



New World Screwworm Response Animal Control Officers Training

June 23, 2026

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Susan N. Rollo, MS, DVM, PhD, DACVPM
State Public Health Veterinarian
Office of Chief State Epidemiologist
Texas Department of State Health Services

DISCLAIMER

The information presented today is based current preliminary data and on CDC's recent guidance. Information is subject to change.

June 22, 2026

Agenda



1. Background and Biology of the New World Screwworm

Phillip E. Kaufman, PhD
Professor and Head
Chair, AgriLife NWS Task Force
Department Head of Entomology
Texas A&M University

2. New World Screwworm Response Update

Wayne Crouch, DVM, MS
Pleasanton Regional Veterinarian
Texas Animal Health Commission

3. Procedures for Reporting Suspected New World Screwworm Cases

Renee Holmes, PhD
Entomologist
Texas Animal Health Commission

4. Best Practices and Lessons Learned in the Field

Brent Moore, DVM, MS, MPH, Dipl. ACVPM
Public Health Region 4/5N veterinarian
Texas Department of State Health Services

5. FAQ

6. Closing Remarks

Susan N. Rollo, MS, DVM, PhD, DACVPM
State Public Health Veterinarian
Texas Department of State Health Services



Webinar Logistics



Session Recording: Today's presentation will be recorded and posted on [New World Screwworm \(NWS\) | Texas DSHS](#)



Audio & Camera Settings: Chat and camera are disabled for attendees



Q&A Session: Questions will be taken at the end of today's presentation.
Submit questions anytime using the (?) icon in the top right.



Follow-Up Questions: If we cannot get to all questions, please email: newworldscrewworm@dshs.texas.gov



Slides Availability: Presentation slides will be provided after the presentation has concluded



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 - Questions: newworldscrewworm@dshs.texas.gov
- All attendees will receive attendance certificates after the training.

Note: Attendance certificate will list CE hours, but these are only applicable to Animal Control Officers.



Texas Department of State
Health Services

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Background and Biology of the New World Screwworm, a Reinvasion Story

Phillip Kaufman, PhD

Professor and Head
Chair, AgriLife NWS Task Force
Department of Entomology
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX



New World Screwworm, *Cochliomyia hominivorax*

- The larvae of the fly are **obligate** parasites that **only** infest living tissue of warm-blooded animals, including livestock, wildlife, pets, humans and birds (rarely), causing a condition known as myiasis
- Hominivorax = “man” eater
- Often fatal to the infested animal



New World Screwworm, *Cochliomyia hominivorax* →

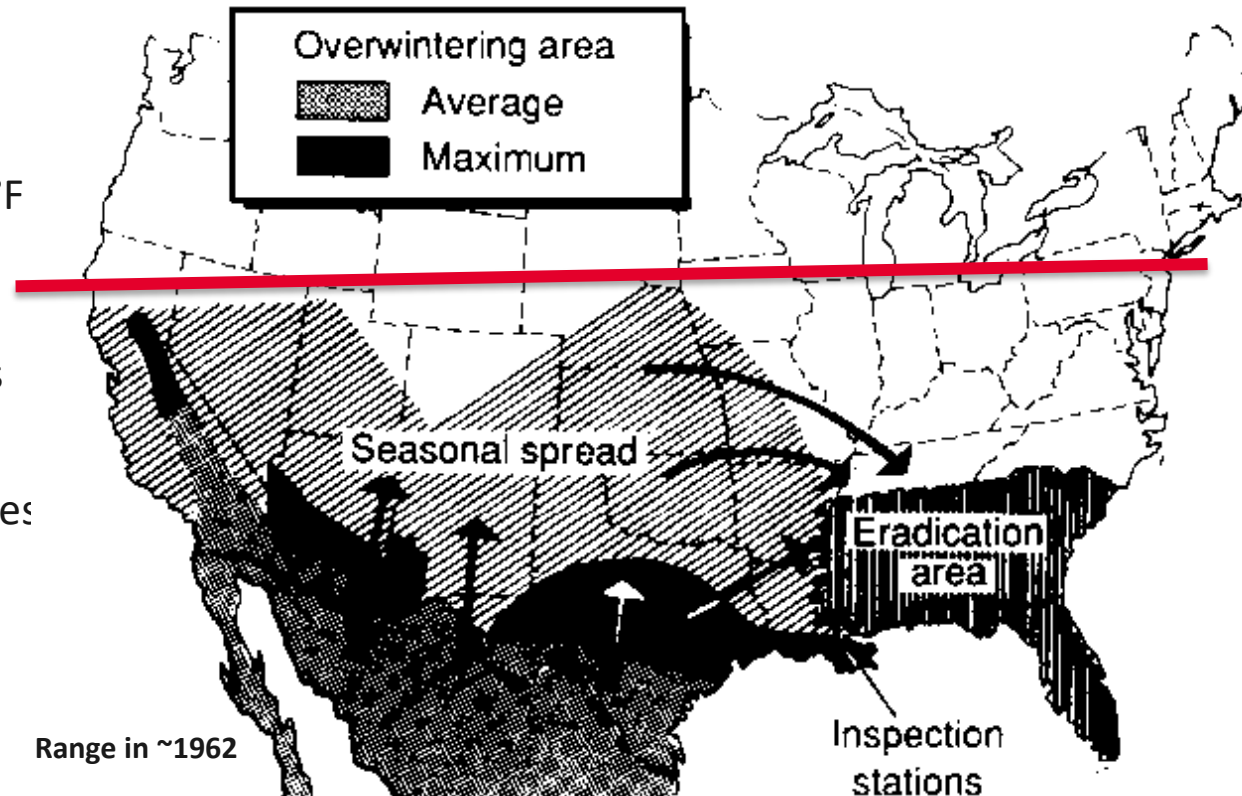


USDA

- Not your normal livestock fly
- You will almost **never** see the adult fly
- **No interest in manure** or barns, do **not** stay on animals
- Adults spend most of their time in forests and other wooded/shaded areas but will seek host animals in pastures and fields if available.
- They are found clustered as adults and not evenly distributed within habitats.
- NWS do NOT fly over large expanses of water

Distribution: New World Screwworm, *Cochliomyia hominivorax*

- Seasonal movement, often driven by human behaviors, including animal transportation
- Historical geographical range to southern Canada
 - 41°58' North Latitude and 38°03' South Latitude (Central Argentina)
 - Tropical fly that makes incursions into temperate areas
- Generally active between 64.4°F and 91°F
 - Peak adult activity around 85.8°F
 - Generally, no adult activity below 59°F
- Populations are generally higher in areas with annual rainfall greater than 59"
- Only active during daylight hours and does not like windy conditions



July 23, 2023 – July 12, 2025

→

Total cases: 49,578

Affected Species

Bovine 34,291 (85%)

Canine 2,260 (6%) ←

Swine 1,374 (3%)

Equine 1,032 (3%)

Sheep 782 (2%)

Goat 179

Human 161

Feline 54 ←

Birds 57

Buffalo 16

Deer 1

Mule 2

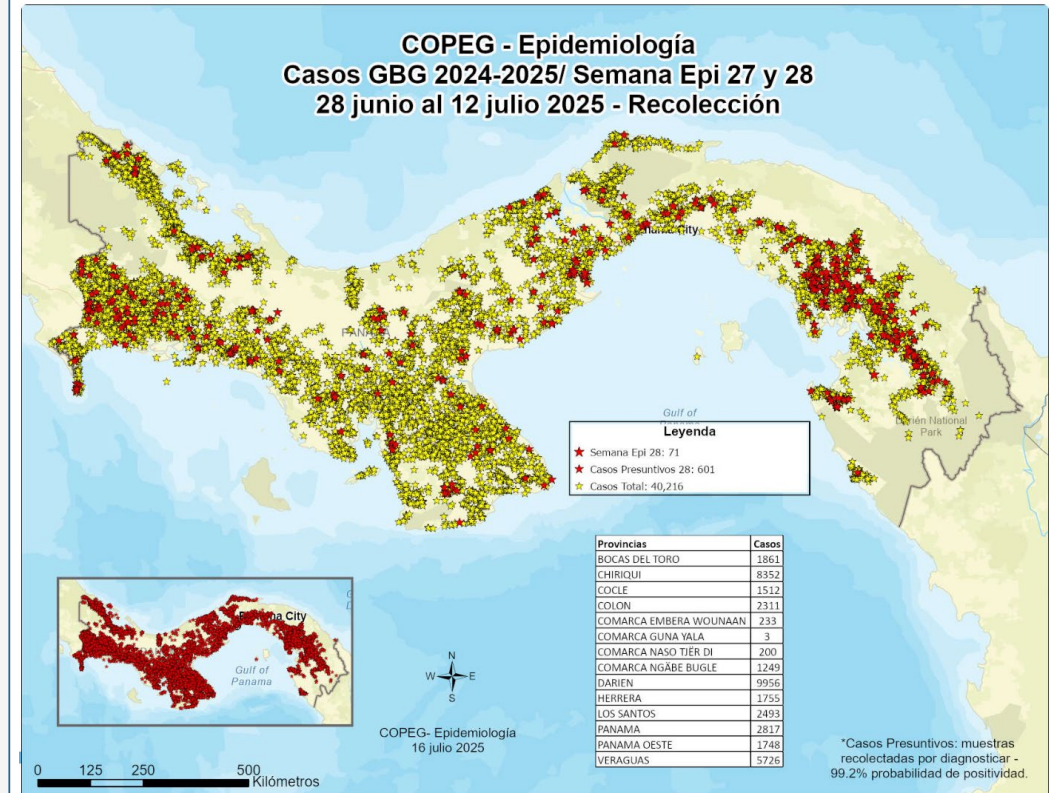
Kinka 2

Rabbit 2

Sloth 1

Porcupine 1

Leopard 1



<https://www.copeg.org/situacion-actual/situacion-panama/>

Two Screwworms – *Cochliomyia* **hominivorax** (NWS) & *Cochliomyia* **macellaria** (secondary screwworm)

- Both adult flies are slightly larger than a house fly
- **Requires a trained expert** to identify
- The adult NWS fly has
 - Orange spot behind the eyes (not always apparent)
 - Metallic blue or green body (**color** is a poor ID feature)
 - Distinct facial hairs
- Secondary screwworm, *C. macellaria*,
 - No orange spot behind head
 - Color same as NWS
 - Distinct facial hairs
 - Widespread distribution
 - Facultative (opportunistic) myiasis

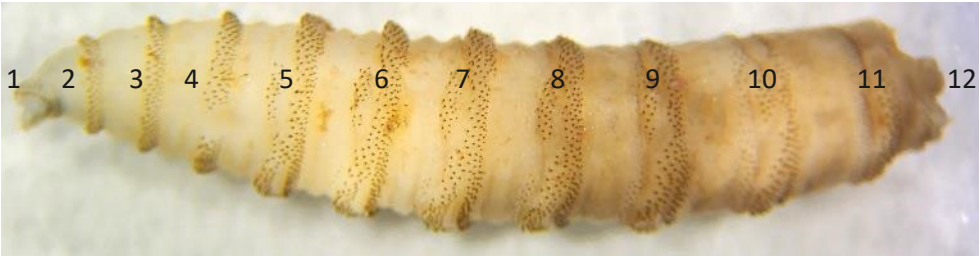
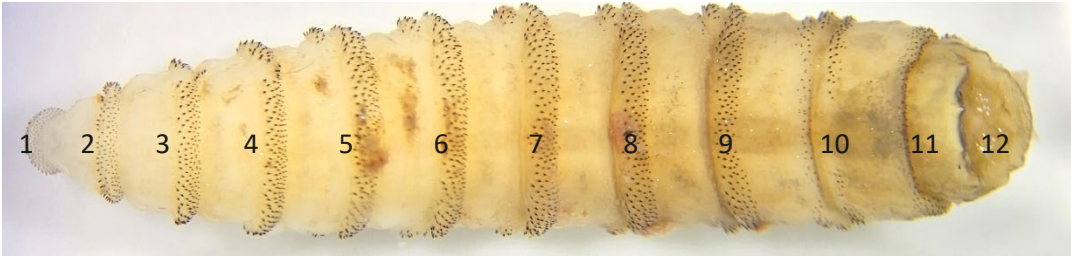


C. hominivorax
New World
Screwworm

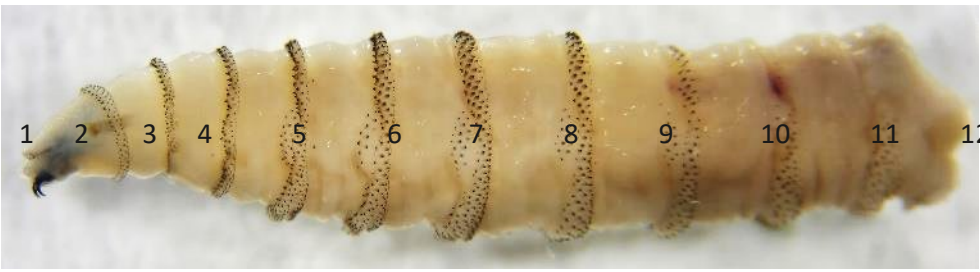
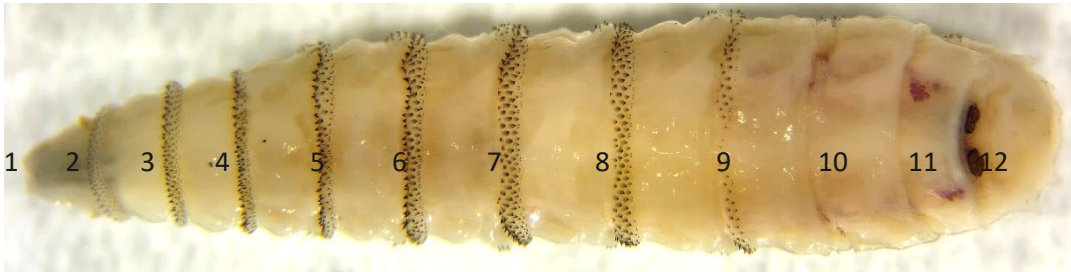


