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PREPARING CLIENTS FOR SPRING LIVESTOCK SHOW SEASON

As we spring forward into 2017, we can anticipate warmer weather, longer daylight hours and Texas Bluebonnets. As veterinarians moving forward into the new year, we also may anticipate preparing patients and clients for the Texas spring livestock show season.

In the December issue of the *Texas Veterinarian*, we talked about official documents, animal disease traceability and animal identification, particularly as those relate to interstate movement of livestock and poultry. Generally, moving Texas livestock to Texas livestock shows is not interstate movement of livestock. However, many of the major shows allow out-of-state livestock entries. Because these shows comingle in-state and out-of-state entries, they qualify as interstate shows for livestock. As such, Texas interstate entry requirements must be met by both in-state and out-of-state livestock and poultry entries at the show.

The Texas interstate entry requirements are listed by species on the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) website. Animals also must meet the requirements of the individual show if those requirements are more stringent than the TAHC entry requirements.

As with interstate movement of livestock and poultry, entry to comingled shows in Texas requires a USDA Category II Accredited and TAHC Authorized veterinarian to issue a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI). The CVI must be issued within 30 days prior to the show. The CVI certifies that the animal(s) listed on the CVI were examined by the accredited veterinarian and appeared to be free of symptoms or evidence of communicable or infectious diseases at the time of issuance.

By Susan Culp, DVM
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In addition to the CVI requirement, many of the larger spring shows require that the animal(s) be individually identified. Forms of Official Individual Identification acceptable for Texas livestock vary by species but can include an official breed association registration tattoo or an official breed association registration freeze or fire brand if accompanied by the breed registration certificate(s).

Additional entry requirements for each show may vary. A good rule of thumb when working with livestock owners preparing for show season is to plan ahead, check the TAHC website and check the websites for the individual shows. If you still have questions, call the show veterinarian to ensure that all show entry requirements have been met prior to check-in at the staging area.

Out-of-state livestock entering Texas shows may have additional entry requirements such as pre-entry tests and the issuance of a permit. Proper planning is key with pre-entry test requirements as many of the entry requirements must be met 30 to 60 days prior to inspection for CVI issuance.

You can find information on the TAHC website about the requirements for bringing livestock and poultry into Texas from other states as well as for moving livestock and poultry within the state of Texas to shows and events. That information can be located under the Texas Entry/Show Requirements at www.tahc.texas.gov/regs/entry.html.

You can find information about the specific Texas Livestock Show Animal Health Regulations on their individual

websites. Links for select show requirements are also listed on the TAHC Texas Entry/Show Requirements page.

In addition to the online resources listed above, any questions regarding the entry requirements for any of the Texas livestock shows may be directed to TAHC. When in doubt, please call and ask the TAHC Permits staff at 512/719-0777 or call your TAHC Region Office. For TAHC Region Office contact information, visit www.tahc.texas.gov/agency/TAHC_RegionalOfficeMap.pdf.

As with all official documents, make sure to distribute the copies of issued CVIs appropriately and in a timely manner. The original or white copy should accompany the shipment/animal, the blue and pink copy get submitted to the TAHC office, and the yellow or last copy is retained by you, the issuing veterinarian.

Finally, as you are examining your patients and preparing your clients for the upcoming show season, we encourage you to take the time to discuss and encourage the use of sound biosecurity practices before, during and after the shows. Sound biosecurity practices are the cornerstone for reducing the risks of spreading disease and for keeping your patients healthy. Take a moment to peruse the TAHC Brochures page (<http://www.tahc.texas.gov/news/brochures.html>) if you haven't done so in a while. We have a number of brochures that you may want to print and provide to your clients prior to show season.

With that, we at TAHC would like to wish you a safe, happy and healthy new year and 2017 spring Texas livestock show season. [TV](#)



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Commission

Test and Vaccination Charts for Animal Identification



Happy new year to all of our accredited veterinary colleagues! Hopefully, you had an opportunity to enjoy the holiday season with friends and family and take a break from the rigors of practice.

In this article, I hope to follow up a bit on my last topic, the new Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Act. Last time, I introduced you to the basics of the new rule. I would like to target animal identification with a more local and familiar topic—test and vaccination charts. My staff and I are reviewing the Brucellosis vaccination charts, Brucellosis test charts and Tuberculosis test charts. For the most part, you are performing nicely. With the introduction of Phase 1 of ADT, we are concentrating on cattle identification as it relates to interstate movement. Many of you are performing Brucellosis and Tuberculosis testing for interstate movement and change of ownership. As official documents, these must be completed fully. As I review them, the issue I see most often relates to official identification. Granted, registration tattoos and registered brands can be considered official by some states, but not all state animal health officials will accept them for interstate movements.

By Mike Pruitt, DVM

USDA Assistant Director of Veterinary Services for Texas

For registration tattoos and registered brands to be accepted as official, the test chart/certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) must be accompanied by the registration document for each animal. See the challenge? As a result, some of the test documents are being refused because they lack identification accepted by the destination state. Make it a point to contact the state of destination, when known, in advance of performing the testing so you can make sure acceptable official identification is applied to the animal and recorded on the test chart prior to production of the CVI. There have been times when the identification on the test chart didn't easily correlate with that on the CVI. Seamless correlation lends itself to smoother acceptance by the state of destination. I have had a conversation or two with some of you lately concerning just this topic.

Now, add the more complicated process of producing an international certificate of veterinary inspection. Many countries we are currently exporting to are expecting better traceability for the future. It's time to step up! Those test

charts have to absolutely match the identification presented on the certificates of veterinary inspection. Any discrepancies will lead to rejection of the document. This will lead to delays in endorsement and possibly blocking a shipment. The end result is a dissatisfied and possibly former client. Your responsibility as an accredited veterinarian is to accurately and fully complete the documentation in order to facilitate the export.

If you have questions regarding the Animal Disease Traceability Veterinary Tool Kit, feel free to ask for a copy of the document by contacting our Texas Veterinary Services office at 512/383-2400 or me at mike.r.pruitt@aphis.usda.gov. I have begun contacting many veterinarians by phone to let you know of the ADT challenges and changes that are coming down the pike. TAHC Region Offices have recently received several copies of the ADT Tool Kit, so you can contact your local TAHC Region Director for a copy as well. Dr. Schwartz's office can also assist you with questions as they relate to ADT and TAHC traceability regulations.

For more specific information regarding the ADT rule, you can refer to traceability@aphis.usda.gov. 