



Fryar's Riata

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Recently there have been lots of inquiries about the equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1)/ equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy (EHM), affecting horses. Equine herpesvirus is highly contagious and can cause a variety of ailments in horses, including rhinopneumonitis (a respiratory disease mostly of young horses), abortion in broodmares, and myeloencephalopathy (evident in the neurologic form). The virus is not transmissible to humans. Clinical signs of the neurologic EHV-1 form include fever, ataxia (incoordination), weakness or paralysis of the hind limbs, and incontinence. The virus is generally passed from horse to horse via aerosol transmission (when affected animals sneeze/cough) and contact with nasal secretions.

According to the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) as of June 3, 2011 there was only one confirmed case of neurologic form of EHV-1. A Quarter Horse at a racehorse stabled in Ector County, TX displayed neurologic symptoms consistent with the disease, and ultimately tested positive for EHV-1. Information gathered indicates that the affected horse had not attended a public event in several months, making this most likely an isolated case. Other horses on the premises are under movement restrictions and are being closely monitored for signs of the illness.

Regarding the Ogden, UT event, 9 of the 26 horses in Texas that attended the event remain under movement restriction. The number of cohorts (stablemates), under movement restriction has dropped from 323 to 150. Currently, there are a total of 6 premises that have been exposed. The affected counties include: Randall, Parker, and Jack counties. No Texas origin horse from the Ogden, Utah event has been confirmed to have the neurologic form of EHV-1, at the present time.

The TAHC urges horse owners to practice good biosecurity when traveling to equine related events. The following are links that provide basic biosecurity information.

- [American Association of Equine Practitioners Biosecurity Instructions](http://www.aaep.org/pdfs/control_guidelines/Biosecurity_instructions%201.pdf)
(www.aaep.org/pdfs/control_guidelines/Biosecurity_instructions%201.pdf)
- [American Association of Equine Practitioners Instructions to Grooms](http://www.aaep.org/pdfs/control_guidelines/Instructions%20to%20grooms.pdf)
(www.aaep.org/pdfs/control_guidelines/Instructions%20to%20grooms.pdf)

For the cattlemen/cattlegirls there is a workshop to be held at Sul Ross State University's Everett E. Turner Range Animal Science Building on East U.S. Highway 90.

The program will be conducted by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service offices in Presidio and Brewster/Jeff Davis counties.

Three Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units, one laws and regulations, one drift minimization and one general, will be offered.

Program topics will include: drought management, forages, marketing, cattle market outlook and pricing factors, brush management, plant identification and sprayer calibration.

4-H and FFA members!!!! Important news from the Major Livestock Shows in Texas. Starting in 2012, Quality Counts verification will be required for all youth exhibiting livestock (market and/or breeding) at major livestock shows in Texas (including the Ft. Worth Livestock Show, San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Star of Texas Fair in Austin, San Angelo Livestock Show, Sandhills Stock Show in Odessa, State Fair of Texas in Dallas, and Heart O' Texas Fair in Waco). The verification process will require junior exhibitors to pass an online test that measures their knowledge on quality assurance and character education content items.

The Quality Counts Program has now been in existence statewide for six years. Over this time, it has reached an average of 30,000 youth per year through the 4-H and FFA Programs. The program outcomes clearly demonstrate youth being more knowledgeable of best management practices associated with livestock projects. More importantly, the program's impact has demonstrated positive changes in personal character attributes as well as adoption of livestock best management practices.

Over these six years, Quality Counts has been supported and endorsed by every major livestock show in Texas. These livestock shows have been instrumental in helping market the program statewide and have also been a strong partner regarding the educational content developed for the Quality Counts Program. In addition, these livestock shows have fully endorsed this verification process.

Starting in May, youth are able to go online to take the test and become verified. A verification number will need to be provided at the time of making an official entry into a Texas major livestock show. Thus, youth will need to have completed and passed the test before the major livestock show's entry deadline. A passing score has been determined to be 80%.

Youth educators and the major livestock shows in Texas believe strongly in Quality Counts. Collectively, they are confident that this significant step of requiring youth to be "Quality Counts Verified," starting in 2012, will strengthen and enhance the youth livestock program in Texas.

For more information on activities or programs, please contact the Texas AgriLife Extension office in Pecos County at 432-336-2541 or stop by at 100 E. Division.