C. macellaria
Secondary
Screwworm

Third Instar Larvae



C. hominivorax



C. macellaria

Ring of spines



Spines



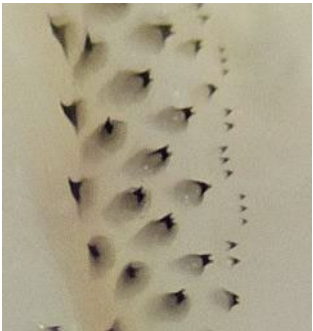
Posterior spiracles



Tracheal trunks



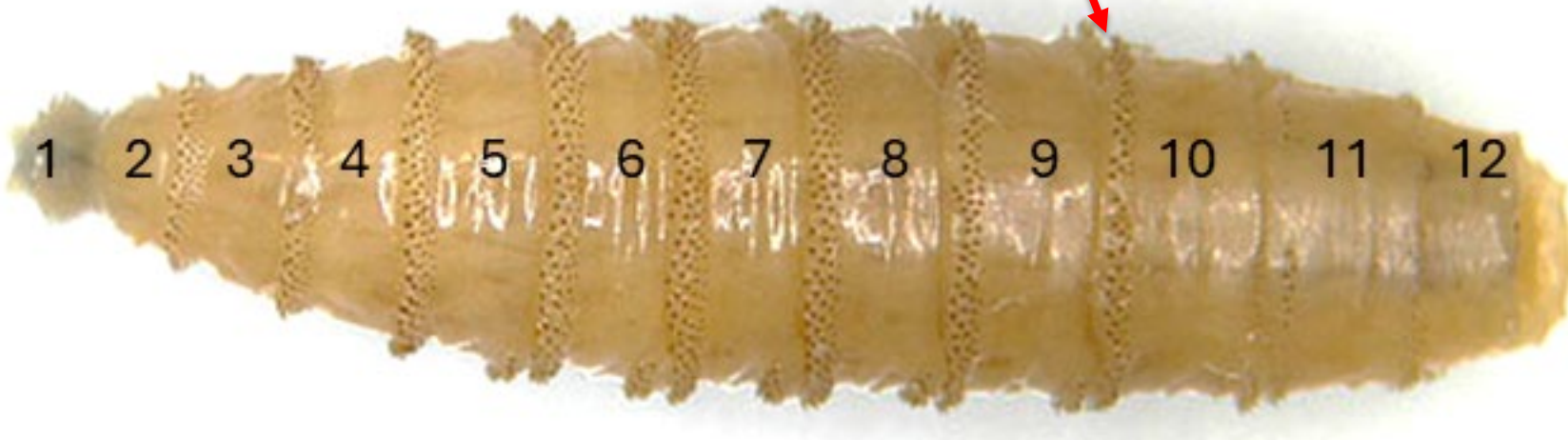
C. hominivorax



C. macellaria

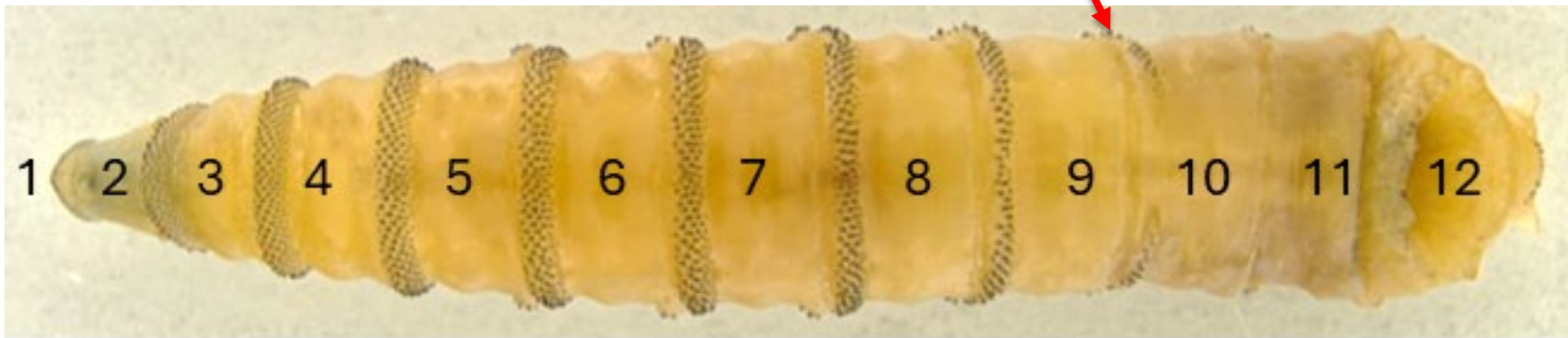
Cochliomyia ***hominivorax***

Segment 10 with complete band or ring of spines.



Cochliomyia ***macellaria***

Segment 10 with incomplete band or ring of spines.



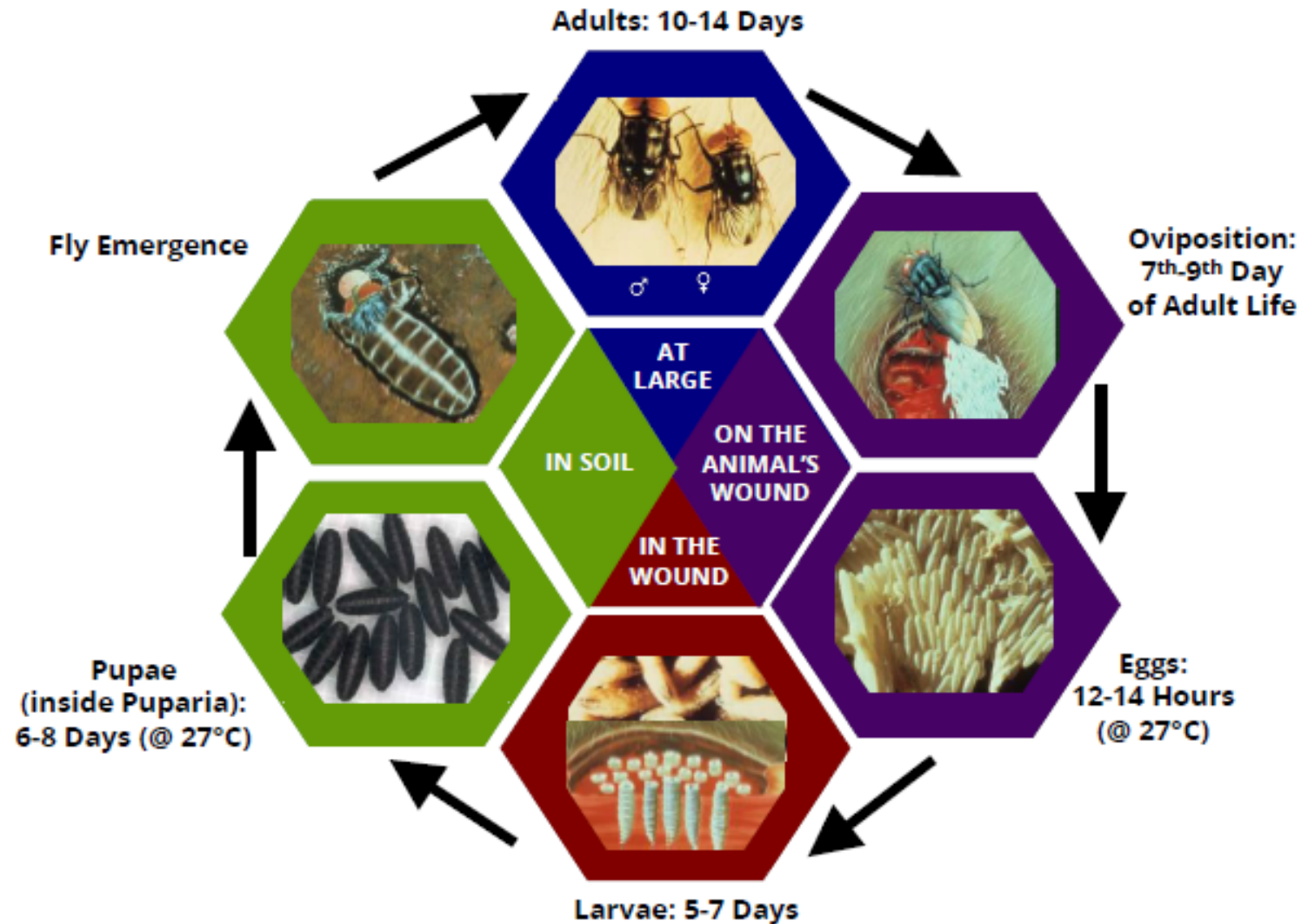
C. hominivorax spines





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New World Screwworm Life Cycle



Potential Hosts:

All mammals, some birds



Screwworm eggs

- Females only lay eggs directly on existing wounds or mucous membranes with sores.
- Hundreds of eggs (200-300) are deposited leading to extensive tissue destruction, debilitation, and risk of death.
- Hatch after 10-12 hours
- Multiple infestations in one wound are common
- Target ears, navels, castration sites, cuts, dehorning, shearing, cattle grub holes, tick bites



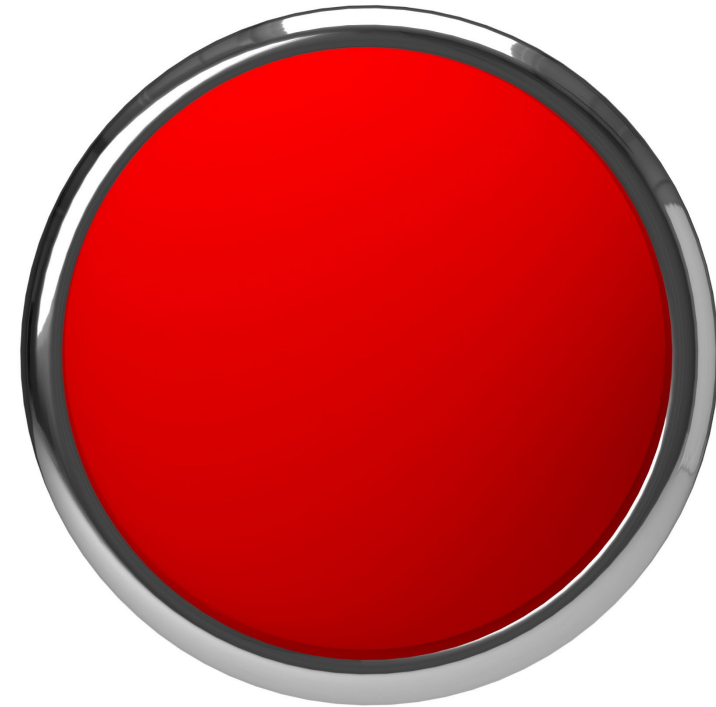
Clumped eggs a characteristic of NWS



Disorganized eggs characteristic of *C. macellaria*

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GRAPHIC SLIDES COMING



Screwworm larvae

- Larvae are obligate parasites consuming living flesh; **feed 5-7 days**
- Term screwworm refers to the screw-like shape of the larvae and the way the larva burrows into the flesh.
- Primarily a pest of livestock but can infest humans and other animals.
 - Infested wound gives off a distinct odor
 - Attracts more females
 - **Left untreated, usually fatal in 7-14 days**
 - Near 100% of newborns in favorable environment have an infested umbilicus



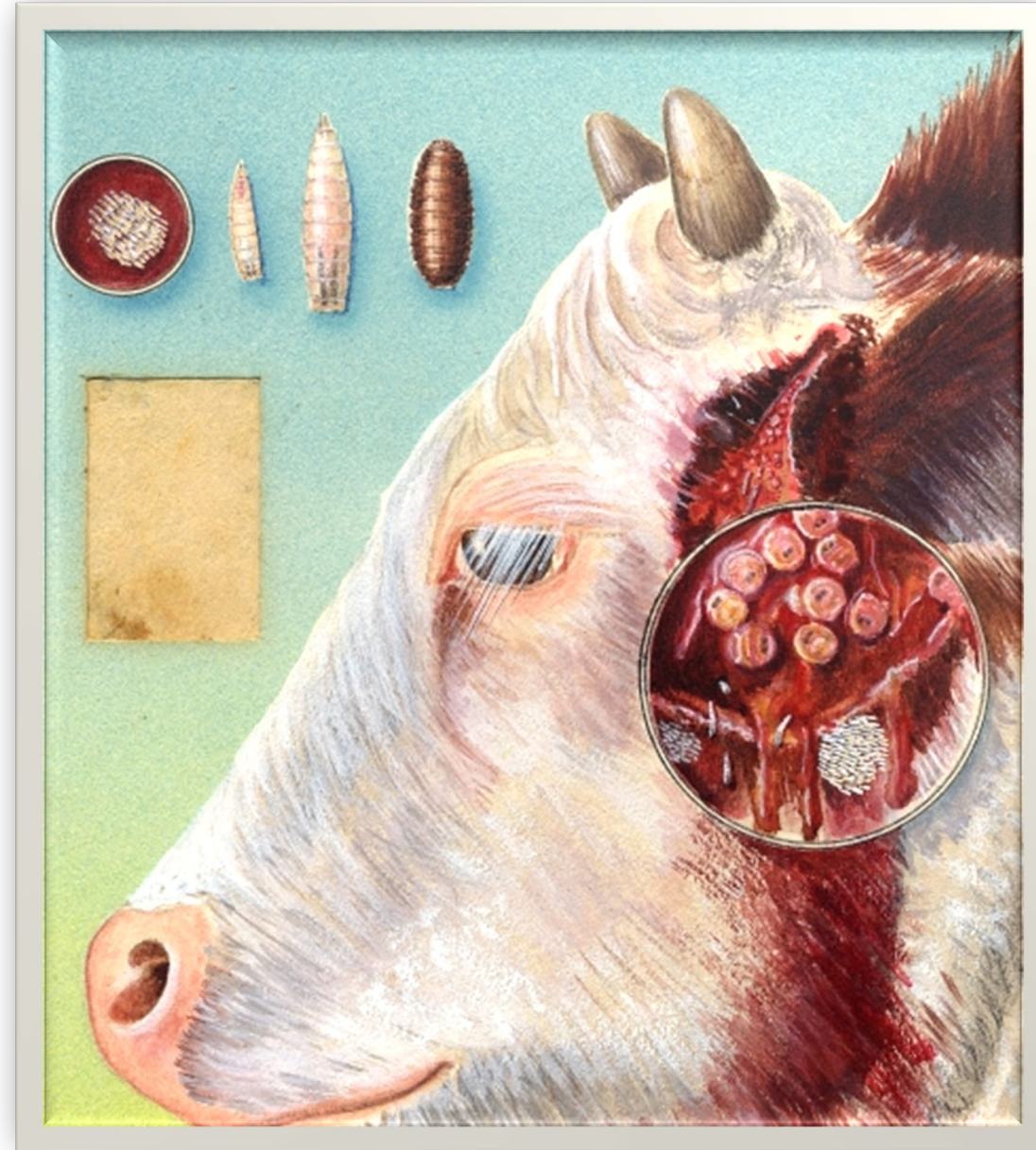
Screwworm pupae

- Larvae drop to ground where they burrow and pupate
 - If animal dies, larvae vacate the host
 - Can pupate even if not fully grown.
 - All larvae must be put into alcohol
- Pupal stage is 5-7 days
- Non-contagious
 - Importation of infected animals
- All warm-blooded animals
 - Rarely infects birds
 - Human cases are possible
 - >1,000 since quarantine escape, >7 deaths



