SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE 426th COMMISSION MEETING
Texas Animal Health Commission
November 18, 2025

Item 1 – Welcome and Call to order by Chairman Locke
The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) Commissioners met in person on Tuesday, November 18, 2025. Chairman Coleman Locke began the meeting at 8:40AM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Item 2 – Roll Call for Commission Members
The Chairman called the roll for the commission members. Commissioner Osterkamp was absent. The absence was excused.

Item 3 - Closed Executive Session to Receive Legal Advice, Discuss Pending or Contemplated Litigation, and Settlement Offers as Permitted by Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code.
The closed executive session was called at 8:31AM.

Item 4 – Closed Executive Session to Deliberate the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of Specific Commission Employees as Permitted by Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code

Item 5 – Reconvene to Consider Any Action Needed Following Closed Executive Session
The regular session was reconvened at 10:00AM. No action was needed.

Item 6 – Approval of the minutes of the 424th Meeting
There was no public comment and no discussion concerning the minutes of the 425th Commission meeting. The motion carried.

Item 7 – Audit Subcommittee Report
Commissioner Joe Leathers provided the following Audit Subcommittee report:
The Audit Subcommittee met prior to the general meeting and approved reports on internal audits of Cash Disbursements, Fixed Assets, Program Records, and prior recommendations for Program Records and Legal and Compliance Processes. The Fiscal Year 2025 Internal Audit Report was presented and approved. Additionally, the committee received an overview of the risk assessment results, including an overview of risk ratings and a risk heat map, and were presented a four-year internal audit plan from incoming Auditors.

The motion to approve the Audit Subcommittee Report passed.

Item 8 – Report of the Executive Director and Approval of Waiver and Variance Requests
Dr. Dinges presented the following:
(A) AGENCY OPERATIONS & AFFAIRS
Rural Veterinary Incentive Program (RVIP): The RVIP (administered by the Texas Animal Health Commission) provides educational loan repayment assistance or payment of tuition and fees of up to $180,000 to eligible veterinarians and veterinary medical students who demonstrate a commitment to working in designated rural Texas counties. The program offers up to $45,000 for each year of full-time veterinary service in rural counties in need of a veterinarian. A “Rural County" defined in legislation as a county with a population of less than 150,000. Funding was appropriated in the amount of $2.5 Million for fiscal year

2026 and $2.5 Million for fiscal year 2027 by the 89th legislature. The RVIP Committee met on September 3, 2025, and set the application period from September 22nd through November 30th. The RVIP Committee will evaluate the applicants and awardees will be notified in February 2026.

Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP): The VMLRP provides student loan debt relief for veterinarians that serve three years in veterinary shortage areas. The award amount of $40,000 per year of student loan debt for each year a veterinarian commits to working in a designated veterinary shortage area. An additional payment of $15,600 per year to cover tax liability is now included, for a total maximum award of $166,800 for three years ($120,000 for loan repayment and $46,800 for tax liability). Due to a pause and review of federal funding in early 2025, the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) 2025 Cycle was put on hold. USDA recently let states know that the 2026 cycle will be funded. Since the rural shortage areas that were designated in 2025 were not used, those shortage areas will be used for the 2026 cycle. Texas nominated and was awarded the maximum number of shortage areas (8 total areas consisting of 45 counties total). TAHC focused on nominating shortage areas along the Texas-Mexico border, West Texas and the Panhandle. Official dates have not yet been set, but USDA plans to open applications in Feb-March 2026.

Cattle Fever Tick Treatment (Eprinomectin) Field Trial: (appropriated $316,000 by the 88th legislature): This originally was a two-year project with three planned research trials. The first trial was Initiated at the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (LANWR) in Cameron County in October of 2023. The objective of the study was to evaluate whether repeated dose regimens of injectable eprinomectin were efficacious against adult female ticks on cattle constantly exposed to ticks via wildlife over the course of a year. The study was concluded in January 2024 (after 112 days) due to early indications that there were too many uncontrolled variables to meet the objective. The study was moved to USDA ARS Research Facility (Moore Field-Edinburg, TX) for a more controlled environment where cattle can be penned for inspection and treatment as required. The objective remained the same, but the study design was updated to be more efficient, use less cattle, conclude with less study days, guarantee a more intense challenge with applied infestation of 2,500 larval ticks every other week, and increase plasma sampling frequency to improve understanding of how eprinomectin levels impact tick survival and fecundity. The Moore Field project was completed in April 2025. The preliminary findings were presented at the 67th Livestock Insect Workers Conference in Cody, WY in early July 2025.

