



TEXAS AND SOUTHWESTERN CATTLE RAISERS ASSOCIATION

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Vesicular Stomatitis Overview

Vesicular stomatitis (VS) is a viral disease that primarily affects cattle, horses, swine, and occasionally sheep, goats, llamas, and alpacas. VS is an internationally reportable disease. This means that if the disease is found in the U.S., other countries may take action to block trade of U.S. animals. VS outbreaks are sporadic and clinical signs are similar to Foot-and-Mouth Disease. The only way to tell the difference between the two diseases is through laboratory tests.

Clinical Signs

- Incubation period of two to eight days
- Excessive salivation is often the first sign
- Raised vesicles or blister-like lesions in affected livestock occur in the mouth, on the tongue, lips, nostrils, hooves, and teats
- Infected animals show signs of lameness and may refuse to eat or drink (due to the painful lesions) therefore, severe weight loss may occur
- Affected animals typically recover in 2 weeks (assuming there are no secondary infections)

Recommendations

- No specific treatment or cure
- Avoid congregating animals near affected areas
- Antiseptic mouthwash may cause a more rapid recovery and bring comfort to the animal
- Good sanitation and quarantine practices can contain the infection
- Implement insect control programs

Reporting

- Due to this disease having similar clinical signs as Foot-and-Mouth Disease, a producer should immediately report possible cases to state or federal animal health authorities
- If a premises has an affected animal, it will be quarantined for 21 days after the lesions in the last affected animals have healed

Entry requirements for livestock entering Texas from New Mexico (from TAHC):

- No horses, cattle, swine, goats, sheep, or deer may enter Texas from a premises or area under quarantine for vesicular stomatitis.
- Any horses, cattle, swine, goats, sheep or deer entering Texas from a state where vesicular stomatitis has been diagnosed within the last 30 days must be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection with the following statement written by the accredited veterinarian on the Certificate: "The animals represented on this health certificate have not originated from a premises or area under quarantine for vesicular stomatitis."
- The accredited veterinarian also is to state that the animals have been examined and exhibit no clinical signs of vesicular stomatitis.
- For more information, contact the Texas Animal Health Commission at (512) 719-0700