



## **2025 Texas Oral Rabies Vaccine Distribution Update**

### **1/7/2025:**

ORVP project staff and crew from the Department of State Health Services Zoonosis Control Branch (DSHS-ZCB), United States Department of Agriculture National Rabies Management Program (USDA-NRMP), Texas Wildlife Services (TWS), Texas Military Department (TMD), and Dynamic Aviation (DA) traveled to Van Horn, conducted inventory of the delivered bait, and set up the command trailer and flight line for operations beginning tomorrow. A strong cold front blew in starting in the late afternoon and may cause weather-related delays tomorrow.

### **1/8/2025:**

All staff and flight crew met at the command trailer at 8:00 am for flight operations training. The weather was cloudy, windy, and very cold with a brief period of light blowing snow. Despite the weather, the first round of three fixed wing flights was able to depart between 12:10 and 12:40, returning between 2:15 and 2:45. The second round of three flights departed between 2:55 and 3:30, returning between 5:10 and 5:35. For the day, 48,900 baits were dropped over 1,549 flight miles in grids VHN02 and VHN03 of the Van Horn sector of the project. Weather permitting, flight operations will resume at 8:00 am tomorrow.

### **1/9/2025:**

Freezing precipitation overnight glazed the planes with ice. De-icing procedures were unsuccessful due to the low morning temperature, so the initial round of flights was delayed until noon when higher temperatures and sunshine allowed for adequate de-icing of the planes. The first round of three fixed wing flights departed between 12:00 and 12:30 pm, returning between 1:25 and 3:10. One flight returned early due to a mechanical issue with the bait distribution conveyor belt. The weather began deteriorating again in the early afternoon, with low clouds and light snow developing over much of far west Texas. One plane was able to depart for a second flight at 2:15 but was called back at 3:30 due to the weather, landing at 4:00. The remaining two flights scheduled for the afternoon were canceled. For the day, 30,775 baits were dropped over 952.5 flight miles in grids VHN01, VHN02, and VHN03. Weather permitting, flight operations will resume at 8:00 am tomorrow.

### **1/10/2025:**

The weather this morning was clear and cold with no wind. The first round of three fixed wing flights departed between 8:10 and 8:20 and returned between 10:55 and 11:20. Gusty winds developed late in the morning and persisted until dissipating in the early afternoon, but did not affect flight operations. The second round of three flights departed between 11:20 and 11:45 and returned between 1:45 and 2:45. The last round of three flights departed between 2:45 and 3:10 and returned between 5:20 and 5:40. For the day, 90,300 baits were dropped over 2,875 flight miles by fixed wing

aircraft in grids VHN04, VHN05, VHN06, VHN07, VHN08, VHN09, VHN10, VHN11, and VHN12. Helicopter baiting in grids RW01, RW02, and RW03, initiated yesterday, was completed today, distributing 12,000 total baits. No significant weather issues are expected overnight so flight operations will resume at 8:00 am tomorrow.

**1/11/2025:**

The weather this morning was clear and cold with light winds. The first round of three fixed wing flights departed between 8:10 and 8:15 and returned between 11:00 and 11:30. The second round of three flights departed between 11:40 and 11:50 and returned between 2:30 and 2:45. The last round of three flights departed between 2:50 and 3:15 and returned between 5:10 and 6:15. For the day, 102,300 baits were dropped over 3,254 flight miles in grids VHN01, VHN02, VHN04, VHN05, VHN06, VHN07, VHN08, VHN09, VHN10, VHN11, and VHN12; grid VHN12 was completed. Flight operations will resume at 8:00 am tomorrow.

**1/12/2025:**

The weather this morning began partly cloudy, with heavier cloudy conditions developing later in the morning before clearing fully in the early afternoon. The first round of three fixed wing flights departed between 8:05 and 8:20 and returned between 11:05 and 11:15. The second round of three flights departed between 11:30 and 11:55 and returned between 2:25 and 3:05. The last round of three flights departed between 2:55 and 3:25 and returned between 5:30 and 6:15. For the day, 103,500 baits were dropped over 3,262 flight miles in grids VHN01, VHN02, VHN03, VHN04, VHN05, VHN06, VHN07, VHN08, VHN09, VHN10, and VHN11; grids VHN01, VHN02, VHN03, VHN10, and VHN11 were completed today. Tomorrow will be the last day of operations in the Van Horn sector of the project, with flights resuming at 8:00 am.