The research manuscript is under development, but progress has been delayed by the federal shut down and prioritization of NWS preparation activities by the subject matter expert at USDA ARS. Initial analysis of the findings suggested the need for more robust data to be able to meet the study objectives for the 84-day treatment protocol. The USDA continued study of the effects of the 84-day treatment protocol on a subset of the original study cattle starting in April. The collection of this additional data is expected to conclude at the end of January 2026, providing another 280 days of data for analysis. The eprinomectin residue study is designed to determine eprinomectin B1a residue levels in multiple tissues following multiple doses of injectable eprinomectin as suggested by the Moore Field data. This study is being done by the Texas A&M Animal Science Department and collaborators who will incorporate data regarding repeated dosing into FARAD models to determine best withdrawal recommendations for producers using the multi-dose regimen. The study design and statement of work is completed, and the contract (approved at the August commission

meeting) is in place. The study will run for a minimum of 280 days and was projected to start in the Fall of 2025. The initiation of the study has been delayed due to high cattle prices and unexpected availability complications with one of the primary collaborators. The study will begin as soon as TAMU is able to purchase the necessary 25 animals. The second trial at the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge will utilize the findings from the work done at Moore field and the lessons learned from the first LANWR study to further evaluate the best effective multi-dose eprinomectin treatment protocol in a population of cattle managed to mimic common practices in south Texas. Initial planning and preparation for the project has already been started; plans and protocols will be finalized once the findings from the research at Moore Field are available. The LBB has added $30,000 (exceptional item ask) to the TAHC base budget for the next biennium to complete all stages of the planned research.

129th United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Annual Meeting, Aurora, CO, 10/31 – 11/5/2025

Six TAHC Executive Staff members and Directors attended this year's meetings. In the Cattle ID Subcommittee meeting, I was able to participate in a panel discussion along with State Veterinarians from Idaho, Nebraska and Tennessee to present an overview of each state's slaughter channels. In the Tuberculosis Subcommittee meeting, I was able to give an update on the current Texas TB Situation. Holli Tietjen Hale, Director of TAHC Emergency Management, and Dr. Lansford gave a well-received presentation entitled "*Multi-Agency Coordination in Planning and Preparing for New World Screwworm: Texas Approach*" to the committee on Animal Emergency Management.

Dr. Lansford continues to serve as the Vice Chair of the USAHA Committee on Parasitic and Vector Borne Diseases, which has been very active in NWS mitigation planning efforts. I continue to serve as the Vice Chair of the USAHA Subcommittee on Trichomoniasis. The Trich subcommittee continues to work with the National Veterinary Services Laboratory to develop a Trich PCR proficiency testing protocol for veterinary diagnostic labs to complete.

The TAHC group was able to attend multiple USAHA committee meetings over the six days. Two meetings of the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials were also held. Due to the federal government shut down, we were unable to meet with APHIS Administration and other USDA APHIS VS leadership. A face-to-face meeting with the Binational Committee's U.S. border state's animal health officials; Industry members from NCBA, TCFA, and National Farm Bureau; and APHIS USDA VS officials Rosmary Sifford (Deputy Administrator and Chief Veterinary Officer) and Brianna Schur (Acting Associate Deputy Administrator - Strategy & Policy) was held. Dr. Sifford stated that Mexico has made good progress in improving regulatory infrastructure such as checkpoint controls for internal cattle movements, consistency of inspections, and general inspection protocols since the NWS action plan was released and agreed to by Mexico in August.

(B) National Update

Cattle Fever Ticks

Nematode Use: FDA has approved the New Categorical Exclusion for nematode use that will expand the use of the nematodes to the CFTEP program counties (plus additional counties- Brooks, Cameron, Dimmit, Duval, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kinney, Kleberg, La Salle, Live Oak, Maverick, McMullen, Starr, Val Verde, Webb, Willacy, and Zapata) and would include application to wildlife and some cattle. The company has

communicated that no nematodes will be available in the fall. This is due to Florida's Citrus industry not demanding them, so the company has no incentive to make them for us to use in experiments.

