

BROCHURE

Texas Animal Health Commission

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Protect Livestock Health



When Disaster Rolls in...

Will Texas Be Ready
for a Natural Disaster
Involving Livestock...or a
Foreign Animal Disease
or Pest Outbreak?

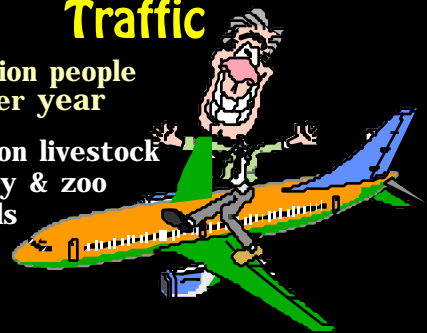
YES. With YOUR Help.

For more than two years, a “first-strike” force of federal and state animal health experts known as TERT - - the Texas Emergency Response Team - - has prepared **IN ADVANCE** to prevent and respond to disasters, such as the introduction of a foreign animal disease, a dangerous tick or other pest, or an attack by bioterrorists. The team also is ready to assist in response and recovery during natural or man-made catastrophes, including floods and hurricanes.

Despite the best scientific efforts to prevent the introduction of diseases and pests and to manage the importation of healthy livestock into the U.S., **risk is always present**. More than 45 million people travel internationally each year, and 2.5 million animals are transported around the world. Viruses, bacteria or pests respect no boundaries and are capable of “hitching a ride” to the U.S.

Increased International Traffic

46 million people
per year
2.5 million livestock
poultry & zoo
animals



YOUR help is needed!

As a producer, private veterinary practitioner, or livestock market or feedlot operator, **YOU** are the front-line defense for spotting and reporting possible signs of disease or pests!

TERT

The Texas Emergency Response Team (TERT) is a partnership between the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock health regulatory agency, and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Veterinary Services.



The team depends on producers, private veterinary practitioners, and allied industry representatives to watch for and report potential signs of diseases and pests.

TERT plans, collaborates, and coordinates with the state's animal health-related agencies, agriculture industries, and other related agencies and parties, including universities, government officials and private veterinary practitioners.

TERT may assist in natural and man-made disaster responses in accordance with the FEMA Emergency Response Plan and/or the State of Texas Emergency plan in the following areas:



1. **Animal ownership identification**

2. **Livestock restraint/capture**

3. **Carcass disposal**

4. **Coordinating livestock evacuation**

5. **Consulting on animal health and public health concerns**

6. **Chemical/biological terrorism issues**



What's at Stake?

Disease or pest outbreaks can stop livestock “dead in their tracks,” as states and countries prohibit or restrict movement of the animals. Millions of dollars can be lost overnight from restricted trade opportunities, costs of fighting disease, and loss of livestock.

Immediate action is the key to fighting disease or pest outbreaks! Texas' economic and livestock health depends on a fast response!

- Threats to public health
- Livestock losses
- Control, eradication costs
- Lost trade- interstate, international



- Affected free-roaming wildlife can spread disease or pests, jeopardizing control & eradication!



Texas' ranks tops for:

- cattle • sheep and goats
- horses • exotic hoofstock

In 1998, Texas' cash receipts for cattle and calves were nearly \$5.4 billion. Texas is 6th for poultry and turkey production-- \$55 million for laying hens and pullets in 1996-- and \$726 million for broilers! Texas is 19th for swine production-- valued at \$43 million.

Some allied industries:

- cattle feedlots • livestock markets • feed producers
- slaughter establishments • equipment makers & dealers
- livestock transportation • livestock drugs and supplies

Recognize and Report Potential Signs of Foreign Animal Disease!

1. Sudden, unexplained death loss in the herd or flock.



2. Severe illness affecting a high percentage of the animals.



3. Blistering around an animal's mouth, nose, teats or hooves.



4. Unusual ticks or maggots.



5. Staggering, falling or central nervous system disorders.



Reporting Signs!

- Call your veterinarian first!
- the US Dept. of Agriculture's Veterinary Services at 1-512-916-5555
- the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) at 1-800-550-8242
- or your area TAHC office!

Accredited Veterinarians

- Usually first on the scene!
- Reporting & Diagnosis invaluable
- Has a large role in control & eradication!



When you call:

- The TAHC and USDA don't charge for services or diagnostic assistance to investigate possible foreign animal diseases or pests. Specimens and samples will be shipped to state or federal laboratories.
- Immediate response is crucial. The first 24 hours are the most important for stopping a disease or pest!

Foreign Animal Disease

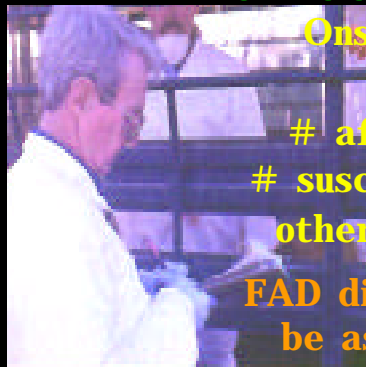
Preparedness & Response

FAD Diagnosticians



- Four key words for livestock health:

Info needed!



Onset of outbreak species

affected animals

susceptible animals

other pertinent info

FAD diagnostician will be assigned to case

Prevention

Preparedness

Response • Recovery