

The Texas Animal Health Commission (commission) proposes amendments to §51.1, concerning Definitions, and §51.8, concerning Cattle, in Chapter 51, which is entitled “Entry Requirements”. The purpose of the amendments is to address Bovine Trichomoniasis requirements to enter the state.

Bovine Trichomoniasis (Trich) is a venereal disease of cattle. The Trich organism causes abortion and extended calving seasons. Bulls will remain persistently infected and spread infection from cow to cow.

The Bovine Trich Working Group (TWG) met on April 11, 2017, to evaluate the effectiveness of current Trichomoniasis rules. The TWG discussed the program overview to date, the management of infected herds, entry requirements, and the need for possible revisions to the program.

The TWG recommended a revision to the commission’s current entry requirement regarding the use of a virgin certificate for breeding bulls between 12 months and 18 months of age. Commission rules generally require that bulls 12 months of age or older have a negative Trich test within 60 days prior to entering Texas. However, bulls that are 18 months of age or younger and receive a virgin status certificate are exempt from this testing requirement. The TWG is concerned that this exemption provides an opportunity for unknown status bulls that are infected with Trich to enter the state. As such, the TWG recommended that the virgin status certification exemption be removed from the commission’s rule.

The TWG recommended adding a testing requirement exemption for bulls that are 12 months of age or older, receive a permit from the commission prior to entry, and are moved directly to a federally approved livestock market. The certificate of veterinary inspection for the bull must include the entry permit number and a statement that the bull must be Trich tested or sold for slaughter. This recommendations is consistent with intrastate requirements for bulls being sold at markets. As such, the bulls entering under this exemption would be tracked using the existing infrastructure, which minimizes the risk of Trichomoniasis being spread by these bulls. For clarity, the commission is defining “directly”, “federally approved market” and “Trichomoniasis” in the proposed rule.

The TWG also recommended the commission prohibit the entry of female cattle that originated from a known Trichomoniasis positive herd, or were exposed to known Trichomoniasis positive bull unless the animal is officially identified, obtains a commission issued permit and is moved directly to an approved slaughtering establishment, and accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection stating the animal is Trichomoniasis exposed.

FISCAL NOTE

Ms. Larissa Schmidt, Chief of Staff, Texas Animal Health Commission, has determined for the first five-year period the rules are in effect, there will be no significant additional fiscal implications for state or local government as a result of enforcing or administering

the rules. An Economic Impact Statement (EIS) is required if the proposed rule has an adverse economic effect on small businesses. The agency has evaluated the requirements and determined that there is not an adverse economic impact. Implementation of this rule poses no significant fiscal impact on small or micro-businesses.

PUBLIC BENEFIT NOTE

Ms. Schmidt has also determined that for each year of the first five years the rules are in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of enforcing the rules will be to protect Texas' cattle industry from exposure to Trichomoniasis and reduce the disease risks of male and female cattle entering the state.

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT STATEMENT

In accordance with Texas Government Code §2001.022, this agency has determined that the proposed rules will not impact local economies and, therefore, did not file a request for a local employment impact statement with the Texas Workforce Commission.

TAKINGS ASSESSMENT

The agency has determined that the proposed governmental action will not affect private real property. The proposed amendments are an activity related to the handling of animals, including requirements for testing, movement, inspection, identification, reporting of disease, and treatment, in accordance with Title 4 TAC, §59.7, and are, therefore, compliant with the Private Real Property Preservation Act in Government Code, Chapter 2007.

REQUEST FOR COMMENT

Comments regarding the proposal may be submitted to Amanda Bernhard, Texas Animal Health Commission, 2105 Kramer Lane, Austin, Texas 78758, by fax at (512) 719-0719 or by email at "comments@tahc.texas.gov".

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The amendments are proposed under the following statutory authority as found in Chapter 161 of the Texas Agriculture Code. The commission is vested by statute, §161.041(a), with the requirement to protect all livestock, domestic animals, and domestic fowl from disease. The commission is authorized, through §161.041(b), to act to eradicate or control any disease or agent of transmission for any disease that affects livestock.

Pursuant to §161.054, entitled "Regulation of Movement of Animals", the commission, by rule, may regulate the movement of animals. The commission may restrict the intrastate movement of animals even though the movement of the animals is unrestricted in interstate or international commerce.

Pursuant to §161.048, entitled “Inspection of Shipment of Animals or Animal Products”, the commission may require testing, vaccination, or another epidemiologically sound procedure before or after animals are moved. An agent of the commission is entitled to stop and inspect a shipment of animals or animal products being transported in this state in order to determine if the shipment originated from a quarantined area or herd; or determine if the shipment presents a danger to the public health or livestock industry through insect infestation or through a communicable or noncommunicable disease.