**1/13/2025:**

The weather this morning was cold and partly cloudy. The first round of three fixed wing flights departed between 8:00 and 8:10 and returned between 10:25 and 11:20. The second and final round of three flights departed between 10:50 and 11:45 and returned between 12:50 and 2:25. For the day, 58,200 baits were dropped over 1,844 flight miles in grids VHN01, VHN04, VHN05, VHN06, VHN07, VHN08, VHN10, and VHN11, completing all grids of the Van Horn sector of the project. To date, the project has completed 14,163 flight miles and distributed 445,975 baits; it is 49.26% complete. The planes and Dynamic Aviation personnel depart for Del Rio this afternoon. The remainder of the project staff will depart tomorrow. Flight operations will resume at 8:00 am on Wednesday 1/15.

**1/14/2025:**

Project staff from DSHS, USDA, and Texas Military Department traveled to Del Rio.

**1/15/2025:**

The weather this morning was cool and mostly cloudy. The first round of three fixed wing flights departed between 7:55 and 8:10 and returned between 11:20 and 11:30. The second round of flights departed between 12:05 and 12:10 and returned between 3:00 and 3:20. The final round of flights departed between 3:35 and 4:05, returning between 5:25 and 6:15. For the day, 104,575 baits were dropped over 3,391 flight miles

in grids DRT07, DRT08, DRT14, DRT15, DRT16, DRT17, and DRT18. Flight operations will resume at 7:45 am tomorrow.

**1/16/2025:**

The weather this morning was cool and partly cloudy with no wind. The first round of three fixed wing flights departed between 7:35 and 8:00 and returned between 10:20 and 11:15. The second round of flights departed between 11:05 and 11:55 and returned between 2:10 and 2:35. The final round of flights departed between 2:45 and 3:10, returning between 4:55 and 5:55. For the day, 103,625 baits were dropped over 3,259 flight miles in grids DRT03, DRT04, DRT07, DRT08, DRT14, DRT15, DRT16, DRT17, and DRT18. Grids DRT04, DRT07, DRT08, DRT14, DRT15, DRT16, DRT17, and DRT18 were completed. Flight operations will resume at 7:40 am tomorrow.

**1/17/2025:**

The weather this morning was warmer and mostly cloudy. The first round of three fixed wing flights departed between 7:45 and 8:00 and returned between 10:55 and 11:10. The second round of flights departed between 11:30 and 11:40 and returned between 2:30 and 2:40. The final round of flights departed between 3:00 and 3:30, returning between 5:40 and 6:10. For the day, 115,200 baits were dropped over 3,748 flight miles in grids DRT03, DRT09, DRT10, DRT11, DRT12, and DRT13. Grid DRT03 was completed. Flight operations will resume at 7:40 am tomorrow.

**1/18/2025:**

The weather this morning was cool and clear with no appreciable wind. The first round of three fixed wing flights departed between 8:00 and 8:25 and returned between 10:50 and 11:10. The second round of flights, the last of the day, departed between 11:25 and 11:40 and returned between 12:40 and 2:10. For the day, 62,400 baits were dropped over 2,033 flight miles in grids DRT01, DRT02, DRT05, DRT06, DRT09, DRT10, DRT11, DRT12, and DRT13, completing all grids of the Del Rio sector of the project. To date, the project has completed 26,605 flight miles and distributed 834,250 baits; it is 79.3% complete. The planes, Dynamic Aviation personnel, and TMD personnel depart for Edinburg this afternoon. The remainder of the project staff will travel tomorrow. Flight operations will resume at 8:00 am on Monday 1/20, weather permitting.

**1/19/2025:**

Project staff traveled from Del Rio to Edinburg. A strong cold front arrived in the area in the afternoon with a deteriorating weather forecast calling for frozen precipitation overnight and a low cloud ceiling. Flights have been canceled tomorrow and will be rescheduled as the weather allows on Tuesday.

**1/20/2025:**

No flight operations were conducted today due to poor weather conditions.

**1/21/2025:**

The early morning flights were canceled due to a low cloud ceiling and light frozen precipitation. The weather improved over the morning and the first round of flights was able to depart between 11:50 and 11:55, returning between 2:35 and 2:50. Two planes departed for a second round of flights between 3:05 and 3:20, returning between 5:55 and 6:00. The third plane remained grounded after the first round of flights due to a

minor mechanical issue that should be resolved by the morning. For the day, 59,400 baits were dropped over 1,962 flight miles in grids EBG01, EBG02, EBG03, EBG04, and EBG05. Flight operations will resume at 8:00 am tomorrow.

