



## NEWS RELEASE

Texas Animal Health Commission

*"Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893"*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Amanda Barnes Promoted to TAHC Agency Preparedness and Operations Coordinator

**AUSTIN** – As a result of a reorganization of the Emergency Management (EM) department of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC,) Amanda Barnes has been promoted to the position of Agency Preparedness and Operations Coordinator.

"We are excited to have Amanda act in the Agency Preparedness and Operations Coordinator role. Amanda has become well recognized throughout the agency through her efforts extending from Austin to the far reaches of the state. In this newly defined role, Amanda will continue with her important efforts and help coordinate and focus EM efforts in Austin and in the field," Dr. Matt Cochran, TAHC Assistant Executive Director, said.

Amanda who hails from Ranger, TX attended Tarleton State University on a Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo FFA scholarship. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Services and Development and completed her teacher certification in May of 2004.

While completing her Master's degree in Agricultural Education with an emphasis in Animal Science, Amanda served as the FFA contest coordinator at Tarleton State University. During her tenure, she organized all facets of the Texas State FFA Career Development Events that were conducted at the university.

After completing her Master's degree, Amanda taught high school agriculture in Loraine. While there, she helped her students earn their first Lone Star FFA Degrees for Loraine ISD. Amanda also taught junior high science.

Amanda began her journey with TAHC in 2006 as an Administrative Coordinator for Animal Health Programs. In 2007, she became the Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator and began working to help communities develop their animal issues committees and to incorporate animal issues into their emergency plans. Accomplishments during her tenure include serving as the Planning Section Chief during Hurricane Ike and coordinating the development of guidance documents for communities to use during Animal Issues planning, such as the Guide to Developing the Shelter Function of a Community Animal Response Plan.

As the Agency Preparedness and Operations Coordinator for TAHC, Amanda's responsibilities will include enhancing agency preparedness and training to respond to disasters that affect livestock in Texas. Additionally, Amanda will continue to lead statewide local planning initiatives.

Founded in 1893, the Texas Animal Health Commission works to protect the health of all Texas livestock, including: cattle, swine, poultry, sheep, goats, equine animals, and exotic livestock.

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