Pursuant to §161.005, entitled “Commission Written Instruments”, the commission may authorize the executive director or another employee to sign written instruments on behalf of the commission. A written instrument, including a quarantine or written notice signed under that authority, has the same force and effect as if signed by the entire commission.

Pursuant to §161.044, entitled “Regulation of Livestock Movement from Stockyards or Railway Shipping Pens”, the commission may regulate the movement of livestock out of stockyards or railway shipping pens and require treatment or certification of those animals as reasonably necessary to protect against communicable diseases.

Pursuant to §161.046, entitled “Rules”, the commission may adopt rules as necessary for the administration and enforcement of this chapter.

Pursuant to §161.049, entitled “Dealer Records”, the commission may require a livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl dealer to maintain records of all livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl bought and sold by the dealer.

Pursuant to §161.061, entitled “Establishment”, if the commission determines that a disease listed in Section 161.041 of this code or an agency of transmission of one of those diseases exists in a place in this state or among livestock, exotic livestock, domestic animals, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl, or that a place in this state or livestock, exotic livestock, domestic animals, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl are exposed to one of those diseases or an agency of transmission of one of those diseases, the commission shall establish a quarantine on the affected animals or on the affected place.

Pursuant to §161.081, entitled “Importation of Animals”, the commission by rule may regulate the movement, including movement by a railroad company or other common carrier, of livestock, exotic livestock, domestic animals, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl into this state from another state, territory, or country.

Pursuant to §161.112, entitled “Rules”, the commission shall adopt rules relating to the movement of livestock, exotic livestock, and exotic fowl from livestock markets and shall require tests, immunization, and dipping of those livestock as necessary to protect against the spread of communicable diseases.

Pursuant to §161.113, entitled “Testing or Treatment of Livestock”, if the commission requires testing or vaccination under this subchapter, the testing or vaccination must be performed by an accredited veterinarian or qualified person authorized by the commission. The state may not be required to pay the cost of fees charged for the testing

or vaccination. And if the commission requires the dipping of livestock under this subchapter, the livestock shall be submerged in a vat, sprayed, or treated in another sanitary manner prescribed by rule of the commission.

Pursuant to §161.114, entitled “Inspection of Livestock”, an authorized inspector may examine livestock consigned to and delivered on the premises of a livestock market before the livestock are offered for sale. If the inspector considers it necessary, the inspector may have an animal tested or vaccinated. Any testing or vaccination must occur before the animal is removed from the livestock market.

No other statutes, articles or codes are affected by the proposal.

51.1. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) Accredited veterinarian--A licensed veterinarian who is approved to perform specified functions required by cooperative state-federal disease control and eradication programs pursuant to Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 160 and 161.

(2) Animal--Includes livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, and exotic fowl.

(3) Assembly--Boarding stables, boarding pastures, breeding farms, parades, rodeos, roping events, trail rides, and training stables.

(4) Certificate of veterinary inspection--A document signed by an accredited veterinarian that shows the livestock, poultry, exotic livestock, or exotic fowl listed were inspected and subjected to tests, immunizations, and treatment as required by the commission. Certificates are valid for 30 days for all species.

(5) Cervidae--Deer, elk, moose, caribou and related species in the cervidae family, raised under confinement or agricultural conditions for the production of meat or other agricultural products or for sport or exhibition, and free-ranging cervidae when they are captured for any purpose.

(6) Commission--The Texas Animal Health Commission.

(7) Commuter Flock--A National Poultry Improvement Plan (pullorum-typhoid clean or equivalent) flock in good standing with operations in participating states that are under single ownership or management control whose normal operations require interstate movement of hatching eggs and/or baby poultry without change of ownership for purposes of hatching, feeding, rearing or breeding. The owner or representative of the company owning the flock and chief animal health officials of participating states of origin and destination must have entered into a signed “Commuter Poultry Flock Agreement.”

(8) Commuter Cattle Herd--A herd of cattle located in two or more states that is documented as a valid ranching operation by those states in which the herd is located and which requires movement of cattle interstate from a farm of origin or returned interstate to a farm of origin in the course of normal ranching operations, without change of ownership, directly to or from another premise owned, leased, or rented by the same individual. An application for "commuter herd" status must be signed by the owner and approved by the states in which the herd is located. This status will continue until canceled by the owner or one of the signatory states.

