



For Immediate Release

August 6, 2021

## TAHC Seeks Public Comment on Rule Proposals

Austin, TX - The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) held a regularly scheduled Commission meeting on June 29, 2021, at its headquarters in Austin.

The following rules were proposed during the meeting and are open for public comment from August 6 through September 5, 2021.

### **Chapter 33, Fees**

The proposed amendments update terms and recognize modern technologies for obtaining Certificates of Veterinary Inspection. Additionally, the TAHC proposed a new section, "Enforcement and Penalties," to clarify applicable penalties for violations. To view the rule proposal in its entirety, visit <https://www.sos.texas.gov/texreg/archive/August62021/Proposed%20Rules/4.AGRICULTURE.html#34>.

### **Chapter 40, Chronic Wasting Disease**

The proposed amendments to each section of this chapter seek to clarify, correct, and update information regarding Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management. Among other changes, the proposed rules clarify the commingling definition, address minimum mortality rate for herds enrolled in the Herd Certification Program (HCP), increase fence height, shorten certain reporting and sample submission timeframes, clarify HCP inspection activities, and establish or modify Containment and Surveillance Zone boundaries in response to confirmed CWD cases. Non-substantive grammatical and editorial changes are also proposed throughout the chapter for improved readability. Additionally, the TAHC proposed a new section, "Enforcement and Penalties," to clarify applicable penalties for violations. To view the rule proposal in its entirety, visit <https://www.sos.texas.gov/texreg/archive/August62021/Proposed%20Rules/4.AGRICULTURE.html#36>.

### **Chapter 45, Reportable Diseases**

The proposed amendments update the title of Chapter 45 to "Reportable and Actionable Diseases" pursuant to Senate Bill 705, which requires the TAHC to list, by rule, which diseases are reportable to and require control or eradication by the agency. Two new sections are proposed; "Reportable and Actionable Disease List," which improves the organization and transparency of the existing reportable disease list and updates all diseases and disease agents that require control and eradication, and "Enforcement and Penalties," which clarifies applicable penalties for violations. Additional amendments are proposed to update and clarify definitions and provide guidance on reporting diseases and agents of disease



transmission. To view the rule proposal in its entirety, visit <https://www.sos.texas.gov/texreg/archive/August62021/Proposed%20Rules/4.AGRICULTURE.html#38>.

### **Chapter 46, Export-Import Facilities**

The proposed rules would add a new Chapter 46, titled “Export-Import Facilities” in accordance with the enactment of House Bill 1958 which created Section 161.0445 of the Texas Agriculture Code. This chapter outlines reporting, recordkeeping, and movement requirements for an owner or person in charge of an export-import facility when an animal is refused from international trade. The chapter also clarifies the TAHC’s right of entry authority and applicable penalties for violations. To view the rule proposal in its entirety, visit <https://www.sos.texas.gov/texreg/archive/August62021/Proposed%20Rules/4.AGRICULTURE.html#40>.

### **Chapter 53, Market Regulation**

The proposed amendments to this chapter clarify, correct and update information, and remove specific brucellosis program references to address all relevant infectious, contagious, or communicable diseases. Non-substantive grammatical and editorial changes are also proposed throughout the chapter for improved readability and organization. Additionally, the TAHC proposed a new section, “Enforcement and Penalties,” to clarify applicable penalties for violations. To view the rule proposal in its entirety, visit <https://www.sos.texas.gov/texreg/archive/August62021/Proposed%20Rules/4.AGRICULTURE.html#42>.

### **Chapter 55, Swine**

The proposed amendments would clarify, correct, and bring information up to date regarding swine diseases, programs, and regulations pertaining to livestock markets and slaughter plants. These amendments would clarify and revise definitions, update section titles to reflect section content, and make grammatical and editorial changes for improved readability and organization. Additionally, the TAHC proposed a new section, “Enforcement and Penalties,” to clarify applicable penalties for violations. To view the rule proposal in its entirety, visit <https://www.sos.texas.gov/texreg/archive/August62021/Proposed%20Rules/4.AGRICULTURE.html#44>.

### **Chapter 59, General Practices and Procedures**

The proposed amendments would update the title of Section 59.5, “Open Records,” to “Public Information Act Requests.” The proposal would also clarify public information request procedures, and update content pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act. To view the rule proposal in its entirety, visit <https://www.sos.texas.gov/texreg/archive/August62021/Proposed%20Rules/4.AGRICULTURE.html#46>.



The deadline for comment submissions on the proposed amendments is September 5, 2021. Comments on the proposed chapters must be submitted in writing to Amanda Bernhard, Texas Animal Health Commission, 2105 Kramer Lane, Austin, Texas 78758, by fax at (512)-719-0719 or by email to [comments@tahc.texas.gov](mailto:comments@tahc.texas.gov).

Complete details of the rule proposals are also available on the TAHC website at <https://www.tahc.texas.gov/regs/proposals.html#proposals>.

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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).*