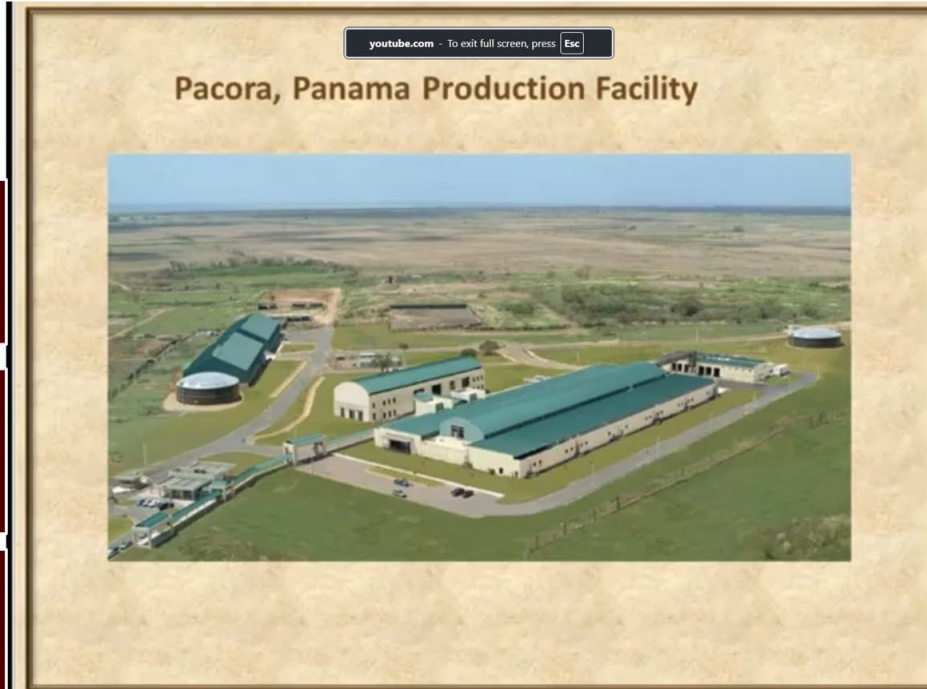
Screwworm movement

- NWS flies can travel unaided by humans up to 10 to 20 kilometers (6.2 to 12.4 miles) to find a suitable host
- The movement of infested livestock, companion animals, or wildlife allows for spread of even longer distances



History of Screwworms

- 1994 {
 - COPEG formed; Establish permanent biological barrier
- 1997 {
 - Program moved to Panama maintenance area
- 2006 {
 - Complete eradication of western Panama
 - COPEG production plant operational. Nicaragua plant closed.
- 2016 {
 - Florida Key deer outbreak



Current Outbreak

2022 {

- Increase of cases in Panama
- Average of 25 cases/yr to 6,500 cases

July 2023 {

- NWS detected in Costa Rica

Mar 2024 {

- NWS detected in Nicaragua

Sept 2024 {

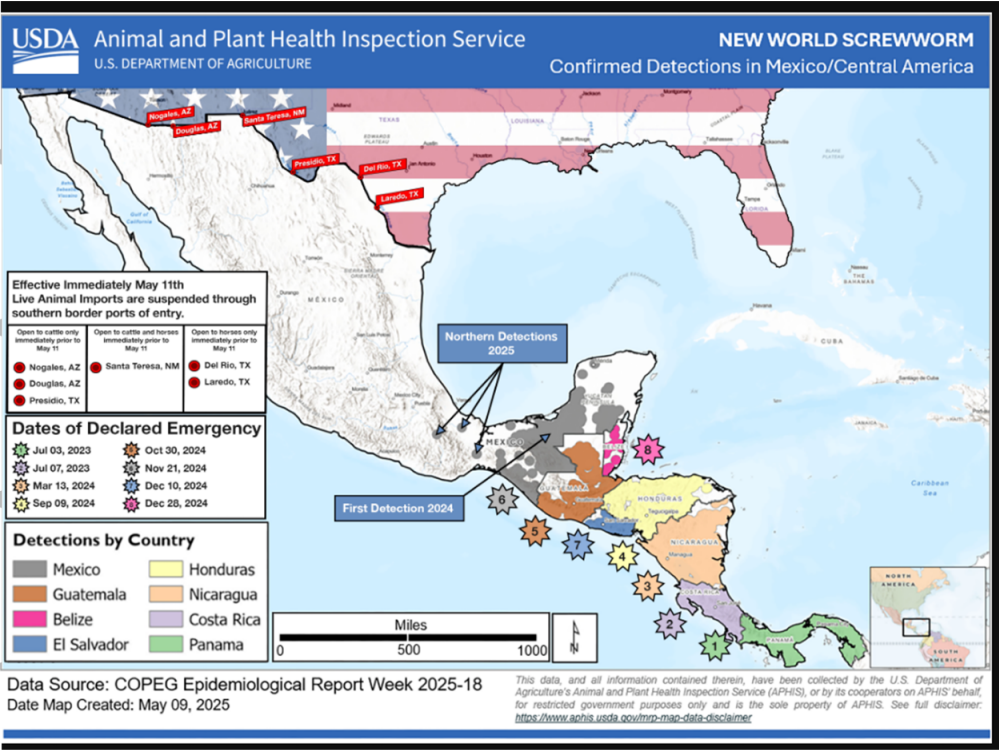
- NWS detected in Honduras

Oct 2024 {

- NWS detected in Guatemala

Nov 2024 {

- NWS detected in Chiapas, Mexico



Current Outbreak



Jan-Feb 2024

- NWS detected in southern Mexican states of Campeche, Tabasco, Quintana Roo, Yucatan

April–May 2025

- MX states of Veracruz and Oaxaca infested

May 11, 2025

- US border closed to cattle and other livestock

July 2025

- 7/7 – borders opened – Douglas, AZ
- 7/9 – Case identified 370 miles from US border! Ports closed to cattle and other livestock again

April/May 2026

- Cases w/in 62 miles of border in Neuvo Leon
- Current cases ~80 miles of border (May 02)
- Since Nov. 2025 approx. 2,500 cases w/in 400 miles of US border

June 2026

- Index case: Zavala Co. TX in a 3-d old calf
- Followed by 14 other cases in 8 counties and NM

Be proactive, rather than reactive

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- What activities can be **avoided** that will lead to wounds (facility maintenance, aggressive dogs, animal handling)
- Can animals be **pre-treated with a systemic insecticide (i.e. doramectin) to prevent infestations?**
- Can animals be worked without further injury (behavior)?
- Level of veterinary care available?
- Are treatment products on-hand?
- Delays in treatment can be fatal.
- Cost of treatments can be very expensive
 - Credelio, NexGard
- Other options: F10 Antiseptic Wound Spray w/insecticide



Management of the screwworm

- Integrated Pest Management
 - Multiple techniques to reduce a population
 - Inspection and surveillance **are key**
 - Animal movement restrictions/procedures
 - Reduces chance of resistance development
 - Very few chemical options
- Eradication is goal
 - Reporting is critical
 - Surveillance for adults (swormlure/rotting liver)
 - Monitoring for larvae (animal examinations)
 - Inspections and limits on animal movement
 - Sterile Insect Technique (SIT)



Photos: Denise Bonilla, USDA

Sterile Insect Technique (SIT)

- Flies produced in one plant in Panama
 - Normal production = 20 M flies per week
 - Current = 110 M flies/wk, 50% male
 - Mexico plant will produce 60-100 M flies/wk in 2026
 - Edinburg plant will produce 300M flies/wk in 2028/29
- **Larvae** reared on an artificial diet, highly controlled environment, industrial scale
- Fly **pupae** are exposed to **cobalt 19 radiation** to break chromosomes of flies, rendering them sterile, but functional
- **Adult flies** eclosed/hatched and released into areas with known fly populations – chilled and augured from airplanes (also ground)
 - Tied to GIS of plane
 - Habitat suitability, and
 - Estimated wild population size
- **NovoFly** – male only strain (GMO)



<https://copeg.org/en/processes-sterile-flies-dispersion-center/>



Photos: Denise Bonilla, USDA

Sterile Insect Technique (SIT)

SIT works because:

- Female mates only once
- Relatively rare in number
- Fly can be mass reared
- Fly can be sterilized without changing behavior
- Flies are released in massive numbers on a regular basis
 - Ground based
 - Aerial dispersal

Idea: Overwhelm wild male population to all but **guarantee** a wild female mates with a sterile male

- Female will still lay eggs, but eggs do not hatch
- Renders the wild female fly reproductively "dead"



<https://copeg.org/en/processes-sterile-flies-dispersion-center/>

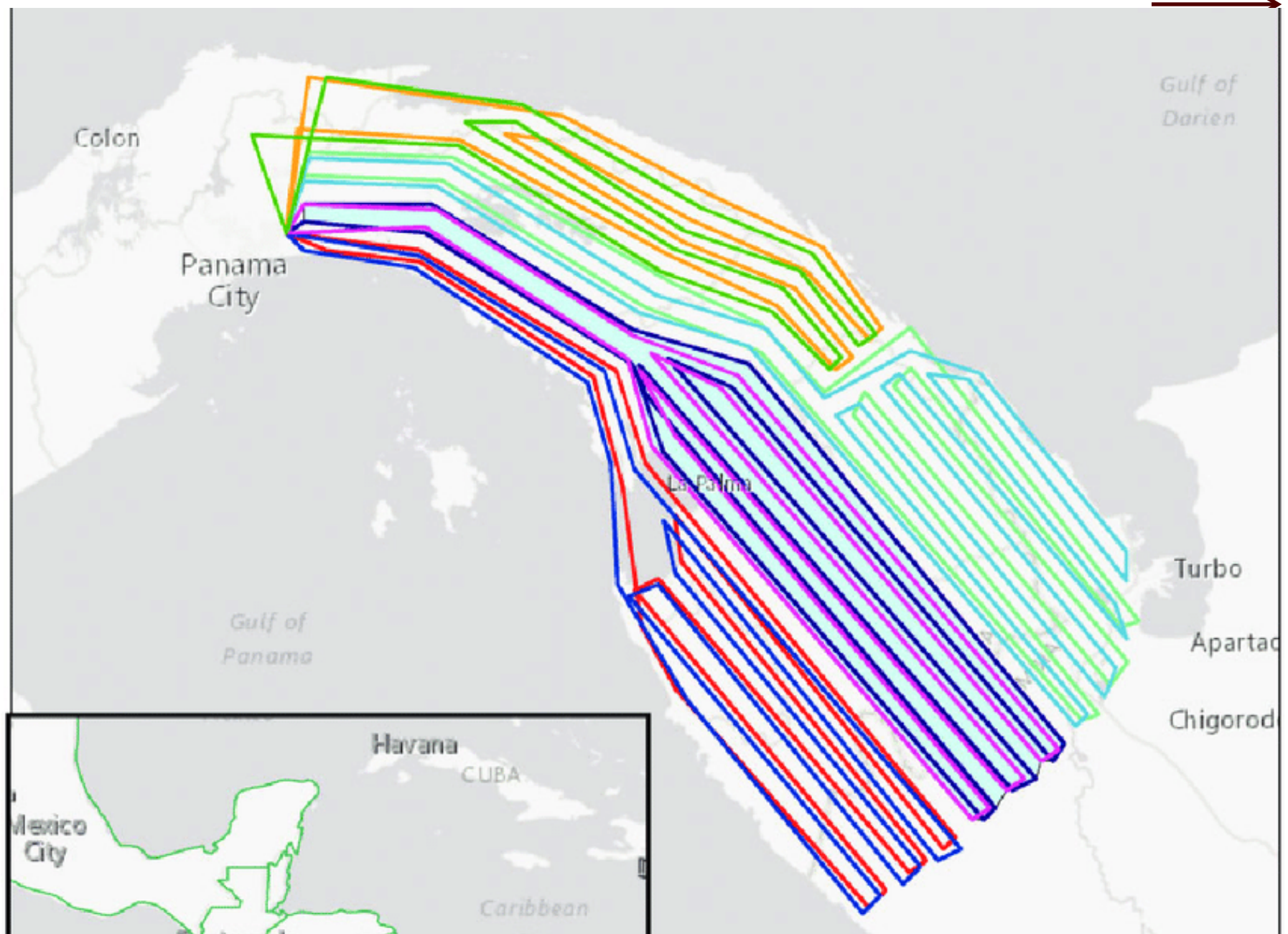


Photo: Denise Bonilla, USDA

Dispersal: Current → vs Historic



Dispersal of flies



Screwworm dispersal in Texas



Rules & Regulation

- Label violations in food animals
 - Food products 'unsafe', 'adulterated'
 - Condemned, cannot enter food chain
 - Violative residues are evaluated in commercially processed animals
- Challenge with harvested wildlife
 - Must meet withdrawals, other label requirements
 - Approvals typically require extended withdrawal, proof of target delivery



EPA vs. FDA

• FDA

- Systemic type materials (i.e. drugs)
- Extra label use **allowed** by veterinarians under an established CPR
- Ivermectin, doramectin, etc.
- Cannot alter use as a feed additive
 - If injectable, cannot add to feed, current request by some wildlife groups

• EPA (~1972)

- Non-systemic materials (surface active)
- Extra label use **not allowed**
- Must list the pest and the site on label
 - screwworm vs. “fly”
 - Cow vs. barn
- Few products available due to lack of testing over past 50 years
- Many products cancelled over past 25 yrs.

