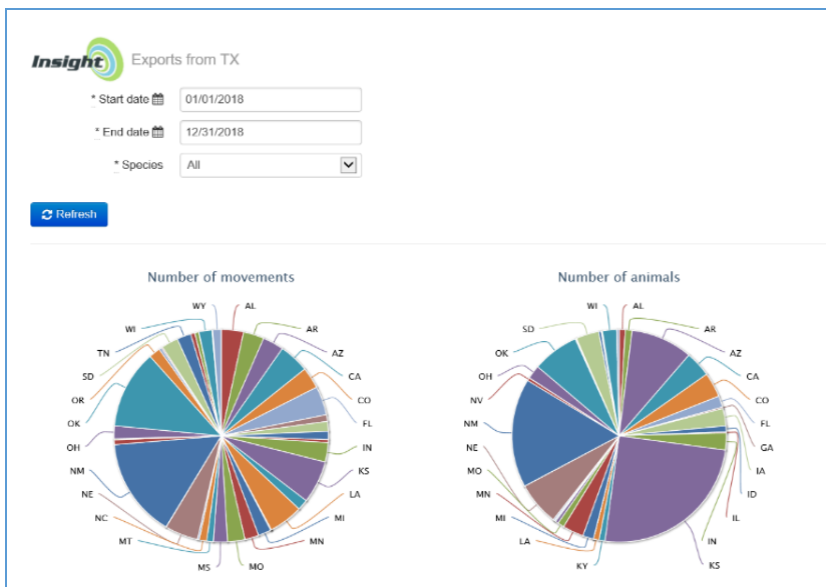


Figure 5 and 6. Proportions by state of imports and exports into Texas. The total imports were 6,001 movements of 213,889 animals, whereas the total exports was 3,726 movements of 133,405 animals.





Item 5 – Presentation of Animal Health Program Activities

Dr. Angela Daniels, Assistant Executive Director of Animal Health Programs, provided the following report:

- **Report Items**
 - **Field Staffing**
 - Numbers of FTEs filled vs Vacancies (117.8 filled, 23.5 vacant)
 - New positions in AM Region (2nd field vet, 4 inspectors assigned to TB work) and in LR Region (SI for tick work, 2nd field vet, converting Part Time inspectors to Full Time)
 - **Workshops**
 - Starting 2019 workshops with RD/SI July 23-24
 - Inspector workshops August 13-14 and 20-21
 - Administration Workshop August 27-28
 - **Inspections**
 - Feral swine inspections are monthly, 33-54% completed at last update, improved to 40-100%
 - Swine surveys - first quarter: 106 new searches, found 25 new producers, 216 total surveys, tested 23 herds totaling 288 head, 1 brucellosis herd, 3 Pseudorabies herds identified
 - Swine first point testing – first quarter: is done weekly at markets, breeding animals are tested if not accredited, 5208 swine sold, 796 sows/boars, 602 tested or 80%, improvement of 10%
 - **Authorized Personnel: 2112 Accredited Authorized Vets in Texas**
 - 753 Trich Certified
 - 173 CWD Antemortem Certified
 - 1207 CWD Postmortem Certified
 - 426 Accredited but not Authorized
 - **Emergency Management: USDA Screwworm Exercise June 18, High Plains ASF Tabletop July 17 and 18, Animal Emergency Summit July 30, SFS plans with TAMU vet students all summer, USDA ASF Exercise Sept 23-26**

- Field Manuals: CWD, EIA, AI, ILT are completed. Inspection Manuals: Livestock shipment, Feedyard, and Slaughter plant are completed
- Upcoming: Internal review for Sunset Review, review of calf ranch permit process, finish ASF activities, continue SFS activities, finish field and inspection manuals

Item 6 – Presentation of Legislative Updates

Mrs. Carolyn Beck presented a report on the upcoming Legislative Session:

Mrs. Beck provided a summary of legislative issues pertinent to TAHC and their current status in the legislative process.

Item 7 – Presentation of Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD)

Dr. Angela Daniels presented information about BVD and its impact on the cattle industry.

Item 8 – Presentation of USDA VS Update

Dr. Hallie Hasel presented an update of CFTEP and USDA VS activities.

