



NEWS RELEASE

Texas Animal Health Commission

"Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2017

Fever Ticks Confirmed on a New Webb-Zapata County Premises

Austin, TX – The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) confirmed the presence of cattle fever ticks on cattle originating from a premises located in portions of Webb and Zapata counties on April 26, 2017.

The fever ticks were found on two calves undergoing voluntary inspection and treatment at a dipping vat. The infested premises is quarantined and the TAHC is conducting an epidemiological investigation to determine the potential source of the fever ticks and destination of cattle moved from the premises.

A Control Purpose Quarantine Area (CPQA) has been established for systematic inspection of livestock and wildlife hosts in the portions of Webb and Zapata County surrounding the infested premises. TAHC and USDA personnel are contacting owners with premises located in the identified CPQA.

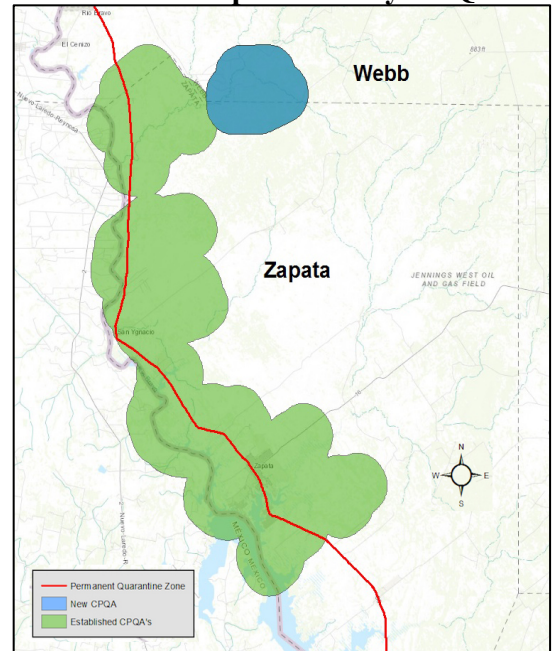
The infested premises is located approximately eight miles outside of the Permanent Fever Tick Quarantine Zone and approximately two miles from existing Webb and Zapata county CPQAs.

Livestock, exotic livestock, and wildlife hosts on premises located within the CPQA are subject to movement restrictions, systematic inspections and potential treatment in accordance with the regulations in [Title 4, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 41 Fever Ticks](#).

At present, there are approximately 1.4 million acres under various types of fever tick quarantine outside of the Permanent Quarantine Zone. To learn more about the quarantine areas, visit http://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/cattle/#ticks.

"When producers observe ticks on their livestock, it is imperative that they contact their local TAHC Livestock Inspector or region office, USDA Inspector, private veterinarian, or local Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office to arrange for collection and submission of tick samples to the TAHC laboratory in Austin," said Dr. Andy Schwartz, TAHC Executive Director. "This extra surveillance protects the Texas cattle industry."

Webb and Zapata County CPQAs



Cattle Fever ticks, known scientifically as *Rhipicephalus* (formerly *Boophilus*) *annulatus* and *R. microplus*, are a significant threat to the United States cattle industry. These ticks are capable of carrying the protozoa, or microscopic parasites, *Babesia bovis* or *B. bigemina*, which cause the disease commonly known as cattle fever. The *Babesia* organism attacks and destroys red blood cells, causing acute anemia, high fever, and enlargement of the spleen and liver, ultimately resulting in death for up to 90 percent of susceptible naive cattle.

For more information about cattle fever ticks, visit http://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/cattle/#ticks or http://www.tahc.texas.gov/news/brochures/TAHCBrochure_FeverTickFAQ.pdf for a list of frequently asked questions.

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