

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE 420th COMMISSION MEETING
Texas Animal Health Commission
April 30, 2024

Item 1 – Welcome and Call to order by Chairman Locke

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) Commissioners met in person on Tuesday, April 30, 2024. Chairman Coleman Locke began the meeting at 8:30AM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Item 2 – Roll Call for Commission Members

The Chairman called the roll for the commission members. Commissioner Payne 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 8:33AM.

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 reconvened at 10:10AM. No action was needed.

Item 6 – Approval of the minutes of the 419th Meeting

There was no public comment and no discussion concerning the minutes of the 419th Commission meeting. The motion to approve the minutes of the 419th Commission Meeting was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Turner. The motion carried.

Item 7 – Report of the Executive Director and Approval of Waiver and Variance Requests

Dr. Dinges presented the following:

(A) AGENCY OPERATIONS & AFFAIRS

- Clint Sturrock has been promoted to Investigations Manager as part of Compliance. Irma Rodriguez has been hired as a Budget Analyst in Finance. Livestock Enforcement Investigators – All 10 positions are now filled (TAHC/TDA/DPS - Part of the \$2.4M appropriated for 10 additional staff, equipment, trucks, computers, roadside signs, etc.).
- Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP): Will pay up to \$25,000 per year (for up to 3 years) of student loan debt for veterinarians that will commit to at least 3 years of providing veterinary services in a designated veterinary shortage area. Applications for FY 2025 opened January 11 and closed April 12, 2024. Texas was awarded 5 veterinary shortage areas with awards being offered September 30, 2024. Future plans include restoring the working group, to include state partners, next cycle to increase communication about the program. Plans are in place to incorporate a VMLRP information session into Texas Tech's 3rd year regulatory course.
- Cattle Fever Tick Treatment (Eprinomectin) Field Trial: (appropriated \$316,000): Preparations for the upcoming Moore Field project are nearly complete with a planned start date in early June. ARS has

acquired the 26 study cattle, who are currently undergoing pre-trial testing and acclimatization at Moore Field. Necessary supplies have been obtained and TAHC personnel are undergoing IACUC training. Planning for the residue project is ongoing with input from FARAD; a tentative start date for that project is set for late 2024 or early spring 2025.

(B) National Update

- **Cattle Fever Ticks:**

- **Nematode Use:** allowed to use the nematodes but with enforcement discretion, but only on animals not entering the food chain. The sprayers will be utilized on a premises where there are cattle near nilgai, but USDA CFTEP can only support a few sprayers for the identified premises. CFTEP can support the staff to work on those that have been allotted. CFTEP will get with ARS to set up a training for staff prior to the sprayers going out. Will put together a strategy on sprayer numbers and placement. Will need to work with TAHC on this meeting with ARS to start learning how to operate sprayers and product.
- **Fencing FY 25:** VS has reduced the survey and staking work from 40 miles down to 20 miles, due to limited VS funding in FY25. This 20-mile reduction impacts the planned Starr and Willacy County locations. If the FY25 funding forecast positively changes, USDA will move forward with the additional 20 miles of survey and staking in FY25. One positive consideration is having all the signed landowner agreements for all the 40 miles of fence construction to take place. The funding of these fencing projects is imperative to prevent the spread of cattle fever ticks due to wildlife migration.
- **TX Farm Bureau:** Cattle fever tick meeting Harlingen, TX Wednesday, May 29th

- **Animal Disease Traceability**

USDA's proposed rule to discontinue metal NUES tags and require that official identification devices be readable both visually and electronically. The USDA representatives tentatively predicted a final rule would be published after the first of this year. Currently with OMB (January 24th) – 90 days

- **Asian Longhorn Tick (ALT)**

Agency management continues to monitor discoveries of ALT in other states and assess the practicality of any regulatory action to protect our state. Affected states have been using producer education and outreach to mitigate the risk of introductions. TAHC implements a robust tick surveillance program across Texas which continually monitors our livestock industry related to an introduction of exotic ticks.

- **New World Screwworm:** Costa Rica reported a case of New World Screwworm on July 14, 2023. On February 7, 2024, Costa Rica declared a state of emergency in response to the reporting of 203 confirmed cases. Importation of live animals from Costa Rica have been limited since August 2023. A case of New World Screwworm was reported on March 12, 2024, in La Pinta, Nicaragua in a 3-month-old calf. Dr. Sifford was trying to set up a meeting with the CVOs of Mexico and Latin America as of the week of March 18, 2024. Importation of animal commodities originating or transiting Nicaragua have been restricted since March 14, 2024. Recently rumored that a traveler from Central America showed up in a Florida ER infested with screwworms.