Lessons from Latin America: Management

- Well managed operations have fewer issues
- Routinely inspect livestock for maggots
- Prevent wounds
 - Maintenance of facilities to prevent injury
 - Attention to production practices like ectoparasite management – tick bites are a big one
 - Timing and observation/follow-up of other practices
- Treat wounds promptly
 - Treat umbilicus of all newborns and all other animals' wounds with products to hasten drying and healing
 - Use pesticides appropriate for NWS
 - Catron IV
 - Screwworm fly spray



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Report any mammals or birds (wild, livestock) that have signs of:

- irritated behavior,
- head shaking,
- the smell of decay but alive,
- evidence of fly strike and/or the presence of fly larvae (maggots) in wounds

Future Plans: USDA Announcements

- May 28 - USDA invested \$21 million to renovate an existing fruit fly production facility in Metapa, Mexico to further the long-term goal of eradicating this insect.
 - When operational, this facility will produce 100 million additional sterile NWS flies weekly to push the population further south in Mexico or out of the US. Opens summer 2026.
- June 18 - launched an \$8.5 million sterile New World screwworm (NWS) fly **dispersal** facility in South Texas and announced a sweeping five-pronged plan to enhance USDA's already robust ability to detect, control, and eliminate this pest.
 - Facility opened Feb. 09, 2026. Sterile flies from Panama will be sent to Texas for dispersal (50 miles inland)
- New screwworm **production** facility being built in south Texas
 - 100M flies by mid 2027; 300M flies by 2029.
 - NovoFly approved – Male-only strain that effectively doubles our production
- TAHC has developed response protocols in conjunction with USDA-APHIS-VS.
- CDC/County Health Depts. handle human cases

Management of the screwworm

- **Integrated Pest Management**
 - Multiple techniques to reduce a population
 - Reduces chance of resistance development
- **Eradication is goal**
 - **Reporting is critical**
 - Surveillance for adults (SwormLure/rotting liver)
 - Monitoring for larvae (animal examinations)
 - Inspections and limits on animal movement
 - Sterile Insect Technique (SIT)



Photo: Denise Bonilla, USDA

Pesticides are only a tool, not the toolbox

Application and formulations



Surface active:

- Sprays
- Pour-ons
- Ear tags
- Dusts
- Oils

Tend to have:

- Shorter residuals
- Fewer restrictions

Systemic active:

- Injectable
- Pour-on
- Feed through/bolus
- Spray

Tend to have:

- Often longer withdrawal periods
- Milking restrictions

Pesticide use considerations: EPA 2ee

Other Pesticides That May Have Utility Against Screwworm

FIFRA section 2(ee) allows a user to **apply** “a pesticide against any target pest **not specified on the labeling** if the application is to the crop, animal, or site specified on the labeling, unless the Administrator has required that the labeling specifically state that the pesticide may be used only for the pests specified on the labeling after the Administrator has determined that the use of the pesticide against other pests would cause an unreasonable adverse effect on the environment” (7 USC 136(ee)). In addition, all other requirements in FIFRA section 2(ee) and the label must be met. States may further restrict the use of pesticides under FIFRA section 2(ee). For example, a state could ban the use of a product on target species that are not listed on the label. For additional information on the use of pesticides under FIFRA section 2(ee): <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-labels/pesticide-labeling-questions-answers#exception>.

There are many products currently registered for control of other blow fly species in the family Calliphoridae, which means these products met EPA’s efficacy data requirements for blow flies under 40 CFR 158.1752. Many blow flies can cause secondary myiasis. **The efficacy of these products against New World screwworm is unknown; however, these products may have utility as part of an integrated pest management program.**

Several example products containing different active ingredients that are registered for controlling blow flies on livestock or on environmental surfaces in and around animal areas are listed in Table 2. The full list of products registered for controlling, trapping, and repelling blow flies may be found using EPA’s APPRIL database: [https://ordspub.epa.gov/ords/pesticides/f?p=APPRIL_PUBLIC:2:::.](https://ordspub.epa.gov/ords/pesticides/f?p=APPRIL_PUBLIC:2:::)

If the use against additional target pests is not prohibited on the label or by state regulations, companies may recommend their registered pesticides for use against New World screwworm with FIFRA section 2(ee) recommendations or bulletins. For example, additional products registered for other flies and other invertebrate pests may have utility against New World screwworm.

USDA is not recommending or endorsing the use of any specific product for the control of New World screwworm under FIFRA section 2(ee). Users are responsible for ensuring their product’s container label and state regulations allows for their intended use and application methods under FIFRA section 2(ee).

Gather resources

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The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension website. The address bar shows the URL agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/new-world-screwworm. The website header includes the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension logo, navigation links (ABOUT, NEWS & EVENTS, PROGRAMS & SERVICES, EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS, EXTENSION TOPICS, COUNTY OFFICES), and a site search bar. The main content area features a large red banner with the text "NEW WORLD SCREWWORM" and a close-up image of a screwworm fly on a green leaf. A red "Feedback" button is visible on the right side of the image.

In response to the increased activity in Mexico regarding New World screwworm, Texas A&M AgriLife brings together its research, teaching and extension expertise to help

STAY INFORMED

- [Texas A&M AgriLife Experts Draw on Past Success to Tackle Screwworm](#)
- [Uvalde County New World](#)

Resources: Useful Websites

Federal government: Screwworm.gov a.k.a. (best overall site, where NWS arrival will be announced first.

USDA: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/stop-screwworm>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/new-world-screwworm/situation-summary/>

Senasica (Mexico): <https://www.gob.mx/senasica/en>

COPEG: <https://www.copeg.org/en/>

Texas A&M University (including existing and forthcoming Spanish versions)

<https://agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/new-world-screwworm>

State sites:

<https://www.tahc.texas.gov/emergency/nws.html>

<https://agriculture.az.gov/new-world-screwworm>

[https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal Health/screwworm/](https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/screwworm/)

Producer group sites

<https://screwwormtx.org/>

New World screwworm

Phillip Kaufman¹, Sonja L. Swiger¹, Andy Herring²

Background

The New World screwworm (NWS, *Cochliomyia hominivorax*) is a parasitic fly native to the Western Hemisphere. It lays eggs in the living tissue of fresh wounds in warm-blooded animals. The larvae (maggots) feed on the host's flesh, causing severe wounds and often death if untreated. The pest was eradicated in the U.S. in the 1960s. Since then, it occasionally reemerges and has resurfaced in Central America and Mexico. They are controlled only through the release of sterile males, known as the sterile insect technique (SIT). This approach, along with regular active surveillance and livestock inspections, has proven highly successful. As of May 2025, renewed attention to this parasite is crucial, as it may pose future risks to livestock and wildlife.

Signs of New World screwworm in animals

The name screwworm refers to the feeding behavior exhibited by the maggots as they burrow (screw) into the wound. These maggots and their feeding cause extensive damage by tearing at the hosts' tissue with sharp mouth hooks. The wound will become larger and deeper as more and more eggs hatch and larvae feed on the living tissue. This results in serious and often deadly damage to the animal if not discovered and treated.



Figure 1. Screwworm infestation in dog

Continual and regular monitoring and evaluation of all livestock are important for herd and flock biosecurity and health considerations. Producers should be alert for possible signs associated with potential infestation including:

- Foul-smelling wounds with visible maggots
- Animals biting or licking at wounds
- Lesions in navels, ears, dehorning or branding sites
- Unusual restlessness or lethargy



Figure 2. Screwworm larva

In the New World screwworm, the larval stage (Figure 2) is responsible for inflicting significant injury and economic loss. These larvae inhabit the wounds of living animals, where they cause extensive tissue damage. Mature larvae can reach 17 mm in length (2/3 of an inch) and have spines that protrude from the body and wrap around in a spiral giving them the name screwworm. Official identification of larvae is based largely on the presence or absence of dual internal breathing tubes. Confirmation of the fly identity can be determined only by a trained individual. Specimens must be submitted to Texas Animal Health Commission.

Suspicious cases must be reported

Immediately isolate any suspected animals and contact:

- Your local veterinarian
- Texas Animal Health Commission: 1-800-550-8242
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Veterinary Services: (512) 383-2400

To prevent unintentional spread, avoid transporting any suspected animals until advised.

Thank you!

→ **Phillip E. Kaufman**

→ **Phone Number**
979-321-5790

→ **Email Address**
Phillip.kaufman@ag.tamu.edu

→ **Website**

<https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/new-world-screwworm/>

The background of the slide features a large, faint seal of the State of Texas on the left side. The seal is circular with a five-pointed star in the center, surrounded by a wreath. The words "STATE OF TEXAS" are visible around the top of the seal.

New World Screwworm: Tiny Parasite, Big Problem

Wayne Crouch, DVM, MS

Texas Animal Health Commission

Region Director Pleasanton



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Proudly Serving Texas Animal Agriculture
Since 1893



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Current Status of NWS





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NWS Sample Collection and Submission Protocols

- **Reporting and collecting samples:**

- Domestic animals -
 - TAHC
 - Accredited veterinarian
 - AgriLife Extension agent
- Wildlife –
 - TPWD biologist

- **Submitting samples:**

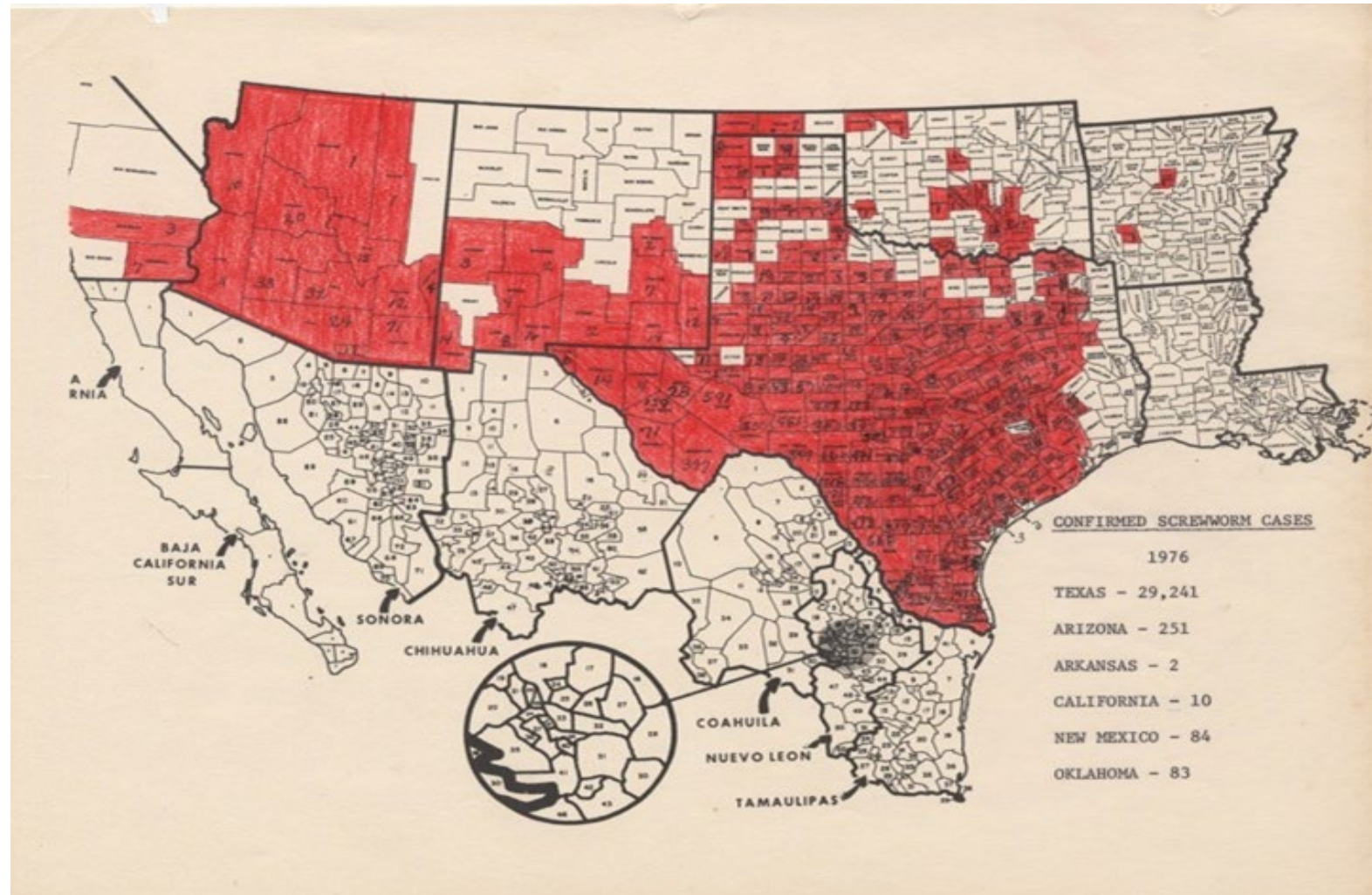
- Contact a TAHC region office or the veterinarian on call to receive a FAD# and shipping information





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NWS Cases 1976 TX 29,241





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Preparedness Efforts – Response Plans

- Quarantines and movement restrictions
 - Quarantine area(s) or “Infested Zone(s)” will be established to safeguard/mitigate risk for other parts of the state and country



Figure 1: Animal or Fly Detection in an Infested Zone



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Preparedness Efforts – Response Plans

- Quarantines and movement restrictions
 - Movement **out of infested zone** will require
 - Inspection
 - Treatment with approved product (in most cases)
 - Identification
 - Movement permit





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NWS Treatments – Local

- Permethrin insecticides
- Topically applied
- Read labels carefully
- Working with USDA, EPA, and manufacturers to expand approvals for other products and classes of products

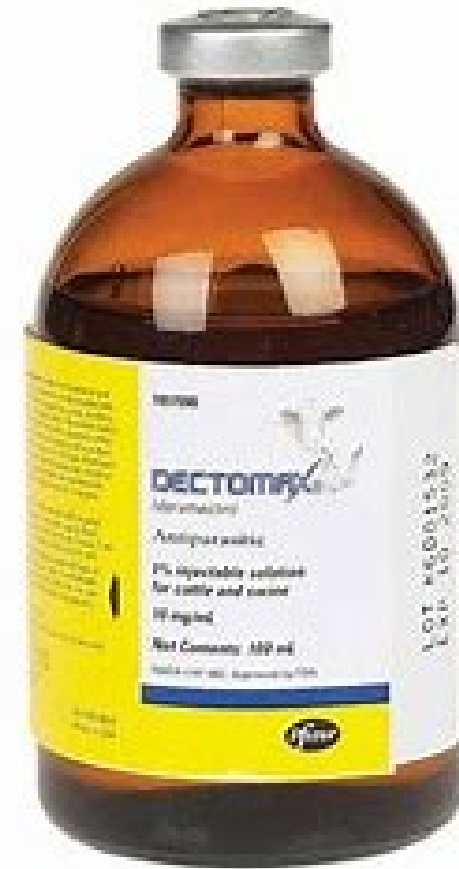




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NWS Treatments – Systemic

- 9/30/2025 – Dectomax-CA1
 - Treatment – 48 hours to effect
 - Prevention up to 21 days
 - Dectomax ONLY – no other preparations
 - Cattle only; injectable only
 - At label dose; 35-day withdrawal
 - Available over-the-counter (OTC)





