

The Texas Animal Health Commission (commission) proposes amendments to §51.8, concerning Cattle, and §51.14, concerning Swine, in Chapter 51, which is entitled “Entry Requirements”.

The purpose of the amendments to §51.8 is to change the Bovine Trichomoniasis (Trichomoniasis) entry requirements. The Trichomoniasis control program is an industry driven initiative that was implemented in 2009. The concept includes an annual review by commission staff and interested stakeholder organizations of the program’s rules and policies and to subsequently suggest non-binding recommendations to the commission. The Bovine Trichomoniasis Working Group (TWG) met on April 17, 2014, to evaluate the effectiveness of current rules. The TWG discussed the program overview to date, the management of infected herds, entry requirements, and ultimately discussed the need for possible revisions to the program. The TWG recommended adding two exemptions to the Trichomoniasis testing requirements for interstate movement of breeding bulls into Texas.

The first proposed new exemption is for breeding bulls that are moved directly to a facility that tests the gain and feed conversion of cattle (bull test stations) so long as the bull(s) is isolated from female cattle at all times. The second proposed exemption is for breeding bulls that originate from a herd that is enrolled in a certification program that is substantially similar, as determined by the Executive Director, to the Texas Certified Trichomoniasis Free Herd Program. Section 51.8(c)(1) and (2) is being amended and reorganized to account for the two new testing exemptions and to clarify existing provisions. The commission also proposes to change §51.8(c)(3) to reflect entry requirements for cattle entering the state from a foreign country rather than Mexico or from any other country that does not have an established Trichomoniasis testing program. The commission also proposes to delete §51.8(c)(4) because of the changes to the previous section and broader reference to a foreign country adequately addresses cattle entering from Canada or from any other country that does have an established Trichomoniasis testing program.

The purpose of the amendments to §51.14 is to establish health assurance for non-commercial swine entering Texas for purposes other than immediate slaughter. In those instances, the proposal will require accredited veterinarians to include a statement on certificates of veterinary inspection that the swine represented on the certificate have not originated from a premises known to be affected by Novel Swine Enteric Coronavirus Disease(s) (SECD), and have not been exposed to SECD within the last 30 days.

SECD is a disease in swine caused by emerging porcine coronaviruses, which includes but is not limited to porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv) and porcine delta coronavirus (PDCoV). SECD affects swine causing diarrhea, vomiting, and 50-100% mortality of infected piglets. The clinical presentation of SECD infections in growing pigs can be variable in its severity and not readily distinguishable from many other causes of diarrhea in growing pigs. While adult pigs can become infected, mortality is low. SECD is clinically indistinguishable from transmissible gastroenteritis (TGE), another swine disease caused by a coronavirus that is endemic in the United States.

The United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) confirmed the first PEDv diagnosis in the United States on May 17, 2013.

As of May 7, 2014, 29 states, including Texas, had at least one confirmed case of PEDv. NVSL confirmed the first PDCoV diagnosis in the United States in March 2014. As of May 7, 2014, 14 states, including Texas, had at least one confirmed case of PDCoV.

SECD is not a zoonotic disease, does not affect people, and is not a food safety concern. The main, and perhaps only, mode of SECD transmission is fecal-oral; however, contaminated personnel, equipment or other fomites may introduce SECD into a susceptible herd. No vector or reservoir has been implicated in its spread. Economic loss occurs directly in the form of death and production loss in swine. Further monetary loss occurs because of the cost of biosecurity.

On April 18, 2014, USDA announced that in an effort to further enhance the biosecurity and health of the US swine herd while maintaining movement of pigs in the US, the USDA will require reporting of PEDv and PDCoV in order to slow the spread of this disease across the United States. USDA is taking this latest action due to the devastating effect on swine health since it was first confirmed even though PEDv and PDCoV are not reportable diseases under international standards established by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

FISCAL NOTE

Ms. Larissa Schmidt, Director of Administration, Texas Animal Health Commission, has determined for the first five-year period the rule is in effect, there will be no significant additional fiscal implications for state or local government as a result of enforcing or administering the rule. An Economic Impact Statement (EIS) is required if the proposed rule has an adverse economic effect on small businesses. The agency has evaluated the requirements and determined that there is not an adverse economic impact and, therefore, there is no need to do an EIS. Implementation of these rules poses no significant fiscal impact on small or micro-businesses, or to individuals.

