

The seal of the State of Texas is visible in the background on the left side of the slide. It features a five-pointed star in the center, surrounded by a wreath of olive and live oak branches. The words "STATE OF TEXAS" are inscribed around the perimeter of the seal.

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC)

General Agency Information

House Agriculture & Livestock Committee

February 22, 2023

Dr. Andy Schwartz, Executive Director and State Veterinarian



TEXAS ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION
Proudly Serving Texas Animal Agriculture
Since 1893



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TAHC History

TAHC was established in 1893 as the Livestock Sanitary Commission and charged with protecting the state's domestic animals "from all contagious or infectious diseases of a malignant character."





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TAHC Today

TAHC remains true to this charge while evolving with the times to protect the health and marketability Texas' approximately \$18 billion animal agriculture industry.

- Protect livestock and poultry health from domestic, foreign, and emerging diseases
- Contribute to a wholesome and abundant supply of meat, eggs, and dairy products at affordable costs
- Prevent Production Losses
- Maintain Trade Avenues
- Prepare for and respond to emergency situations involving animals





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Legislative Authority

- TAHC has legislative authority to regulate the prevention, control and/or eradication of specific contagious or infectious diseases in livestock and poultry including:

- Cattle
- Equine
- Swine
- Poultry
- Sheep and Goats
- Exotic Fowl
- Exotic Livestock
 - Bovidae, Cervidae, Camelidae





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Commissioners

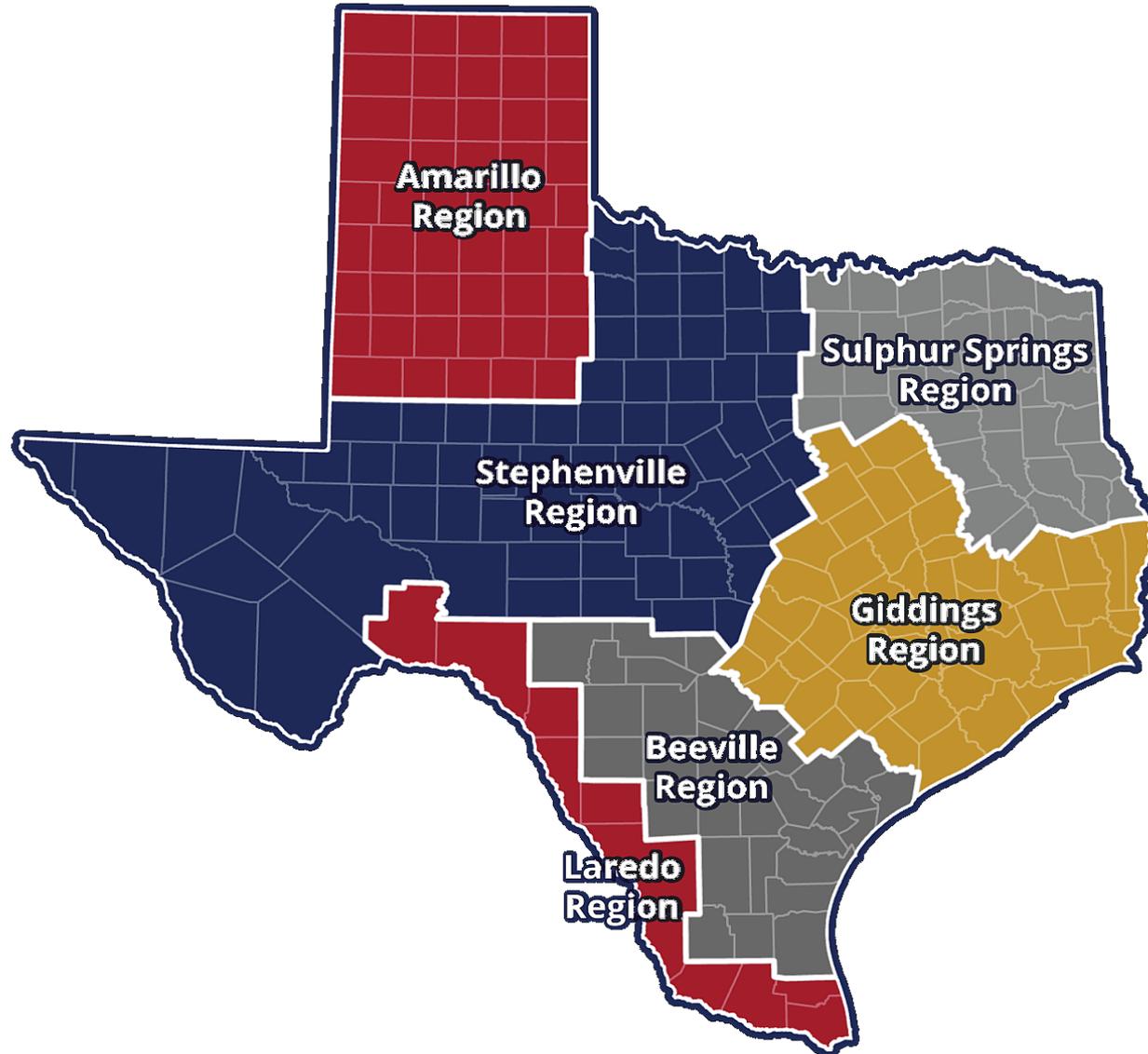
TAHC regulations are made and adopted by 13 governor-appointed commissioners who represent the general public and various livestock industries and professions.





