



Texas Animal Health Commission

Who We Are

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."

Today, 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



Equine



Sheep & Goats



Exotic Fowl



Exotic Livestock

(bovines, cervids, and camelids)

Legislative Authority

TAHC has legislative authority to regulate the prevention, control and/or eradication of specific contagious or infectious diseases in livestock and poultry. TAHC strives to keep foreign and emerging animal diseases from becoming major livestock and poultry health hazards.

TAHC regulations are reviewed and approved by 13 commissioners, who are appointed by the governor. Each represents a stakeholder group and serves a six-year staggered term.

Serving Animal Ag Statewide

The agency has 6 regional offices and 1 laboratory strategically located in Texas, while executive operations are run from the central office in Austin. All TAHC staff work closely with veterinarians, ranchers, livestock markets, livestock and poultry producers, federal, state and local jurisdictions.

Veterinary Leadership

TAHC is led by the state veterinarian, who also serves as the executive director, and each TAHC region is led by a veterinarian, who serves as the region director. The agency employs additional veterinarians to assist with regional veterinary services and epidemiological needs.

Livestock Inspectors

Livestock inspectors are the "hands-on" members of the TAHC team. They perform inspections at livestock markets, feedlots, slaughter plants, flea markets, farms, ranches; they collect diagnostic samples; inspect regulated facilities; monitor movement restricted animals; and perform road stops to ensure compliance with state movement regulations. Additionally, inspectors play a critical role in responding to natural disaster events and animal disease outbreaks.

Legal & Compliance

The legal and compliance department enforces TAHC's regulatory functions including investigations, prosecutions and settlements. They also manage public information requests, serve as the liaison with the Texas Attorney General and provide counsel to the agency.

Emergency Management

TAHC and USDA work together to prevent and respond to foreign animal disease outbreaks, dangerous parasite or pest infestations and bioterrorism. The TAHC also assists in response during natural or man-made catastrophes, in accordance to established emergency response plans.

Executive & Administrative Support

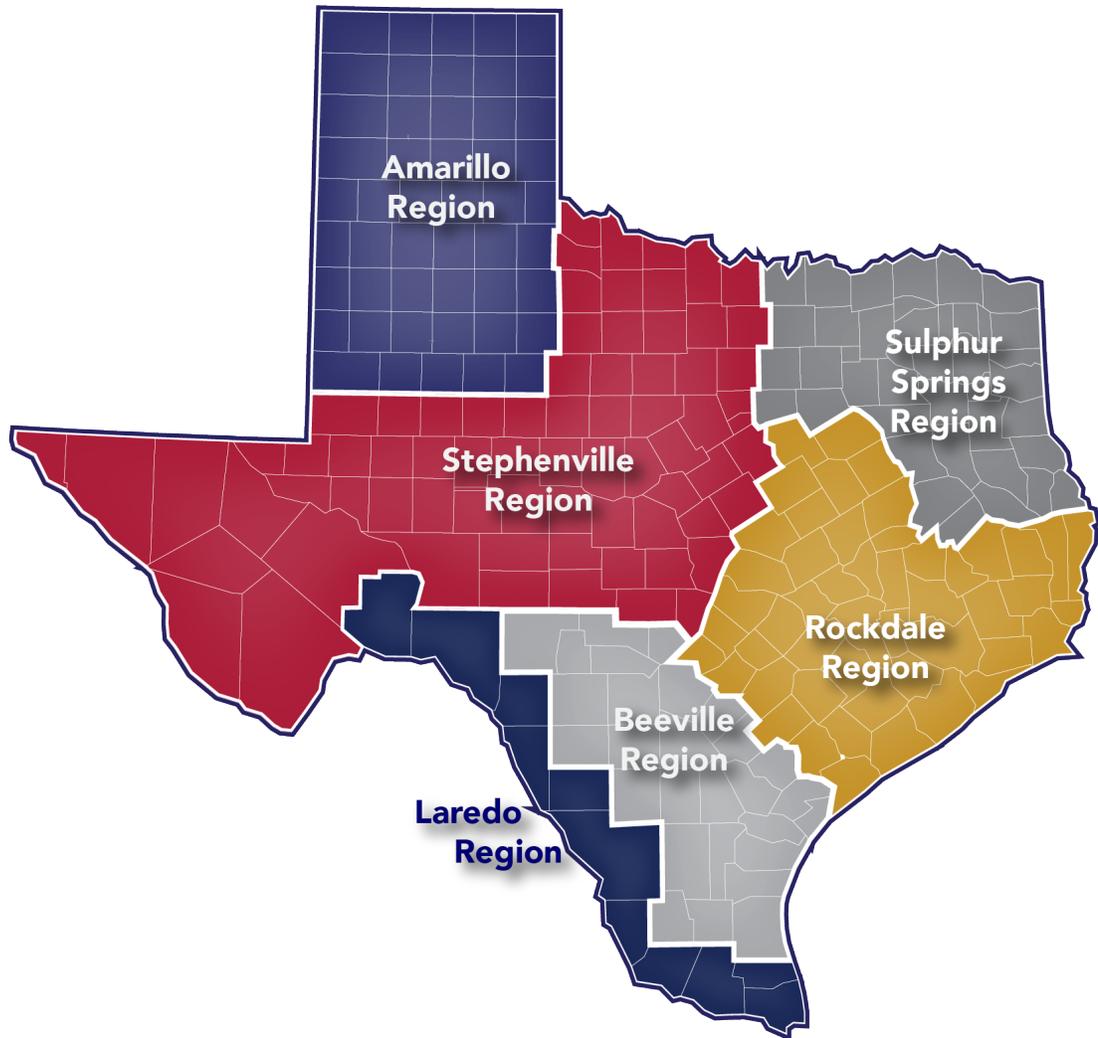
TAHC's executive and administrative personnel provide the infrastructure and support for all agency functions. Departments under this umbrella include: Information Technology, Human Resources, Finance, Communications, Purchasing, Program Records, Animal Disease Traceability, Authorized Personnel and Staff Services.

Texas State-Federal Laboratory

The Texas State-Federal Laboratory in Austin provides laboratory support for TAHC and USDA cooperative programs and surveillance activities. TAHC is proud to be part of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network. Laboratory services include a variety of tests for bovine tuberculosis, bovine and swine brucellosis and swine pseudorabies. The lab also identifies livestock ticks, mites and suspected screwworms.

The following page includes a map with regional contact information

TAHC Region Offices



Amarillo Region
3822 Business Park Drive
Amarillo, TX 79110
806-354-9335

Stephenville Region
942 Bluebonnet St.
Stephenville, Texas 76401
512-556-6277

Sulphur Springs Region
1400 College Street, Suite
133 Sulphur Springs, TX
75482
903-919-3748

Beeville Region
1824 South Washington
Street Beeville, TX 78102
361-358-3234

Laredo Region
500 East Mann Road Suite
B7
Laredo, TX 78041
956-568-5741

Rockdale Region
130 East Bell Street
Rockdale, TX 76567
512-446-2507

Information provided by the
Texas Animal Health Commission
P.O. Box 12966 - Austin, TX 78711-2966
www.tahc.texas.gov
800-550-8242