Rio Bravo Buffer Zone: USDA APHIS, SADER/SENASICA and the Mexican States of Tamaulipas and Coahuila worked cooperatively to establish a cattle fever tick buffer zone with focused pilot project areas along the Rio Grande mirroring the permanent quarantine zone in Texas. The USDA allocated approximately $150,000 USD to contribute to the project in 2025. The second phase ran from October 2024 – September 2025. The USDA has asked that there be an increase in wildlife surveillance. In Coahuila, the USDA pledged $48,548.68 USD, and Mexico is providing $49,381.38 USD to be utilized on the seventy (70) production units that have been identified (6,024 hd). In the first quarter of FY 25, 1,733 head of cattle have been inspected and treated with low tick infestations so far. In Tamaulipas, the USDA pledged $99,541.56, and Mexico is providing $54,715.77 USD for use in 23 production units identified along the border. Treatments to be used include tick vaccine and macrocyclic lactones in the cattle and Ivermectin treated corn will be provided to the deer. No work has been reported in Tamaulipas to date. The work had been paused due to the federal government's stop on payments for international agreements back in February of this year. The funding was reinstated and work resumed on June 1, 2025. The US government shut down and the current state of animal health in Mexico have delayed the receipt and review the Mexican state's progress reports.

Asian Longhorn Tick (ALT)

The monthly update responsibilities have transitioned from the USDA-APHIS to the Medical and Veterinary Entomology Team at the University of Tennessee. To date, the ALT has been discovered in 25 states and Washington, DC. Kansas is the newest state with a discovery of the tick. The tick was found on a dog in Franklin Co., Kansas (The first week of October 2025). Affected states continue to use producer education and outreach to mitigate the risk of introductions. The 89th legislature funded the TAHC's exceptional Item request for the next biennium to procure additional equipment and personnel to increase foreign pest (i.e. cattle fever tick, Asian Longhorn Tick, and New World screwworm) surveillance more broadly throughout Texas by establishing a TAHC ectoparasite field identification laboratory. The application / interview process for the above-mentioned personnel is underway.

New World Screwworm (NWS)

Mexico: As of November 08, SENASICA reports 10,011 total cases of NWS with 808 of those cases considered to be active. To date the northern most case has been found just 70 miles south of the Texas/US border in Sabinas Hildalgo, Nuevo Leon. This case was reported on September 21, 2025 (via USDA Press Release at 10:00 PM). An eight-month-old heifer noticed upon arrival at a feed yard was found to have a wound infested with larvae (1st and 2nd instar). The heifer was in a group of 100 head that had been moved from an infested area in southern Mexico. The remainder of the group was inspected and treated by SENASICA employees. On October 6, 2025, a calf was found at a SENASICA check point in Montemorelos, Nuevo Leon (approximately 170 miles south of the Texas/US border). The calf was in a shipment of 85 head said to have originated from an infested Mexican State. The cattle were said to have been treated with Ivermectin and dipped prior to shipment. All larvae in the wound of the infested calf were said to be nonviable. The cohorts in the lot were inspected and found to be free of NWS by SENASICA employees. On October 9, 2025, SENASICA reported that

a case of NWS in cattle had been detected and treated in a timely manner in the municipality of Ezequel Montes, Queretaro. During the third inspection of a shipment of cattle that originated from an infested state in southeast Mexico, on a destination ranch, the authorized veterinarian identified a bovine with an infested lesion (1 of 67 head in the shipment). SENASICA employees inspected the animal, collected samples, treated the wound and treated the rest of the animals in the shipment.

SENASICA's protocol for response to the outlying northern most cases is to deploy teams of veterinarians to each region to strengthen epidemiological surveillance. SENASICA works with the state governments to set up a 24-mile radius zone around the index premises where enhanced inspections of animals and producer/general public education is carried out.

A new bovine case was reported in Encarnacion De Diaz, Jalisco on November 3. Based on what we know so far, it appears as if the detection represents another animal movement event rather than natural spread of the pest westward.

As the cases associated with animal movements continue to be discovered in northern Mexico, natural spread of the adult NWS fly continues to the northwest, with cases now being found in the states of Puebla, Morellos and Guerrero in the last few months. Sterile NWS Fly Polygons have been adjusted to cover this movement. In all, 10 states in southern Mexico appear to have established adult NWS fly populations.

USDA Response:

Concerning the northern most detections in Mexico, the USDA deploys teams to work with SENASICA on the ground to confirm the details of each case and perform an epidemiological evaluation. The USDA operations teams work to adjust sterile fly dispersal (ground release chambers) and surveillance activities to ensure the area is covered. Concerning the northern most cases in Nuevo Leon (both cases are considered inactive), surveillance has revealed no adult fly population to be present through two fly life cycles. Surveillance and ground release of sterile flies will continue throughout a third life cycle (Mid December) in the area.

On November 13, 2025, USDA announced the opening of a sterile fly dispersal facility in Tampico, Mexico. The Tampico facility will allow USDA to disperse sterile flies aerially across northeastern Mexico, including in Nuevo Leon.

