



NEWS RELEASE

Texas Animal Health Commission

"Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893"

Dee Ellis, DVM, MPA • Executive Director

P.O. Box 12966 • Austin, Texas 78711 • (800) 550-8242 • www.tahc.texas.gov

For more information contact the Communications & PR Dept. at 512-719-0710 or at bonnie.ramirez@tahc.texas.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 15, 2013

TAHC Releases a Portion of the Fever Tick Temporary Quarantine Area in Starr County

AUSTIN - The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) is announcing the release of a portion of the remaining temporary preventative fever tick quarantine area (TPQA) in South Texas (Starr County), effective February 15, 2013.

The TAHC established a TPQA for portions of Starr County on July 3, 2007 following findings of cattle fever tick infestations on multiple premises. The size of the area currently being released in Starr County consists of 23,478.5 acres.

Previously released areas from the TPQA in this part of Starr County consisted of 42,111 acres released on November 2, 2011, followed by 45,969 acres released on December 21, 2011.

Cattle fever ticks are capable of carrying and transmitting '*Babesia*', a blood parasite deadly to cattle. The fever ticks are common in Mexico, but are not normally found in Texas.

The release of this portion of the Starr County temporary quarantine area (TPQA) rescinds all movement restrictions placed on the livestock and wildlife within the 23,478.5 acres. With the release of this area the Temporary Preventative Quarantine Area for Starr County is reduced to one remaining small area consisting of 33,024 acres. The area released is located west of FM 649 in the northwestern part of the county. (See the map below which shows the area released as well as the area that will remain under quarantine.) A full description of the remaining Starr County TPQA may be found at www.tahc.texas.gov.

"Releasing another area in the TPQA continues to confirm that the cooperative efforts between the USDA-Veterinary Services Tick Force, TAHC, the Texas cattle industry and local land owners, are working successfully," said Dr. Dee Ellis, TAHC Executive Director and State Veterinarian. "The TAHC and USDA will continue to work closely with local land owners to maintain an effective surveillance program so that fever ticks do not reoccur in the area."

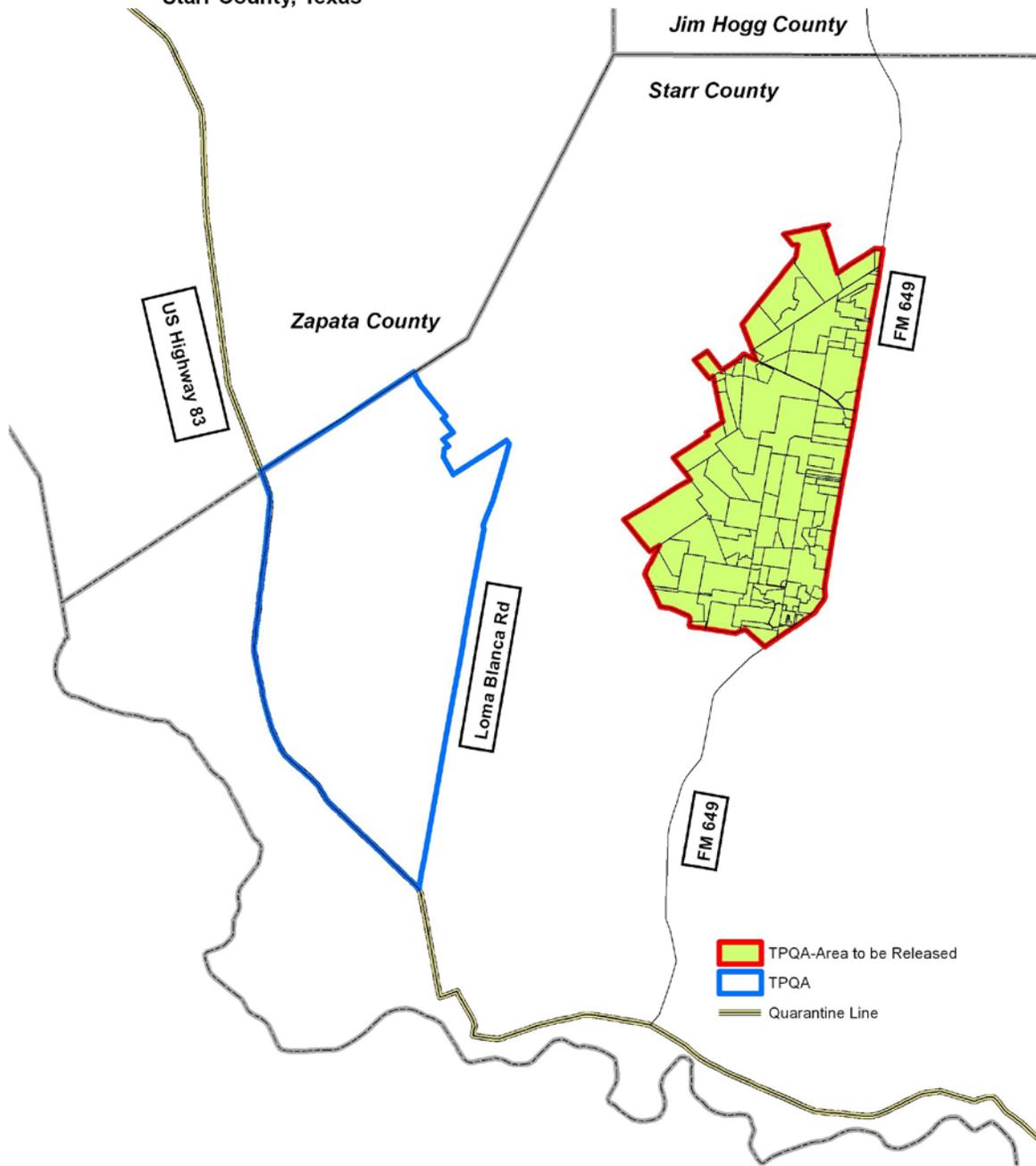
For more information about the cattle fever tick, visit the TAHC web site at http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal_health/fevertick/fevertick.html.

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC,) one of the oldest state regulatory agencies, was founded in 1893 with a mission to combat the fever ticks that plagued the Texas cattle industry. Today, the agency works to protect the health of all Texas livestock including: cattle, equine, sheep, goats, swine, poultry, exotic livestock and fowl.

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Temporary Preventative Quarantine Areas (TPQA)
Starr County, Texas



USDA-ARS Knippling-Bushland
U. S. Livestock Insects Research Laboratory
Kerrville, Texas



Prepared by Diane Kammlah
for APHIS VS
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1.5 0.75 0 1.5 Miles



VS
Veterinary Services
Safeguarding Animal Health
Cattle Fever Tick
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