



NEWS RELEASE

Texas Animal Health Commission

"Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vesicular Stomatitis Detected in Johnson County Cow

AUSTIN, TX – Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) officials have confirmed Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) in one cow in North Texas, 18 miles southeast of Cleburne (Johnson County). Testing at the USDA Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at Plum Island, New York confirmed the virus as the New Jersey serotype, which is the same serotype found in reported cases in Texas in June 2015.

The newly identified infected cow is under quarantine by the TAHC. The cow was tested after the owner observed blistering and swelling of the animal's muzzle and contacted their local veterinary practitioner.

Regulatory veterinarians will monitor the affected cow and other cattle in the herd. The quarantine may be lifted 14 days after the onset of lesions in the last affected animal on the premises.

Some states and other countries may restrict movement of, or impose additional requirements for susceptible animals from states and counties having known cases of VS. Animal health officials in the intended state of destination should be contacted prior to movement. For international export information, contact the USDA Veterinary Services Austin office, at 512-383-2411.

"If you suspect your animal may have VS, you should notify your veterinarian immediately," said Dr. Andy Schwartz, TAHC State Epidemiologist. "VS is not highly contagious to people, but it can cause flu-like illness if infected saliva gets into an open wound, eyes or mouth. People handling potentially infected animals should wear gloves for protection, and talk with their physician if they have questions."

VS can cause blisters and sores in the mouth and on the tongue, muzzle, teats, or hooves of horses, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, llamas and a number of other animals. Lesions usually will heal in two or three weeks. Because of the contagious nature of VS and its resemblance to other diseases such as foot and mouth disease, animal health officials urge livestock owners and caretakers to report these symptoms to their veterinarian immediately.

Since the start of the 2015 outbreak, VS has been identified in eight states. To learn more visit https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/downloads/animal_diseases/vsv/Sitrep_121815.pdf.

For more information about VS visit http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/news/brochures/TAHCBrochure_VS.pdf.

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