

Class B brucellosis status for Texas

A Class B brucellosis classification for Texas has been approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as of April 1, 1987.

"This is a tremendous achievement for the livestock industry. It is the cooperation of cattle producers that makes this possible," John S. Cargile, chairman, Texas Animal Health Commission, said.

Texas had been classified as a Class C and Class B state since

1980. With the Class B status, the B-C line will be eliminated, and the B designation will mean less restriction on movement interstate of cattle for producers in Texas, Cargile said.

Increased efforts will be needed in the future to reach the eradication goal, and Cargile said TAHC is taking measures now to assist producers in this effort.

Nationwide, there are now six states with the Class B status. There are 19 states with a Class A status and 23 with a Free status, one B-C and one C state.

"Our next step is to meet the Class A status as mandated by USDA," Cargile said. He also noted that other states are putting more and more pressure on Texas producers to increase efforts to control and eradicate brucellosis.

"Actually, we are getting more pressure from states to 'clean up our act' than from the federal government. This shows to me we need to meet the challenge of eradicating this state of brucellosis as expeditiously as possible," Cargile said.

Criteria met

A program to increase surveillance activities for this county and others in conjunction with the Texas brucellosis program has been approved by the commissioners of the Texas Animal Health Commission.

"An increased effort will be made on the part of the Texas Animal Health Commission to accelerate the discovery of additional infected herds, if any, and the release from quarantine of currently infected herds within this county. This will be supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture via its assignment of additional personnel to the Commission's staff," Dr. John W. Holcombe, executive director, TAHC, Austin, said.

Studies by TAHC reveal that 13 counties in this area do not yet meet the criteria of the Class B status, which Texas has recently been upgraded to, and continue to harbor a

much higher number of infected herds each year compared to the state average. The counties are: Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty, Matagorda, Rangelos, Waller and Wharton.

These counties, as of February 1987, contained five percent of the herds in the State but had 30% of the infected herds.

The Commission has adopted regulations which provide for a special control area or county. Basically, the rules for special control areas are different for movement or change of ownership of test-eligible cattle in that such cattle require permitted follow-up testing after movement or sale.

"These rules are not designed to punish or discriminate against any county or area in the State because of its high brucellosis infection rate. They are being implemented to assist cattlemen in high incidence areas in their efforts to control and eventually eradicate brucellosis," Dr. Holcombe said.

Fishing regulation changes proposed

Several changes in fishing regulations have been proposed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The proposals, if adopted by the Parks and Wildlife Commission, would go into effect September 1, 1987. The public was invited to comment on the proposed changes in public hearings recently held. The commission will accept new regulations on May 7.

In freshwater regulations, Lake Conroe in Montgomery and Walker Counties is proposed to have the statewide bass and crappie daily bag, possession and size limits. This would be a limit of five largemouth bass, 10 in. or less, and 10 crappie, 4 in. or less. The crappie limit would be 25 per day, 50 in possession, with no minimum length limit.

Other proposed freshwater fishing changes include a 16-inch minimum length limit for walleyes and

Nontoxic shot zone for Colorado County

Texas waterfowl hunters will be required to use nontoxic steel shotshells in additional parts of the state during the upcoming 1987-88 hunting seasons. This year, the remaining portions of five counties will require nontoxic shot, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

The expanded nontoxic shot zones are part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) five-year, phase-in plan for a nationwide ban on the use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting by 1991.

Dale Witt, migratory waterfowl program director for the TPWD, said remaining portions of Colorado, Harris, Jefferson, Nueces and Waller counties will be within the nontoxic shot zone during the 1987-88 season. During the 1988-89 season, only a portion of each of those counties was included in the nontoxic shot zone.

The portion of Liberty County not within the current nontoxic shot zone will be added for the 1988-89 hunting season. For the 1989-90

season, the zone will include Baylor, Brazos, Comanche, Grayson, Hopkins, Marion, Trinity and Wilbarger Counties.

