

Texas Animal Health Commission

In Service to the Agricultural Industry

The mission of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) is to prevent, look for, diagnose, control and eradicate certain diseases and conditions that affect livestock, poultry and exotic animals, some of which have human health implications.

Diseases of significant economic consequence that have been eradicated from the U.S., due to the cooperative partnership of regulatory programs, private veterinary practitioners and producers:

- Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia-1892
- Foot & Mouth Disease--1929
- Fowl Plague--1929
- Glanders--1934
- Dourine--1942
- Cattle Fever Ticks--1943 (occasionally, ticks are detected outside the permanent quarantine zone in eight counties along the Texas-Mexico border. Affected premises are quarantined and actions are taken immediately to eradicate the tick.)
- Vesicular Exanthema--1959
- Screwworms (Southeast U.S.)--1959
- Screwworms (Southwest U.S.)--1966
- VEE--Venezuelan Equine Encephalomyelitis--1971
- Sheep Scabies--1973
- Exotic Newcastle Disease--1974
- Hog Cholera--1978
- Cattle Scabies--1980s

The TAHC, with its staff of about 200 animal health inspectors, laboratory staff, office support personnel and veterinarians, operates on a yearly budget of about \$9 million from the state and \$3 million from a federal cooperative agreements with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). **In terms of state funding, less than 50 cents per Texan PER YEAR is spent to protect the health of livestock herds--or “pre-harvest food safety.”**