



JOHNSON COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS COURT

Christopher Boedeker
County Judge

Rick Bailey
Commissioner
Precinct 1

Kenny Howell
Commissioner
Precinct 2

Mike White
Commissioner
Precinct 3

Larry Woolley
Commissioner
Precinct 4

THE STATE OF TEXAS

§

COUNTY OF JOHNSON

§

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RESOLUTION 2025-02

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE HONORABLE GREG ABBOTT, GOVERNOR OF
THE STATE OF TEXAS, TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY IN JOHNSON COUNTY,
TEXAS RELATING TO THE APPLICATION OF BIOSOLIDS CONTAINING PFAS**

WHEREAS, agriculture is a key part of life in Texas; and

WHEREAS, agricultural producers are essential to Texans, the Texas economy, and the Texas way of life; and

WHEREAS, each agricultural producer in Johnson County, and other Counties in Texas, is at risk of losing his livelihood if PFAS contamination is not stopped; and

WHEREAS, biosolids are known to contain PFAS in high concentration; and

WHEREAS, biosolids are derived primarily from municipal wastewater treatment plants and, by volume, the largest constituent of municipal wastewater is municipal drinking water; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Worth has acknowledged that its drinking water is contaminated with PFAS; and

WHEREAS, Johnson County has engaged in significant testing for the presence of PFAS through an accredited laboratory, including testing of biosolids derived from the City of Fort Worth's wastewater treatment plant as well as soil, groundwater, surface water, and animal tissue in Johnson County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the doctors, laboratory technicians, scientists, and other professionals retained by Johnson County have determined that the biosolids being spread in Johnson County, Texas as a "fertilizer" product are contaminated with PFAS a/k/a "Forever Chemicals" at unsafe levels; and

WHEREAS, testing has revealed that PFAS from these biosolids have contaminated soil, groundwater, surface water, fish, and animal tissue in Johnson County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, PFAS can migrate or travel beyond the site where they are directly applied, resulting in well water near the site of the application of biosolids that has tested positive for PFAS at levels several hundred times the safe limit established by the EPA for drinking water; and

WHEREAS, PFAS are not quickly or easily eliminated from soil, water, or animal tissue; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality continues to approve the application of tons of biosolids as fertilizer in Johnson County, Texas for use on farms and ranches, threatening the drinking water, food chain, livestock, and residents of Johnson County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, biosolids are being applied in the watershed for Chamber's Creek, a tributary to Richland Chambers Reservoir, a lake serving the City of Fort Worth, threatening to further contaminate drinking water within the City of Fort Worth; and

WHEREAS, as of the date of this Resolution, counties in Texas are not authorized by statute to regulate the application of biosolids; and

WHEREAS, as of the date of this Resolution, the State of Texas does not yet prohibit waste producers from poisoning Texas farmland, livestock, and drinking water with PFAS; and

WHEREAS animal tissue in Johnson County, Texas has tested positive for PFAS at levels that render the livestock unsafe for human consumption; and

WHEREAS, when animals in other states that have tested positive for high levels of PFAS (similar to the levels observed in Johnson County, Texas), those jurisdictions have forcibly euthanized entire herds; and

WHEREAS, multiple agricultural producers in Johnson County, Texas have been negatively impacted by PFAS contamination caused by the application of biosolids; and

WHEREAS, to date, a single producer has reported the deaths of 47 of his 150 cattle, and there are potentially thousands of additional impacted beef and dairy cattle in Johnson County; and

WHEREAS, some agricultural producers are refusing to sell or butcher their livestock in an attempt to preserve the integrity of the American food chain; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government offers assistance to agricultural producers impacted by disasters, and

WHEREAS, only the Governor of Texas can declare a disaster in order to request Federal aid; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government provides funding for cleaning up environmental disasters through its "Superfund" site program; and

WHEREAS, a Gubernatorial declaration of disaster is essential to bringing Federal aid to Texas agricultural producers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Johnson County, by and through its Commissioners Court, that:

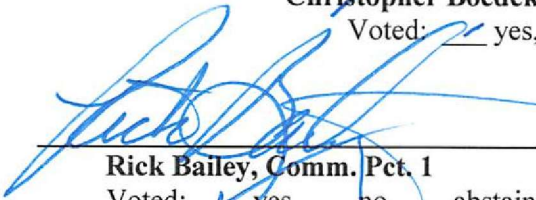
- **JOHNSON COUNTY** calls on the Governor of Texas, the Honorable Greg Abbott, to declare an emergency in Johnson County due to PFAS contamination of active farm-and-ranch land; and
- **JOHNSON COUNTY** calls on Governor Abbott to support efforts by the Texas Legislature to put a stop to the application of PFAS-contaminated biosolids on Texas farmland and ranchland; and
- **JOHNSON COUNTY** calls on Governor Abbott to issue an immediate moratorium on the application of any biosolids in Johnson County until the Legislature has adequate time to create a regulatory framework sufficient to protect agricultural producers in Texas; and
- **JOHNSON COUNTY** calls on Governor Abbott to request Federal assistance for Johnson County, Texas for the purpose of reimbursing agricultural producers for the costs of euthanizing and disposing of impacted animals (if deemed necessary by the proper authority), ongoing monitoring of affected properties, and remediating PFAS contamination of Texas farmland.

DONE IN OPEN COURT THIS 11TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025.



