



# Monitor and Report NWS

## New World Screwworms

Current Background

Pest Information

NWS Certified Inspector Program

Texas Current Situation

News & Updates

Reporting

Animal Guidance

**NOTICE: There are currently movement restrictions in place due to an established New World Screwworm Infested Zone in parts of the following Texas counties: Brewster, Crockett, Edwards, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Pecos, Presidio, Schleicher, Starr, Sutton, Terrell, Val Verde, Zapata.**

According to the Executive Director Orders issued, all warm-blooded animals in an Infested Zone may not move out of the zone without prior authorization from the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC).

View the NWS zone map.

Find NWS animal movement requirement guidance online.

Install offline guide.

Warm-blooded animals moving outside of an infested zone must contact the TAHC or a NWS Certified Inspector to set up an inspection. During this inspection, a certified inspector will complete a NWS Movement/Treatment certificate listing the product used for prevention or treatment and the animals' official ID. This certificate will need to accompany the animal movement. Animal owners can request additional guidance during the initial inspection request call and can find general guidance in the [Livestock Movement from a NWS-Infested Zone](#) handout.

▶ Current Executive Director Orders

▶ Released Area Executive Director Orders

NWS International and National Outbreak Information

Federal Government Resources

USDA NWS Response Playbook

USDA NWS Continuity of Business Animal Movement Guidance

### Current Background

- On June 3, 2026, New World screwworm (NWS) was confirmed in a calf in Zavala County, Texas. The calf has since recovered from the infestation and this individual animal case is now considered inactive.
- Federal and State partners work jointly in the infested zone to conduct animal and fly surveillance, epidemiological investigations, and implement existing response protocols.
- NWS was last eradicated from the United States in 1966 using the sterile insect technique. Currently, sterile fly dispersal efforts, including ground release and aerial dispersals, to eradicate NWS are underway in affected areas.
- In Central America, cases of NWS have quickly increased since 2023, expanding to Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, Belize, and El Salvador.
- In November 2024, NWS was detected in a cow at an inspection checkpoint in Chiapas, Mexico. Progressive Northern spread of NWS has been confirmed in Mexico since the original detection.
- The USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is the regulatory agency responsible for ensuring the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe and properly labeled. Any evidence of screwworm infestation would be identified during FSIS inspection processes, and adulterated product derived from the affected animal would not be allowed to go into commerce.
- Livestock and pet owners can help avoid infestations of NWS by staying vigilant, monitoring animals, and reporting any suspicions of NWS flies, maggots, larvae, and secondary infections.

### Pest Information

New World screwworms (NWS) are larvae or maggots of the NWS fly (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*), that cause the painful condition NWS myiasis. NWS flies lay eggs in open wounds or orifices of live tissue. These eggs hatch into dangerous parasitic larvae, and the maggots burrow or screw into flesh with sharp mouth hooks. The wound can become larger, and an infestation can often cause serious, deadly damage. NWS primarily infest livestock, but can also affect mammals, including humans, and birds.

There are several flies associated with wounds, but only NWS feed on living tissues, compared to dead tissues and fluids. The identification of NWS is done by larvae collection and evaluation. NWS larvae have a series of backwardly protruding spines around a tapered body, giving a screw-like appearance, helping to identify the pest.

#### Eradication Method

Eradication of NWS infestations is accomplished through the sterile insect technique. Sterilized male flies are released to mate in an area with an established NWS population. Females, only mating once in their lifetime, then lay nonviable eggs. The population decreases without the addition of new larvae and dies off naturally over a few lifecycles.

In combination with producer management practices, effective and efficient treatment of wounds, and diligent response tactics, the sterile insect technique is a proven tool for fighting the spread of NWS. According to the USDA, the release of sterile flies is safe and poses no risk to wildlife, livestock, or people in infested areas.

### New World Screwworm Certified Inspector Program

TAHC and Texas A&M AgriLife have worked together to develop a NWS Certified Inspector Program. Certified inspectors can conduct inspections and issue NWS Treatment/Movement Certificates for animals leaving a NWS-infested zone.

This is a first of its kind training program designed to train individuals on myiasis clinical identification, animal inspection, NWS treatment, and NWS movement requirements, and, if eligible, authorize NWS Certified Inspectors to allow movements out of NWS infested zones. A phased roll out of the program is underway.

- ▶ Become a NWS Certified Inspector
- ▶ Find a NWS Certified Inspector
- ▶ Submit a NWS Certified Inspector Complaint

### Texas Current Situation

**In the current 2026 outbreak:**

Total Texas counties with a confirmed NWS detection: **19**

Total Texas premises confirmed with at least one NWS detection: **49**

Individual animal case information can be found on the [USDA New World Screwworm Confirmed Detections Dashboard](#)

#### Index case

The first detection of New World screwworm in Texas was confirmed on June 3, 2026.

- ▶ Statewide Situation Updates
- ▶ News Releases

### Reporting

Early detection and reporting is critical. Report all suspected and confirmed cases of NWS immediately.

Report suspected cases in livestock and companion animals: TAHC — [Region Office](#) or the Veterinarian on Call 1-800-550-8242.

Report suspected cases in wildlife: TPWD – [Find a wildlife biologist](#) or call 512-389-4505.

#### Collection & Submission

NWS is reportable to the TAHC and should be reported within 24 hours of suspicion. When a suspicion is reported, the TAHC can help provide guidance related to proper collection and required information for official identification submissions.

Producers can independently collect samples using NWS Sample Collection Procedure for Producers guidance.

- ▶ Collection & Submission

### Animal Guidance

#### Monitor

Look at your animals closely and often. Diligent monitoring of animals is key to preventing infestation and avoiding large impacts.

- Check livestock and companion animals for evidence of NWS infestations, including flies, maggots, larvae, or eggs.
- Monitor body openings such as the nose, ears, umbilicus, or genitalia for drainage, foul odors, or enlargement.
- Observe animals for clinical signs of NWS myiasis and secondary infections.

View the [USDA NWS Best Practices for Evaluation of Animals](#) guidance.

#### Prevent

Avoid introduction of NWS to animals to prevent infestations.

- Keep open wounds clean and covered.
- Work with a veterinarian to establish a veterinary-client relationship for effective preventative treatments.
- When traveling, especially in NWS-infested areas, ensure pets and vehicles are inspected for NWS flies and larvae.

#### Treat

Animals impacted with NWS myiasis should be treated immediately. A veterinary-client relationship is critical to administering effective treatments. Treatments may vary and should be evaluated using current recommendations for specific species and areas affected.

Treatment guidance should be discussed with a veterinary practitioner. Learn more about FDA and EPA approved preventions and treatments using the [Animal Drugs for New World Screwworms](#) page.

This is a highly preventable and treatable condition using approved products and animal care. However, left untreated, animals can die within one week of infestation.

#### Learn

Resources for NWS prevention, treatment, and general information is available for livestock producers, pet owners, and the general public.

- ▶ Livestock
- ▶ Companion Animals
- ▶ Treatment

Discover NWS video resources in the TAHC YouTube playlist.