### 1/22/2025:

The first round of two flights departed between 8:30 and 8:35, returning between 10:40 and 11:20. The third plane remained grounded all day as the replacement battery ordered yesterday failed to arrive by courier. Dynamic Aviation will ferry in a battery overnight so we will have three planes flying tomorrow. Two planes departed for a second round of flights between 11:15 and 12:00, returning between 2:00 and 3:05. The planes departed for the third round of flights between 2:30 and 3:35, returning between 5:45 and 6:10. For the day, 69,000 baits were dropped over 2,280 flight miles in grids EBG06, EBG07, EBG08, EBG09, EBG10, EBG11, EBG12, and EBG13. Grids EBG10, EBG11, EBG12, and EBG13 were completed. Flight operations will resume at 7:30 am tomorrow.

### 1/23/2025:

The first round of three flights departed between 7:45 and 11:20, returning between 10:30 and 2:41. A second round of two flights departed at 11:05 and 1:10, returning at 2:15 and 2:55. The last round of two flights departed at 2:35 and 3:25, returning at 5:30 and 6:25. For the day, 87,000 baits were dropped over 2,666 flight miles in grids EBG01, EBG02, EBG03, EBG04, EBG05, EBG06, EBG07, EBG08, and EBG09, with all grids completed. Today's operations completed both the Edinburg sector of the project and the 2025 project overall. For the 2025 project, 1,051,275 baits were dropped over 33,513 flight miles along the entire Texas-Mexico border region and most of the southern portion of the Texas-New Mexico border that runs east to west. Project crew will travel home tomorrow.

