About the Texas Animal Health Commission
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, including: cattle, swine, poultry, sheep, goats, equine, exotic fowl, and exotic livestock (exotic bovidae, cervidae and camelids).

The TAHC has legislative authority to regulate the prevention, control and/or eradication of specific contagious or infectious diseases in livestock and poultry. The TAHC staff also work to keep foreign and emerging animal diseases from becoming a major livestock and poultry health hazard.

The TAHC regulations are approved by 13 governor-appointed commissioners who serve six-year staggered terms. The commissioners meet as needed to study the regulatory needs of the agency, review public comments on proposed regulation changes and adopt new rules.

The day-to-day operations are run by the Executive Director, who is also the State Veterinarian, located at the TAHC headquarters in Austin, Texas. There are six region offices strategically located across the state. The TAHC staff work closely with veterinarians, ranchers, livestock markets, slaughter plants and other livestock industry stakeholders.

Veterinarians and Epidemiologists
Each of the six TAHC regions have a veterinarian that serves as the region director. They perform veterinary and administrative management duties.

TAHC epidemiologists are veterinarians who focus on disease transmission and eradication. They work to find the source of infectious diseases in animals, locate animals that may have been exposed to disease and determine the best course of action to reduce or eliminate the disease from the population.

Animal Health Inspectors
Livestock inspectors are the “hands-on” members of the TAHC. They work at livestock markets, feedlots, and slaughter plants, and test for diseases on local livestock producing premises. Their duties include collecting diagnostic samples from livestock and poultry, inspecting regulated facilities, monitoring movement restricted diseased or exposed animals, and performing road stops to ensure compliance with state entry requirements and agency regulations. Inspectors also play a critical role in responding to natural disaster events and disease outbreaks affecting livestock or poultry.

Emergency Management Personnel
The emergency management staff is responsible for planning for and coordinating response activities for disease outbreaks in livestock and poultry and natural disasters, like hurricanes and wildfires, impacting animals. The TAHC is designated as the state’s lead agency for all animal issues in emergencies, whether natural or man-made disasters, acts of agro-terrorism, or naturally occurring animal disease outbreaks. TAHC emergency response activities include working with local, state and federal officials, as well as the public. Emergency management personnel address evacuation and sheltering needs for Texas animals, direct field personnel in assisting affected veterinary practitioners in natural disasters, perform damage assessments and provide expertise and advice related to carcass disposal.

Legal and Compliance
Legal Services is responsible for providing counsel to TAHC’s commissioners, executive staff, departments, programs and regions. This department is responsible for enforcement of TAHC’s regulatory functions, including investigations, prosecutions and settlements, and is the liaison with the Texas Attorney General. Legal Services also manages all public information requests received by the Commission.

Laboratory Personnel
Laboratory technicians and microbiologists support several animal health programs by performing a variety of specialized tests on blood, milk and tissue samples. Laboratory staff also identify pests, including ticks. The TAHC laboratory is a recognized member of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN).

Executive and Administration
The executive and administration personnel provide the infrastructure for all agency functions. They make day-to-day decisions regarding operations and provide support for the rest of the agency.

Departments under this umbrella include:
- Human Resources
- Finance
- Purchasing
- Staff Services
- Communications
- Information Technology
- Program Records/Permits

*The following page includes a map with regional contact information*