Counties to be added for the 1990-1991 seasons are Austin, Bosque, Burleson, Cameron, Castro, Collin, Deaf Smith, Denton, Eastland, Erath, Henderson, Hood, Hunt, Kleberg, Moore, Red River, Refugio, Robertson, Rockwall, San Patricio, Shelby, Smith, Tarrant, Walker, Washington, Wise and Wood. Nontoxic shot requirements will be statewide and nationwide for the 1991-92 waterfowl seasons.

Conversion to nontoxic shotshells for waterfowl hunting is a conservation effort to reduce losses of waterfowl due to lead poisoning. Studies have shown that waterfowl will pick up and ingest spent lead shot while feeding. The lead is then absorbed into the blood stream where it is toxic to the birds. Certain areas in Texas and other states also have been added to the nontoxic shot regulations because of a threat to endangered bald eagles which ingest lead pellets when preying on waterfowl, Witt said.

During the past several years, so the transition during the next five seasons should be smooth," Witt said. He pointed out that Texas will have a somewhat larger steel shot zone in 1987-88 because of federal guidelines. Some states such as Mississippi, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota and Nebraska have declared their intention to go statewide ahead of the federal phase-in program.

Another proposed change would remove an exception that currently allows fishermen on headboats (party boats) to be exempted from red snapper minimum size limits.

The department also proposed to limit crab traps to no more than 18 cubic feet in size.

Spring turkey season proposed for Colorado County for 1988

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has proposed extending the state's spring turkey gobble hunting season from its present 16 days to a 21-day season beginning 1988.

The proposal is one of several regulation changes that was aired in public hearings across the state during March. The changes will be considered for adoption by the Parks and Wildlife Commission on May 7.

Officials said the extended season would have no biological impact on turkey populations, and would offer additional hunting opportunity. It also might help hunters get into the field during the period of peak gobbling activity.

The department staff also proposed to open the spring turkey season in Colorado and Lavaca Counties because of expanding turkey populations in those areas.

Columbus Livestock Market

The market this week maintained the strength we have been seeing with some strength in certain areas. A good run of cattle for this time of the year was on hand with a market being the primary reason, says Don McAlister and Don McAlister.

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Stocker and Feeder Calves and Yearlings: steer and bull calves, 200-300 pounds, 85 cents to \$1.27 per pound; 300-400 pounds, 75 cents to \$1.40; 400-500 pounds, 68 to 90 cents; 500-600 pounds, 68 to 82 cents; heifer calves 200-300 pounds, 75 to 98 cents; 300-400 pounds, 68 to 86 cents; 400-500 pounds, 65 to 78 cents; 500-600 pounds, 62 to 74 cents; replacement heifers, 65 to 75 cents.

Stocker Cows: good stocker cows and heifers, 50 to 58 cents per pound; medium stocker cows and heifers, 43 to 50 cents per pound; good cow and calf pairs, \$600 to \$650; medium cow and calf pairs, \$550 to \$600; common cow and calf pairs, \$475 to \$550.

Hogs: No. 1 butchers, 45 to 46 cents per pound; No. 2 and 3 butchers, 44 to 45 cents; feeder pigs and shoats, 40 to 42 cents; sows, 40 to 42 cents.

Sheep: ewes, 20-22 cents per lb.; lambs, 50-65 cents; bucks, 15 to 20 cents; pairs, \$25 to \$35 per pair.

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- To improve the condition of your heart and lungs, get brisk, sustained and regular exercise.
- Brisk exercise raises heart and breathing rates.
- Sustained exercise is done at least 15-30 minutes without interruption.
- If you smoke, quit.
- Learn to relax and better manage the stress in your life.
- Watch your diet.
- Cut down on red meat, cream, butter, eggs and high-fat cheeses.
- Substitute vegetable oils for saturated fats.
- Increase consumption of grains, cereals, fruits, vegetables, fish and poultry.
- Get regular medical checkups.

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