

125 YEARS OF ANIMAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP

The Texas Animal Health Commission (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." TAHC remains true to this charge while evolving with the times to protect the health and marketability of all Texas livestock and poultry.

To celebrate 125 years of leadership and service in animal health, we want to highlight a few of the agency's accomplishments and extend our sincere appreciation to our diverse industry partners and leaders that have supported TAHC and Texas animal agriculture through the years.



Andy Schwartz, DVM
State Veterinarian &
TAHC Executive Director

The Livestock Sanitary Commission is established under Governor James Hogg to address cattle fever ticks plaguing portions of Texas and 12 other states.

1893

Formal cooperative efforts to eradicate bovine tuberculosis begin in Texas and across the nation.

1917

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) is confirmed in cattle south of Houston. FMD was eradicated from the state in 1925.

1924

Governor Price Daniel signs the bill changing the name of the Livestock Sanitary Commission to Texas Animal Health Commission.

1959

TAHC and USDA eradicate the endemic screwworm from the Texas landscape.

1964



This year marks the last Texas outbreak of Classical Swine Fever (Hog Cholera). Three years later, the United States is declared free of the disease.

1975

Governor Mark White called a special session and legislation was passed bringing the Texas Brucellosis program into compliance with federal requirements.

1983

TAHC adopts enhanced testing requirements for Equine Infectious Anemia. These regulations paired with TAHC outreach has reduced animals confirmed with this incurable disease from 750 equine in 1997 to 25 in 2017.

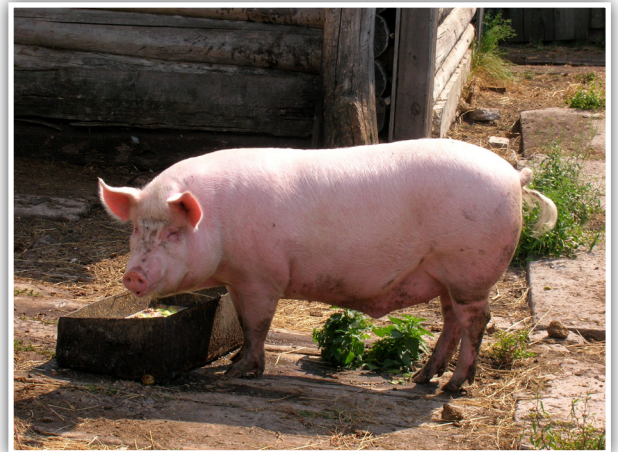
1997

TAHC and USDA start to conduct mandatory scrapie surveillance. Since surveillance started, sheep found positive for scrapie have decreased dramatically and no new positive flocks have been confirmed in Texas since 2016.

2002

TAHC battled Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. TAHC and industry partners conduct extensive outreach and surveillance to guard against this potentially zoonotic disease.

2004



Texas commercial swine herds are officially declared free of Pseudorabies.

Texas is declared Cattle Tuberculosis (TB) free. Achieving free status enables Texas-origin cattle to be transported interstate and to events in the state without a TB test.

In the aftermath of devastating gulf coast hurricanes, TAHC is granted explicit authority to prepare and plan for, respond to, and aid in the recovery from disaster events, including disease outbreaks.

The USDA officially declares Texas free of Brucellosis. For the first time in recorded history, all 50 states are brucellosis free.

Texas eradicates Brucellosis in domestic swine. This victory removes related interstate movement restrictions on breeding swine leaving Texas.

2004 2006 2007 2008 2011



TAHC and USDA implement a new vaccine to compliment existing oral, topical and injectable treatments to aid in cattle fever tick eradication efforts.

TAHC is the lead agency for coordinating animal issues during Hurricane Harvey. TAHC deploys 119 employees who work with local, state and federal responders and non-governmental organizations to meet the needs of animals and producers.

Texas Animal Health Commission celebrates 125 years of leadership in protecting animal health under the stewardship of its 13 governor-appointed Commissioners representing the following categories: veterinary practitioners, dairy, cattle, swine, sheep or goats, poultry, equine, feedlots, livestock markets, exotic livestock and fowl, and three general public members.

2016

2017

2018