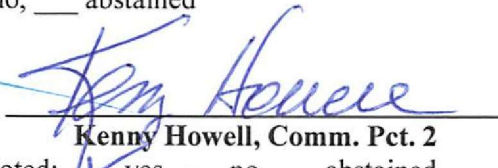
Christopher Boedeker, Johnson County Judge

Voted: ☒ yes, ☐ no, ☐ abstained



Rick Bailey, Comm. Pct. 1

Voted: ☒ yes, ☐ no, ☐ abstained



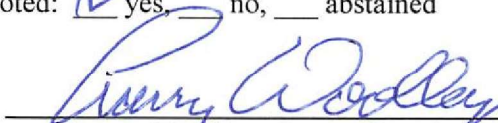
Kenny Howell, Comm. Pct. 2

Voted: ☒ yes, ☐ no, ☐ abstained



Mike White, Comm. Pct. 3

Voted: ☒ yes, ☐ no, ☐ abstained



Larry Woolley, Comm. Pct. 4

Voted: ☒ yes, ☐ no, ☐ abstained


ATTEST: April Long, County Clerk





CHRISTOPHER BOEDEKER
JOHNSON COUNTY JUDGE
2 NORTH MAIN STREET, ROOM 120
CLEBURNE, TEXAS 76033

Paula Reid
Office Administrator
Rexann Knowles
Budget Coordinator
Rachel Sidler
Court Clerk
Kayla Ramirez
Receptionist

DECLARATION OF DISASTER DUE TO PFAS CONTAMINATION

WHEREAS, agriculture is essential to life in Johnson County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, each agricultural producer in Johnson County, Texas, is at risk of losing his livelihood if PFAS contamination is not stopped; and

WHEREAS, biosolids are known to contain PFAS in high concentration; and

WHEREAS, biosolids are derived primarily from municipal wastewater treatment plants; and

WHEREAS, Johnson County has engaged in significant testing for the presence of PFAS through an accredited laboratory, including testing of biosolids derived from the City of Fort Worth's wastewater treatment plant as well as soil, groundwater, surface water, and animal tissue in Johnson County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the doctors, laboratory technicians, scientists, and other professionals retained by Johnson County have determined that the biosolids being spread in Johnson County, Texas as a "fertilizer" product are contaminated with PFAS a/k/a "Forever Chemicals" at unsafe levels; and

WHEREAS, testing has revealed that PFAS from these biosolids have contaminated soil, groundwater, surface water, fish, and animal tissue in Johnson County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, PFAS can migrate or travel beyond the site where they are directly applied, resulting in well water near the site of the application of biosolids that has tested positive for PFAS at levels several hundred times the safe limit established by the EPA for drinking water; and

WHEREAS, PFAS are not quickly or easily eliminated from soil, water, or animal tissue; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality continues to approve the application of tons of biosolids as fertilizer in Johnson County, Texas for use on farms and ranches, threatening the drinking water, food chain, livestock, and residents of Johnson County, Texas; and


WHEREAS, multiple agricultural producers in Johnson County, Texas have been negatively impacted by PFAS contamination caused by the application of biosolids; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government offers assistance to agricultural producers impacted by disasters.

THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED by Johnson County, by and through its County Judge, that:

- **JOHNSON COUNTY** hereby **DECLARES** a state of disaster due to PFAS Contamination of farmland; and
- **JOHNSON COUNTY** requests assistance from the Federal Government to mitigate the impacts of PFAS contamination within the County; and
- **JOHNSON COUNTY** respectfully requests that Governor Greg Abbott join in this Declaration.

Signed on this 11th day of February, 2025 and effective immediately.


Christopher Boedeker, Johnson County Judge

ATTEST:


April Long, Johnson County Clerk





CHRISTOPHER BOEDEKER
JOHNSON COUNTY JUDGE
2 NORTH MAIN STREET, ROOM 120
CLEBURNE, TEXAS 76033

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 11, 2025

Johnson County Declares State of Disaster Due to PFAS Contamination of Agricultural Land

CLEBURNE, TX - Johnson County officials today declared a state of disaster following the discovery of widespread PFAS contamination in local agricultural land, stemming from the application of contaminated biosolids used as fertilizer. The contamination has already resulted in reported deaths of fish and cattle in the affected areas as well as the contamination of groundwater.

The emergency declaration, signed by the Johnson County Judge, cites extensive testing that revealed dangerous levels of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), commonly known as "forever chemicals," in biosolids derived from the City of Fort Worth's wastewater treatment plant. Testing has confirmed PFAS contamination in soil, groundwater, surface water, and animal tissue throughout the affected area of the county.

Of particular concern, well water near biosolid application sites has tested positive for PFAS at levels several hundred times higher than the EPA's safe drinking water limits. The contamination poses an immediate threat to the county's agricultural sector, drinking water supplies, and public health.

County Commissioner Larry Woolley said "this is not just an environmental issue; it is an agricultural issue." Woolley, an agricultural producer and former ag teacher, emphasized the importance of agriculture to quality of life in the region.

"This situation threatens the very foundation of our agricultural community and the safety of our residents," added County Judge Christopher Boedeker. "We are taking immediate action to protect our citizens and support our farming community through this crisis."

The County has requested that Texas Governor Greg Abbott join in the declaration and seek federal disaster assistance. Despite the known contamination, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality continues to approve the application of biosolids as fertilizer in Johnson County, prompting urgent calls for regulatory intervention.

The disaster declaration enables Johnson County to:

- Seek immediate federal assistance for affected agricultural producers

- Implement emergency measures to protect public health and safety
- Coordinate with state and federal agencies for contamination assessment and cleanup

Agricultural producers who have been impacted by PFAS contamination are encouraged to contact Deputy Constable Dana Ames at 817.556.6363 for guidance on available assistance programs.

Updates on this developing situation will be posted on the Johnson County website at johnsoncountytexas.org.