- **Disease Information**

- Bovine Trichomoniasis - Working group to meet May/June 2024
- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD):

- 3 Positive breeding facilities in 2024
- CWD Positive / Trace Herd Update: Dr. Trey James, (Acting State Epidemiologist) will give update under Agenda Item # 10
- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Poultry:
Twenty-one (21) states have been affected by HPAI since the last commission meeting in January 2024. It has been diagnosed in a non-commercial mixed species backyard flock (non-poultry) in Moore County, Texas (March 2024) depopulated; C&D; Non-commercial mixed species backyard flock (non-poultry) in Deaf Smith County, Texas (March 2024) depopulated; C&D and in a commercial layer (poultry) in Parmer County, Texas (April 2024 depopulated; C&D) Holli Tietjen-Hale will give an update on the positive commercial premises under agenda item # 9. At that time, she will also provide information on the February 2024 Panhandle Fires.
- **Milk Drop Syndrome**
 - **Clinical signs include:**
 - Decreased herd level milk production
 - Acute sudden drop in production with some severely impacted cows experiencing thicker, concentrated, colostrum like milk
 - Decrease in feed consumption with a simultaneous drop in rumen motility
 - Abnormal tacky or loose feces
 - Some fever
 - Impacted herds have reported older cows in mid-lactation may be more likely to be severely impacted than younger cows and fresh cows or heifers with 10-20% of the mid- lactation cows being affected. Dry cows and heifers do not appear to be affected.
 - Some herds have reported pneumonia and clinical mastitis cases as secondary sequelae.
 - **Timeline:**
 - **March 7-** Received word from Texas Association of Dairywomen Executive Director that clinical signs started in Texas Panhandle area dairies on February 2nd. Talked with Dr. Jessie Monday (TAHC State Epidemiologist) – discussed the possibility of an emerging disease. Talked to TAMU/WT VERO-Dairy Veterinarian Dr. Michael Kleinhenz – topic of discussion among producers at a recent panhandle area dairy conference. Reached out to Dr. Collins USDA Texas AVIC. Spoke with panhandle area producer affected along with his herd veterinarian.
 - **March 8** -TAHC begins to assemble subject matter expert group and work on case definition.
 - **March 13** – Talked with Dr. Pruitt USDA VS District 4 Director
 - **March 14** – Call with TAHC, TVMDL, VERO, Agri-life, USDA VS, Texas Association of Dairywomen, Select Milk
 - **March 14** – Call with above group to include Beef Issues Team and USDA VS Ruminant Health
 - **March 15** – Reports of dead birds on dairies
 - **March 18** – Birds tested non-negative for HPAI; Reports of more dead birds and affected cats on dairies

Summary Minutes of the 420th Commission Meeting – 4/30/2024

- **March 21** – Milk samples from affected cows tested non-negative for HPAI at ISU Vet Diagnostic Lab
 - **March 25** – Cat tested non-negative for HPAI
 - **March 28** – Milk samples from affected cows tested non-negative for HPAI at TVMDL; Discussion with HPAI 2024 Nat. Incident Management
 - **March 29**- USDA-APHIS announced confirmation of HPAI detection in US dairy cattle
 - **April 1** – CDC announced confirmation of HPAI in US dairy worker with conjunctivitis
 - **April 2** – Commercial Egg Layer in Parmer Co. – Confirmed Positive for HPAI
 - **April 7** – Call with USDA VS and NVSL to discuss sequencing of HPAI virus – Poultry/ Dairy
 - **April 21** – Call with Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack to discuss need for USDA and CDC to access HPAI affected dairies
 - **April 23** – Call with Secretary Vilsack and USDA VS to discuss Federal Order and Guidance documents.
- Given the low morbidity, lack of mortalities, and the relatively short length of time taken to return to production, TAHC has not placed movement restrictions on any classes of dairy cattle. I feel that it is the accredited veterinarian's responsibility to check with the receiving state, examine the group of cattle and complete the certificate of veterinary inspection with the proper information needed on the specific load of cattle. It would create major animal welfare issues on calf ranches, grow yards and dairies that receive and ship dairy cattle (see numbers below) from/to 15 to 22 states each month if movement was stopped for the different production classes of dairy cattle. Movement restrictions could have potentially led to cattle calving in dry lot pens with no ability to be milked, new calves not being able to be moved to calf ranches for care, and the inefficient movement of cattle to slaughter. TAHC, along with other affected states, has continually requested and waited for guidance from the USDA VS on movement of dairy cattle from affected/ nonaffected dairies.

