



Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC)

“Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893”

Who We Are and What We do

About the Texas Animal Health Commission

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

Today, the agency works with many species of animals, such as swine, poultry, sheep and goats, equine, cattle, exotic livestock and exotic fowl.

The TAHC has legislative authority to make and enforce regulations to prevent, control or eradicate specific contagious or infectious diseases in livestock and poultry. The TAHC staff also works to keep foreign animal and emerging diseases from becoming a major livestock and poultry health hazard and preventing the introduction of pests and parasites.

The TAHC regulations are made and adopted 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 State Veterinarian and Executive Director, with headquarters being in Austin, Texas. Seven region offices are strategically located across the state so TAHC staff can work close with ranchers, livestock markets, slaughter plants and other other livestock industry representatives.

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

The TAHC Team

The TAHC staff is small, with less than 200 employees. The agency employs staff in several career fields; veterinarians, epidemiologists, animal health inspectors, legal and compliance officers, emergency management, laboratory, public information, entry requirements/certification programs, disease traceability and administrative support personnel.

Veterinarians and Epidemiologists

Region directors are veterinarians in charge of each of the seven TAHC region offices. The region director performs veterinary and administrative management duties such as staff supervision and directing work on a region-wide basis.

Within most of the regions, field veterinarians work directly on disease programs with private veterinarians and livestock owners. Field veterinarians also coordinate the work of the animal health inspectors assigned to assist them in testing or monitoring livestock health.

Epidemiologists are the “disease specialists” and have the education and training of veterinarians. In addition, they have advanced training in disease and transmission, eradication and skills in identifying and tracing the source of infectious diseases in animals. Epidemiologists are invaluable to the agency’s programs.

Animal Health Inspectors

Animal health inspectors are the “hands-on” team members. They work at livestock markets, feedlots, slaughter plants and test for diseases on local ranches. Their duties include drawing blood samples from livestock and enforcing quarantines on diseased animals and making certain that agency regulations are followed. Inspectors also work on disease outbreaks in livestock and poultry and natural disasters helping with damage assessment and carcass disposal.

Emergency Management Personnel

The emergency management staff is responsible for planning response to disease outbreaks in livestock and poultry and responding to natural disasters such as hurricanes and wildfires that impact livestock and poultry industries. Included in emergency management response is working with local, state and federal officials and emergency management personnel to carry out evacuation, transporting and sheltering livestock, damage assessment and carcass disposal.

Legal and Compliance

This department of the agency employs an attorney, legal assistant and two compliance officers. These individuals work together to enforce agency regulations, write and serve cease and desist and warning letters to violators, file complaints in J.P. court, perform roadblocks and assist in emergency management operations.

Laboratory Personnel

Laboratory technicians and microbiologists work in the laboratories to run complex tests on blood, milk and tissue samples. The laboratory technicians also identify pests such as ticks, capable of carrying potentially dangerous diseases. Technicians are assigned to one of the two TAHC laboratories in either Austin or Fort Worth.

Administrative and Support Personnel

Administrative and support personnel perform management and related clerical work to keep records, process documents and payments and maintain the agency's computer systems. The TAHC seeks employees who have experience in clerical and office work and can use a computer.

TAHC Regional Offices

Region 1 - Amarillo
6317 South Western St
Amarillo, TX 79110
806-354-9335

Region 2 - Hempstead
1739 13th Street, Ste 28
Hempstead, TX 77445
979-921-9481

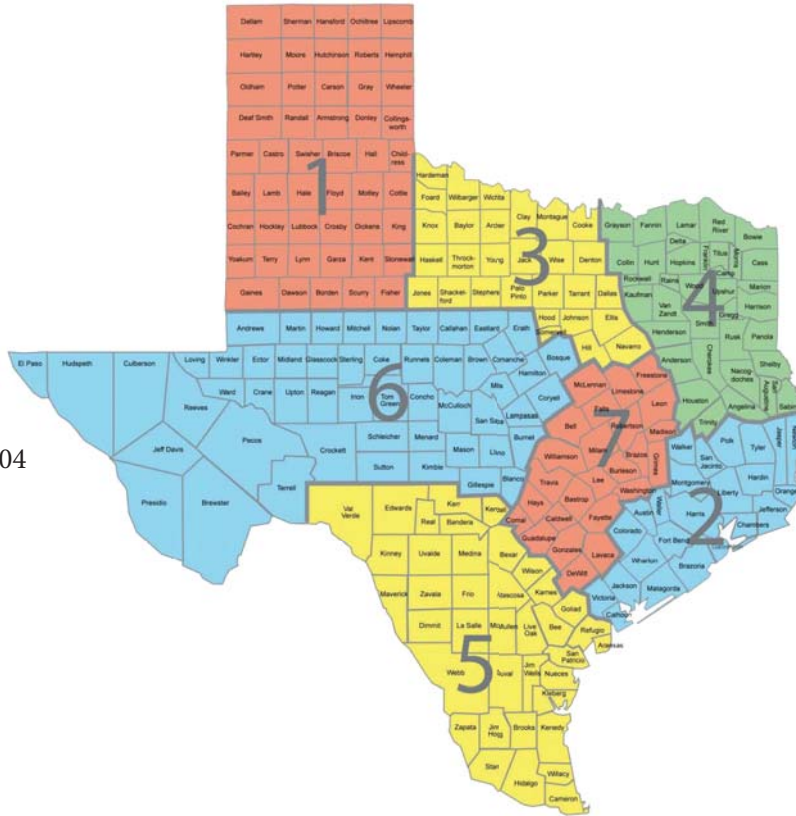
Region 3 - Fort Worth
8751 Camp Bowie West, Ste 104
Fort Worth, TX 76116
817-244-2597

Region 4 - Mt. Pleasant
313 W. Alabama, Ste 1
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75455
903-572-1966

Region 5 - Beeville
3811 N St. Mary's
Beeville, TX 78102
361-358-3234

Region 6 - Lampasas
1305 Key Avenue, Ste 207
Lampasas, TX 76550
512-556-6277

Region 7 - Rockdale
130 East Bell Street
Rockdale, TX 76567
512-446-2507



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