PUBLIC BENEFIT NOTE

Ms. Schmidt has also determined that for each year of the first five years the rules are in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of enforcing the rules will be to protect the swine industry from exposure to Novel Swine Enteric Coronavirus Diseases (SECD) and to conform commission cattle entry requirements to the standards accepted and utilized by other states and USDA.

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT STATEMENT

In accordance with Texas Government Code §2001.022, this agency has determined that the proposed rules will not impact local economies and, therefore, did not file a request for a local employment impact statement with the Texas Workforce Commission.

TAKINGS ASSESSMENT

The agency has determined that the proposed governmental action will not affect private real property. The proposed amendments are an activity related to the handling of animals, including requirements for testing, movement, inspection, identification, reporting of disease, and

treatment, in accordance with 4 TAC §59.7, and are, therefore, compliant with the Private Real Property Preservation Act in Government Code, Chapter 2007.

REQUEST FOR COMMENT

Comments regarding the proposal 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.texas.gov”.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The amendments are proposed under the following statutory authority as found in Chapter 161 of the Texas Agriculture Code. The commission is vested by §161.041, entitled “Disease Control”, with the requirement to protect all livestock, domestic animals, and domestic fowl from disease.

Pursuant to §161.041(b), the commission may act to eradicate or control any disease or agent of transmission for any disease that affects livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl or exotic fowl. The commission may adopt any rules necessary to carry out the purpose of this subsection.

Pursuant to §161.048, entitled “Inspection of Shipment of Animals or Animal Products”, the commission may require testing, vaccination, or another epidemiologically sound procedure before or after animals are moved. An agent of the Commission is entitled to stop and inspect a shipment of animals or animal products being transported in this state in order to determine if the shipment originated from a quarantined area or herd; or determine if the shipment presents a danger to the public health or livestock industry through insect infestation or through a communicable or noncommunicable disease.

Pursuant to §161.054, entitled “Regulation of Movement of Animals”, the commission, by rule, may regulate the movement of animals. The commission may restrict the intrastate movement of animals even though the movement of the animals is unrestricted in interstate or international commerce.

Pursuant to §161.061, entitled “Quarantines”, if the commission determines that a disease listed in §161.041 or an agent of transmission of one of those diseases exists in a place in this state among livestock, or that livestock are exposed to one of those diseases or an agency of transmission of one of those diseases, the commission shall establish a quarantine on the affected animals or on the affected place. The quarantine of an affected place may extend to any affected area, including a county, district, pasture, lot, ranch, farm, field, range, thoroughfare, building, stable, or stockyard pen. The commission may establish a quarantine to prohibit or regulate the movement of (1) any article or animal that the commission designates to be a carrier of a disease listed in §161.041 or a potential carrier of one of those diseases, if movement is not otherwise regulated or prohibited; and (2) an animal into an affected area, including a county district, pasture, lot, ranch, farm, field, range, thoroughfare, building, stable, or stockyard pen.

Pursuant to §161.046, entitled “Rules”, the commission may adopt rules as necessary for the administration and enforcement of this chapter.

Pursuant to §161.081, entitled “Importation of Animals”, the commission by rule may regulate the movement, including movement by a railroad company or other common carrier, of livestock, exotic livestock, domestic animals, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl into this state from another state, territory, or country.

Pursuant to §161.005, entitled “Commission Written Instruments”, the commission may authorize the executive director or another employee to sign written instruments on behalf of the commission. A written instrument, including a quarantine or written notice signed under that authority, has the same force and effect as if signed by the entire commission.

No other statutes, articles or codes are affected by the proposal.

51.8. Cattle.

(a) Brucellosis requirements. All cattle must meet the requirements contained in §35.4 of this title (relating to Entry, Movement, and Change of Ownership). Cattle which are parturient, postparturient or 18 months of age and over (as evidenced by the loss of the first pair of temporary incisor teeth), except steers and spayed heifers being shipped to a feedyard prior to slaughter, shall be officially individually identified with a permanent identification device prior to leaving the state of origin.

(b) Tuberculosis requirements.

(1) All beef cattle, bison and sexually neutered dairy cattle originating from a federally recognized accredited tuberculosis free state, or zone, as provided by Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 77, Section 77.8, or from a tuberculosis accredited herd are exempt from tuberculosis testing requirements.

