

For Immediate Release September 26, 2023

TAHC Rule Proposal Open for Public Comment

Chronic Wasting Disease Movement Restriction Zones

AUSTIN, TX – The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) held a regularly scheduled Commission meeting July 11, 2023, at its headquarters in Austin.

The following amendment was proposed during the meeting and is open for comment from September 22, 2023 – October 23, 2023.

Chapter 40, Chronic Wasting Disease

The proposed amendments modify current Containment Zone (CZ) 2 and change CZ 5 and CZ 6 to align with modified zones developed in consultation with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Additional proposals do not amend the geographical area of CZ 3 but amends the format, so each coordinate has eight decimal places rather than eleven. Other proposed amendments create a new CZ 7 in Hunt and Kaufman Counties and a new CZ 8 in Bexar County, in response to the detection of CWD.

The proposed amendments modify current Surveillance Zone (SZ) 2, reduce the size of current SZ 3, increase the size of current SZ 5, reduce the size of current SZ 8, and add a new SZ 11 and 12 in Uvalde County to align with modified zones developed in consultation with the TPWD. An additional proposed amendment updates the geographic depiction in the attached graphic.

The proposed amendment creates §40.6(b)(2)(G) and reduces the current SZ 7 to add a new CZ within that area. Additionally, a new SZ 9 in Gillespie County, SZ 10 in Limestone County, SZ 13 in Zavala County, SZ 14 in Gonzales County, SZ 15 in Hamilton and Mills Counties, SZ 16 in Washington County, SZ 17 in Uvalde, Medina, Zavala, and Frio Counties, SZ 18 in Bexar County, SZ 19 in Sutton County, SZ 20 in Zavala County, and SZ 21 in Frio County are proposed in response to the detection of CWD.

Comments on the rule proposals may be submitted to Amanda Bernhard, Texas Animal Health Commission, by mail at 2105 Kramer Lane, Austin, Texas 78758, by fax at (512)-719-0719 or by email to <u>comments@tahc.texas.gov</u>. When commenting, please indicate in the subject line the intent to comment on Chapter 40.6, CWD proposals.

Complete details of the rule proposals are also available on the TAHC website at <u>https://www.tahc.texas.gov/regs/proposals.html#proposals</u>.

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The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) was established in 1893 as the Livestock Sanitary Commission and charged with protecting the state's domestic animals "from all contagious or infectious diseases of a malignant character." TAHC remains true to this charge while evolving with the times to protect the health and marketability of all Texas livestock and poultry. Learn more about the TAHC by visiting <u>www.tahc.texas.gov</u>.