(9) Commuter Swine Herd--A swine herd located in two or more states that is documented as a valid ranching operation by those states in which the herd is located and which requires movement of swine interstate from a farm of origin or returned interstate to a farm of origin in the course of normal ranching operations, without change of ownership, directly to or from another premise owned, leased, or rented by the same individual. An application for "commuter herd" status must be signed by the owner and approved by the states in which the herd is located. This status will continue until canceled by the owner or one of the signatory states.

(10) Directly--Moved in a means of conveyance, without stopping to unload while en route, except for stops of less than 24 hours to feed, water or rest the animals being moved, and with no commingling of animals at such stops.

(11) (10) Equine interstate passport--A document signed by an accredited veterinarian that shows the equine listed were inspected, subjected to tests, immunizations and treatment as required by the issuing state animal health agency, and contains a description of the equine listed. The passport is valid for six months when accompanied by proof of an official negative EIA test within the previous six months. Permanent individual animal identification in the form of a lip tattoo, brand or electronic implant is required for all equine approved for the equine interstate passport. This document is valid for equine entering from any state that has entered into a written agreement to reciprocate with Texas.

(12) (11) Equine identification card--A document signed by the owner and a brand inspector or authorized state animal regulatory agency representative that lists the animal's name and description and indicates the location of all identifying marks or brands. This document is valid for equine entering from any state which has entered into a written agreement to reciprocate with Texas.

(13) (12) Exotic livestock--Grass-eating or plant-eating, single-hooved or cloven-hooved mammals that are not indigenous to this state and are known as ungulates, including animals from the swine, horse, tapir, rhinoceros, elephant, deer, and antelope families.

(14) (13) Exotic fowl--Any avian species that is not indigenous to this state. The term includes ratites.

(15) Federally Approved Livestock Market--A livestock market under State or Federal veterinary supervision where livestock are assembled and has been approved under Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulation, Part 71, Section 71.20.

(16) (14) Interstate show--A show, fair, or exhibition that permits livestock and poultry from other states to enter for show or exhibition and be held in common facilities with Texas origin livestock and poultry of the same species.

(17) (15) Livestock--Cattle, horses, mules, asses, sheep, goats, and hogs.

(18) (16) Owner-shipper statement--A statement signed by the owner or shipper of the livestock being moved stating the location from which the animals are moved interstate; the destination of the animals; the number of the animals covered by the statement; the species of the animal covered; the name and address of the shipper; and the identification of each animal as required by the commission or the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

(19) (17) Permit--A document recognized by the commission with specified conditions relative to movement, testing and vaccinating of animals which is required to accompany the animals entering, leaving or moving within the State of Texas.

(A) “E” permit--Premovement authorization for entry of animals into the state by the commission. The “E” permit states the conditions under which movement may be made, and will provide any appropriate restrictions and test requirements after arrival. The permit is valid for 15 days.

(B) VS 1-27 (VS Form 1-27)--A premovement authorization for movement of animals to restricted designations.

(20) ~~(18)~~ Purebred registry association--A swine breed association formed and perpetuated for the maintenance of records of purebreeding of swine species for a specific breed whose characteristics are set forth in constitutions, by-laws, and other rules of the association.

(21) ~~(19)~~ Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID)--Official individual animal identification with an identification device that utilizes radio frequency technology. The RFID devices include ear tags, boluses, implants (injected), and tag attachments (transponders that work in concert with ear tags).

(22) ~~(20)~~ Sponsor--An owner or person in charge of an exhibition, show or fair.

(23) Trichomoniasis--A venereal disease of cattle caused by the organism Tritrichomonas foetus.

51.8. Cattle.

(a) Brucellosis requirements. All cattle must meet the requirements contained in §35.4 of this title (relating to Entry, Movement, and Change of Ownership). Cattle which are parturient, postparturient or 18 months of age and over (as evidenced by the loss of the first pair of temporary incisor teeth), except steers and spayed heifers being shipped to a feedyard prior to slaughter, shall be officially individually identified with a permanent identification device prior to leaving the state of origin.

(b) Tuberculosis requirements.

(1) All beef cattle, bison and sexually neutered dairy cattle originating from a federally recognized accredited tuberculosis free state, or zone, as provided by Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 77, Section 77.8, or from a tuberculosis accredited herd are exempt from tuberculosis testing requirements.