Figure 1. Distance Flown

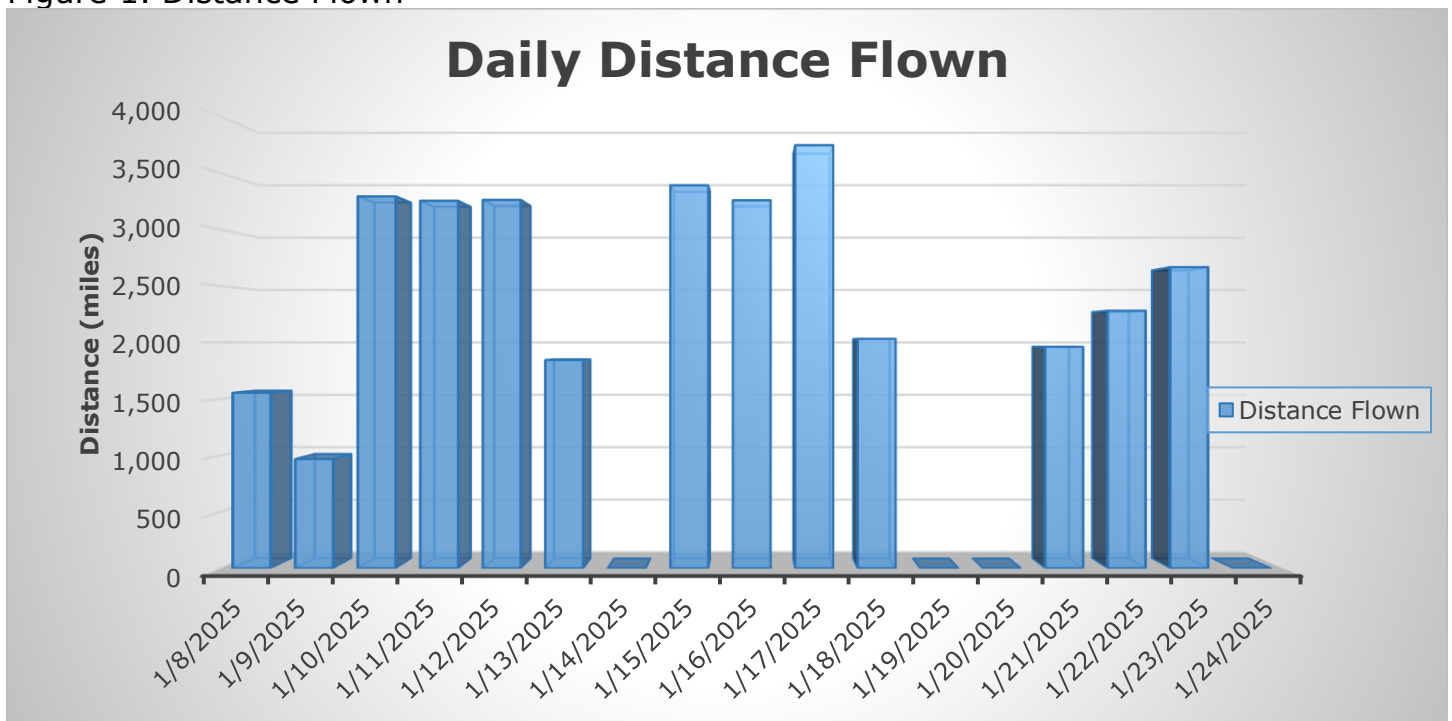


Figure 2. Baits Distributed

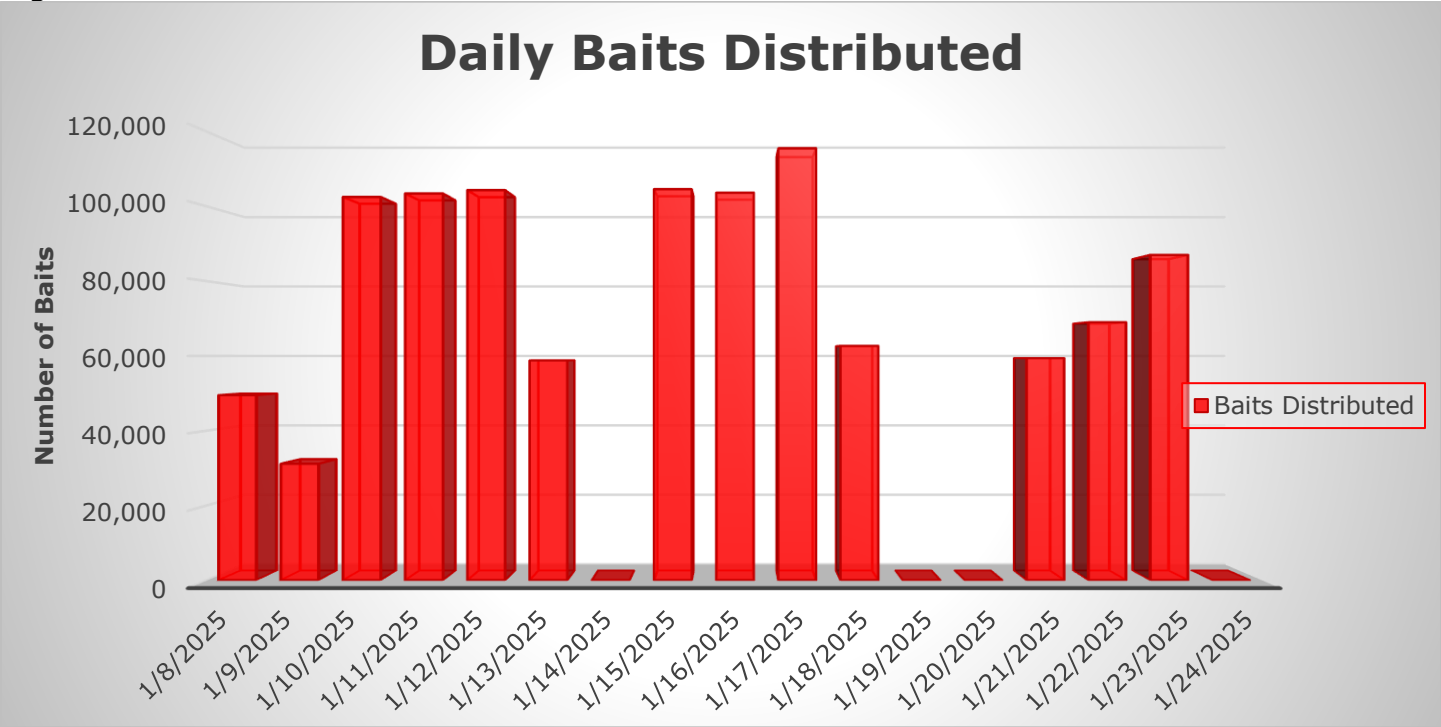


Figure 3. Progress Map