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NWS Treatments – Systemic

- 10/24/2025 – Credelio
 - EAU for treatment and prevention
 - Dogs only
 - At label dose
- 11/21/2025 – Credelio CAT
 - EUA for treatment and prevention
 - Cats only
 - At label dose

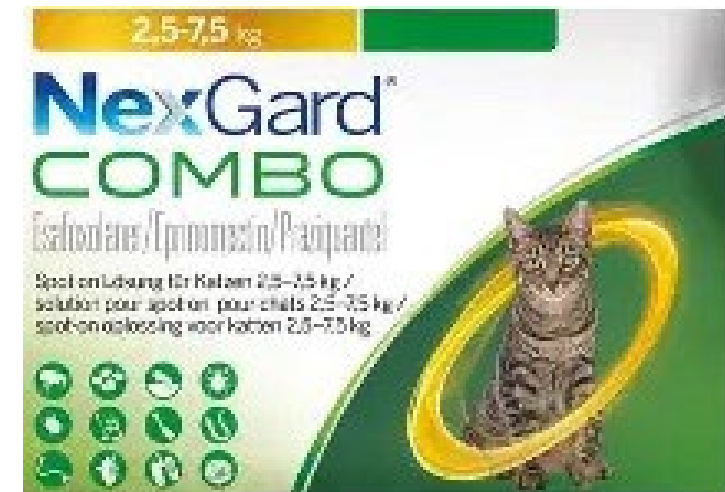




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NWS Treatments - Systemic

- 2/18/26 – Nexgard Chewables
 - EUA for treatment
 - Dogs only
 - At label dose
- 2/18/26 – Nexgard Combo
 - EUA for treatment
 - Cats and kittens only
 - At label dose





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Preparedness Efforts – Response Plans

- **Surveillance** (and reporting)
 - Critical to understanding location(s) of NWS infestations
 - Reporting is crucial
 - Slows spread caused by movement of infested domestic animals
 - Helps protect the marketability of the entire state
 - Promotes/speeds eradication efforts when we have sterile flies





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Preparedness Efforts – Current Activities

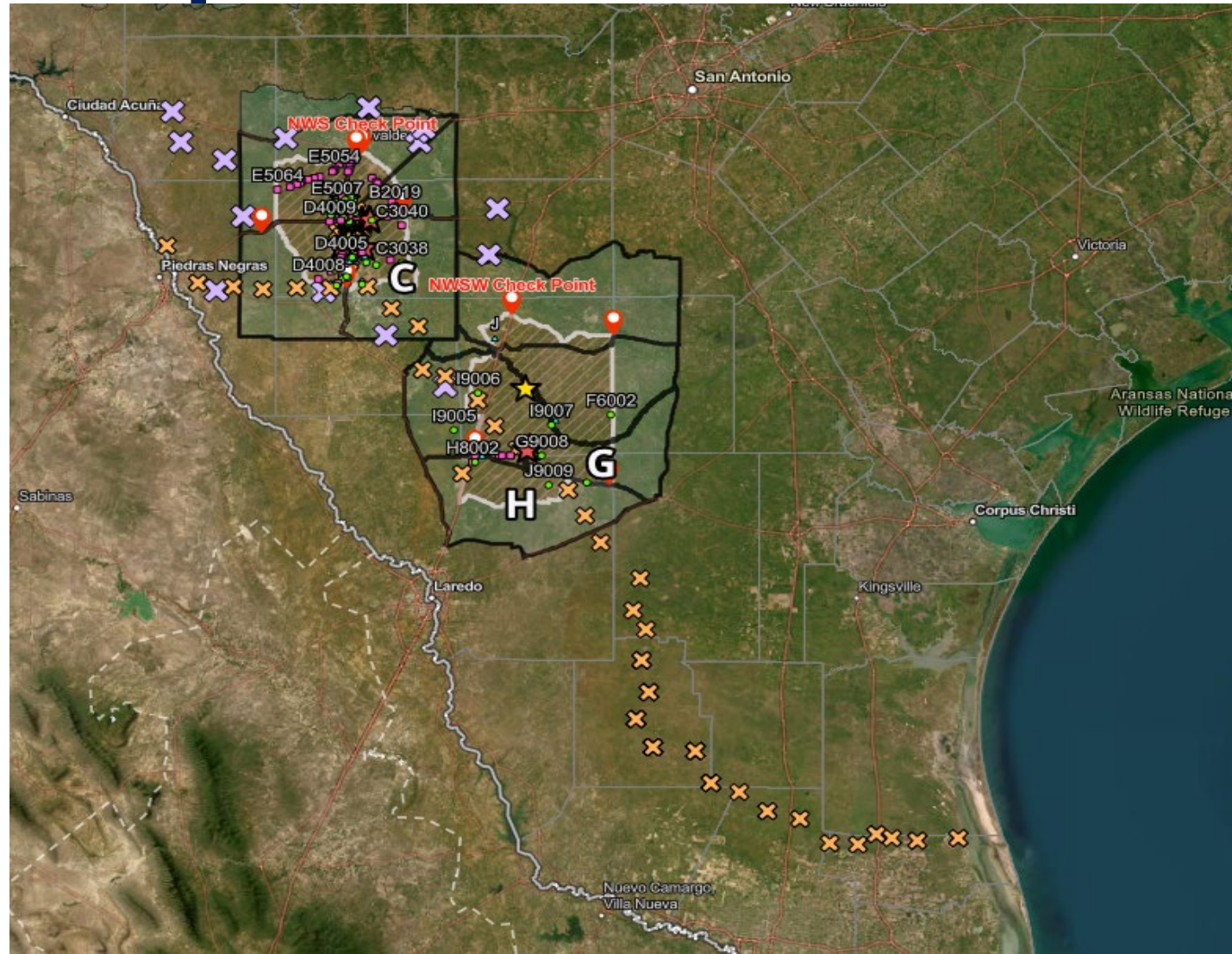
- Current surveillance
 - TAHC working with USDA-APHIS-VS on surveillance along Texas-Mexico border
 - 72 traps placed from Kenedy to Val Verde counties
 - >52,300 blow flies submitted to NVSL
 - None highly suspicious
 - **NO positive natural NWS identifications**





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Ground release chambers and fly traps





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Enhanced Management Practices





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Good Management = Good Prevention

- Reports from and observations in South and Central America – well managed operations have fewer issues with NWS
- **Routinely inspect livestock for maggots and wounds**
- Prevent wounds
 - Maintenance of facilities to prevent injuries
 - Attention to production practices like ectoparasite management – tick bites are a big one!
 - Timing and observation/follow-up of other practices
- Treat wounds promptly
 - Treat umbilicus of all newborns and all other animals' wounds with products to hasten drying and healing
 - Use pesticides appropriate for NWS





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General Enhanced Management Practices

- **Routinely inspect livestock for maggots**, whether in pastures, pens or prior to or post transportation
- **Prevent wounds; treat wounds quickly** to prevent and/or reduce infestations
- Schedule birthing of animals to coincide with cooler months when flies are at a minimum
- **Choose cooler months to perform procedures** causing an opening in the skin:
 - Castration
 - Dehorning
 - Tagging
 - Vaccination
 - Shearing
 - Branding
 - Ear marking
 - Tail docking
 - Implants





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NWS – Preparing for the worst, hoping for the best...

- Reminder - We are NOT in crisis mode; we are in awareness and preparedness mode...
- Steps to take now:
 - **Monitor** animals regularly for signs of myiasis or maggots
 - **Report** suspicious maggot cases to TAHC, accredited veterinarian, or AgriLife Extension agent
 - If you suspect an animal is infested, **DO NOT MOVE THE ANIMAL**
 - **Prepare and plan** to implement enhanced management practices

The background of the slide features a large, faint seal of the State of Texas on the left side. The seal is circular with a five-pointed star in the center, surrounded by a wreath. The words "STATE OF TEXAS" are visible around the perimeter of the seal.

Update and Procedures for Reporting Suspected New World Screwworm Cases

V. Renee Holmes-MS, PhD

TAHC Entomologist

Phone: (830) 480-6144

Email: renee.holmes@tahc.texas.gov



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NWS Current Status



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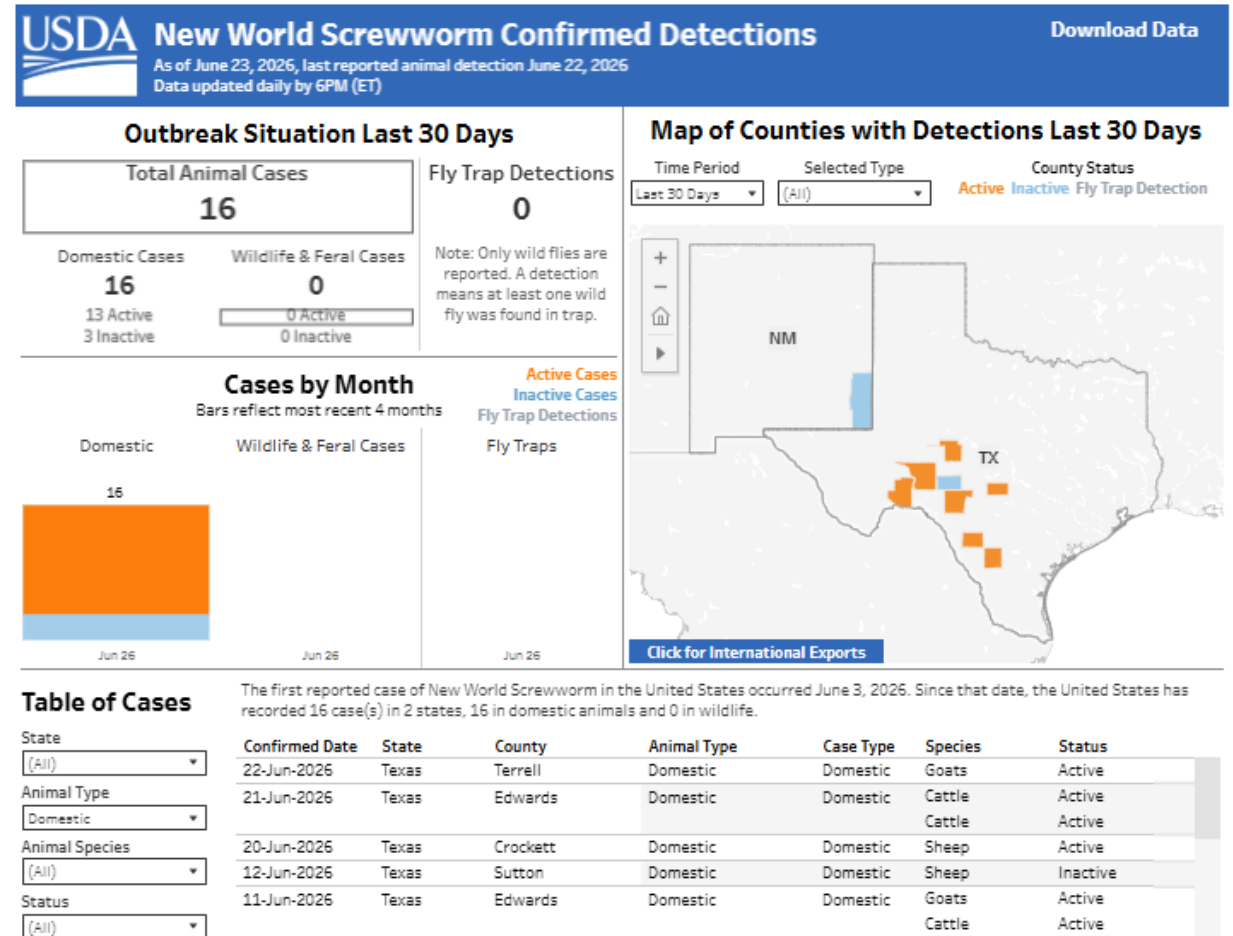
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Current Active Cases in TX

As of June 23, 2026

- Zavala
 - 2 bovine, 1 inactive bovine
- LaSalle
 - 2 bovine
- Gillespie
 - 1 goat
- Edwards
 - 4 bovine
 - 1 goat
- Tom Green
 - 1 bovine
- Sutton
 - 1 inactive sheep
- Crockett
 - 1 sheep
- Terrell
 - 1 goat

- Total cases 15: Active cases: 13
- (1 inactive dog in New Mexico)





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NWS Sample Collection and Submission Protocols

- **Reporting and collecting samples:**

- Domestic animals -
 - TAHC
 - Accredited veterinarian
 - AgriLife Extension agent
- Wildlife –
 - TPWD biologist

- **Submitting samples:**

- Contact a TAHC region office or the veterinarian on call to receive a FAD# and shipping information





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NWS Sample Collection

- TAHC [New World Screwworm Sample Collection Procedure](#)
- NWS sample collection kits being developed through a grant awarded to Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine
- *Notifying and coordinating with TAHC is critical!*

New World Screwworm Sample Collection Procedure for Producers

New World screwworm (NWS) larvae or maggots are often found in pre-existing wounds or mucous membranes causing NWS myiasis. After observation, if NWS infestation or myiasis is suspected, samples should be collected and submitted for official identification. Avoid spreading the pest by keeping animals confined during this process. Suspected cases of NWS myiasis are reportable to the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC). This guide is provided to aid producers in the collection and submission of pests for official laboratory identification.