The USDA CFTEP/ USDA APHIS VS and the TAHC continues to monitor the 101 traps deployed in 8 Texas Counties (Brownville to Del Rio)- As of 11/17/2025 – 29,437 individual flies have been submitted to NVSL (since the end of July 2025) from the trapping efforts in Texas (25,036 flies have been confirmed to be negative – Not NWS flies by NVSL). The remaining balance is in the process of being identified at NVSL.

The USDA APHIS VS has surveillance fly traps deployed along the US/Mexico border in New Mexico (5) and Arizona (7) and California (9) in addition to the Texas traps.

USDA APHIS VS staff completed their 4th trip to Mexico on October 25, 2025, (Previous trips were taken in June, July and September). They continue to monitor the Mexican government's efforts to control/mitigate/eradicate NWS. TAHC has not seen reports that are produced from these trips and USDA APHIS VS has not disclosed what information was obtained on these trips. There are trips scheduled for December 2025 and January 2026. It was mentioned that the USDA APHIS International Services may be scheduling a meeting in Costa Rica for December 2025 to discuss the northern movement of livestock

from/through Central America (I believe these animals continue to be moved into Guatemala and ultimately into southern Mexico).
USDA NWS Response Playbook was distributed on Friday October 17th. The USDA conducted a NASDA / NASAHO listening session on Monday, October 27th; a livestock industry listening session on Tuesday, October 28th; and a wildlife industry listening session on Wednesday, October 29th. The NWS response playbook is a draft document, and comments can be submitted to the USDA via the email in the document and on the USDA's NWS dashboard. There are multiple guidance documents associated with the USDA's NWS response playbook with several of those still being drafted.

DOMESTIC DISPERSAL FACILITY: Construction for the $8.5 million domestic dispersal facility at Moore Air Base is progressing and is still on track to be operational in early 2026. If needed, it will be capable of processing up to 100 million sterile NWS flies per week (from COPEG)—representing a significant expansion of our dispersal capacity and geographic range.

DOMESTIC PRODUCTION FACILITY: Secretary Rollins remains committed to construction of a domestic facility with a projected production capacity of 300 million sterile flies per week, to work in tandem with facilities in Panama and Mexico to protect American animal agriculture from NWS. The newly formed USDA APHIS NWS Directorate continues to work closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on planning for the domestic production facility. The directorate hopes to release more information and a project timeline very soon.

Texas Response:
TAHC continues our NWS planning and preparedness activities. Our weekly and bi-weekly communication coordination and collaboration calls are ongoing. Internal and external working groups continue to work on response plans focusing on animal movement control, treatment and surveillance.
The TAHC Emergency Management Team has held 4, 2-day NWS field response trainings for TAHC staff and other response agencies with the next one (a one-day training) scheduled for December 15th in San Antonio, TX. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and TPWD personnel are scheduled to attend.

Education and outreach efforts to raise awareness continue to be conducted. TAHC continues to meet with industry groups and veterinary groups to keep them apprised of the NWS situation in Mexico and discuss the latest information involving response, treatment, control and eradication efforts.

TAHC continues to work with TPWD both individually via weekly coordination calls and through the Texas Screwworm Response Team. The TAHC / TPWD New World Screwworm Response Team with the mission to amplify NWS preparedness in Texas and serve as a central hub for coordinating information, aligning strategies and delivering resources to support prevention, detection, control and eradication efforts held its first meeting on September 4, 2025. The second meeting is tentatively scheduled to take place on December 2, 2025.
TAHC continues to update and distribute producer guidance documents in the form of FAQs about NWS Surveillance and a flyer entitled "*What to do if you suspect NWS*."

Since the reported case in Nuevo Leon, MX, TAHC has increased communication efforts with both emergency management personnel and livestock deputies in numerous South Texas counties. We have also increased awareness among South Texas livestock market owners and management.

In late September, TAHC participated in the United States Animal Health Association and the National Institute for Animal Agriculture's NWS two-day symposium in Kansas City, MO. The symposium entitled *Safeguarding U.S. Livestock from New World Screwworm: A complete approach to prevention, treatment and animal movements* was well attended by veterinary pharmaceutical companies, state animal health officials and representatives from numerous livestock and equine industry organizations. Dr. Lansford played a major role in planning and organizing the symposium.

Representatives from the USDA APHIS Veterinary Services, the FDA and EPA were also in attendance.

The goal of the symposium is to produce a White Paper to present to the FDA and EPA a list of potential products to be considered for prevention, control and treatment of NWS in livestock.

Dr. Lansford and I continue to meet with our NASAHO NWS WG twice a week. We are reviewing the NWS Playbook and associated guidance documents with the USDA NPIC staff. This group was able to meet for an hour and a half in person at the USAHA meetings.

