New World Screwworm: Tiny Parasite, Big Problem

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Region Director Pleasanton

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General Information

- New World screwworms (NWS) are larvae or maggots of the NWS fly (*Cochliomyia hominivorax)*
  - Cause the **painful** condition NWS myiasis (larvae infestation of tissue)
  - NWS flies lay eggs in open wounds or orifices of **live tissue**
  - Eggs hatch into parasitic larvae and the maggots burrow or screw into flesh with sharp mouth hooks
  - Wounds can expand and cause serious, deadly damage

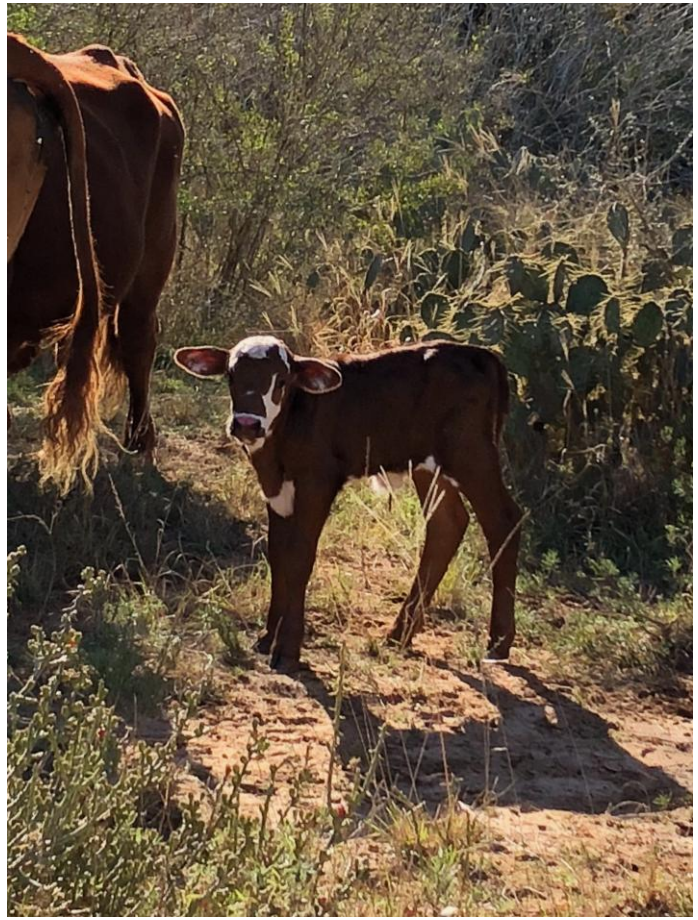



Clinical Signs

- Larvae visible in wound by day 3; hundreds may be present
- Bloody discharge
- **Foul** odor
- May only have small wound but deep, infested pockets can exist under skin
- Animal depressed, off feed, separate from herd, may head shaking

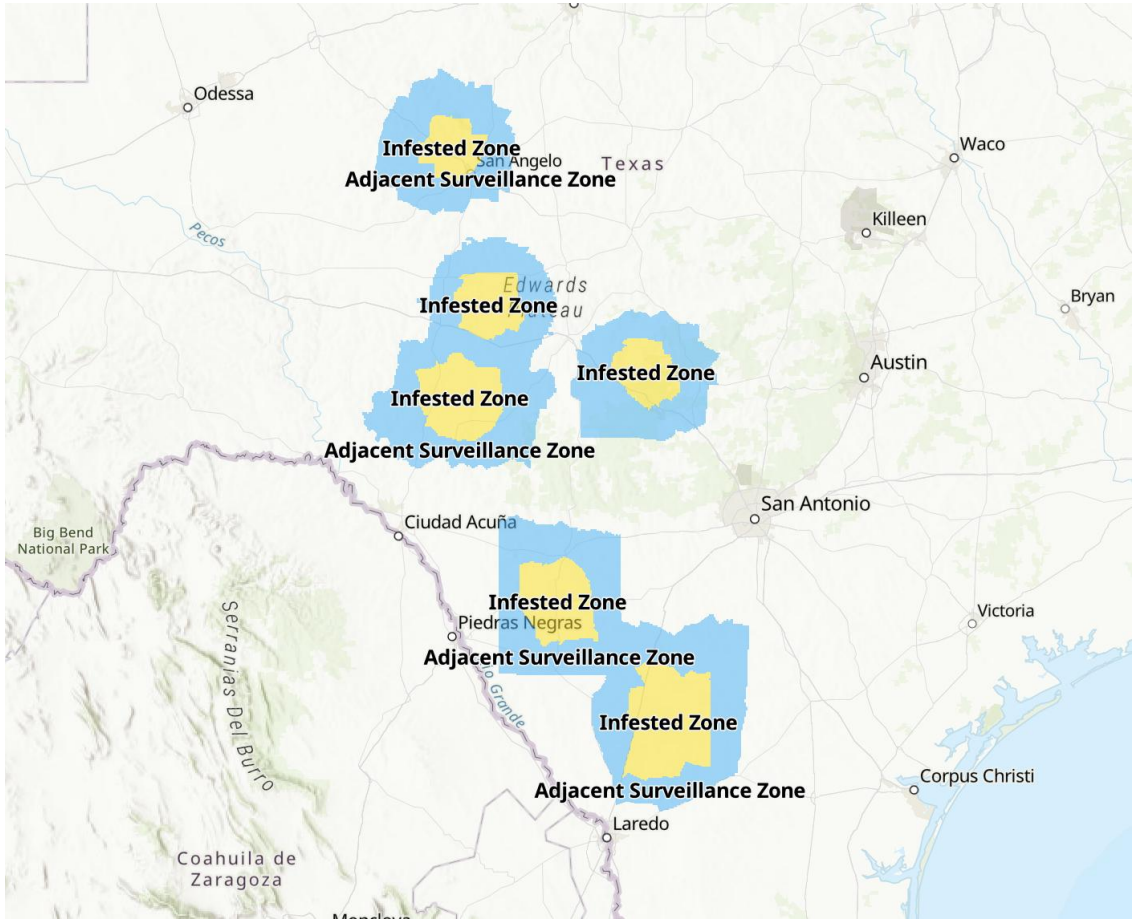
Examples of NWS Targets for infestation

- Any unhealed wound
- Dehorning sites
- Castration sites
- **Umbilicus on any newborn**