Supplies

The following is needed for NWS collection:

- Gloves
- 70% alcohol (ethanol or isopryl)
- Forceps
- Screw cap vial or container
- Tape to seal container
- Plastic bag with a zipper closure

Additional Resources

TAHC New World Screwworm webpage:
https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/fevertickspests/#screwworms

USDA New World Screwworm Emergency Response:
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-emergencies/nws>

Collection Procedure

- Using forceps, gently remove larvae of different sizes from several sites within the open wound, especially the deepest part of the wound.
- Place the larvae in the vial or container and ensure they are completely submerged in alcohol. Seal the container and place it in the plastic bag for shipment.
- All larvae not submitted for official identification should be destroyed and disposed of properly and the wound treated as directed by your veterinarian. Do not allow stray larvae to fall on the ground during collection.

Submission Procedure

To receive direction on sample collection submission, contact a TAHC region office or the veterinarian on call, 1-800-550-8242. Samples cannot be submitted without first consulting with USDA-APHIS to obtain proper shipping and tracking information.

For proper sample submission, animal health officials will request the animal owner to provide:

- Owner contact information;
- Address or geographic description of the location the sample was collected;
- County where sample was collected;
- Species of the host; and
- Location larvae or maggots were found on the host.



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Report Suspicions to a TAHC Region Office

AMARILLO REGION 806.641.7000

REGION MANAGER, TY MCCOY

PLEASANTON REGION 361.358.3234

REGION DIRECTOR, DR. WAYNE CROUCH

REGION MANAGER, TY BILLINGS

GIDDINGS REGION 979.212.5440

REGION DIRECTOR, DR. RICHARD MYRICK

REGION MANAGER, RYAN BROCKENBUSH

LAREDO REGION 956.568.5741

REGION DIRECTOR, DR. SANDRA LEYENDECKER

REGION MANAGER, RENE GARZA

CATTLE FEVER TICK MANAGER, ELI BENAVIDEZ

STEPHENVILLE REGION 512.556.6277

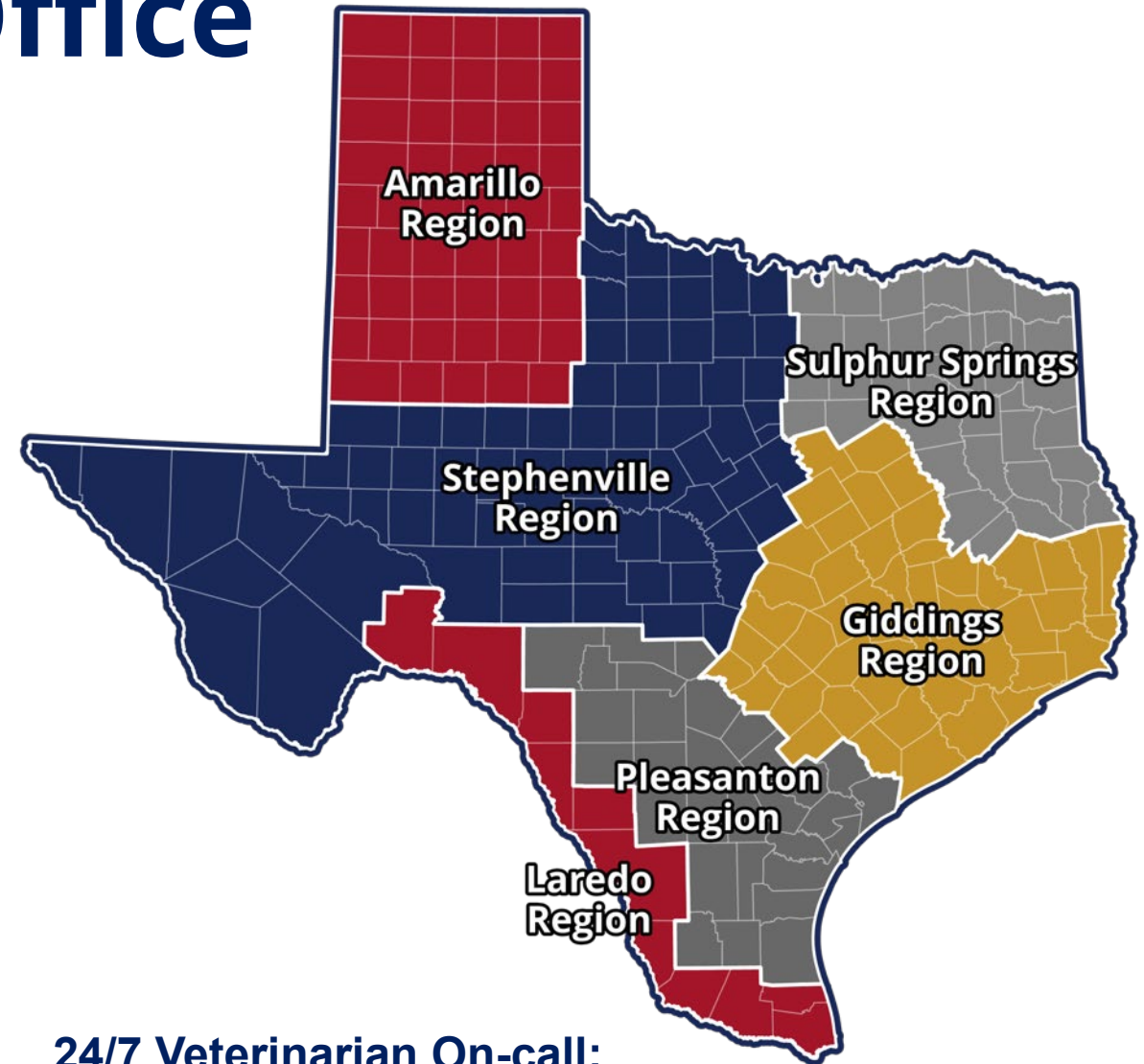
REGION DIRECTOR, DR. DUSTIN DORRIS

REGION MANAGER, TREVOR POWE

SULPHUR SPRINGS REGION 903.919.3748

REGION DIRECTOR, DR. SCOTT MUNGER

REGION MANAGER, DALLAS NICHOLSON



**24/7 Veterinarian On-call:
1-800-550-8242**



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Clinical Signs

- Larvae visible in wound by day 3; hundreds may be present
- Up to 17mm long
- Bloody discharge
- **Foul** odor
- May only have small wound but deep, infested pockets under skin
- Animal depressed, off feed, separate from herd/self-isolate, head shaking





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Sample Collection Protocols

- Gently remove larvae from several sites within the open wound using forceps
- **Collect samples from the deepest part of the wound**
 - Secondary myiasis may be present
 - Reminder: wounds with myiasis are painful
- Collect larvae of different sizes
- Place the larvae in the sample container and completely submerge in alcohol
- **Contact TAHC or USDA to report case**





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NWS Response Epidemiological Principles

Prevent contact between NWS flies and non-infested animals

- prevention, detection, and treatment of wounds in non-infested animals (domestic and wildlife)
- quarantine and treatment of infested livestock, movement controls, and inspections of livestock in regulatory control areas
- monitor and manage wildlife in affected areas

Stop the production cycle of NWS flies

- detection and appropriate treatment of infested animals
- use of the sterile insect technique (SIT) (see later section)



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Preparedness Efforts – Response Plans

- **Surveillance** (and reporting)
 - Critical to understanding location(s) of NWS infestations
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 - Slows spread caused by movement of infested domestic animals
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What happens if...



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Animal Health Evaluations & Investigations

- Process begins with report of a suspected case of NWS
- FAD investigation conducted by TAHC or USDA vet
- Animal health officials collect samples to be officially identified at NVSL in Ames, Iowa
- **IF NWS Confirmed:** situation quickly evaluated to determine if there is a fly population in the area then response plans enacted and can include:
 - Establish infested zone and implement animal movement requirements to move animals outside of an infested zone
 - Evaluation for sterile insect distribution needs
 - Prioritizing stopping the spread while maintaining continuity of animal agriculture business



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Confirmed Infestation – Initial Evaluations & Activities

- TAHC will coordinate with USDA on the necessary response based on epidemiology of infestation
- Part of TAHC response activities include notifying the County Judge and Commissioners
 - If TAHC is deployed in the county, TAHC will notify the Sheriff and any other local law enforcement for awareness and for assistance as needed
- During the initial hours following confirmation, TAHC will enact existing response plans which may include:
 - Deploying trained personnel to help inspect animals
 - Setting NWS specific fly traps for surveillance
 - Providing education to animal owners in the area
 - Determining where to deploy sterile flies



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Confirmed Infestation – Livestock Movement Restrictions

- “Infested Zone” quarantine area established based on epidemiological assessment
 - Minimum 12-mile (20 km) area initially
 - Will include movement restrictions
- Animals will be allowed to move out of the “infested zone” once they are:
 - **Inspected** and found to be free of infestation
 - **Treated** with appropriate treatment for that species
 - Properly **identified**
 - Receive movement **permit**
- Steps minimize spread of infestation by human movement of animals and will maximize the effectiveness of sterile flies



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Confirmed Infestation – Livestock Movement Restrictions

- TAHC may establish inspection points on roadways around the perimeter of the Infested Zone
 - Help ensure members of the public are aware of NWS infested zone and are not moving infested animals
 - Request assistance from local law enforcement for vehicle stops to perform animal inspections





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Confirmed Infestation – Public Information

- NWS considered a foreign animal disease or pest (FAD) - must be reported to the TAHC within 24 hours of all suspected or confirmed cases
 - County officials can assist county residents by making sure TAHC or TPWD is quickly notified of suspected screwworm cases
- State level outreach shared to coordinate messaging at the local level
 - If there is a case in your county, state public information officers will work to ensure current protocols and messaging are shared effectively with local producers
 - County outreach methods may be a useful tool to ensure as many people as possible are aware and receiving those critical messages
 - County level messaging tools
 - Townhall meetings

What can animal owners/stakeholders do now?



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Enhanced Management Practices





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Good Management = Good Prevention

- Reports from and observations in South and Central America – well managed operations have fewer issues with NWS
- **Routinely inspect animals for maggots and wounds**
- Prevent wounds
 - Maintenance of facilities to prevent injuries
 - Attention to preventative practices like ectoparasite management – tick bites are a big one!
 - Timing and observation/follow-up of other practices
- Treat wounds promptly
 - Treat umbilicus of all newborns and all other animals' wounds with products to hasten drying and healing
 - Use pesticides appropriate for NWS





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General Enhanced Management Practices

- Prevention of wounds
 - Facility considerations
 - Handling considerations
 - Animal health management programs
 - Treatment and prevention for induced wounds
 - Treatment and prevention for “natural” wounds – e.g. umbilicus
- Integrated pest management
 - Reduction of skin irritation/abrasion
- Best thing to put on animals for NWS – eyes!
 - Develop management practices to facilitate inspection
 - Don’t forget – ALL mammals

<https://agriflifeextension.tamu.edu/livestock-management-considerations-for-new-world-screwworm/>



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General Enhanced Management Practices

- **Routinely inspect animals for maggots**, whether in pastures, pens or prior to or post transportation
- **Prevent wounds; treat wounds quickly** to prevent and/or reduce infestations
- **Monitor injuries from procedures** causing an opening in the skin:
 - Castration
 - Vaccination
 - Ear marking
 - Tail docking
 - Implants





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NWS – Preparing for the worst, hoping for the best...

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Why Early Reporting is CRITICAL

- Sterile Flies
 - Deployed within 24 hours
 - Suppresses local fly population
 - Limits zone spread
 - Prevents fly population expansion
 - Mitigates movement of infested animals into uninfested areas





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New World Screwworms

- Truly a “community” issue; will require all-hands-on-deck
- The name of the game is mitigation and control until sterile fly production is adequate to complete eradication





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Additional Resources

- USDA NWS Website: www.screwworm.gov
- TAHC NWS Webpage: www.tahc.texas.gov/emergency/nws.html
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension NWS Webpage (English and Spanish): <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/new-world-screwworm>
- Screwworm Coalition of Texas: <https://screwwormtx.org>
- United States Animal Health Association: <https://usaha.org/new-world-screwworm/>

Best Practices and Lessons Learned in the Field

Brent Moore, DVM, MS, MPH, Dipl. ACVPM
Public Health Region 4/5N Veterinarian
Department of State Health Services

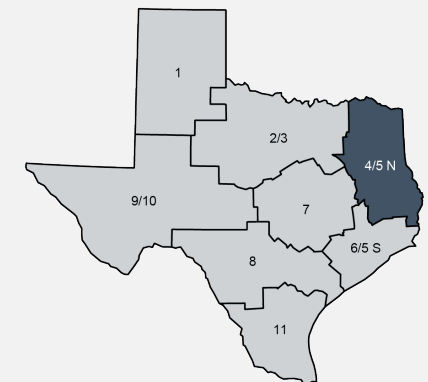


Overview

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Public Health Region 4/5 N Serving You

- Animal Control Officers serve a key role in public health, zoonotic disease outbreaks, and invasive parasites such as NWS
- ACOs engage with the public in different settings and may be asked to field questions on a variety of topics, regarding a wide range of animals
- ACOs impound animals with unknown exposures, risks, and backgrounds
- Dogs and cats are susceptible to NWS
- Stray dogs and cats may have no owners, leading to cost concerns

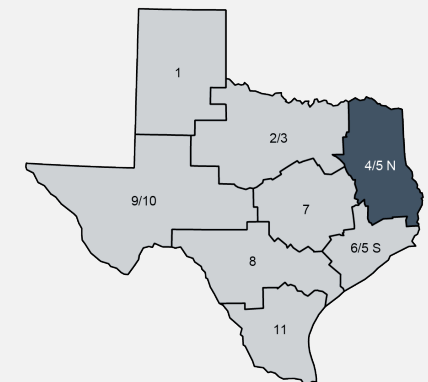


Basic needs

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- Secure location (solid floors, pest prevention, etc)
- Veterinarian accessibility and have a plan if veterinarian is not immediately available (after hours, weekend, etc.)
- Know your Texas Animal Health Commission and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department contacts
 - What do you do if a resident is concerned about wildlife that appear ill on their property
- Everything that is done for normal animal control functions apply here with some additional scrutiny
 - Professionalism and documentation
 - Specify location where animal is collected
 - Basic exam and assessment of the animal
 - Can be done on-site of collection or at shelter facility
- If fly larvae are observed, take clear pictures as this may assist in ruling in or out NWS infestation