We continue to meet once a week with the Great Plains Regional NWS Working Group (TX, OK, KS, NE, MO, CO, NM & AZ) – to better harmonize the region's livestock movements during an NWS infestation.

FDA:

On August 18th, The Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Issued a declaration of emergency pursuant to the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act for New World Screwworm. This declaration, the first step under this statute, authorizes the Food and Drug Administration to issue Emergency Use Authorizations for animal drugs for prevention or treatment of New World Screwworm Myiasis.

On September 30th, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration conditionally approved Dectomax-CA1 (doramectin injection) injectable solution for the prevention and treatment of New World screwworm larval infestations, and prevention of NWS reinfestation for 21 days. Dectomax-CA1 is conditionally approved for use only in cattle. Antiparasitic animal drugs are an important tool in the overall toolbox of the NWS response and are best deployed in targeted ways when a threat is present, to reduce driving unnecessary antiparasitic resistance.

FDA is continuing to work at full steam to bring additional products to market as part of a coordinated US response.

TAHC continues to correspond with the FDA on a regular basis concerning NWS prevention, control and treatment. We have a monthly recurring meeting with the FDA (to include TAMU's- Dr. Kaufman and Dr. Ellis) every third Thursday of the month.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

Poultry: National - February 8, 2022

- Over 177 million birds have been affected (September 2025)
- 1,855 premises in 50 states/Puerto Rico (1,130 WOAH Poultry/ 725 WOAH Non- Poultry) (11/14/2025)

- Texas: 15 total HPAI positive premises since February 2022 to include 2 commercial flocks, totaling just over 1,895,800 birds
    - Latest being WOAH Non-poultry: Harris County, November 2025

Dairy/Livestock: - National - March 25, 2024

- Influenza A, H5, Clade 2.3.4.4b, genotype *B3.13*
- 19 states – 1084 Confirmed Premises (11/14/2025)
- Texas: 30 premises – Panhandle and Stephenville Milk Sheds (11/14/2025). Have not discovered an epi link associated with cattle movements between milk sheds. The last known test positive premises showing clinical signs was disclosed on December 13, 2024, and located in the Panhandle Milk Shed. There were 2 premises that tested positive on May 12, 2025, and 1 premises that tested positive on September 2, 2025. The samples tested were banked samples from March 2024. The premises involved were applying for the USDA's Livestock Assistance Program payments and needed to prove that the premises had positive cattle at one time during the program dates.

Spillover events of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b, genotype D1.1 have occurred in both Nevada dairy cattle (January 2025) and Arizona dairy cattle (February 2025). The confirmations were a result of both states' tracing and investigation efforts, following an initial detection on silo testing under the USDA's National Milk Testing Strategy. Genotype D1.1 represents the predominant genotype in the North American flyways (fall 2024 and winter 2025) and has been identified in wild birds, mammals, and spillovers into domestic poultry.

USDA National Mandatory Milk Surveillance Program (Mandatory testing of unpasteurized milk intended for interstate movement) – Animal Health Protection Act Federal Order – December 6, 2024

USDA APHIS National Milk Testing Strategy (NMTS) – Facilitates comprehensive H5N1 surveillance of the Nation's milk supply and dairy herds.

- Increase USDA's and public health partners' understanding of where the virus is present in the United States,
- Support the rapid implementation of enhanced biosecurity measures to decrease the risk of transmission to other livestock, and
- Inform critical efforts to protect farm workers to help lower their risk of exposure.
- National Milk Testing Strategy 5 Stages:
    - Stage One: State/Regional Snapshot
    - Stage Two: Determining State Status
    - Stage Three: Detecting, responding to, and eliminating the Virus
    - Stage Four: Demonstrating H5N1 Disease Freedom within a State
    - Stage Five: Demonstrating H5N1 Disease Freedom in U.S. Dairy Cattle

Texas began the National Milk Testing Strategy on April 7th by conducting plant silo monitoring. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) administers the pasteurized milk ordinance established by the FDA and is conducting silo sampling. Samples are collected every 4 to 5 weeks. There are on average 172 enrolled silos in Texas each testing round. On average there are 86-104 silos qualified for sampling/testing each round. (This data has been compiled at the conclusion of week 31 of testing – November 3rd). Silos

may be exempt from testing for various reasons such as the silo was empty, silo doesn't meet sampling minimums, does not contain grade A fluid milk or it was skipped (rare - weather, inspector schedules). We are currently on the 8th round of testing, 646 samples submitted to date, TAHC has not been made aware of a positive silo.