(2) All beef cattle, bison and sexually neutered dairy cattle originating from a state or zone with anything less than a tuberculosis free state status and having an identified wildlife reservoir for tuberculosis or that have never been declared free from tuberculosis shall be tested negative for tuberculosis in accordance with the appropriate status requirements as contained in Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 77, Sections 77.10 through 77.19, prior to entry with results of this test recorded on the certificate of veterinary inspection. All beef cattle, bison and sexually neutered dairy cattle originating from any other states or zones with anything less than free from tuberculosis shall be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection.

(3) All dairy breed animals, including steers and spayed heifers, shall be officially identified prior to entry into the state. All sexually intact dairy cattle, that are two months of age or older may enter provided that they are officially identified, and are accompanied by a certificate ~~of~~ by a veterinary inspection stating that they were negative to an official tuberculosis test conducted within 60 days prior to the date of entry. All sexually intact dairy cattle that are less than two months of age must obtain an entry permit from the Commission, as provided in §51.2(a) of this chapter (relating to General Requirements), to a designated facility where the animals will be held until they are tested negative at the age of two months. Animals which originate from a tuberculosis accredited herd, and/or animals moving directly to an approved slaughtering establishment are exempt from the test requirement. Dairy cattle delivered to an approved feedlot for feeding for slaughter by the owner or consigned there and accompanied by certificate of veterinary inspection with an entry permit issued by the commission are exempt from testing

unless from a restricted herd. In addition, all sexually intact dairy cattle originating from a state or area with anything less than a tuberculosis free state status shall be tested negative for tuberculosis in accordance with the appropriate requirements for states or zones with a status as provided by Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 77, Sections 77.10 through 77.19, for that status, prior to entry with results of the test recorded on the certificate of veterinary inspection.

(4) All "M" brand steers, which are recognized as potential rodeo and/or roping stock, being imported into Texas from another state shall obtain a permit, prior to entry into the state, in accordance with §51.2(a) of this chapter and be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection which indicates that the animal(s) were tested negative for tuberculosis within 12 months prior to entry into the state.

(5) All other cattle from foreign countries, foreign states, or areas within foreign countries defined by the Commission, with comparable tuberculosis status, would enter by meeting the requirements for a state with similar status as stated in paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) of this subsection.

(6) All sexually intact cattle, from any foreign country or part thereof with no recognized comparable Tuberculosis status.

(A) To be held for purposes other than for immediate slaughter or feeding for slaughter in an approved feedyard or approved pen, must be tested at the port of entry into Texas under the supervision of the port veterinarian, and shall be under quarantine on the first premise of destination in Texas pending a negative tuberculosis test no earlier than 120 days and no later than 180 days after arrival. The test will be performed by a veterinarian employed by the commission or APHIS/VS.

(B) When destined for feeding for slaughter in an approved feedyard, cattle must be tested at the port-of-entry into Texas under the supervision of the port veterinarian; moved directly to the approved feedyard only in sealed trucks; accompanied with a VS 1-27 permit issued by the commission or USDA personnel; and "S" branded prior to or upon arrival at the feedlot.

(7) Cattle originating from Mexico.

(A) All sexually intact cattle shall meet the requirements provided for in paragraph (6) of this subsection.

(B) Steers and spayed heifers from Mexico shall meet the federal importation requirements as provided in Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 93, Section 93.427, regarding importation of cattle from Mexico. In addition to the federal requirements, steers and spayed heifers must be moved under permit to an approved pasture, approved feedlot, or approved pens.

(C) Cattle utilized as rodeo and/or roping stock shall meet the requirements set out in paragraph (6)(A) of this subsection and the applicable requirement listed in clauses (i) and (ii) of this subparagraph:

(i) All sexually intact cattle shall be retested annually for tuberculosis at the owner's expense and the test records shall be maintained with the animal and available for review.

(ii) All sexually neutered horned cattle imported from Mexico are recognized as potential rodeo and/or roping stock and must:

(I) be tested for tuberculosis at the port of entry under the supervision of the USDA port veterinarian;

(II) be moved by permit to a premise of destination and remain under Hold Order, which restricts movement, until permanently identified by methods approved by the commission, and retested for tuberculosis between 60 and 120 days after entry at the owner's expense. The cattle may be

allowed movement to and from events/activities in which commingling with other cattle will not occur and with specific permission by the TAHC until confirmation of the negative post entry retest for tuberculosis can be conducted; and

(III) be retested for tuberculosis annually at the owner's expense and the test records shall be maintained with the animal and available for review.