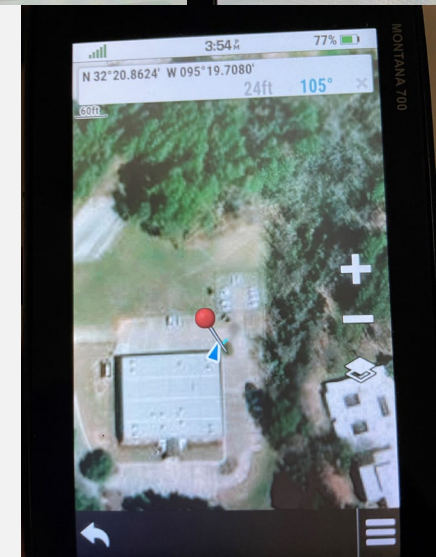
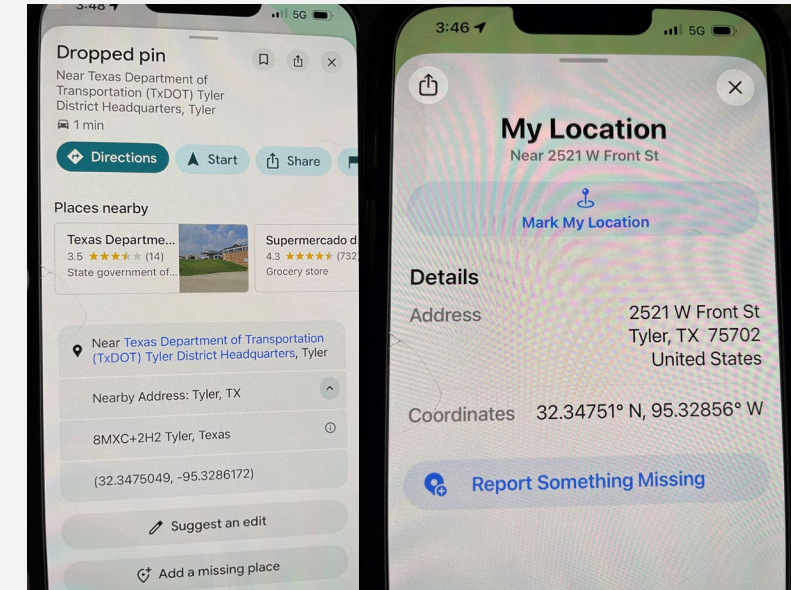


Identifying location

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Public Health Region 4/5 N Serving You

- Importance
 - Provide accurate and precise origin of exposure and potential NWS fly spread
 - Can assist in response to threat
- Tools
 - Cell phone maps and apps
 - Hand-held GPS



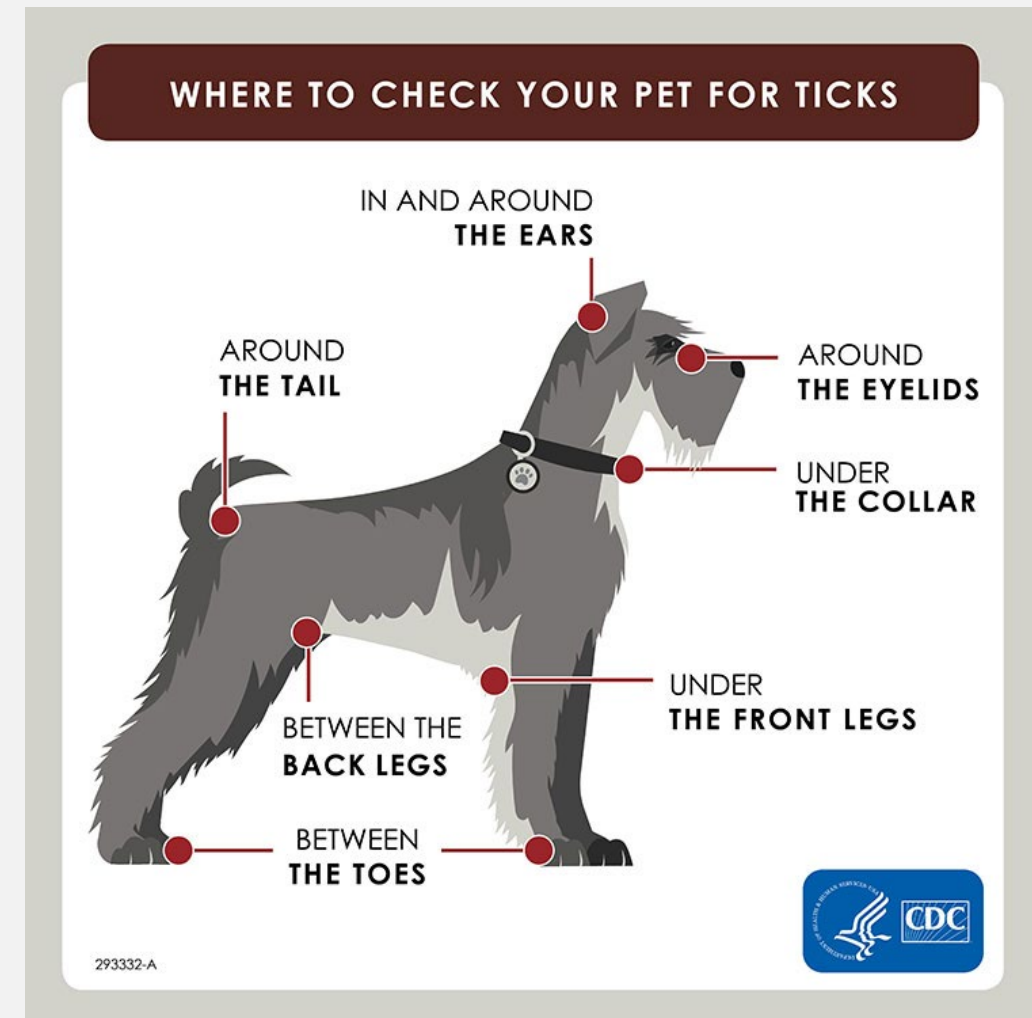
Basic exam/assessment

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Public Health Region 4/5 N Serving You

- “Nose to tail”
- Any open wounds
 - Tick bites
 - “Road rash”
 - Bites, lacerations, etc.
 - Umbilical region of newborns
- Odor
- Not a one-time exam
 - Repeat as you would behavioral assessments (daily)
- Contact a veterinarian immediately if any concern for NWS

Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/prevention/preventing-ticks-on-pets.html>, accessed 6/19/2026



Disinfection and Sanitation

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Public Health Region 4/5 N Serving You

- Disinfection cannot occur without proper sanitation practices
 - Includes both the facility and the transport vehicle
- Animal should be removed from kennel prior to disinfection process
- Remove all items from the kennel
- All organic material should be scooped prior to application of detergents and/or disinfectants
- Solid concrete preferred
 - Cannot adequately disinfect dirt, grass, etc.
- Disinfection musts:
 - Proper concentration
 - Proper contact time
 - Proper disinfectant for targeted organisms



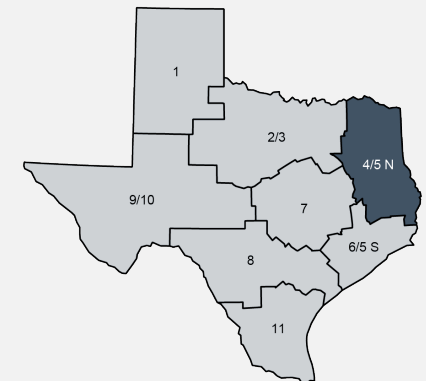
Carcass Disposal

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Public Health Region 4/5 N Serving You

- Incineration/Cremation – Make sure all permits are obtained and assure legality in your area
- Freezing – Assure entire carcass is frozen to kill all larvae, then double bag for further disposal
- Deep burial – At least 4 feet of compact dirt above the carcass
- Refer to USDA NWS Response Playbook for further details ([NWS Response Playbook](#); accessed 6/22/2026)

Do not dispose of potentially infested animals in landfills.

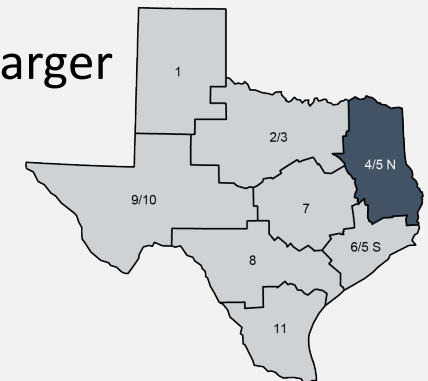


Special Considerations

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Public Health Region 4/5 N Serving You

- Local ordinances may lead to complications
 - Holding periods without ability to euthanize if severely injured or debilitated
 - Seizing animals (pet owners that cannot treat infested animals)
- Rabies quarantine laws still in effect
 - Dogs and cats may be more likely to bite if in pain
- For strays, who will cover costs?
- Stray transports
 - Some states may restrict entry from affected zones
 - Dogs and cats should be spayed or neutered prior to transport* – healing incisions
 - Though currently, dogs and cats may pass through NWS road stop check stations, larger groups may be asked for further verification
- Trap-neuter-release programs



*Health and Safety Code 828.004 (Sterilization Required) and 828.005 (Confirmation of Sterilization)

Case Reporting

DSHS Piney Woods Texas

Public Health Region 4/5 N Serving You

New World Screwworm (NWS) Reporting Aid for Animal Control Officers in Texas

**Report a
Suspect Case**

New World screwworm (NWS) is an emerging threat to human and animal health. Animal control officers are the first line of defense in identifying this threat in animals. Depending on the situation or animal type, a different Texas agency will need to be alerted.

If you suspect an animal has NWS, use this flowchart to determine who to notify.

Is this related to animals or humans?

Humans

Find your county's local health department:
dshs.texas.gov/idps-investigation-forms/disease-reporting-contacts

For additional questions:
newworldscrewworm@dshs.texas.gov



Animals

- Domestic pets (e.g., cats, dogs, pet birds, horses)
- Livestock (e.g., cattle, goats, chickens)
- Zoo animals

Texas Animal Health
Commission

Phone: 1-800-550-8242



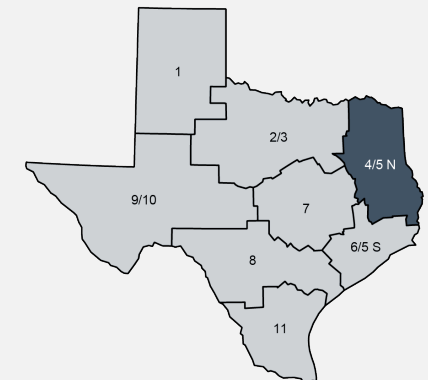
All wildlife

Texas Parks
and Wildlife

Phone: 512-389-4505



Available at:
<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/LIDS-Zoonosis/NWS/resources/animal-control-how-to-report-pocket-version.pdf>
Accessed 6/22/2026

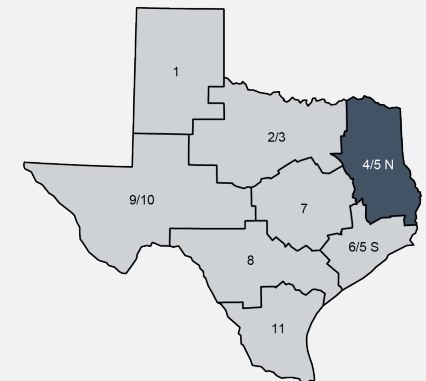


Key Takeaways

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Public Health Region 4/5 N Serving You

- Have a plan in place now, do not wait
 - Know your TAHC, TPW, DSHS contacts and when to refer to these agencies
 - Be prepared for financial considerations
 - Have a communication plan with local leadership and government agencies
 - What if after hours or weekend if veterinarian is not available
- Have relationship with local or closest veterinarians
 - In some areas, the closest veterinarian may be over an hour away
- Professionalism is paramount
 - Includes documentation, observation, etc.
 - Communicate effectively with locals and government agencies
- ACOs serve a key role in the NWS response, especially for stray animals



Regional Zoonosis Control Contacts

DSHS Piney Woods Texas

Public Health Region 4/5 N Serving You

DSHS REGION OFFICES

Region 1

Cherissa Abdul Hamid, DVM, MPH, DACVPM
6302 Iola Ave
Lubbock, TX 79424
Phone: (806) 783-6422
phr1zoonosis@dshs.texas.gov

Region 2/3

Annajane (Aj) Marlar, DVM, MRCVS, DACVO
1301 S Bowen Rd, Ste. 200
Arlington, TX 76013
Phone: (817) 264-4920
HSR2-3.ZoonoticReporting@dshs.texas.gov

Region 4/5N

Brent Moore, DVM, MS, MPH, DACVPM
2521 W Front St
Tyler, TX 75702
Phone: (903) 533-5212
DSHS.HSR45N.Zoo@dshs.texas.gov

Region 6/5S

Brendan Sullivan, DVM, MPH
5425 Polk St, Ste. J
Houston, TX 77023
Phone: (713) 767-3300
DSHS.HSR6-5s.Zoo@dshs.texas.gov

Region 7

David Smonko, DVM
1010 Old Waco Rd
Temple, TX 76502
Phone: (254) 771-6784
dshs.hsr7.zoo@dshs.texas.gov

Region 8

Amanda Kieffer, DVM, MPH, DACVPM
7430 Louis Pasteur
San Antonio, TX 78229
Phone: (210) 949-2046
region8.zoonosis@dshs.texas.gov

Region 9/10

Susan Schaff, DVM, MPH
401 E. Franklin Ave, Ste 210
El Paso, TX 79901
Phone: (915) 834-7782
R9-10.Zoo@dshs.texas.gov

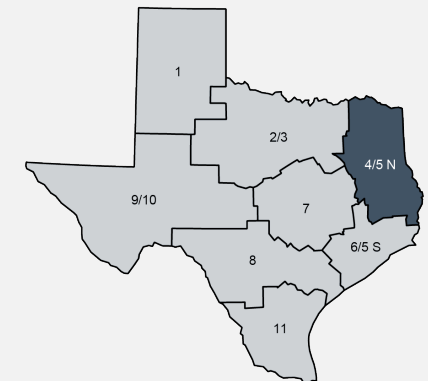
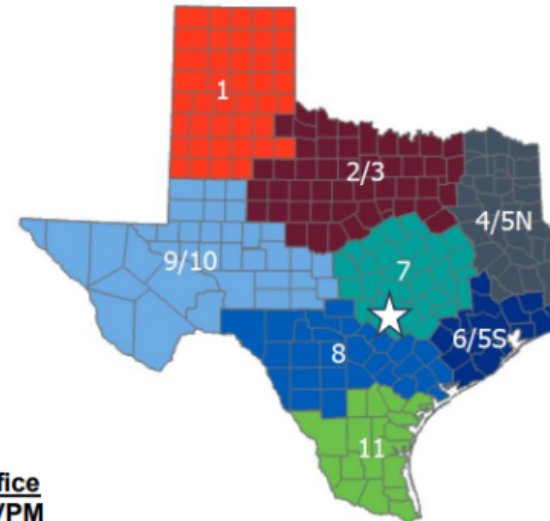
Region 11