(2) All beef cattle, bison and sexually neutered dairy cattle originating from a state or zone with anything less than a tuberculosis free state status and having an identified wildlife reservoir for tuberculosis or that have never been declared free from tuberculosis shall be tested negative for tuberculosis in accordance with the appropriate status requirements as contained in Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 77, Sections 77.10 through 77.19, prior to entry with results of this test recorded on the certificate of veterinary inspection. All beef cattle, bison and sexually neutered dairy cattle originating from any other states or zones with anything less than free from tuberculosis shall be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection.

(3) All dairy breed animals, including steers and spayed heifers, shall be officially identified prior to entry into the state. All sexually intact dairy cattle, that are two months of age or older may enter provided that they are officially identified, and are accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection stating that they were negative to an official tuberculosis test conducted within 60 days prior to the date of entry. All sexually intact dairy cattle that are less than two months of age must obtain an entry permit from the Commission, as provided in §51.2(a) of this chapter (relating to General Requirements),

to a designated facility where the animals will be held until they are tested negative at the age of two months. Animals which originate from a tuberculosis accredited herd, and/or animals moving directly to an approved slaughtering establishment are exempt from the test requirement. Dairy cattle delivered to an approved feedlot for feeding for slaughter by the owner or consigned there and accompanied by certificate of veterinary inspection with an entry permit issued by the commission are exempt from testing unless from a restricted herd. In addition, all sexually intact dairy cattle originating from a state or area with anything less than a tuberculosis free state status shall be tested negative for tuberculosis in accordance with the appropriate requirements for states or zones with a status as provided by Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 77, Sections 77.10 through 77.19, for that status, prior to entry with results of the test recorded on the certificate of veterinary inspection.

(4) All "M" brand steers, which are recognized as potential rodeo and/or roping stock, being imported into Texas from another state shall obtain a permit, prior to entry into the state, in accordance with §51.2(a) of this chapter and be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection which indicates that the animal(s) were tested negative for tuberculosis within 12 months prior to entry into the state.

(5) All other cattle from foreign countries, foreign states, or areas within foreign countries defined by the Commission, with comparable tuberculosis status, would enter by meeting the requirements for a state with similar status as stated in paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) of this subsection.

(6) All sexually intact cattle, from any foreign country or part thereof with no recognized comparable Tuberculosis status.

(A) To be held for purposes other than for immediate slaughter or feeding for slaughter in an approved feedyard or approved pen, must be tested at the port of entry into Texas under the supervision of the port veterinarian, and shall be under quarantine on the first premise of destination in Texas pending a negative tuberculosis test no earlier than 120 days and no later than 180 days after arrival. The test will be performed by a veterinarian employed by the commission or APHIS/VS.

(B) When destined for feeding for slaughter in an approved feedyard, cattle must be tested at the port-of-entry into Texas under the supervision of the port veterinarian; moved directly to the approved feedyard only in sealed trucks; accompanied with a VS 1-27 permit issued by commission or USDA personnel; and "S" branded prior to or upon arrival at the feedlot.

(7) Cattle originating from Mexico.

(A) All sexually intact cattle shall meet the requirements provided for in paragraph (6) of this subsection.

(B) Steers and spayed heifers from Mexico shall meet the federal importation requirements as provided in Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 93, Section 93.427, regarding importation of cattle from Mexico. In addition to the federal requirements, steers and spayed heifers must be moved under permit to an approved pasture, approved feedlot, or approved pens.

(C) Cattle utilized as rodeo and/or roping stock shall meet the requirements set out in paragraph (6)(A) of this subsection and the applicable requirement listed in clauses (i) and (ii) of this subparagraph:

(i) All sexually intact cattle shall be retested annually for tuberculosis at the owner's expense and the test records shall be maintained with the animal and available for review.

(ii) All sexually neutered horned cattle imported from Mexico are recognized as potential rodeo and/or roping stock and must:

(I) be tested for tuberculosis at the port of entry under the supervision of the USDA port veterinarian;

(II) be moved by permit to a premise of destination and remain under Hold Order, which restricts movement, until permanently identified by methods approved by the commission, and retested for tuberculosis between 60 and 120 days after entry at the owner's expense. The cattle may be allowed movement to and from events/activities in which commingling with other cattle will not occur and with specific permission by the TAHC until confirmation of the negative post entry retest for tuberculosis can be conducted; and

(III) be retested for tuberculosis annually at the owner's expense and the test records shall be maintained with the animal and available for review.

(D) Regardless of reproductive status, test history, or Mexican State of origin, Holstein and Holstein cross cattle are prohibited from entering Texas.

(E) All cattle moved into Texas from Mexico shall be identified with an "M" brand prior to moving to a destination in Texas.

