

TEXAS ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION

“SERVING TEXAS SINCE 1893”

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RESOLUTION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF HERD SURVEILLANCE FOR TUBERCULOSIS

WHEREAS, in 2000 all of the state of Texas, except for the area of the state known as the El Paso Milkshed, qualified for Tuberculosis Free Status for Cattle in accordance with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Bovine Tuberculosis Program state classification requirements, as provided in 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 77, and;

WHEREAS, in 2001 the Texas Animal Health Commission (Commission) determined that two cattle herds were confirmed to be infected with Tuberculosis (TB), and;

WHEREAS, the federal classification requirements for states, contained in Title 9 CFR, Part 77.7, specify that an Accredited Free state that has diagnosed tuberculosis in two or more herds within a 48-month period will be reclassified as Modified Accredited Advanced, and;

WHEREAS, on June 6, 2002, the USDA, APHIS published an interim rule (Docket 02-021-1) that removed the split-state status of Texas for tuberculosis and reclassified the state as Modified Accredited Advanced for Tuberculosis effective June 3, 2002, and;

WHEREAS, the Commission, with input from the cattle industry in the state, has developed a Tuberculosis Action Plan (Plan) to conduct tuberculosis surveillance, identify any remaining tuberculosis affected herds in the state, reduce the risk for the spread of TB and re-establish the state of Texas as Accredited Free for TB, and;

WHEREAS, the Commission submitted the Plan to USDA and requested funding from USDA to aid in implementation of the Plan, which included the following provisions: (1) Assure identification and TB testing of breeding cattle leaving the state of Texas; (2) Improve surveillance at plants that slaughter cows and bulls; (3) Implement enhanced surveillance on segments of the Texas cattle industry which have historically had a disproportionate amount of tuberculosis; (4) Control risks associated

with TB in feeder cattle imported from Mexico; and (5) Control risks associated with TB in roping/rodeo cattle imported from Mexico, and;

WHEREAS, USDA has provided funding through a Cooperative Agreement to conduct TB prevention, surveillance, control and elimination activities, including funding to enhance surveillance on segments of the Texas cattle industry which have historically had a disproportionate amount of tuberculosis, and;

WHEREAS, the two Texas herds that were diagnosed with TB in 2001 include one purebred beef herd and one dairy herd, and the herd found to be infected with TB during 2003 was a purebred beef herd. During the past 10 year period, the disease was diagnosed in five dairies and three purebred beef herds. Over the past 20 year period, a total of 14 dairies and five purebred beef herds were found to be infected with TB, and;

WHEREAS, the TB Plan called for targeted surveillance of the dairy industry and beef seedstock/purebred industry by testing the number of herds necessary to detect infection at a prevalence of 0.1 percent on a herd basis. This means that if one of 1,000 herds in each of these segments of the industry has the disease, targeted surveillance would identify the one infected herd, and;

WHEREAS, achievement of this objective will require tuberculosis testing of cattle 24 months of age or older in all 880 dairy herds and 2,108 – 2,400 beef purebred/seedstock herds in the state, and;

WHEREAS, the accomplishment of the surveillance herd testing objective will require that TAHC utilize the assistance of accredited veterinarians to conduct herd tests through fee-basis agreements, and;

WHEREAS, Texas Agriculture Code (TAC) Section 161.041 (a) (1) provides that the Commission shall protect all livestock, domestic animals, and domestic fowl from tuberculosis, and;

WHEREAS, TAC Section 162.009 (a) provides that, as part of a cooperative program, the Commission or its representative may examine, test, and retest any cattle in this state as necessary to maintain an area of this state as a tuberculosis modified accredited advanced area or to establish or maintain each area of this state as a tuberculosis free area, and;

WHEREAS, TAC Section 162.009 (b) provides that the Commission or its representative may test or retest all or part of a herd of cattle at intervals considered necessary or advisable by the Commission to control and eliminate tuberculosis in animals.

NOW, THEREFORE, in accordance with the provisions of the TAC Section 162.009, the Commission has determined that it is necessary to conduct a tuberculosis test of cattle 24 months of age or older in all dairy herds and in 2,108 – 2,400 purebred/seedstock herds in the state to achieve targeted herd surveillance at a rate sufficient to detect tuberculosis infection in one herd out of 1000 herds. The Commission hereby directs dairy producers and purebred/seedstock producers to make cattle 24 months of age or older in their cattle herds available for tuberculosis testing.

FURTHERMORE, funding is available for implementation of the Plan until September 1, 2004. The Commission directs Texas dairy and purebred/seedstock producers to comply with the tuberculosis testing requirements in order to achieve the targeted herd surveillance objective by September 1, 2004.

FURTHERMORE, the Commission directs Commission staff to fully utilize the authority provided by TAC Chapter 162. TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL to accomplish the tuberculosis surveillance objectives of the Plan.

This Resolution will remain in effect until modified, amended or rescinded by the commission.

Signed by Chairman on December 3, 2003
Richard Traylor
Chairman
Texas Animal Health Commission