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SOUTHWEST VETERINARY SYMPOSIUM 2016



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CHECK YOUR TAHC AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL STATUS

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) Authorized Personnel Program is the state-required orientation program for Texas veterinary practitioners who engage or plan to engage in any activity that is part of a TAHC or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) disease control or eradication program. This activity includes but is not limited to veterinarians who issue certificates of veterinary inspection for livestock, exotic livestock, fowl and/or exotic fowl. While most Texas veterinarians have likely heard of the TAHC Authorized Personnel Program, many are unaware that a current USDA Category II Accreditation is required to obtain and maintain TAHC Authorized Personnel status. Many Texas veterinarians also may be unaware of the consequences of having that USDA accreditation expire.

In addition to other potential penalties, USDA accreditation expiration automatically changes a veterinarian's status in the TAHC Authorized Personnel Program to "not-authorized." If a veterinarian is not-authorized with the Texas Animal Health Commission, he or she is prohibited from ordering paper CVIs or using the TAHC eCVI program. Furthermore, test results from samples submitted to the State Federal Laboratory are not released to unauthorized veterinarians.

USDA veterinary accreditation is a voluntary national program that authorizes veterinarians to work cooperatively with federal and state animal health officials to protect and ensure animal health by preventing, controlling and eradicating diseases of consequence. Accredited veterinarians perform regulatory testing and health certifications to ensure that livestock, exotic livestock, fowl and/or exotic fowl transported between states and exported to other countries do not

introduce disease. Accredited veterinarians also help USDA and TAHC conduct surveillance and monitoring for diseases of concern and are vital to the recognition and prompt reporting of and response to foreign animal disease incursions.

In December 2009, the USDA veterinary accreditation program was redesigned and upgraded to provide for uniform, national education for veterinarians seeking Initial Accreditation Training (IAT). The upgrade also established two accreditation categories (Category I and Category II) and added requirements for supplemental training and renewal of accreditation every three years.

Notification that your USDA veterinary accreditation is due for renewal is now emailed to the address you have on file with USDA at 12 months, six months, three months and one month prior to expiration. If you do not know the expiration date for your USDA accreditation or the email address associated with your account, now is the time to check. Also, if you are within the 12-month window of expiration and have not received a renewal email, please check your spam folder for missed emails.

Renewal of USDA Category II Accreditation requires completion of six of the USDA National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP) Supplemental Training Modules. Most of the NVAP Supplemental Training Modules take between 45 to 60 minutes each to complete. Veterinarians must move through each module to obtain their Certificate of Completion at the end of the module. It is the accredited veterinarian's responsibility to retain the Certificate of Completion in paper or PDF

format because information from the certificate is required for the accreditation renewal application. USDA recommends that you keep your Certificates of Completion forever. Once NVAP Supplemental Training Modules are completed, you are required to submit a VS Form 1-36A to your USDA NVAP coordinator to renew your accreditation.

Knowingly or unknowingly allowing your USDA accreditation to expire can have significant consequences on your ability to participate in state or federal disease control or eradication programs. The USDA has the following statement on the NVAP page: "Do not perform accredited duties until you receive notification of your reinstatement from APHIS. Veterinarians who perform accredited duties while their accredited status has expired will be subject to such criminal and civil penalties as are provided by the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.) or other applicable Federal statutes or regulations."

TAHC Authorized Personnel status is required of all veterinarians participating in state or federal disease control or eradication programs in Texas. USDA Category II Accreditation is required to obtain your TAHC Authorized Personnel Program status. Not having one or the other or both affects your ability to practice in Texas. Please check your status in both programs today.

To check your status in the TAHC Authorized Personnel Program, contact Laura Leal at 512/719-0761 or authorized_personnel@tahc.texas.gov.

To check your status in the USDA National Veterinary Accreditation Program, contact Nadra Khan, NVAP coordinator for Texas, at 512/383-2404 or Nadra.T.Khan@aphis.usda.gov. [TV](#)



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