(D) Regardless of reproductive status, test history, or Mexican State of origin, Holstein and Holstein cross cattle are prohibited from entering Texas.

(E) All cattle moved into Texas from Mexico shall be identified with an "M" brand prior to moving to a destination in Texas.

(F) A copy of the certificate issued by an authorized inspector of the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, for the movement of Mexico cattle into Texas must accompany such animals to their final destination in Texas, or so long as they are moving through Texas.

(G) Any certificate, form, record, report, or chart issued by an accredited veterinarian for cattle that originate from Mexico, have resided in Mexico or are "M" branded shall include the statement, "the cattle represented on this document are of Mexican origina."

(c) Trichomoniasis Requirements:

(1) A breeding bull that is 12 months of age or older may enter the state provided the bull is officially identified as provided by §38.1 of this title (relating to Definitions) and accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection stating the bull tested negative for Trichomoniasis with an official Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test as provided by §38.6 of this title (relating to Official Trichomoniasis Tests) within 60 days prior to the date of entry.

(2) A breeding bull that is 12 months of age or older is exempt from the testing requirement of paragraph (1) of this subsection if the bull meets one of the following requirements:

(A) The bull enters on and is moved by a permit, issued prior to entry from the commission, in accordance with §51.2(a) of this chapter, for the purpose of participating at a fair, show, exhibition or rodeo, remains in the state for less than 60 days from the date of entry, and is isolated from female cattle at all times. The certificate of veterinary inspection shall include the entry permit number. A bull that is in this state on or after the 60th day from the date of entry shall test negative for Trichomoniasis with an official RT-PCR test.

(B) The bull enters on and is moved by a permit, issued prior to entry from the commission, in accordance with §51.2(a) of this chapter, directly to a feedyard that has executed a Trichomoniasis Certified Facility Agreement. The certificate of veterinary inspection shall include the entry permit number.

(C) The bull enters on and is moved by a permit, issued prior to entry from the commission, in accordance with §51.2(a) of this chapter, directly to a facility that tests the gain and feed conversion of cattle (bull test station) that isolates the bull from female cattle at all times. The certificate of veterinary inspection shall include the entry permit number. The bull shall return to the out-of-state premises destination directly from the bull test station or test negative for Trichomoniasis with an official RT-PCR test.

(D) A Texas bull that is enrolled in an out-of-state facility that tests the gain and feed conversion of cattle (bull test station) and isolates the bull from female cattle at all times may move directly to the Texas premises of origin. The certificate of veterinary inspection shall state the bull was enrolled in a bull test station and was isolated from female cattle.

(E) The bull is enrolled in an out-of-state semen collection facility, which complies with Certified Semen Services Minimum Requirements for Disease Control of Semen Produced for

Artificial Insemination, that isolates the bull from female cattle at all times and the bull is moved directly from a semen collection facility into the state. The certificate of veterinary inspection shall state the bull was enrolled in a semen collection facility and was isolated from female cattle.

(F) The bull originates from a herd that is enrolled in a Certified Trichomoniasis Free Herd Program or other certification program that is substantially similar, as determined by the Executive Director, to the program requirements provided by §38.8 of this title (relating to Herd Certification Program--Breeding Bulls).

~~(1) All breeding bulls entering the state more than 12 months of age shall be tested negative for Trichomoniasis with an official Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test within 60 days prior to entry. Trichomoniasis samples pooled at the laboratory may qualify as the official test if no more than five total samples are pooled. Breeding bulls shall be individually identified by an official identification device and be accompanied with a certificate of veterinary inspection, indicating the age. The official identification number shall be written on the certificate of veterinary inspection. Official identification includes: Official Alpha numeric USDA metal eartags (bangs tags), Official 840 RFID tags, Official 840 flap or bangle tags, and Official individual animal breed registry tattoo or breed registry individual animal brands, or official state of origin Trichomoniasis tags. Bulls older than 12 months of age shall be tested one time by an official PCR test prior to entry into Texas. Breeding bulls, entering Texas as a recent resident, enrolled at a CSS certified artificial insemination facility where the bull(s) was isolated from female cattle and accompanied by documents with an original signature by the veterinarian or manager of the facility, are exempt from the test requirements. Untested bulls from out of state can enter Texas directly to a feedyard that has executed a Trichomoniasis Certified Facility Agreement, and are on a VS 1-27 permit and accompanied with an entry permit number issued by the Commission. Texas bulls participating in out of state "bull station trials" may return to their Texas farm of origin without a Trichomoniasis test if maintained in a controlled environment out of state without any contact with female cattle, which needs to be indicated on the health certificate issued for the bull(s).~~