If a positive silo is detected, TAHC will be responsible for coordinating the collection of bulk milk tank samples from each dairy in the positive silo to detect the positive dairy. TAHC will work with the positive dairy to mitigate spread and ultimately eliminate the virus from the premises.

(C) WAIVERS and VARIANCES (Action Item)

There were five waivers requested, four of which were approved.

- Brucellosis – **Denied** – request was to ship exotic Bovidae prior to Brucellosis testing.
- Pullorum Typhoid – **Approved** – allowed entry of zoo birds without PT test. Birds were from a zoo environment. Shipment was cancelled prior to arrival.
- Pullorum Typhoid – **Approved –** allowed entry of zoo birds without PT test. Birds were from a zoo environment and were quarantined upon arrival.
- CWD – **Approved** – due to stocking rate issues, adjustments in the handling and storage of carcasses were made to allow for additional testing and surveillance during reduction of stocking rate.
- Pullorum Typhoid – **Approved** – allowed entry of zoo birds without PT test. Birds were from a zoo environment and were quarantined upon arrival.

The motion to approve the waivers and variances passed.

Item 9 – Presentation of Animal Health Programs and Disease Traceability Activities

Dr. T.R. Lansford presented:

A. Animal Disease Traceability (ADT)
   July to September 2025 totals:
   1. Pins: New – 206, Total – 46,246
   2. LIDS: New – 1,513, Total – 109-975
   3. Scrapie Flock IDs: New – 252, Total – 27,821
   4. RFIDs: 1,929,906
   5. Total Readers: 341

B. Emergency Management Activities
   Training and Preparedness
   1. Completed 4th NWS field response training for TAHC personnel
   2. More than 100 TAHC and other agencies' personnel trained
   3. Conducted several NWS working group meetings to solidify plans (TPWD, USDA, etc.)
   4. Met with new TDEM planning department leadership
   5. NWS preparedness meetings with three regional livestock deputy groups
   6. Homeland Security Council annual strategic plan review meeting

   Outreach and Engagement
   1. Updated Emergency Management Council on NWS at quarterly meeting
   2. Attended industry meetings to present on NWS (ICA, TSCRA, etc.)
   3. Met with three sale barns about NWS – five additional scheduled

4. Presented at USAHA Annual Meeting on NWS preparedness in TX

Secure Food Supply

1. Continue to engage with other states on SFS programs
2. Posted SFS positions and scheduled interviews

Upcoming Events

1. Texas Pork Producers Summit – December 3-4, Austin, TX
2. NWS field response training for AgriLife Extension Personnel – December 15, San Antonio, TX

C. TAHC Employee Updates:
Turnover rate - All time low – 12% (FY25)
Trend analysis of departures: Primarily obtaining jobs with more pay or work/life decisions such as family moving or retirement

D. Career Ladder Increases – Inspectors IVs and Vs and Administrative Assistants Vs and VIs

Item 10 – Presentation of Program Records Activities

Ms. Rebecca Galvan gave an overview of the Program Records Department activities and accomplishments:

A. Department organization:
- Director of Program Records and Quality Assurance
- 1 Program Records Team Lead
- 10 Customer Service Representatives
- 2 Quality Assurance Specialists

B. Program Records Team Lead
- Liaises between PR & QA to ensure continuity of data & task flow
- Works closely with Epidemiology Team Lead to assist with reporting and further internal working relationship between departments
- Handles escalated public inquiries

C. Program Records (PR)
- Entry Requirements
- Entry Permits
- CVI data entry and processing through CVI Central

D. Quality Assurance (QA)
- Liaises between TraceFirst and TexCore users/TAHC
- Reviews data within TexCore and performs data accuracy monitoring
- Creates FDEs, Programs, and SOPs

E. Program Records by the Numbers, FY 2025
- 6,500 ePermits per year
- All CVIs received are routed within seven days of receipt
- Approximately 50,000 CVIs processed each year
- Approximately 142,000+ CVIs and movement records each year

F. Quality Assurance by the Numbers, FY 2025
- TexCore Support Tickets Pending: 15
- Current and ongoing project in data clean up, specifically duplicate or errored person and premises profiles
- Region Reviews: 3 completed, 3 in process
- Numerous training sessions with new staff, existing staff, and meetings to trouble shoot user issues in real-time

G. Transition to Electronic CVIs Timeline:
- January 1, 2026 – TAHC will cease accepting paper CVIs for TX imports
- June 1, 2026 – TAHC will cease selling paper CVIs to Texas veterinarians for intrastate and export movements
- January 1, 2027 – TAHC will cease accepting paper CVIs issues by Texas veterinarians for intrastate and export movements