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TAHC Region Offices



Central Office
located in Austin,
TX plus 6 region
offices strategically
located across the
state.

A total of 215
FTEs



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Emergency Management

- TAHC is the primary response agency for foreign and emerging diseases in livestock and poultry, with our emergency experts ready to ensure that Texas is prepared to respond to all emergency situations involving animals during animal disease outbreaks and natural disasters.
- Animal disease outbreaks will be mentioned in the next slide.
- Natural disasters include: hurricanes, flooding, fires, tornadoes, drought, winter storms, etc.
- TAHC's emergency personnel focus both on internal trainings, meetings, outreach, exercises and education, as well as interaction with industry and response partners.
- Personnel travel across the state to ensure local jurisdictions have plans in place to handle all animal issues in natural disasters.



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Disease Control and Eradication (Part I)

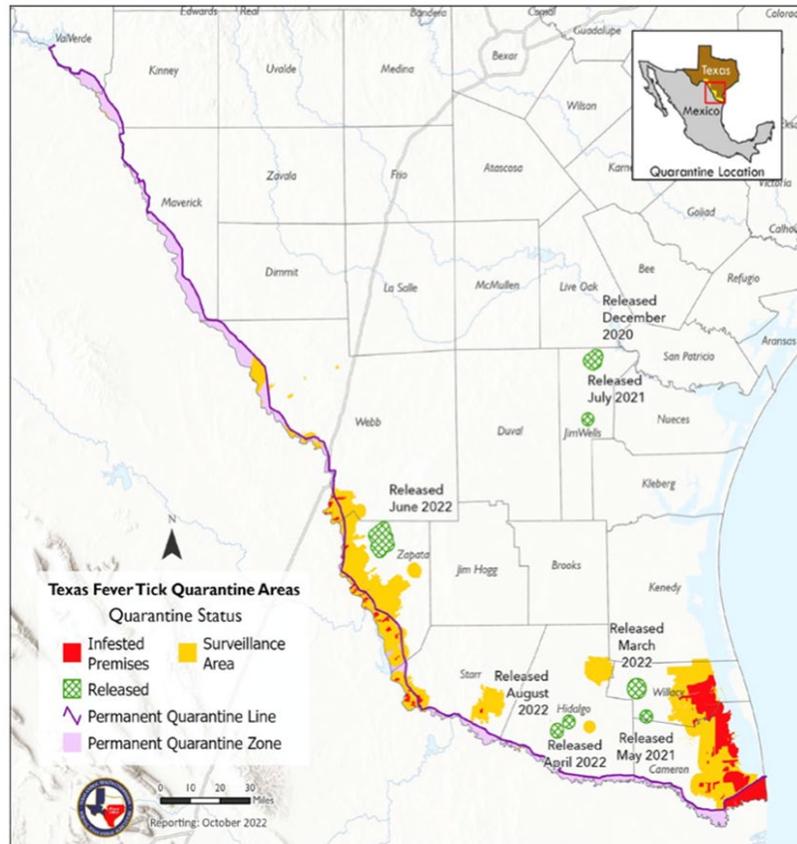
- Some of the challenging diseases include:
 - Cattle brucellosis;
 - Swine brucellosis;
 - Pseudorabies;
 - Bovine trichomoniasis;
 - Anthrax;
 - Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV);
 - Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA);
 - Equine Piroplasmosis; and
 - Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT).



