



For Immediate Release  
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## State Veterinarian Encourages Vaccination Against Anthrax

AUSTIN, TX – The State Veterinarian of Texas encourages livestock owners to have their animals vaccinated against anthrax this spring.

"Following last year's outbreak in Southwest Texas, we encourage livestock owners in the previously affected and surrounding area to consult with their veterinarian about vaccinating animals before warmer weather arrives." said Dr. Andy Schwartz, Texas State Veterinarian and Executive Director. "The anthrax vaccine is dependable and proven to protect livestock from the disease."

To be effective, the vaccine must be administered two to four weeks before a normal outbreak, usually in early spring. The vaccine is available for use in swine, equine, sheep, goats, and cattle. There is no approved vaccine for use in deer.

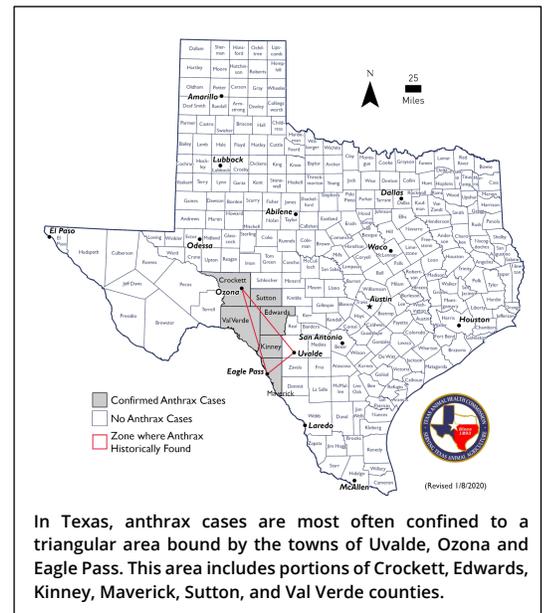
It is common to see an increase in anthrax cases after periods of wet, cool weather, followed by hot, dry conditions. At that time, animals ingest the anthrax bacteria when they consume contaminated grass and hay or inhale the spores. Outbreaks usually end when cooler weather arrives.

In 2019, the TAHC received 20 confirmations of anthrax in 5 Texas counties: Crockett, Edwards, Kinney, Maverick, Sutton, and Val Verde. In effort to gain better understanding of factors that may have contributed to the outbreak, the TAHC, USDA, and Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) created a survey for landowners in the affected area. To participate in the survey, please call 512-719-0716.

Anthrax is a bacterial disease caused by *Bacillus anthracis*; a spore-forming bacterium that can remain alive but dormant in the soil for several years. Upon becoming infected, animals typically display [symptoms of anthrax](#) within three to seven days. Once symptoms begin, death will usually occur within 48 hours. Anthrax is a reportable disease to the TAHC and anyone suspecting anthrax should notify a local veterinarian or the TAHC at 1-800-550- 8242.

For more information on anthrax visit the links below:

- [Animal Health](#)
- [2019 Anthrax Outbreak Summary](#)
- [Human Health](#)



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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).