~~(2) All bulls entering Texas for the purpose of participating at fairs, shows, exhibitions and/or rodeos, which are 12 months of age or older and capable of breeding may enter the state without testing for Trichomoniasis, but shall obtain a permit, in accordance with §51.2(a) of this chapter, prior to entry. Bulls permitted for entry into the State of Texas under the provisions of this subsection shall not be commingled with female cattle or used for breeding. Bulls that stay in the state more than 60 days must be tested negative for Trichomoniasis with an official PCR test.~~

~~(3) All breeding bulls entering from a foreign country Mexico or from any country that does not have an established Trichomoniasis testing program, shall enter on and be moved by a permit, issued prior to entry, from the commission, in accordance with §51.2(a) of this chapter, to a premises of destination in Texas and shall be placed remain under Hold Order and officially until tested negative for Trichomoniasis with not less than three official culture tests conducted not less than seven days apart, or an official RT-PCR PCR test, within 30 days after entry into the state. All bulls shall be isolated maintained separate from female cattle at all times until tested negative for Trichomoniasis. The Hold Order shall not be released until all other post entry disease testing requirements have been completed. All bulls tested for Trichomoniasis shall be officially identified by an official identification device or method at the time the initial test sample is collected. The identification shall be recorded on the test documents.~~

~~(4) All breeding bulls entering from Canada or from any country that has an established Trichomoniasis testing program but for which the animals are not tested to meet the certification and testing requirements of paragraph (1) of this subsection, shall enter on and be moved by a permit, issued prior to entry, from the commission, in accordance with §51.2(a) of this chapter, to a premises of destination in Texas and remain under Hold Order until tested negative for Trichomoniasis with not less than three official culture tests conducted not less than seven days apart, or an official PCR test within 30 days of entry into the state. All bulls shall be maintained separate from female cattle until tested negative for Trichomoniasis. All bulls tested for Trichomoniasis shall be identified by an official identification device or method at the time the initial test sample is collected. The identification shall be recorded on the test documents.~~

51.14. Swine.

(a) Swine imported into Texas for feeding, breeding, or exhibition purposes shall be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection certifying that:

- (1) swine have not been fed garbage, either raw or cooked;
- (2) swine have not been exposed to pseudorabies;
- (3) swine have not been vaccinated for pseudorabies; ~~and~~
- (4) for non-commercial swine entering Texas for purposes other than immediate slaughter, swine have not originated from a premises known to be affected by Novel Swine Enteric Coronavirus Disease(s) (SECD), and have not been exposed to SECD within the last 30 days; and
- (5) (4) swine have been permanently identified (eartag, earmotched, or number tattoo).

(b) Swine not known to be infected with or exposed to pseudorabies, and originate from a state not classified as Stage IV or V, may enter provided they:

- (1) are tested negative within 30 days prior to entry and then held in isolation and under quarantine on the premise where first unloaded and tested or retested for PRV in not less than 30 nor more than 60 days after arrival. Feeder swine are exempt from the retest provided that the swine enter on an entry permit from the commission and are destined directly to a designated feedlot and remain restricted to the feedlot until they are sent to slaughter; or
- (2) originate from a qualified PRV-negative herd; or
- (3) are shipped directly from a farm of origin in a Stage IV or free state or area as described in the National PRV Program; or
- (4) originate from and are sold at an approved feeder-pig market in a Stage IV or free state or area and enter the state directly from that market.

(c) Additionally, breeding swine shall have a negative brucellosis test within the previous 30 days or originate from a validated brucellosis-free herd or state and shall be vaccinated within the previous 30 days with Leptospirosis vaccine containing the following strains: Canicola, Hardjo, Icterohaemorrhagiae, Grippotyphosa, and Pomona.

(d) Exhibition swine originating in Texas entered in terminal shows are exempt from brucellosis and pseudorabies requirements.

(e) Swine imported into Texas for slaughter purposes shall either be consigned directly to slaughter or to a federally approved livestock market where a VS 1-27 will be issued to accompany them to slaughter following sale.