Ronald Tyler, DVM, MS
601 W Sesame Dr
Harlingen, TX 78550
Phone: (956) 444-3212
HSR11.Zoo@dshs.texas.gov

Zoonosis Control Branch- Central Office

Susan N. Rollo, MS, DVM, PhD, DACVPM
Eric Fonken, DVM, MPAff
1100 W 49th St
Austin, TX 78756
Phone: (512) 776-7770
Susan.Rollo@dshs.texas.gov
Eric.Fonken@dshs.texas.gov

For general inquiries:
the.vet@dshs.texas.gov



Q&A



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

Resources

- New World Screwworm Preparedness and Response Education: <https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/product/new-world-screwworm-preparedness-and-response-education/01tQn00000H7J5IIAF>
- DSHS May 2026 ACO Webinar: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/9219726511640313772>
- USDA NWS Website: www.screwworm.gov
- TAHC NWS Webpage: www.tahc.texas.gov/emergency/nws.html
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension NWS Webpage (English and Spanish): <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/new-world-screwworm>
- Screwworm Coalition of Texas: <https://screwwormtx.org>
- United States Animal Health Association: <https://usaha.org/new-world-screwworm/>

Questions

Please send any questions to: newworldscrewworm@dshs.texas.gov

Closing Remarks

Susan N. Rollo, MS, DVM, PhD, DACVPM
State Public Health Veterinarian
Office of Chief State Epidemiologist
Texas Department of State Health Services

Thank you

Additional Resources



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

DSHS Health Advisory: Raising Awareness about New World Screwworm

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 HEALTH ADVISORY

September 26, 2025

Summary

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is raising awareness among public health professionals, human health clinicians, and the public about New World screwworm (NWS), a parasitic fly that can have significant effects on human and animal health. State and federal agencies are preparing for the possible reintroduction of the parasite into the United States. No recent human or animal cases have been identified in Texas, but clinicians should remain vigilant when seeing patients who have traveled in areas where the fly is present and report all suspected NWS cases to their local health department immediately.

Background

New World screwworm myiasis is caused by an infestation with the larvae of *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, a parasitic fly that feeds on live tissue. NWS infestation begins when the fly lays eggs near wounds or on mucous membranes (nose, ears, mouth) of warm-blooded animals. Within a day, multiple eggs can hatch into larvae and begin to feed. People with NWS infestations may report pain and see or feel movement in the affected area. Larvae will drop to the ground after feeding to complete their lifecycle.

NWS infestation cannot spread from one host to another without the completion of the fly's life cycle, which ranges from approximately 14-54 days. NWS has the potential to significantly affect local animal populations, so awareness, surveillance, and control of NWS myiasis and *C. hominivorax* flies in both animals and humans are critical.

NWS was previously eradicated from the United States in the 1960s. Since then, the fly has remained endemic in most of South America, parts of the Caribbean, and southern Panama. In 2023, NWS was detected throughout Central America and was detected in Mexico beginning in November 2024.

There is no immediate risk of infestation to people within the United States; however, travel-related cases have occurred in the past and will continue to be a risk.

Available at: [DSHS Health Advisory: Raising Awareness about New World Screwworm | Texas DSHS](#), accessed on June 22, 2026.

Recommendations for Healthcare Providers

Once larvae hatch and begin to feed on live flesh, they typically cause a significant amount of pain within the infested wound. Skin wounds and sores will enlarge and deepen over time and be foul-smelling. One to several hundred larvae can often be seen within a few days of hatching and can grow up to 17mm (approx. 2/3 inch) long.



A New World screwworm larva (top) compared with the larger bot fly larva (bottom)
Photo courtesy Mark Fox, CDC



NWS fly with egg mass
Photo courtesy USDA

Assessment

Healthcare providers should consider NWS if their patient:

- Has recently traveled in areas with animal or human cases of NWS.
- Has a very painful and foul-smelling wound with visible larvae.
- Has a particularly deep wound with extensive tissue damage and evidence of larval infestation.

Has an egg mass in or around a wound or opening

Treatment

There is currently no medication approved for treatment of NWS infestation in humans.

- NWS myiasis in humans is treated by removing **ALL** larvae. In some cases, surgical removal may be necessary since larvae can burrow deep into wounds to feed. Healthcare providers should be aware of the potential for secondary bacterial infections with NWS myiasis and patients should be assessed clinically for signs of bacterial infection.
 - Larvae and eggs should be killed by placing them into a leak-proof container with 70% ethanol. The volume of liquid in the container should be enough to fully submerge the larvae.
 - Do not dispose of extracted larvae or eggs in the trash or on the ground without first killing the larvae.
 - Re-examine treated lesions after 24 to 48 hours to confirm no live larvae remain.



Resurgence of New World Screwworm in the Americas: What Healthcare Providers Need to Know



For Health Care Providers

OCTOBER 17, 2024

AT A GLANCE

During this COCA Call, a subject matter expert will outline the biology and life cycle of *C. hominivorax*, explain the current epidemiology in Central America, review guidance on how to identify infestations, and discuss how to appropriately manage and report cases of NWS in humans.

Webinar



From a US national health authority

Resurgence of New World Screwworm in the Americas: What Healthcare Providers Need to Know



Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) Call

Thursday, October 17, 2024



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TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

New World Screwworm: Outbreak Moves into Northern Mexico

JAN. 20, 2026

AT A GLANCE

- Distributed via the CDC Health Alert Network
- January 20, 2026, 12:30 PM ET
- CDCHAN-00526



Summary

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is issuing this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory to share information and notify clinicians, public health authorities, and the public about recent New World screwworm (NWS) animal cases in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas, which shares a border with the U.S. state of Texas. No NWS infestations related to this outbreak have been identified in people or animals in the United States as of January 20, 2026. However, given the potential for geographic spread, CDC is issuing this Health Advisory to increase awareness of the outbreak and to summarize CDC recommendations for clinicians and health departments in the United States on case identification and reporting, specimen collection, diagnosis, and treatment of NWS, as well as guidance for the public.

Background

ON THIS PAGE

- Summary
- Background
- Recommendations for Clinicians
- Recommendations for Health Departments
- Recommendations for Laboratories
- Recommendations for the Public
- Recommendations for Veterinarians
- For More Information

Recommendations for Clinicians

Clinical presentation and guidance

- Consider NWS in people who present with any of the following:
 - Visible larvae or egg masses in a wound, ears, eyes, nose, mouth, or other body orifice (e.g., genitals).
 - Destruction of healthy tissue.
 - Sensation of movement, foul odor, bloody discharge, swelling, and pain.
 - Recent travel to [regions where NWS is present](#)
- In areas where NWS is present, advise patients to:
 - Clean and cover all wounds, no matter how small or the location on the body.
 - Wear loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts and pants, socks, and hats to limit exposed skin and use [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)-registered insect repellents](#).
 - If possible, avoid spending time where livestock are located or housed in rural areas.
 - Avoid sleeping outdoors, especially during daytime hours when NWS flies are most active.
 - Use bed nets to protect sleeping quarters from insects if windows are left open and not screened. In hospitals, screening windows and doors is essential.

Reporting to public health

- Immediately report all suspected human cases** to your [state, tribal, local, or territorial health department](#), and work with your health department to seek confirmatory diagnosis with CDC's Diagnostic Parasitology Lab (DPDx).
- Direct clinical inquiries and patient management-related questions to your health department or to CDC's Parasitic Diseases Hotline (404-718-4745 or parasites@cdc.gov) during business hours, or to CDC's Emergency Operations Center (770-488-7100) after regular business hours.
- Non-clinical questions can be directed to newworldscrewworm@cdc.gov.

Patient management and specimen submission

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Hantaviruses >

Leishmaniasis

Leptospirosis

Malaria >

New World Screwworm (NWS) ▾

New World Screwworm Information for
Healthcare Providers

New World Screwworm Frequently
Asked Questions

Plague (Yersinia pestis) >

Psittacosis

Q Fever >

Rabies >

Tapeworm (Taeniasis / Cysticercosis)

Trichinellosis (Trichinosis)

New World Screwworm (NWS)

[NWS and Humans](#)
[Pet Owners](#)

[Healthcare Providers](#)
[Identifying NWS](#)

[Resources](#)

New World Screwworm: A Reemerging Threat

New World screwworm (NWS), or *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, is a species of parasitic fly that can cause infestation in humans and animals. NWS larvae feed on live tissues of any warm-blooded animal. When larvae from the fly get into a wound or opening in the body, they cause myiasis, or an infestation of fly larvae.

NWS myiasis occurs when a female fly lays eggs near wounds or mucous membranes (eyes, ears, nose, mouth, genitalia) of an animal or person. Female flies can lay hundreds of eggs within minutes. When the eggs hatch, the immature flies (also known as larvae), burrow or "screw" into the opening with sharp mouth hooks and eat the flesh. This can be painful and can even cause death. There is currently no medication labeled to treat an NWS infestation in humans. The larvae must be removed by a healthcare professional for humans or by a veterinarian for animals.

NWS is generally an agricultural problem. Screwworm myiasis in cattle can lead to the animal's death and can severely impact ranchers and the agricultural industry. Early detection can save lives and money.

If you suspect a pet, livestock, or wild animal has an NWS infestation, get help as soon as possible.

For pets or livestock, call your veterinarian and contact the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) at 1-800-550-8242 or through [your local TAHC regional office](#).

If you see a live wild animal with larvae, immediately [contact Texas Parks and Wildlife \(TPWD\) through your local wildlife biologist](#) at 1-512-389-4505.

For more information on New World screwworm, please visit [screwworm.gov](#).

NWS and Humans

Though the risk to the public remains low, people can sometimes get an NWS infestation if they visit areas where the fly is present, such as Mexico, Central America or parts of South America and the Caribbean. People who do the following in areas with NWS might be at greater risk for infestation:

- People who sleep outdoors during the day (unhoused, campers)
- People who primarily work outdoors
- Ranchers and those who work with animals
- People with an open wound
- Those with diabetes or other skin conditions

DSHS urges people to take precautions by following these steps to prevent NWS infestation:

Resources

DSHS is working with multiple state and federal partners in response to NWS. In Texas, the lead agency is the [Texas Animal Health Commission](#) (TAHC).

If you suspect an NWS infestation, please notify the following authorities immediately.

If you live or work with animals

Livestock: Call your veterinarian and the [Texas Animal Health Commission](#) at 1-800-550-8242 or through [your local TAHC Regional Office](#).

Pets: Contact your veterinarian and the [Texas Animal Health Commission](#) at 1-800-550-8242 or through [your local TAHC Regional Office](#).

Wildlife: Contact Texas Parks and Wildlife through [your local wildlife biologist](#).

Animal Control Officer: If you suspect an animal has NWS, use [this flowchart](#)  or [pocket guide](#)  to determine who to notify.

If you suspect you or another person has an NWS infestation

Contact your healthcare provider immediately. Your provider should contact your [local health department](#) or [your regional public health office](#).

If you are a healthcare provider and need to get a sample tested:

The DSHS Laboratory can test samples from healthcare providers **only**. Contact your local [Zoonosis Control Regional Office](#) for instructions.

More recommendations for healthcare providers can be found at [New World Screwworm Information for Healthcare Providers](#).

Communications Materials

- [What to know about NWS](#) 
- [How to report possible cases of NWS](#) 
- [For outdoor living and camping: What to know about NWS](#) 
- [Outdoor workers: What to know about NWS](#) 
- [Employers: What to know about NWS](#) 
- [Local health departments: How to report cases of NWS](#) 
- [Animal control officers: How to report cases of NWS](#) 



Disease Surveillance and Epidemiology
Section

New World Screwworm (NWS)

New World Screwworm Frequently
Asked Questions

New World Screwworm Information for
Healthcare Providers

New World Screwworm Information for Healthcare Providers

Healthcare providers play a critical role in stopping New World screwworm (NWS). Clinicians should remain vigilant when seeing patients who have traveled in areas where the fly is present and report all suspected NWS cases to their [local health department](#) or [regional zoonosis control office](#) immediately.

Background

New World screwworm myiasis is caused by an infestation with the larvae of *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, a parasitic fly that feeds on live tissue. NWS infestation begins when a female fly lays eggs near wounds or on mucous membranes (nose, ears, mouth) of warm-blooded animals. Within a day, multiple eggs can hatch into larvae and begin to feed. People with NWS infestations may report pain and see or feel movement in the affected area. Larvae will drop to the ground after feeding to complete their lifecycle. NWS infestation cannot spread from one host to another without the completion of the fly's life cycle, which ranges from approximately 14–54 days.

NWS was previously eradicated from the United States in the 1960s. Since then, the fly has remained endemic in most of South America, parts of the Caribbean, and southern Panama. In 2023, NWS was detected throughout Central America and was detected in Mexico beginning in November 2024. The first detected animal case in the United States occurred in a calf in Zavala County, Texas on June 3, 2026.

NWS has the potential to significantly affect local animal populations, so awareness, surveillance, and control of NWS myiasis in both animals and humans and *C. hominivorax* flies are critical.

Recommendations for Healthcare Providers

Resources

Resources

- [DSHS Regional Zoonosis Control offices](#)
- [DSHS Lab Submission Guidance for NWS](#)
- [For Local Health Departments – How to Report NWS](#) [↗](#)
- [New World Screwworm \(NWS\)](#)
- [New World Screwworm \(CDC.gov\)](#) [↗](#)
- [Reporting and responding to NWS in animals in Texas \(Texas Animal Health Commission\)](#) [↗](#)
- [NWS in Texas wild animals \(Texas Parks and Wildlife\)](#) [↗](#)
- [Clinical Overview of New World Screwworm \(CDC.gov\)](#) [↗](#)
- [United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction - New World Screwworm \(UNDRR.org\)](#) [↗](#)

Webinar

- [June 18, 2026 Webinar: What Physicians and Other Clinicians Need to Know about New World Screwworm](#) [↗](#)
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