



For Immediate Release
September 10, 2021

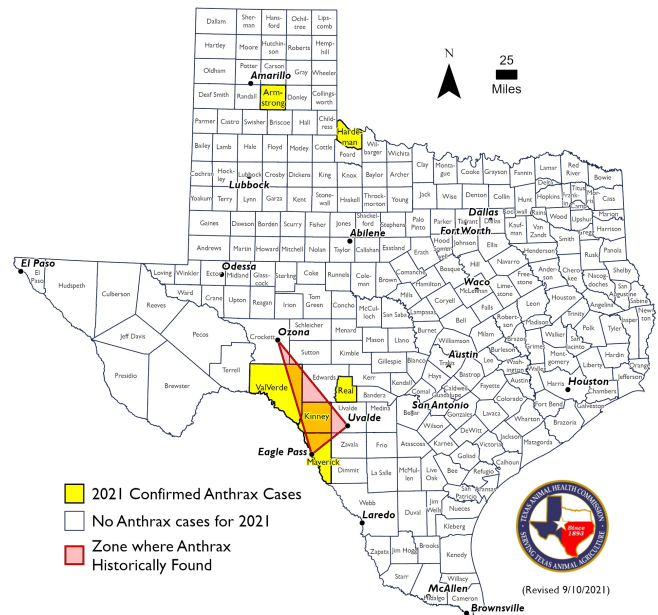
2021 Texas Anthrax Situational Update

AUSTIN, TX – Since August 24, 2021, the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) has received new confirmations of anthrax in a white-tailed deer on a Kinney County premise on August 30, a white-tailed deer on a Maverick County premise on September 2, and a kudu on a Real County premise on September 9. All premises have been placed under quarantine and will not be released until TAHC requirements are met.

The first anthrax case of the year was confirmed in a Val Verde County captive white-tailed deer on July 11, 2021. Since that time, anthrax was confirmed in a Hardeman County cow on August 6, two additional premises in Hardeman County on August 19, an Armstrong County horse on August 23, and an additional Armstrong County premise on August 25.

2021 Confirmed Anthrax Cases

2021 Anthrax Confirmations	
Texas County	Positive Premise(s) Confirmed
Armstrong	2
Hardeman	3
Kinney	1
Maverick	1
Real	1
Val Verde	1
Total:	9



All of these premises were placed under quarantine and producers were advised on vaccinating exposed animals and the proper disposal of affected carcasses. These premises were not released until TAHC requirements were met.

“TAHC personnel are closely monitoring the anthrax cases in Texas,” said Dr. Andy Schwartz, TAHC State Veterinarian and Executive Director. “Anthrax is often seen in the area of the state where our most recent confirmations have been found. We ask producers to remain vigilant and consult with their local veterinary practitioner if they suspect their animals are exposed to anthrax or are interested in vaccinating their livestock.”

There is an effective anthrax vaccine available for use in susceptible livestock (includes but is not limited to, swine, equine, sheep, goats, cattle, etc.). The TAHC encourages owners of livestock in the triangular area, bound by the towns of Uvalde, Ozona and Eagle Pass, as well as other counties afflicted this year, including Armstrong, Hardeman and Real, to consult with a local veterinary practitioner and vaccinate livestock. Producers may order anthrax vaccines directly from the manufacturer.



It is common to see an increase in anthrax cases after periods of wet, cool weather, followed by hot, dry conditions. During these conditions, animals ingest the anthrax bacteria when they consume contaminated grass and hay, or inhale the spores. Outbreaks usually end when cooler weather arrives.

After exposure to anthrax, it usually takes three to seven days for animals to show symptoms of anthrax. Once symptoms begin, death will usually occur within 48 hours. Acute fever followed by rapid death with bleeding from body openings are all common signs of anthrax in livestock. Owners of livestock and animals displaying [symptoms consistent with anthrax](#) or experiencing death of animals should contact a private veterinary practitioner or [a TAHC official](#) immediately.

Producers are encouraged to follow basic sanitation precautions when handling affected livestock or carcasses. It is recommended to wear protective gloves, long sleeve shirts and to wash thoroughly afterward to prevent accidental spread of the bacteria to people. For more information on how anthrax affects humans please visit <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/anthrax/information/faqs/>.

For more information about anthrax, visit:

- TAHC Anthrax Factsheet: https://www.tahc.texas.gov/news/brochures/TAHCFactsheet_Anthrax.pdf.
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Anthrax Publication: <https://cdn-ext.agnet.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/EFW-060-anthrax-conditions-symptoms-and-advice-for-landowners.pdf>.
- Contact your local [TAHC region office](#)

Past 2021 Anthrax Updates:

- August 20, 2021 case: https://www.tahc.texas.gov/news/2021/2021-08-24_AnthraxArmstrongCo.pdf
- August 6, 2021 case: https://www.tahc.texas.gov/news/2021/2021-08-11_AnthraxHardemanCo.pdf
- July 11, 2021 initial case: https://www.tahc.texas.gov/news/2021/2021-07-15_Anthrax.pdf

The TAHC will continue to send weekly, situational updates as long as new cases are confirmed.

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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. Learn more about the TAHC by visiting www.tahc.texas.gov.