



NEWS RELEASE

Texas Animal Health Commission

“Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 29, 2015

Hurricane Season Kicks off June 1

TAHC Advises Livestock and Pet Owners to Prepare Early

AUSTIN –The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the State’s lead agency for all animal issues during disasters, reminds Texans that the Atlantic hurricane season begins Monday, June 1. It continues through November 30. Tropical storms and hurricanes can impact animal health. Taking steps now to prepare for these events before they occur may prevent or minimize the impact on animal health and property damage.

Animals are particularly vulnerable to severe weather associated with tropical storms and hurricanes. Any tropical storm system can wreak havoc on the livelihood of farmers and ranchers. Proper planning for disasters, evacuations, or emergency situations is imperative.

A plan for animals should include the following:

- Copies of veterinary records and paperwork identifying ownership
- A secure container in which to store feed and equipment
- Maps of evacuation routes and sheltering locations
- A supply of feed (food) and essential medications to care for your animals

Jeff Turner, TAHC Emergency Management Director stated, “Tropical storm systems present one of the most severe threats to animals - and not just those along the coast. As these systems move inland, they bring torrential rains, flooding, high winds and tornados.”

“Behind every animal disaster is a human disaster due to the special relationship people develop with their animals, whether they are livestock or pets,” said Dr. T.R. Lansford, TAHC Assistant Executive Director.

For more information on how to protect your livestock when a disaster occurs, read the TAHC brochure, *Protecting Livestock When Disaster Strikes* at http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/news/brochures/TAHCBrochure_EmergencyManagement.pdf .

For more information on how to protect your companion, service, and assistive animals please visit:

- http://texasprepares.org/English/family_pets.shtml
- <http://www.prep4agthreats.org/>
- <http://www.ready.gov/caring-animals>

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