



NEWS RELEASE

Texas Animal Health Commission
"Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893"
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 24, 2013

TAHC Proposes Amendments to Approved Personnel, Animal Disease Traceability, Trichomoniasis and Other Rules; Seeks Comments

AUSTIN – The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) recently held a regularly scheduled meeting on September 10, 2013, at its Austin office. The TAHC adopted five rules and proposed six new rules.

The following rules were adopted during the Commission meeting and will go into effect on Monday, October 7, 2013:

- **Chapter 35, Brucellosis, Cattle from Greater Yellowstone Area & Identification:** This rule establishes brucellosis post entry test requirements for sexually intact cattle that reside or have resided in the Designated Surveillance Areas of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.
- **Chapter 39, Scabies, Treatment:** This amendment includes new forms of acceptable treatment for Chorioptic Mange.
- **Chapter 40, Chronic Wasting Disease, Herd Certification:** The amendments remove the requirement for a specific fence height, change herd inventory requirements to allow verification through means other than a hands-on process, and change the requirement for submission of samples in positive or suspected positive herds to mortalities of any age. For regular enrolled herds the required sampling age remains at 12 months.
- **Chapter 43, Tuberculosis, Cervids:** This amendment allows use of the recently approved TB Stat-Pak blood test as a primary test and the DPP test as a secondary test for official program testing to diagnose TB in captive elk, red deer, white-tailed deer, fallow deer, and reindeer.
- **Chapter 50, Animal Disease Traceability:** This new chapter establishes standards for facilities or locations which must be approved to identify livestock as part of the federal disease traceability program.

The TAHC will soon be accepting public comments on the following rules amendments that were proposed at the Sept. 10 Commission meeting:

- **Chapter 38, Trichomoniasis, Test Exceptions:** The proposed change to the rule would allow untested bulls to be purchased and resold without a Trichomoniasis test for up to seven days if moved under permit with official permanent identification. Bulls sold for breeding purposes would still be required to have a negative test.

- **Chapter 41, Fever Ticks, New Authorized Treatments:** The proposed amendments add and define “treatment”, add new treatment options, and define “animal” as any domestic, free-range, or wild animal capable of hosting or transporting fever ticks.
- **Chapter 47, Approved Personnel:** The Commission is changing the name of this chapter to Authorized Personnel and proposing amendments which establish minimum standards, training, and recordkeeping requirements that individuals must meet in order to engage in an activity that is part of a state or federal disease control or eradication program for animals. Individuals eligible for authorized personnel status include certain state and federal animal health officials, accredited veterinarians, certain veterinarian employees and, for the Chronic Wasting Disease Program, those who collect and submit samples. The proposal includes standards and procedures for suspending or revoking an individual’s authorized personnel status. Additionally, for the Brucellosis Program, the proposal would allow authorized veterinarians to adult vaccinate cattle.
- **Chapter 50, Animal Disease Traceability, Cattle Identification:** This proposal adds a new section to establish identification requirements for cattle at change of ownership in Texas. The intent of the rule is for all adult breeding cattle to have permanent official identification applied at change of ownership. Adult cattle consigned to slaughter within seven days are exempt from the permanent identification requirement. Calves and feeder cattle are not required to be identified, only adult cattle.
- **Chapter 51, Entry Requirements, Trichomoniasis:** This amendment would allow Texas bulls participating in out of state “bull station trials” to return to their Texas farm of origin without a Trichomoniasis test if maintained in a controlled environment without any contact with female cattle while out of state.
- **Chapter 57, Poultry, Indemnity:** The proposed new section establishes standards for the payment of indemnity to flock owners in the event the Commission orders depopulation. The proposal establishes that indemnification is subject to the availability of funds and compliance with all Commission requirements.

A detailed explanation of the rule proposals will be available on Friday, October 4, on the TAHC web site at <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/regs/proposals.html>.

The aforementioned TAHC rule proposals will be published in the Texas Register on October 4, and will have a comment period of 30 days, with the exception of **Chapter 47, Approved Personnel**, which will have a comment period of 60 days. The TAHC encourages and appreciates all comments.

Comments on the TAHC’s proposed regulations must be submitted in writing to Carol Pivonka, Texas Animal Health Commission, 2105 Kramer Lane, Austin, Texas 78758, by fax at (512) 719-0721 or by e-mail to comments@tahc.texas.gov.

Founded in 1893, the Texas Animal Health Commission works to protect the health of all Texas livestock, including: cattle, swine, poultry, sheep, goats, equine animals, and exotic livestock.

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