



# TEXAS AND SOUTHWESTERN CATTLE RAISERS ASSOCIATION

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## Bovine Tuberculosis Overview

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) is a contagious disease that is caused by three types of bacteria in the Mycobacterium group. TB is a reportable disease. If you have a suspected case of TB, you should contact your veterinarian immediately.

### Clinical Signs

- Clinical signs are not visible in early stages; symptoms often take months to develop
- Infections can remain dormant and reactivate during periods of stress
- In later stages, signs may include: emaciation, lethargy, weakness, anorexia, low-grade fever, and pneumonia with a chronic, moist cough
- The animal's immune system encapsulates the bacteria, causing lesions on internal organs
- TB is spread through the respiration of TB bacteria aerosols, through feed or watering sites contaminated with saliva and other discharges
- TB is difficult to diagnose based on clinical signs
- TB is usually diagnosed through laboratory testing

### Infected Herds

- Depopulation is the initial choice in an infected herd
- In some cases, a herd may be quarantined for a minimum of four years, tested regularly, and infected animals must be reported and disposed of
- Re-test infected herds to cull cattle that may shed the organism
- Affected animals are identified with a disease ear tag and "T" branded. They are then moved to a diagnostic lab for necropsy and laboratory confirmation

### Interstate Movement of Animals

- Visit the Texas Animal Health Commission website at [http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/regs/Cattle\\_Tb\\_Entry.pdf](http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/regs/Cattle_Tb_Entry.pdf) for specific entry requirements
- You are encouraged to check with the state you are moving cattle to for their specific entry requirements before you move any cattle out of Texas
- For more information, contact the Texas Animal Health Commission at (512) 719-0700