



Texas Animal Health Commission



Who We Are

About the Texas Animal Health Commission

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), established by the Legislature in 1893, is one of the oldest state agencies. The TAHC was originally created to combat the fever tick that plagued the Texas cattle industry.

Today, the agency protects the health and enhances the marketability of all Texas livestock, exotic livestock and poultry, including:

- cattle
- swine
- poultry
- sheep & goats
- equine
- exotic fowl
- exotic livestock (exotic bovidae, cervidae and camelids)

The TAHC has legislative authority to regulate the prevention, control and/or eradication of specific contagious or infectious diseases in livestock and poultry. The TAHC staff also work to keep foreign and emerging animal diseases from becoming a major livestock and poultry health hazard.

The TAHC regulations are approved by 13 governor-appointed commissioners who serve six-year staggered terms. The commissioners meet as needed to study the regulatory needs of the agency, review public comments on proposed regulation changes and adopt new rules.

The day-to-day operations are run by the Executive Director, who is also the State Veterinarian, located at the TAHC headquarters in Austin, Texas. There are eight region offices strategically located across the state. The TAHC staff work closely with veterinarians, ranchers, livestock markets, slaughter plants and other livestock industry stakeholders.

Because many of the state's livestock and poultry health programs coincide with those required by the federal government, the TAHC staff also work closely with U.S. Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Veterinary Services personnel (USDA-APHIS-VS).

Veterinarians and Epidemiologists

Each of the eight TAHC regions have a veterinarian that serves as the region director. They perform veterinary and administrative management duties.

TAHC epidemiologists are veterinarians who focus on disease transmission and eradication. They work to find the source of infectious diseases in animals, locate animals that may have been exposed to disease and determine the best course of action to reduce or eliminate the disease from the population.

Animal Health Inspectors

Livestock inspectors are the "hands-on" members of the TAHC. They work at livestock markets, feedlots, and slaughter plants,

and test for diseases on local livestock producing premises. Their duties include collecting diagnostic samples from livestock and poultry, inspecting regulated facilities, monitoring movement restricted diseased or exposed animals, and performing road stops to ensure compliance with state entry requirements and agency regulations. Inspectors also play a critical role in responding to natural disaster events and disease outbreaks affecting livestock or poultry.

Emergency Management Personnel

The emergency management staff is responsible for planning for and coordinating response activities for disease outbreaks in livestock and poultry and natural disasters, like hurricanes and wildfires, impacting animals. The TAHC is designated as the state's lead agency for all animal issues in emergency, whether natural or man-made disasters, acts of agro-terrorism, or naturally occurring animal disease outbreaks. TAHC emergency response activities include working with local, state and federal officials, as well as the public. Emergency management personnel address evacuation and sheltering needs for Texas animals, direct field personnel in assisting affected veterinary practitioners in natural disasters, perform damage assessments and provide expertise and advice related to carcass disposal.

Legal and Compliance

Legal Services is responsible for providing counsel to TAHC's commissioners, executive staff, departments, programs and regions. This department is responsible for enforcement of TAHC's regulatory functions, including investigations, prosecutions and settlements, and is the liaison with the Texas Attorney General. Legal Services also manages all public information requests received by the Commission.

Laboratory Personnel

Laboratory technicians and microbiologists support several animal health programs by performing a variety of specialized tests on blood, milk and tissue samples. Laboratory staff also identify pests, including ticks. The TAHC laboratory is a recognized member of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN).

