



TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES

North Texas Regional Laboratory
Fort Worth

Rebecca McMath, BT Lab Response Coordinator



Tarrant County Public Health

- New personnel – Katie Tschoeke
- Budget issues –funding for equipment maintenance contracts

Newbie



Tarrant County Public Health

- q Eleventh season for WNV/SLE surveillance project
- q Asked to increase the amount of testing in response to the previous year of positive samples and increased numbers of death/disease due to West Nile virus
- q Expected testing numbers increased from 60 pools/week to 200 pools/week
- q 2013-2014 season total – 4,307 pools tested; 37 positives
- q Added 2 tissue homogenizers; used existing 3 extractors and 2 ABIs; streamlined entire process
- q Testing now performed year round from April 1st through March 31st
- q Also test for St. Louis Encephalitis using a PCR multiplex assay (WNV/SLE)



Tarrant County Public Health

- q Eleventh season for influenza surveillance
- q 2012-2013 season total respiratory specimens - 359
- q 2013-2014 season total specimens received to date – 182
- q Positives:
 - Flu A (H1N1) – 68
 - Flu A (H3) – 1
 - Flu B – 11
- q H3N2 specimen was used for flu vaccine



For the animal lovers...



Ever have one of those days when you hoped no one was looking?

