

# **OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY**

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## **TEXAS JOINS LIST OF STATES TO CONFIRM VESICULAR STOMATITIS**

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Oklahoma City—Oklahoma horse owners are being cautioned about moving their stock to parts of Texas after two Travis County, Texas horses tested positive for vesicular stomatitis (VS). Earlier this month the disease was confirmed in New Mexico and Arizona.

“Texas animal health officials have advised that the two horses were hauled home from a trail ride in Arizona where they were apparently exposed to the virus,” said State Veterinarian, Becky Brewer. “This is a perfect example of why we advise people to use extreme caution when moving their animals—especially across state lines.”

Although VS is rarely fatal with animals normally fully recovering in a few weeks, Brewer said the economic ramifications of VS could be significant.

“Symptoms of VS look exactly like foot and mouth disease (FMD) and other states and countries either refuse shipment of livestock from a state with positive cases of the disease or require extensive inspection, testing and permitting before allowing shipment,” she said.

Both VS and FMD cause animals to exhibit lesions or blisters in the areas of the mouth, udder and along the hooves. VS can affect cattle, horses, swine, sheep, goats, and deer. Horses cannot contract FMD.

Anyone who needs to bring livestock (including horses) from Texas, New Mexico or Arizona must first obtain a certificate of veterinary inspection stating the stock did not come from an area with cases of VS and that the animals exhibit no signs of the disease. Brewer adds this rule applies to anyone who hauls their stock into the area for purposes such as pleasure riding, shows or rodeo.

VS is transmitted by biting midges, mosquitoes and flies and may also be transmitted by contact with infected animals. Livestock owners observing any signs of blisters or lesions on livestock of any kind are urged to contact Brewer’s office at (405) 522-6134 or the USDA Veterinary office at (405) 427-9413.

Persons wishing to transport stock to Texas should contact the Texas Animal Health Commission at 1-800-550-8242. The New Mexico Livestock Board number is 1-505-841-6161 and the Arizona State Veterinarian’s office number is 1-602-542-4293.

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