Executive and Administration

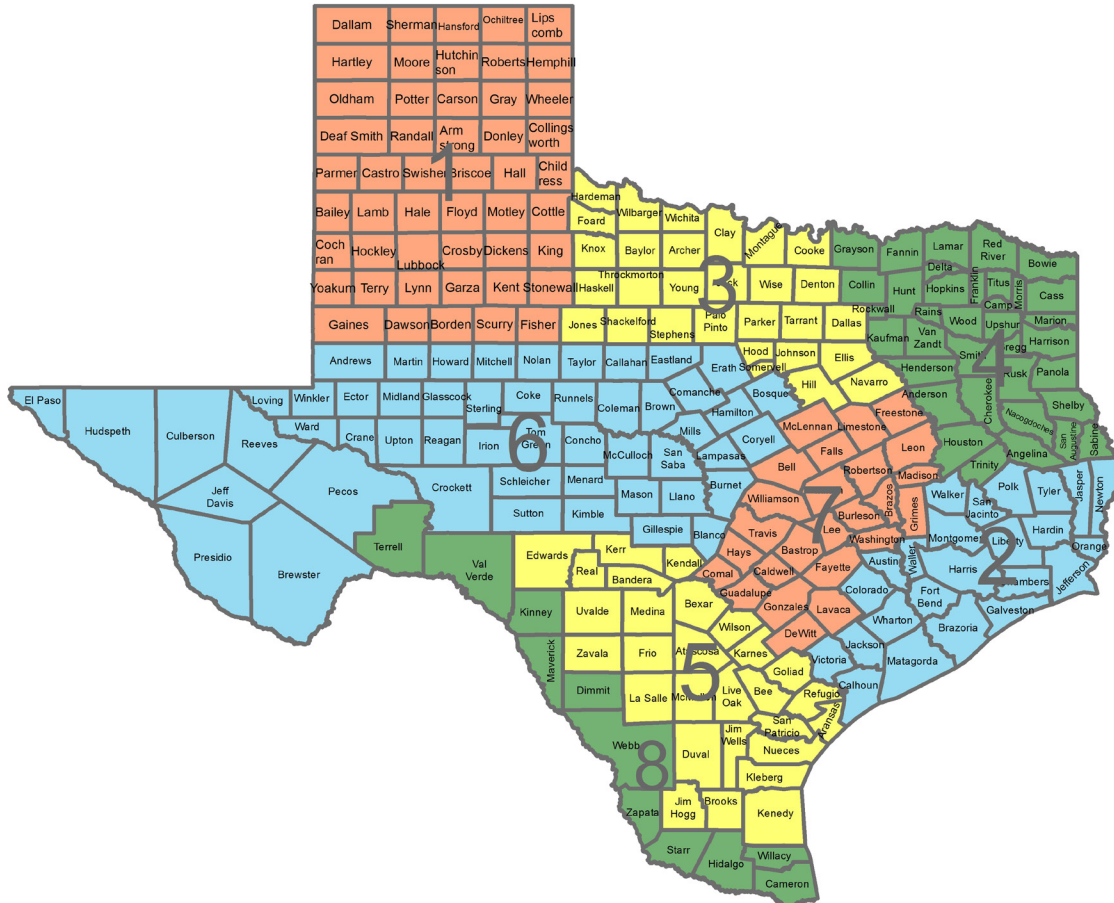
The executive and administration personnel provide the infrastructure for all agency functions. They make day-to-day decisions regarding operations and provide support for the rest of the agency.

Departments under this umbrella include:

- Human Resources
- Finance
- Purchasing
- Staff Services
- Communications
- Information Technology
- Program Records/Permits

The following page includes a map with regional contact information

TAHC Regional Offices



Region 1 - Amarillo

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

Region 3 - Fort Worth

8751 Camp Bowie West
Suite 104
Fort Worth, TX 76116
817-244-2597

Region 5 - Beeville

3811 North Saint Mary's Street
Beeville, TX 78102
361-358-3234

Region 7 - Rockdale

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

Region 2 - Hempstead

1739 13th Street
Suite 28
Hempstead, TX 77445
979-921-9481

Region 4 - Mt. Pleasant

313 West Alabama Street
Suite 1
Mount Pleasant, TX 75455
903-572-1966

Region 6 - Lampasas

1305 South Key Avenue
Suite 204
Lampasas, TX 76550
512-556-6277

Region 8 - Laredo

1401 Calle Del Norte
Suite 6
Laredo, TX 78041
956-568-5741

Texas Animal Health Commission - Headquarters

P.O. Box 12966
Austin, TX 78711-2966
512-719-0700 • 1-800-550-8242

www.tahc.texas.gov