Dr. Hasel presented in place of Dr. Pruitt who was not able to attend the meeting. She provided an update on various USDA VS disease reports and illustrated how ongoing responses are taxing VS and CFTEP personnel resources. To address this, emergency hiring strategies have been implemented, with the goal is to fill 300 positions by the end of the year. VS District 4 has hired a new District Director. On the CFTEP front, an existing vat has been charged for a new outbreak area, and personnel resources are taxed because of deployments of personnel to other disease responses. There is a third external review in process, and Omnibus funding projects are progressing. One project, with Arizona State University will be able to identify the genetic origins of fever ticks, which will assist in tracing and preventing future outbreaks.

Item 9 – Audit Sub-committee Report

Commissioner Leathers provided an overview of the audit sub-committee meeting.

A motion to APPROVE the actions of the Audit-subcommittee was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Vermedahl. The motion carried.

Item 10 – Administration/Budget Status Report

Mr. Steven Luna, Director of Finance, gave a report on the agency's budget status:

- **FY 2018**
 - Projected available funds by fiscal year end are \$18.1M. Year to Date funds available are \$17.1M
 - Anticipated Known Expenditures - \$15.7M

- Total anticipated/projected Funding less the total anticipated/projected known Expenditures:
 - Total Funding \$18,145,557
 - Total Expenditures \$15,776,529
 - Total Difference \$ 2,369,028
- Federal Funds: \$2.7M Spendable. Federal Funds Received Year to Date \$1.9M
- Fee Revenue is used solely on Field vehicle expenses:
 - Fuel, Maintenance/Repairs, Parts, Insurance, Lease
 - Projected Fee Revenues - \$520K. Fees Received Year to Date - \$359K
- FTEs (Full Time Equivalents – the State’s way of saying employees)
 - FY 2019 FTE cap – 220.2
 - As of April 23rd, 2018 –
 - 184.8 FTEs filled
 - 35.4 FTEs vacant
- The TAHC does not have Unexpended Balance (UB) Authority to move unspent appropriations from FY 2019 to FY 2020. However, certain unobligated Federal Funds may be moved forward.
 - The TAHC Financial Services (FS) requests authority for budgetary transfers for the FY 2019 budget as needed for the following:
 - Authority to move up to \$100,000 from Information Resources to Central Administration
 - At the next Commission meeting, the exact amounts will be reported.
 - In the previous commission, a purchase for an Eradication & Control Information System was approved for purchase by the TAHC. Due to the amount, FS requests the approval to exceed our Capital Budget Authority for this software, in the amount of \$269,000. These funds will come from the TAHC Field Appropriation. Current Capital Budget Authority for software is \$86,000.
 - The FS does not have the Fiscal Year 2020 or 2021 available for yet, as session has not ended. This will be presented at the next Commission meeting.

A motion to APPROVE the Administration/Budget Status Report was made by Commissioner Leathers and seconded by Commissioner Jordan. The motion carried.

Item 11 – Consideration of and Possible Action on Agency Contracts and Purchases

Mr. Freddy Garcia presented contracts and purchases for the consideration of the commissioners for FY 2019.

A motion to APPROVE the contracts and purchases request was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Leathers. The motion carried.

Item 12 – Consideration of and Possible Action on REGULATION PROPOSALS

Gene Snelson then discussed the following Regulation Proposals:

Each Regulation Adoption was reviewed and voted on individually.

- (a) Chapter 38, Trichomoniasis
 - (b) Chapter 44, Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD)
 - (c) Chapter 45, Reportable Disease (BVD)
 - (d) Chapter 49, Equine (Official Identification)
 - (e) Chapter 51, Entry Requirements
- a) The Texas Animal Health Commission (commission) proposes amendments to §38.6, concerning, “Official Trichomoniasis Tests’ in Chapter 38, which is entitled “Trichomoniasis”.

The Bovine Trichomoniasis (Trich) Working Group (TWG) had an annual review on April 23, 2019, to evaluate the effectiveness of current program. The group recommends that three changes be made in the control program.