(F) A copy of the certificate issued by an authorized inspector of the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, for the movement of Mexico cattle into Texas must accompany such animals to their final destination in Texas, or so long as they are moving through Texas.

(G) Any certificate, form, record, report, or chart issued by an accredited veterinarian for cattle that originate from Mexico, have resided in Mexico or are "M" branded shall include the statement, "the cattle represented on this document are of Mexican origin."

(c) Trichomoniasis Requirements:

(1) A breeding bull that is 12 months of age or older may enter the state provided the bull is officially identified as provided by §38.1 of this title (relating to Definitions) and accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection stating the bull tested negative for Trichomoniasis with an official Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test as provided by §38.6 of this title (relating to Official Trichomoniasis Tests) within 60 days prior to the date of entry.

(2) A breeding bull that is 12 months of age or older is exempt from the testing requirement of paragraph (1) of this subsection if the bull meets one of the following requirements:

(A) The bull enters on and is moved by a permit, issued prior to entry, from the commission, in accordance with §51.2(a) of this chapter, for the purpose of participating at a fair, show, exhibition or rodeo, remains in the state for less than 60 days from the date of entry, and is isolated from female cattle at all times. The certificate of veterinary inspection shall include the entry permit number. A bull that is in this state on or after the 60th day from the date of entry shall test negative for Trichomoniasis with an official RT-PCR test.

(B) The bull enters on and is moved by a permit, issued prior to entry, from the commission, in accordance with §51.2(a) of this chapter, directly to a feedyard that has executed a Trichomoniasis Certified Facility Agreement. The certificate of veterinary inspection shall include the entry permit number.

(C) The bull enters on and is moved by a permit, issued prior to entry from the commission, in accordance with §51.2(a) of this chapter, directly to a facility that tests the

gain and feed conversion of cattle (bull test station) that isolates the bull from female cattle at all times. The certificate of veterinary inspection shall include the entry permit number. The bull shall return to the out-of-state premises destination directly from the bull test station or test negative for Trichomoniasis with an official RT-PCR test.

(D) A Texas bull that is enrolled in an out-of-state facility that tests the gain and feed conversion of cattle (bull test station) and isolates the bull from female cattle at all times may move directly to the Texas premises of origin. The certificate of veterinary inspection shall state the bull was enrolled in a bull test station and was isolated from female cattle.

(E) The bull is enrolled at an out-of-state semen collection facility, which complies with Certified Semen Services Minimum Requirements for Disease Control of Semen Produced for Artificial Insemination, that isolates the bull from female cattle at all times and the bull is moved directly from a semen collection facility into the state. The certificate of veterinary inspection shall state the bull was enrolled in a semen collection facility and was isolated from female cattle.

(F) The bull originates from a herd that is enrolled in a Certified Trichomoniasis Free Herd Program or other certification program that is substantially similar, as determined by the Executive Director, to the program requirements provided by §38.8 of this title (relating to Herd Certification Program--Breeding Bulls).

(G) The bull enters on and is moved by a permit, issued prior to entry from the commission, in accordance with §51.2(a) of this chapter, directly to a federally approved livestock market that isolates the bull from female cattle at all times and the bull is Trichomoniasis tested as required by §38.2 of this title (relating to General Requirements). The certificate of veterinary inspection shall include the entry permit number. The bull is 18 months of age or younger and accompanied by a commission or any state approved Trichomoniasis virgin status certificate and a certificate of veterinary inspection that includes a statement reflecting the bull's virgin status.

(3) Female cattle 12 months of age or older that originate from a known Trichomoniasis positive herd, or exposed to a known Trichomoniasis positive bull, may not enter the state unless the animal is officially identified and enters on and is moved by a permit, issued prior to entry from the commission, in accordance with §51.2(a) of this chapter, directly to an approved slaughtering establishment. The certificate of veterinary inspection shall include the entry permit number and a statement that the animal is Trichomoniasis exposed.

(4) (3) All breeding bulls entering from a foreign country shall enter on and be moved by a permit, issued prior to entry from the commission, in accordance with §51.2(a) of this chapter, to a premises of destination in Texas and shall be placed under Hold Order and officially tested for Trichomoniasis with not less than three official culture tests conducted not less than seven days apart, or an official RT-PCR test, within 30 days after entry into the state. All bulls shall be isolated from female cattle at all times until tested negative for Trichomoniasis. The Hold Order shall not be released until all other post entry disease testing requirements have been completed. All bulls tested for Trichomoniasis shall be officially identified at the time the initial test sample is collected. The identification shall be recorded on the test documents.