Item 11 – Presentation of Disease Information and Epidemiology Activities

Dr. Jessica Monday, State Epidemiologist, presented:

Cattle

- HPAI in Livestock – Texas has had 30 confirmed cases in Amarillo and Stephenville Regions with zero confirmed cases to date in since 12/2/2024
- Cattle Tuberculosis: Five herds under assurance testing
  - Mexican origin steer identified at harvest – Q1 Oct 2024 – Complete
  - Adult dairy cow identified at harvest – Q3 March 2025*
  - Adult beef cow identified at harvest – Q4 June 2025 - Origin: South Texas beef herd; under hold order until herd TB screening is complete
  - Adult dairy cow identified at harvest – Q4 June 2025 - Traced and transferred to New Mexico
  - Adult dairy cow identified at harvest – Q3 March 2025
  - Traced three facility dairy complex – Comprising over 25,000 Jersey and Holstein cows and a small Angus beef herd
    - All 3 currently under quarantine
    - Assessment testing April 2024: TB Affected Status – TX25A
    - Diagnostics – so far suggest new introduction & most likely of Mexico origin
    - Herd plan and CEAH Modeling for Test & Remove (x4)
    - Initial trace assignment complete, trace start 3/13/20 - Previous whole herd test done January 2020
  - New Mexico dairy traces – Q4 June 2025
    - Initiated after NM adult dairy cow identified at harvest
    - Approx. 800 dairy calves under isolation and TB tested at Texas calf raiser: 3% deceased
    - Terminal chain beef calves sent through TX growers/feeders to harvest
    - Dairy cattle traces from NM origin unlikely
  - Q4: 13 ongoing TB investigations
- Cattle Brucellosis – in the 4th quarter of 2025, 4,653 test were performed with 5 suspects
- Cattle Trichomoniasis – 2,793 PCR tests, and 0 positive cultures
- Cattle Fever Ticks: 839 fever ticks collected
- Texas National Silo Monitoring:
  - Texas leveraged the existing (DSHS) milk sampling program
  - Round: cohort of enrolled silos inspected, and qualifying silos sampled every 4-5 weeks
  - Reasons a silo may not be sampled: empty/minimum, storage product, skip
  - TAHC prepared to respond and investigate any NVSL positive silo samples at the origin dairies
  - 46 States Enrolled in NMTS, 33 states are unaffected, 9 provisionally unaffected
  - Q4 – 461 Samples sent to NVSL

Equine

- Equine Infection Anemia – There were 9,199 tests run and 11total positive results

- Equine Piroplasmosis – 780 *T. Equi* test run with five positive cases. There were 354 *B. Caballi* tests run with no positive cases

Avian

- Avian Influenza – in the fourth quarter of 2025 there were 1,890 tests conducted
- Pullorum Typhoid – 235 flocks tested, which totaled 12,427 birds with zero positives
- Summary: two cases of poultry HPAI in January 2025, 26 cases of ILT

Swine

- Swine Brucellosis – five cases in 2025
- Pseudorabies – six cases in 2025

Chronic Wasting Disease:

- 77 herds formally notified of CWD HCP repeal - via email on 9/16/2025
- 55 trace breeder facilities released from TAHC Hold Order and transferred to Texas Parks and Wildlife
- 7 CWD positive breeder facilities reviewed and released from TAHC Hold Order/Quarantine, now under TPWD management for native cervid species

Item 12 – USDA-VS Report

Dr. Louisa Collins presented updates for USDA VS and the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program.

Dr. Collins reported on staff updates in the Federal workforce: the local workforce lost 20% of staff due to deferments and separations. There is one veterinary medical officer position posted in the Sulphur Springs Region and plans to hire term employees to address NWS as needed. Most staff were considered "excepted on call" during the shutdown. Import Export Services continued but NVAP and Supply Departments were furloughed. A core orientation had to be cancelled, and supplies could not ship forms or trailer seals. Staff will receive back pay. HPAI continues to be active. Silos testing was paused during the shutdown but have resumed. There are three programs relating to the HPAI Biosecurity programs. There have been 39 requests for biosecurity assessments with the goal to reduce the number of infected premises. There is a cost share for the programs. 115 responders have been assigned to NWS trapping. 74 of those staff are on the ground, 21 are virtual and there is an Incident Management Team designated to support efforts. This work continued during the shutdown and there are numerous calls on suspect flies. There have been 39 samples collected since October 1st.