Head of Dairy Exported from TX By Age Range, Jan. 15 - 31, 2024	
<i>Up to 11 M</i>	14,392
<i>12 - 23M</i>	4,886
<i>24M and older</i>	535
Total 18 States	19,813

Head of Dairy Imported to TX By Age Range, Jan. 15 - 31, 2024	
<i>Up to 11M</i>	27,232
<i>12 - 23M</i>	1,120
<i>24M and Older</i>	349
Total 18 States	28,701

Head of Dairy Exported from TX By Age Range, February 2024	
<i>Up to 11 M</i>	15,143
<i>12 - 23M</i>	5,615

<i>24M and older</i>	994
Total 22 States	21,752
<i>International: PR/12 - 23M</i>	181

Head of Dairy Import to TX By Age Range, February 2024	
<i>Up to 11M</i>	40,777
<i>12 - 23M</i>	1,906
<i>24M and Older</i>	1,670
Total 20 States	44,353

Head of Dairy Exported from TX By Age Range, March 2024	
<i>Up to 11 M</i>	25,591
<i>12 - 23M</i>	8,474
<i>24M and older</i>	1,150
Total 21 States	35,215

Head of Dairy Import to TX By Age Range, March 2024	
<i>Up to 11M</i>	41,570
<i>12 - 23M</i>	2,201
<i>24M and Older</i>	1,059
Total	44,830

Head of Dairy Exported from TX By Age Range, April 1 - 15, 2024	
<i>Up to 11 months</i>	11,474
<i>12 - 23 months</i>	4,405
<i>24 months and older</i>	445
Total 16 States	16,324

Head of Dairy Imported to Texas By Age, April 1 - 15, 2024	
<i>Up to 11 months</i>	19,028
<i>12 - 23 months</i>	1,392
<i>24 months and older</i>	3,164
Total 15 States	23,584

(C) Waivers and Variances (Action Item)

There were three waivers requested, all of which were approved.

- Trichomoniasis – **Approved** – allowed separation of negative pooled trich sample on bulls sold at a sale to meet a receiving state's requirements. The three pooled samples were negative and were found to be negative upon separation.
- Pullorum Typhoid – **Approved** – allowed entry of a zoo raised Harpy Eagle without a PT test. The facility of origin has never had a PT incident and the Eagle had a CVI and AI test prior to entry to another zoo facility.
- Avian Influenza – **Approved** – allowed entry of turkeys prior to regulatory testing to reduce stress on birds in the shipment. This project is conducted in coordination with TPWD as a restocking program. The turkeys were quarantined after entry, tested, and issued a CVI prior to release with negative required tests.

The motion to approve the waiver requests was made by Commissioner Leathers and seconded by Commissioner Turner. The motion carried.

Item 8 – Presentation of Animal Health Programs and Disease Traceability Activities

Dr. T.R. Lansford presented:

(A) ADT

- a. Filled a vacant position to assist with customer service calls and tag distribution. Want to welcome Ms. Laura Leal back to the Agency. She spent some time here working with Dr. Susan Culp and was instrumental in getting the Texas Authorized Personnel Program off the ground.
- b. Sheep and Goat Scrapie Identification Market Letter
 - i. Sent out to Regions for meeting with markets and distribution; provided printed copies for inclusion in mail with checks
 - ii. Approximately 90 markets in Texas sell sheep and goats at some frequency; Region Managements began meeting with the higher volume markets first and are well on the way to completing the meetings
 - iii. Report on impact of the letters to distribution of scrapie tags in slides
Review of updated ADT statistics and map of scanning devices - see slides

(B) Animal Health Programs

- a. Reorganization and staffing
 - i. Re-established the Region Director positions within Region management structure so now includes a Region Director, a veterinarian, and a Region Manager, non-veterinarian
 1. Have hired the following Region Directors
 - a. SV - Dr. Dustin Dorris
 - b. SS - Dr. Hank Hayes
 - c. LR - Dr. Sandra Leyendecker - who is also filling in at Beeville
 2. Openings
 - a. GS - interview candidates tomorrow
 - b. BV - interview candidate tomorrow
 - c. AM - review of applicants ongoing
 - ii. One Region Manager position is currently vacant, but posted with a strong applicant pool
 - iii. Agency wide, 193.5 FTEs out of 224.5 FTEs are filled