The first is to ensure that samples pooled by approved laboratories are not authorized for official test purposes from Trich positive herds, herds identified as being adjacent to Trich positive herds and change of ownership. These need to be individually submitted samples so as to improve the quality of the test sample as well as to provide quicker identification for follow up on the positive animals. The second recommendation is to limit the use of a virgin certificate as an exemption to the test requirements. The proposed rule provides that sexually intact male cattle under 18 months of age, or verified by birth date listed on the breed registry papers, must be certified by the breeder on a virgin certificate in order for the animal to be sold without a test. Therefore, it is proposed that the use of virgin certificates be restricted to breeder animals that belong to a breed registry which maintains an official list of animals within a specific breed for which there is an association of unique identification for the cattle. The third recommendation is that a seller must provide written disclosure for female cattle that have been exposed or potentially exposed to a Trich positive bull within the previous 6 months at the time of sale. This provision will allow a buyer of female cattle to take this information into account for managing the newly purchased females for breeding purposes.

The motion to propose amendments to Chapter 38, Trichomoniasis, was made by Commissioner Vickers and seconded by Commissioner Edmiston. The motion carried.

The notice of the proposed regulation adoption will be published in the Texas Register with a 30 day comment period. Comments regarding the review proposals may be submitted to Amanda Bernhard, Texas Animal Health Commission, 2105 Kramer Lane, Austin, Texas 78758, by fax at (512) 719-0719 or by email at "comments@tahc.state.tx.us".

- b) The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) proposes a new Chapter 44 for the purpose of establishing a Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV) control program.

Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) is an economically impactful disease of cattle with a worldwide prevalence that is endemic in most states. The Bovine Viral Diarrhea virus, a Pestivirus, causes BVD. The major reservoir responsible for disease spread geographically is the persistent

infection syndrome (BVDV-PI) seen in calves. BVDV can result in impacts to the stocker and feedlot operations by causing immunosuppression and contributing to Bovine Respiratory Disease Complex, or “Shipping Fever”. This can lead to reduced feed conversion and weight gain, and increases in days on feed, morbidity, treatment cost, and mortality. In regards to cow-calf operations, all of these impacts may occur plus decreased conception rates, abortions, weak calves, and congenital defects. The dam can be transiently infected during pregnancy and her calf become infected during development in the womb. If this infection occurs between days 40-120 of the pregnancy, the calf’s immune system may not recognize the BVD Virus as foreign, and no natural immunity is produced in the calf. The calf becomes persistently infected (PI), and produces large numbers of the virus. The calf may display a normal appearance with immunosuppression or may result in acute death, poor performance, or mucosal disease.

Texas stakeholders have indicated interest in addressing the disposition of known animals positive for BVDV. The TAHC convened a group of stakeholders to discuss the negative implications of the disease on the Texas cattle industry. Stakeholder groups represented at the meeting included Texas Southwest Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA), Texas Cattle Feeder Association (TCFA), Livestock Marketing Association (LMA), Independent Cattlemen’s Association (ICA), Texas Farm Bureau (TFB), Texas Association of Dairymen (TAD), Texas A&M AgriLife, USDA, and Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL).

The motion to PROPOSE amendments to Chapter 44, Bovine Viral Diarrhea, was made by Commissioner Leathers and seconded by Commissioner White. The motion carried.

The notice of the proposed regulation adoption will be published in the Texas Register with a 30 day comment period. Comments regarding the review proposals may be submitted to Amanda Bernhard, Texas Animal Health Commission, 2105 Kramer Lane, Austin, Texas 78758, by fax at (512) 719-0719 or by email at "comments@tahc.state.tx.us".

- c) The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) proposes amendments to Chapter 45 concerning Reportable Diseases. The Texas Agriculture Code, Chapter 161, Section 161.101 requirements provide for the duty of a veterinarian, veterinary diagnostic laboratory or a person having care, custody, or control of an animal to report specified animal health diseases to the TAHC. The Commission has a specific list of diseases reportable in Chapter 45 of the Commission rules. This proposal is for the purpose of adding Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) as a reportable disease.

The motion to propose amendments to Chapter 45, Reportable Diseases (BVD), was made by Commissioner Vermedahl and seconded by Commissioner Jordan. The motion carried.

The notice of the proposed regulation adoption will be published in the Texas Register with a 30 day comment period. Comments regarding the review proposals may be submitted to Amanda Bernhard, Texas Animal Health Commission, 2105 Kramer Lane, Austin, Texas 78758, by fax at (512) 719-0719 or by email at "comments@tahc.state.tx.us".

- d) The Texas Animal Health Commission (Commission) proposes amendments to Chapter 49, entitled "Equine" The amendment is for Section 49.1. The purpose of these amendments is to incorporate forms of electronic identification as official identification for equine.

