



Fact Sheet

Fever Tick

Revised June 14, 2010

Since 1943, the permanent cattle fever tick quarantine area has been maintained by the cooperative efforts of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) and the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS).

Over the past years, increased tick pressure from Mexico, lack of treatment options, known resistance to earlier tick treatments, a growing number of wildlife species found to support the tick, and a lack of funding and resources has caused Texas to lose ground in the battle against the fever tick.

Without additional funding and resources, the fever tick could spread outside the quarantine zones. If this occurs, it is highly likely that other states will begin imposing importation restrictions on Texas cattle. This could cost the cattle industry and the economy of the state millions of dollars and put many Texas ranchers out of business.

One of the first lines of defense against the fever tick is a strong importation inspection program with Mexico to prevent the tick crossing into the U.S.

Due to the continued rise in drug cartel-related violence along the Texas-Mexico border, USDA-APHIS recently modified two border crossing locations to occur in the U.S., rather than Mexico. Other modifications will be considered as violence continues.

This move was an effort to alleviate worker safety concerns and to prevent further disruptions of trade relations between Mexico and the U.S.

As part of the modifications, APHIS outlined a preliminary three-phase plan to address the safety concerns of workers while maintaining trade relations with Mexico and safe guarding U.S. cattle from fever tick. Included in the plan were both short-term and long-term goals concerning the temporary and permanent construction of cattle inspection pens on the U.S. side of the border.

What is TSCRA doing?

TSCRA continues to work with industry leaders and government officials on both sides of the border to ensure the safety of U.S. workers and U.S. cattle.

TSCRA strongly supports the continued inspection of cattle on the Mexican side of the border over the long-term.

TSCRA continues to work with the state and federal governments to secure additional funding and resource for more treatment options, fencing, equipment, maintenance and employees. TSCRA also continues to work with the federal government on making their current fever tick programs more cost-effective and efficient.

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