- iv. Recognition of Dr. Bohl
- b. Federal Cooperative Agreements
 - i. Staff has been in process of gathering information for final reports for the FY 2023 cooperatives
 - ii. Work is completed to adjust budgets due to Federal decreases to FY 2024 cooperatives; Paula will have additional details in her report
 - iii. Work will soon begin to complete budgets and applications for FY 2025 applications
- c. Milk Drop Syndrome and HPAI as an emerging disease in cattle
 - i. Unprecedented situation: still a great deal of information needed to fully understand the syndrome and situation
 - ii. Recognition of staff, industry (TAD, TCFA, TSCRA, private practitioners), and other partners (TVMDL, DSHS, AgriLife) for long hours and open communication throughout the continually evolving event, which is evolving
 - iii. Recognition of Dr. Dinges for his leadership through this situation we have worked to navigate through the animal health components, the industry components, public health components, and the regulatory components with other SAHOs and USDA-VS
 - iv. Recognition of Erin and Lexia in our Communications Department
 - 1. Phone/video interviews conducted: 22
 - a. Average time coordinating (setting up internally/corresponding with reporter/preparing answers) each inquiry: 45 minutes
 - b. Average time spent actively speaking with reporter: 10 minutes
 - c. Average total time spent: 1,210 minutes
 - 2. Email inquiries only: 43
 - a. Average time coordinating (preparing answers) each inquiry: 25 minutes
 - b. Average time spent responding (actually corresponding with reporter) to inquiry: 10 minutes
 - c. Average total time spent: 1,505 minutes
 - v. Recognition of Epidemiology Department; Dr. James will have some additional details as part of his report
 - vi. Topics for consideration moving forward from this event
 - 1. Impacts of Federal Order related to premovement testing
 - 2. Need to transition to a faster data capture system related to movements, which means we need to make a stronger push to transition to electronic CVIs
- d. Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) Response -
 - i. Nineteen (19) confirmed cases in Sulphur Springs Region this year
 - ii. Has provided opportunity to work closely with poultry industry to discuss and emphasize the importance of biosecurity down to the production unit level
 - iii. Provides Field Staff the opportunity to practice poultry disease response
 - 1. Mapping
 - 2. Surveillance activities
 - 3. Cooperative interactions with industry

e. Emergency Management

- i. Response to largest wildfire in TX history in end of February and early March; subsequent participation in Legislative Investigation Hearings first week of April in Pampa
- ii. Response to Texas's first HPAI confirmation in commercial poultry
 1. Highly effective, cooperative effort between the company, USDA VS, and TAHC
 2. Will soon complete the initial virus elimination phase to start the countdown for control area release and resumption of trade - inspection scheduled for April 29
- iii. Secure Food Supply plans
 1. Have met with representatives of both Livestock Marketing Association and American Livestock Markets and Dealers Association to discuss secure food supply planning at livestock markets
 2. Have met with some markets to discuss participation in plan development
- iv. Hurricane Huddle with response partners to be scheduled before the start of hurricane season

Item 9 – Presentation of Emergency Management Activities

The following was presented by Holli Tietjen-Hale:

- Panhandle Wildfires
 - February 27th, 2024
 - TAHC increased posture and conducted the following activities to maintain situational awareness of active wildfires:
 - Participated in situational awareness calls for critical fire weather facilitated by the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM)
 - Amarillo Regional Manager, Field Veterinarian, and Livestock Inspectors monitored active wildfires and contacted local Ag stakeholders and coordination partners
 - Received status updates
 - Address animal issues
 - Identified potential future needs
 - TAHC Policy/Leadership contacted ag industry partners
 - February 28th, 2024
 - TAHC was active for ESF-11 to provide livestock support
 - TAHC conducted the following activities to continue coordination efforts:
 - Daily internal coordination calls
 - Daily industry stakeholder calls
 - Calls to local veterinarians to determine projected needs
 - Coordinated with neighboring state veterinarian offices to facilitate a waiver of interstate animal movement documentation
 - TAHC Communications maintained social media presence, highlighting the following:
 - Where physical and monetary donations should be directed
 - TDA Hay Hotline and State of Texas Agriculture Relief Fund (STAR Fund)
 - TDEM communications on wildfire safety
 - Documenting and reporting losses