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Disease Control and Eradication (Part II)

- Other significant disease threats include:
 - **Cattle fever ticks**



Counties with infested premises quarantines include:

- Cameron
- Starr
- Webb
- Willacy
- Zapata

Total Quarantined Premises:
2,882

Non-Permanent Quarantine Acreage:
628,194 acres total

Permanent Quarantine Zone Acreage:
177,937 acres total



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Disease Control and Eradication (Part II)

Avian Influenza (AI)

It is currently the largest animal disease outbreak in the history of the US.

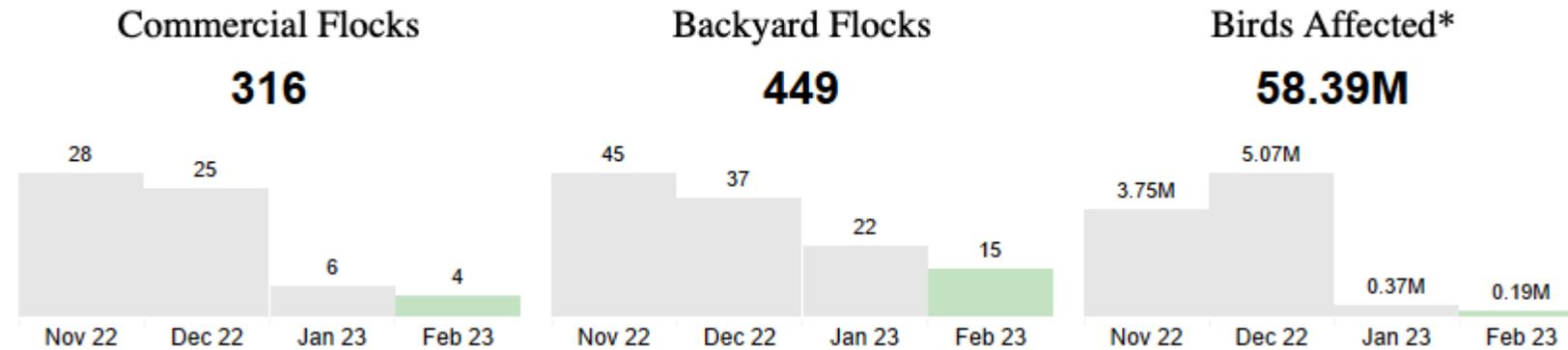
 **HPAI 2022/2023 Confirmed Detections**
as of February 21, 2023
Last reported detection Friday, February 17, 2023
Data updated weekdays by 12pm Eastern [Download Data](#)

765 Confirmed Flocks

26 confirmed last 30 days
Birds tested and confirmed having HPAI

47 Affected States

15 states last 30 days
States with at least one confirmed infected flock



*Number of birds on confirmed infected premises.
Bars reflect most recent 4 months (numbers may not add up to total).



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Disease Control and Eradication (Part II)

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

- A slow, progressive, fatal, and degenerative neurological disease affecting cervids such as deer, elk, and moose via an abnormal prion protein.
- Infected cervids may not produce visible signs for a number of years after becoming infected.
- Cervids can be exposed to CWD by direct animal-to-animal contact, or indirectly by contact with infected items in the environment, such as soil, dust, or forage.
- Prions are capable of infecting other animals for years.
- Work closely with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and producers to monitor and respond to this disease.



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Disease Control and Eradication (Part II)

Cattle Tuberculosis (TB)

- Chronic debilitating respiratory disease caused by a bacterium, which mainly affects the lungs, and head, chest and animal's digestive tract lymph nodes.
- Elk, deer, bison, goats, swine and cats are also susceptible to this disease.
- It could be months or years from the time an animal is infected until signs of illness are noticeable in cattle.
- Tracing exposed or diseased animals is critical so as to maintain our TB-free status.



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Emerging Infectious Diseases

African Swine Fever

- Highly contagious and deadly viral disease affecting both domestic and feral swine of all ages.
- Not a threat to human health and cannot be transmitted from pigs to humans.
- TAHC is working to protect Texans by preparing for this threat, which is found as close to the US as the Dominican Republic and Haiti, as per USDA.



Thank you

Texas Animal Health Commission



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www.tahc.texas.gov