



For Immediate Release
December 22, 2022

TAHC Rule Proposals Open for Public Comment

Brucellosis, Chronic Wasting Disease, Reportable & Actionable Diseases, Entry Requirements

AUSTIN, TX – The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) held a regularly scheduled Commission meeting November 15, 2022, at its headquarters in Austin.

The following rules were proposed during the meeting and are open for comment from December 23, 2022 – January 22, 2023.

Chapter 35, Brucellosis

The proposed amendments to §35.4, Entry, Movement, and Change of Ownership, remove additional brucellosis entry requirements, for cattle, created by the TAHC in 2013 for sexually intact cattle entering Texas from the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) comprised of the states of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, established by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS).

Following nine years of testing without any detection of brucellosis-infected cattle, and in the absence of significant program deficits found during the USDA-APHIS-VS triennial review of the state brucellosis programs in the DSA states, the TAHC proposes the amendments to §35.4 to eliminate the additional entry requirements for cattle imported from the DSA.

Chapter 40, Chronic Wasting Disease

The proposed amendments to §40.6, CWD Movement Restriction Zones, clarify, correct, and update information regarding Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management. The proposed amendments would establish one new containment zone (CZ) 5, in Kimble County, expand existing CZ 2, in Hartley County, and CZ 3, in Medina County, create a new surveillance zone (SZ) 8, in Duval County, and modify existing SZ 5, in Kimble County, to either implement or improve surveillance efforts as part of the agency's effort to manage CWD.

To mitigate the risks and spread of CWD, the TAHC works in coordination and collaboration with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to address CWD. Each proposed zone aligns with zones developed in consultation with the TPWD.



Chapter 45, Reportable and Actionable Diseases

The proposed amendment to §45.3, Reportable and Actionable Disease List, adds Malignant Catarrhal Fever caused by a ruminant gamma herpesvirus to the list of reportable and actionable diseases and agents of disease transmission among multiple species to address the emerging threat to susceptible species in Texas. In addition, the list was reordered in alphabetical order.

Chapter 51, Entry Requirements

The proposed amendment to §51.2, General Requirements, adds that animals vaccinated or tested for any disease as required by the commission be individually officially identified on a certificate of veterinary inspection, instead of just individually identified. The amendment clarifies the type of individual animal identification that must be documented on a CVI, aligns TAHC rules with federal requirements in Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations §86.1, and improves animal disease traceability for animals moving into Texas.

The proposed amendments to §51.8, Cattle, increases the tuberculosis testing age for dairy cattle entering Texas from two to six months of age. Tuberculosis test requirements for dairy cattle six months of age or older adequately mitigates the risk of tuberculosis inadvertently moving into Texas.

Comments on the proposed rules 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.

Complete details of the rule proposals are available on the TAHC website at <https://www.tahc.texas.gov/reg/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.