- Animal Supply Points
 - Animal health monitoring
- February 29th to March 14th, 2024
 - Response activities for this period include:
 - TAHC representative reported to Disaster District Emergency Operations Center 1 (DDOC-1)
 - TAHC field staff in Livestock Inspectors deployed
 - Animal needs assessments
 - Roadside surveillance
 - Distribution of animal Ag-focused handouts (carcass disposal guidance, state/federal resources, Agrilife Animals Supply Points)
 - Support provided to Animal Supply Point in Pampa for movement of hay
 - Maintained situational awareness, communicating daily with animal industry partners, producers, local/state response officials, and the Texas A&M Emergency Team
 - Participated in the Committee on Panhandle Fires Hearing April 2-4
- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Poultry 2024
 - April 1st: Increased mortality in egg laying facility in the panhandle, samples taken to Canyon TVMDL, AI matrix positive reported that evening
 - April 2nd-3rd: Incident Management Team (IMT) began arriving in Parmer Co., met with company and assisted with plans. TAHC teams conducted backyard flock surveillance of 20 km Control Area, worked with NM on achieving surveillance in NM due to overlap. Depopulation of index premises began.
 - April 15th: depopulation completed on 10 houses. Began cleaning and disinfection of equipment used. Plan to begin environmental sampling in mid-May.
- Preparedness Matters
 - Preparedness meetings with commercial poultry companies conducted
 - Incident Management Team and Field personnel trainings held
 - Solidified relationships with responding partners
 - Plans to conduct After Action Review

Item 10 – Presentation Of Disease Information and Epidemiology Activities

Dr. Trey James, Field Epidemiologist, presented:

HPAI in Cattle

- Milk Drop Syndrome Reported to TAHC the first week of March 2024
 - Clinical Signs include:
 - Decreased herd level milk production
 - Acute sudden drop in production with some severely impacted cows experiencing thicker, concentrated colostrum like milk
 - Decrease in feed consumption with a simultaneous drop in rumen motility
 - Abnormal tacky or loose feces
 - Some fever

Summary Minutes of the 420th Commission Meeting – 4/30/2024

- Impacted herds have reported older cows in mid-lactation may be more likely to be severely impacted than younger cows and fresh cows or heifers. Dry cows and heifers do not appear to be affected.
 - In addition, some herds have reported pneumonia and clinical mastitis cases as secondary sequelae
- A coordinated Subject Matter Expert (SME) group was put together and created a field epidemiologic investigation survey
- TAHC continues to work collaboratively with USDA, TVMDL, DSHS, Texas A&M University System, and others to share and evaluate data
- To date, Texas has twelve confirmed cases in the Panhandle area
- Cattle Tuberculosis
 - One Herd under quarantine for TB testing plan
 - Forty-three ongoing Tuberculosis facility trace investigations
 - Open from FY2022
 - Collaborating with USDA for review and closure
 - Six herds under TB assurance testing
- Cattle Brucellosis – 25, 783 tests from September 2023 and February 2024
- Cattle Trichomoniasis – September 2023 to February 2024 there were 11, 048 PCR tests, and ninety-eight positive results
- Cattle Fever Ticks
 - Eighteen open traces
 - 210 fever ticks collected
- Equine Infection Anemia – There were 77,601 and nine total positive tests
- Equine Piroplasmiasis – 4,285 *T. Equi* test run with zero positive cases. There were 1,454 *B. Caballi* tests run with one positive case.
- Avian Influenza – September 2023 to February 2024 there were 4,464 Live Bird Market System birds tested. There were 534 non-live bird market birds tested.
- Pullorum Typhoid – From September 2023 to February 2024 there were 232 flocks tested, which totaled 11,508 birds with zero positives.
- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT):
 - Texas had three cases of HPAI in backyard flocks during the period of September 2023 to February 2024.
 - During the same period, there were two cases of ILT
- Swine Brucellosis – there were 7,362 tests run and zero positives found
- Pseudorabies – there were 10,073 screenings done with fifteen positive cases
- Scrapie – there were 295 sheep and 1,504 goats tested.
- Chronic Wasting Disease:
 - 5th year Real County Breeder Facility suspended due to non-compliance
 - Suspect sample collected March 11th, 2024 and confirmed March 25th via post-mortem sampling. The positive sample was banked and animal was not reported deceased for two months before being submitted to the lab for regulatory testing
 - Two additional positives since initial detection
 - Fifty-seven traces; 44 trace outs and 13 trace-in
 - 5th Year Zavala County Breeder Facility had suspect sample collected on April 11th and confirmed April 24th.
 - It was a trace out to Frio County positive breeder facility
 - 35 traces; 29 trace outs and 6 trace-in