Item 13 - Budget Status Report

The following was presented by Paula Andrews:

- FY 2026 Budgeted Revenue (for period of September 1, 2025, to October 31st, 2025)

Category	**BUDGET**	**AVAILABLE**
Salaries and Wages	$15,265,320	$13,066,631
Other Personnel Costs	$298,551	$268,574
Professional Fees & Services	$141,595	$126,403
Fuels and Lubricants	$523,491	$430,465
Consumable Supplies	$223,089	$216,837
Utilities	$247,008	$220,254
Travel	$638,679	$610,750
Rent- Building	$817,161	$594,832
Rent- Machine Other	$61,795	$57,518
Other Operating Expense	$2,507,176	$1808,346
Totals	$24,148,865	$20,825,340

The motion to approve the report passed.

Item 14 – Consideration of and Possible Action on Agency Contracts and Purchases

Paula Andrews presented contracts and purchases for the consideration of the Commissioners, which included contracts, purchases, and leases for AY 2026.

The motion to approve the contacts, purchases, and leases passed.

Item 15 – Presentation of Compliance Activities

The following update was presented by Mr. Clint Sturrock:

- FY2025 Compliance Summary
  - Cases referred for Criminal Prosecution: 402, and 113 cases closed with criminal filings
  - Total Road Stops: Non-compliant – 618, Compliant – 4,201
- Investigators attended annual training which included courtroom training
- Compliance staff attended TAHC sponsored NWS training
- Conducted social media road stop campaign to educate producers
- Conducted road stops specifically to educate public on NWS

Item 16 – Consideration of and Possible Action on Orders Related to Commission Rule Violations

Mr. Jabbar Fahim presented orders related to Commission rule violations for consideration of the commission. The orders were approved.

Item 17 – Consideration of and Possible Action on Adoption of Proposed Rules

Ms. Penny Maley presented the following:

a) 4 Tex. Admin. Code Ch. 38, Trichomoniasis

The Trichomoniasis Working Group met on July 10, 2025, to review the effectiveness of the current Trich program. The group made two recommendations to update program rules to more accurately reflect testing science and to update testing requirements. The proposed amendments update test result language, changing “negative” result to “not detected” and eliminate testing requirements for bulls that are part of a herd one year after the date the hold order or quarantine on the herd was released.

The motion to ADOPT amendments to Chapter 40, Trichomoniasis, passed.

b) 4 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 45 Reportable & Actionable Diseases, Chapter 51 Entry Requirements and Chapter 57 Poultry

Egg Drop Syndrome (EDS) Virus is an infectious disease caused by an adenovirus which can affect many species of poultry and birds. Clinical signs include thin-shelled, soft-shelled, or shell-less eggs, and rapid extended loss in egg production. Currently, there is no treatment for EDS and vaccine use is limited and poses its own risk to Texas poultry. Amendments to Chapter 41 would allow for early detection and reporting, which are critical to prevention by adding EDS to the TAHC list of reportable and actionable diseases. Amendments to Chapter 51 add new entry requirements for poultry affected by EDS by requiring birds from affected states or birds that have been vaccinated against EDS to

submit a written request prior to entry and obtain authorization for entry. Additionally, for clarity of rules, there are consolidations of entry requirements across chapters 51 and 57 as well as reorganize existing entry requirements into easier to follow lists rather than bulky paragraphs. Chapter 57 amendments remove the interstate movement requirements which will be consolidated in Chapter 51, renumbers paragraphs, and clarifies proven available methods of carcass disposal to ensure dead poultry is disposed of in a manner that facilitates decomposition and limits spread/exposure of disease.

The motion to ADOPT amendments to Chapter 45 Reportable & Actionable Diseases, Chapter 51 Entry Requirements and Chapter 57 Poultry, passed

Item 18 – Consideration of and Possible Action on Adoption of Proposed Rules

Ms. Penny Maley presented the following:

a) 4 Tex. Admin. Code Ch. 51, Entry Requirements

The purpose of the amendments proposed to Chapter 51, Entry Requirements is to add a definition of "dairy cattle" to TAHC rules that matches USDA's definition clarify requirements for dairy cattle and dairy crosses entering Texas.

The motion to PROPOSE amendments to Chapter 51 Entry Requirements passed.

The notice of the proposed amendments will be published in the Texas Register with a 30-day comment period. Comments regarding the proposals may be submitted to Amanda Bernhard, Texas Animal Health Commission, 2105 Kramer Lane, Austin, Texas 78758, by fax at (512) 719-0719 or by email at "comments@tahc.state.tx.us".

Item 19 – Awards and Recognition

There were no presentations during the 425th meeting.

Item 20– Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Item 21 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:08PM.