



NEWS RELEASE

Texas Animal Health Commission

"Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893"

Dee Ellis, DVM, MPA • Executive Director

P.O. Box 12966 • Austin, Texas 78711 • (800) 550-8242 <http://www.tahc.texas.gov>

For more information contact the Communications Dept. at 512-719-0728 or at callie.mcnulty@tahc.texas.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 22, 2015

TAHC Passes Rules at June Commission Meeting

AUSTIN, TX – The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) held a regularly scheduled Commission meeting on June 9, 2015, at its headquarters in Austin.

The following rules were adopted during the meeting and were effective on June 30.

Chapter 51, Entry Requirements, Equine Health Certificates

The new rule changes the validity of a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (health certificate) for equine entering the state from 45 to 30 days. The rule will coincide with the existing USDA interstate rules, and will better protect against a number of emerging viral diseases with shorter incubation periods currently posing threats to Texas.

Chapter 55: Feral Swine, Holding Facility Requirements

The amendment changes the fencing requirement for feral swine holding facilities from double fencing – to one good fence that prevents ingress/egress.

Chapter 47, Authorized Personnel, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

These rules codify the standards for non-veterinarians participating in the TAHC cervid CWD status program that want to collect samples for the required surveillance. This is a result of statutory authority granted to the agency in the last Legislative session (2013), and is part of the new TAHC Authorized Personnel chapter.

To view the details of all the rules passed visit <http://www.tahc.texas.gov/regs/code.html>

The following rules were proposed:

Chapter 38, Trichomoniasis, Testing Exposed/Infected Breeding Bulls

The first rule will lower the in-state change of ownership virgin age for breeding bulls from 24 to 18 months. Texas bulls up to 30 months of age may still be sold as virgins if a veterinarian will co-sign the virgin certificate. A separate proposed rule will require testing of any neighboring bulls who are, or have been in fence line contact within the last 30 days with a Trichomoniasis (Trich) infected herd.

Chapter 41, Fever Ticks, ID requirements in Quarantined Areas

This will require commission approved ID be applied on cattle in all fever tick zones, not just the permanent quarantine zone along the Texas-Mexico border in South Texas.

Chapter 51: Entry Requirements, Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) & Trichomoniasis

This rule will change the validity of health certificates on animals entering from states currently affected with VS from 30 to 14 days. A separate entry rule related to Trichomoniasis will change the maximum age for entry as a “virgin” bull from 12 to 18 months of age. “Virgin” status bulls are not required to have a Trich test prior to entry.

The TAHC is currently accepting public comments for the proposals. The deadline for comment submissions on Chapter 38 and Chapter 41 is Monday, July 27, 2015, at 5 p.m. and August 17, 2015 for the Chapter 51 proposal. Complete details of the rule proposals are available on the TAHC website at <http://www.tahc.texas.gov/regs/proposals.html>

The TAHC encourages and appreciates all comments. Comments on the proposed regulations 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.

For more information, visit www.tahc.texas.gov or call 1-800-550-8242.

###