- There were 239 traces closed in 2021, 22 in 2022, and 193 in 2023

Item 11 – USDA-VS Report

Dr. Louisa Collins presented the following:

Veterinary Services (VS) staff numbers have reached thirty-three employees breaking down as fifteen veterinarians, fifteen animal health technicians, and three administrative staff. There will be two epidemiological staff hired soon. Nationally VS has hired thirty-five staff to respond to HPAI, with six of them dedicated to Texas. Nationally VS is hiring two staff per district to support emergency management work. Currently staff are still being sent to Puerto Rico for African Swine Fever (ASF) training, as ASF is still found in the Dominican Republic. Field skills trainings have been cancelled because of budget issues. Related to budget issues, the APHIS budget for FY24 was nine million dollars less than what was allocated for FY23. Congress did mandate swine health improvement programs but did not allocate additional funds for the program. This has caused VS to have to trim their budget and adjust in various areas. Cooperative funding for Texas was nearly fully funded at the same levels as FY23. The HPAI response from 2022 has been nationwide with 48 states affected. To date, there are still seventy-eight premises under quarantine, with only fifteen of those being commercial facilities. In Texas there were only three facilities, with one of those being commercial. Praise goes to Texas staff for preparedness efforts as the response was well coordinated and went smoothly. VS has been involved in the HPAI in Dairy cattle. They became aware of the issue in mid-March and at that time USDA started an IMT due to animal health issues. There was a federal order prohibiting movement of lactating cattle issued which went into effect on April 29th, 2024.

Item 12 – Budget Status Report

The following was presented by Paula Andrews,

- FY 2024 Budgeted Revenue - \$18,424,880
 - General Revenue - \$15,183,158
 - Capital Vehicles - \$415,000
 - Capital Equipment - \$200,000
 - AHP Fee Revenue - \$860,000
 - Federal Funds - \$1,766,722
- Federal Cooperative Funds

Cooperative Award	Award Begin	Award Amount	Claims	Remaining Award Amount
24 TX US SHIP	4/1/2024	\$29,556	\$200,000	\$29,556
24 D4 TX ADT	4/1/2024	\$445,104	\$375,032	\$445,104
22 D4 TX UMB	4/1/2024	\$1,737,418	\$1,939,830	\$1,737,418
22 D4 TX CFT	4/1/2024	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$350,000
Total Federal Awards				\$2,562,078

- Federal Funds as of March 31, 2024

Strategy	Prior Year (as of 8/31/2023)	Current Year (as of 3/31/2024)	Total by Strategy
Field	\$1,553,474.05	\$801,152.45	\$2,354,426.50
Animal Health Emergency Mgmt	\$47,731.18	\$23,226.85	\$70,958.03
Pass Through High Fence	\$114,841.61		\$114,841.61
Sub-Total	\$1,716,046.84	\$824,379.30	\$2,540,426.14
		Less Pass Through	(\$114,841.61)

Total Spendable Federal Funds	\$2,425,584.53
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- Fiscal Year 2024 Expenditures (Agency Level)

Category	BUDGET	YTD EXPENSE (as of 3/31/2024)	AVAILABLE BUDGET
Salaries and Wages	\$12,326,410	\$6,498,946	\$5,827,464
Other Personnel Costs	\$634,755	\$305,580	\$329,175
Professional Fees & Services	\$110,410	\$47,216	\$63,194
Fuels and Lubricants	\$102,940	\$332,631	-\$229,691
Consumable Supplies	\$169,854	\$107,042	\$62,812
Utilities	\$289,400	\$65,795	\$223,605
Travel	\$746,763	\$260,597	\$486,166
Rent- Building	\$626,591	\$519,026	\$107,565
Rent- Machine Other	\$75,607	\$32,115	\$43,492
Other Operating Expense	\$2,727,150	\$1,602,228	\$1,124,922
Capital Expenditures	\$615,000	\$37,372	\$577,628
Totals	\$18,424,880	\$9,808,548	\$8,616,332

The motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 budget status report was made by Commissioner Leathers and seconded by Commissioner Jordan. The motion passed.