The Commission is participating with a consortium of other state animal health regulatory agencies for fulfilling the objectives and provisions for the interstate movement of equine using an Extended Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (EECVI). The consortium have established a framework in each participating state to enhance the coordination and cooperation regarding the allowance and documentation of interstate movement of equine. This amendment provides that for an official equine passport the official identification includes a microchip.

The motion to propose amendments to Chapter 49, Equine, was made by Commissioner Leathers and seconded by Commissioner Jordan. The motion carried.

The notice of the proposed regulation adoption will be published in the Texas Register with a 30 day comment period. Comments regarding the review proposals may be submitted to Amanda Bernhard, Texas Animal Health Commission, 2105 Kramer Lane, Austin, Texas 78758, by fax at (512) 719-0719 or by email at "comments@tahc.state.tx.us".

- e) The Texas Animal Health Commission (Commission) proposes amendments to Chapter 51, entitled "Entry Requirements." The amendment is for Section 51.13. The purpose of these amendments is to incorporate forms of electronic identification as official identification for equine moving on an equine passport.

The Commission is participating with a consortium of other state animal health regulatory agencies for fulfilling the objectives and provisions for the interstate movement of equine using an Extended Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (EECVI). The consortium have established a framework in each participating state to enhance the coordination and cooperation regarding the allowance and documentation of interstate movement of equine. This amendment provides that for an official equine passport the official identification includes a microchip.

The motion to propose amendments to Chapter 51, Entry Requirements (Equine), was made by Commissioner Leathers and seconded by Commissioner Edmiston. The motion carried.

The notice of the proposed regulation adoption will be published in the Texas Register with a 30 day comment period. Comments regarding the review proposals may be submitted to Amanda Bernhard, Texas Animal Health Commission, 2105 Kramer Lane, Austin, Texas 78758, by fax at (512) 719-0719 or by email at "comments@tahc.state.tx.us".

Item 13 – Consideration of and Possible Action on REGULATION ADOPTION

Gene Snelson then discussed the following Regulation Adoption:

- (a) Chapter 51, Entry Requirements

- (a) The Texas Animal Health Commission (Commission) ADOPTS amendments to Chapter 51, entitled "Entry Requirements." The amendment is for Section 51.9 (a) (1). The purpose of these

amendments to Chapter 51 is to remove the Brucellosis test requirement for farmed exotic cervidae to enter the state.

The motion to ADOPT amendments to Chapter 51, Entry Requirements, was made by Commissioner Oates and seconded by Commissioner Langdon. The motion carried.

Item 14 – Consideration of and Possible Action on RULE REVIEW ADOPTIONS

Gene Snelson then discussed the following RULE REVIEW ADOPTIONS:

Because the items propose the review of existing rules, and are not amendments or new rules, the items were discussed and then voted on as a group.

- (f) Chapter 38, Trichomoniasis
- (g) Chapter 41, Fever Ticks
- (h) Chapter 43, Tuberculosis
- (i) Chapter 47, Authorized Personnel
- (j) Chapter 50, Animal Disease Traceability
- (k) Chapter 51, Entry Requirements

The motion to ADOPT THE REVIEWS of Chapter 38, 41, 43, 47, 50, and 51, was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Staggs. The motion carried.

Item 15 – Closed Executive Session to Receive Legal Advice, Discuss Pending or Contemplated Litigation, and Settlement Offers as Permitted by Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

Item 16 – Closed Executive Session to Deliberate the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of Specific Commission Employees as Permitted by Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code

Item 17 – Reconvene to Consider Any Action Needed Following Closed Executive Session
No Executive Session was needed.

Item 18 – Public Comment/Recognition

Public comment in reference to regulation proposals, by Jesse Carver of the Livestock Marketing Association of Texas, was provided at the time of the proposal discussion. A full audio of the comments and the complete discussion that followed is available on the Texas Animal Health Commission website. <http://www.tahc.texas.gov/agency/meetings.html>

Item 19 – Set Date for 403rd Commission Meeting

The date for the 404th Commission Meeting was not set at the time of the meeting, but is tentatively scheduled for August 2019. Notice will be posted on the agency's website when the next Commission meeting date has been set.

Item 20 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:08PM.