Item 13 – 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 FY 2024.

The motion to approve the contacts, purchases, and leases was made by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Osterkamp. The motion passed.

Item 14 – Presentation of Compliance Activities

- Promotion of Clint Sturrock to Investigations Manager
- New Road Stop Enforcement Investigator positions
 - During 87th Legislative Session, TAHC was allocated ten full time employee positions to focus on livestock shipment road stop enforcement.
- Social media outreach to educate members of the public regarding livestock road stops
- Compliance Summary:
 - FY2024 Notices of Violation: there were \$46,110 in Penalties assessed and \$ 8,636 Penalties received. There were 319 Complaints filed with 64 Complaints closed with Criminal Case Filings

Item 15 – Reconsideration of Commission Orders (Action Item and Public Comment)

Mr. Jabbar Fahim presented information on the Reconsideration of Commission Orders. The motion to Adopt the Final order was made by Commissioner Leathers and seconded by Commissioner Jordan. The motion passed.

Item 16 - Consideration of and Possible Action on Orders Related to Commission Rule Violations and Proposals for Decision

Mr. Jabbar Fahim presented orders related to Commission rule violations for the consideration of the commission. The motion to adopt the orders was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner B. Klein. The motion passed.

Item 17 – Presentation of Petitions for Rulemaking

Mr. Jabbar Fahim (a) and Ms. Penny Maley (b) presented the following:

a) Petition Related to Entry Requirements and Scrapie

Purpose of request for change: the requestor wants to include Valais Blacknose sheep as a part of the TAHC Scrapie rule to prevent imports of semen and embryos that could potentially not meet genetic requirements for being resistant to scrapie.

The motion to PROPOSE amendments to Chapter 51 and 60 concerning Entry Requirements and Scrapie was made by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Leathers. The motion passed.

The notice of the proposed rule 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".

b) Petition Related to Malignant Catarrhal Fever Caused by a Ruminant Gamma Herpesvirus

Purpose of request for change: the requestor wants to propose enforcement rules for the detection of Ovine Herpesvirus-2.

Commissioners moved to deny the request for rule change and requested staff notify the requestor of the reasons for denial. The motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner B. Klein. The motion passed.

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

Ms. Penny Maley presented the following:

a) Chapter 40.6, Chronic Wasting Disease

The amendments to Chapter 40.6, Chronic Wasting Disease are due to a new detection of CWD and are intended to mitigate the risk of CWD in the state. Modifying the movement restriction zones will increase surveillance and the zones were developed in consultation with the Texas Parks and Wildlife who establish zones for native species.

Commissioner Evans moved to adopt the amendments; Leathers seconded the motion. The commissioners received comments from members of the public. After public comment,

Commissioner Jordan moved to table the motion to adopt the amendments it was seconded by Commissioner Trotter. The motion passed.

The Commission instructed staff to study the issue and bring recommendations to the next commission meeting.

b) Chapter 49, Equine

The proposed amendments to §49.5 incorporate the thoroughbred testing requirement waiver. The proposed amendments also streamline the existing testing and identification requirements for ease of use and readability. Since 2010, there has not been a disclosed piroplasmosis positive thoroughbred horse participating in sanctioned racing.

The motion to ADOPT the amendments to Chapter, 49 Equine was made by Commissioner Leathers and seconded by Commissioner Turner. The motion passed.

Item 19 – Consideration and Possible Action on Proposed Rules

Ms. Penny Maley presented the following:

a) Chapter 59, General Practices and Procedures

The proposed amendments to Chapter 59, General Practices and Procedures establishes the same set of responsibilities when partnering with local authorities as TAHC currently observes with the Texas Department of Public Safety while working with officers to ensure compliance with entry requirements.

The motion to propose the amendments to Chapter 59, General Practices and Procedures was made by Commissioner B. Klein and seconded by Commissioner Johnson. The motion passed.

The notice of the proposed rule 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 20 – Awards and Recognition

There were no presentations at during the 420th meeting.

Item 21 – Public Comment

Public comment for regulation proposals was made at the time of the rule discussion and during the public comment agenda item.

Item 22 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:11PM.