NWS larvae in castration wound

Current Status of NWS



New World Screwworm Confirmed Detections

As of June 15, 2026, last reported animal detection June 12, 2026
Data updated daily by 6PM (ET)

Download Data

Outbreak Situation Last 30 Days

Total Animal Cases

12

Domestic Cases	Wildlife & Feral Cases
12	**0**
11 Active 1 Inactive	0 Active 0 Inactive

Fly Trap Detections

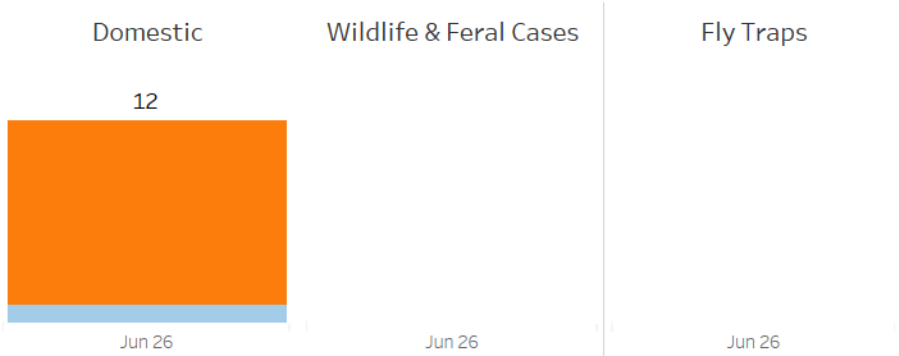
0

Note: Only wild flies are reported. A detection means at least one wild fly was found in trap.

Cases by Month

Bars reflect most recent 4 months

Active Cases
Inactive Cases
Fly Trap Detections



Map of Counties with Detections Last 30 Days

Time Period: Last 30 Days
Selected Type: (All)
County Status: Active Inactive Fly Trap Detection

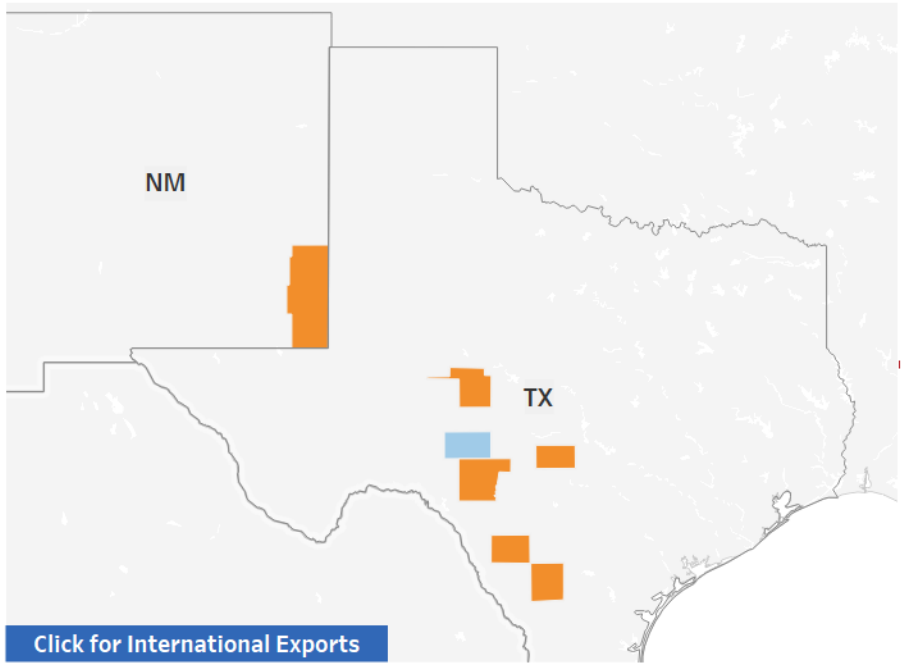


Table of Cases

The first reported case of New World Screwworm in the United States occurred June 3, 2026. Since that date, the United States has recorded 12 case(s) in 2 states, 12 in domestic animals and 0 in wildlife.

State: All
Animal Type: All
Animal Species: All
Status: All

Confirmed Date	State	County	Case Type	Animal Type	Species	Status
12-Jun-2026	Texas	Sutton	Domestic	Domestic	Sheep	Inactive
11-Jun-2026	Texas	Edwards	Domestic	Domestic	Cattle	Active
					Goats	Active
		Tom Green	Domestic	Domestic	Cattle	Active
		Zavala	Domestic	Domestic	Cattle	Active
09-Jun-2026	Texas	Edwards	Domestic	Domestic	Cattle	Active
08-Jun-2026	Texas	Gillespie	Domestic	Domestic	Goats	Active

Protocols for Reporting Suspected New World Screwworm Cases

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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

Response Mexico and Preparedness in the US

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Mexico – Current Eradication & Prevention Efforts

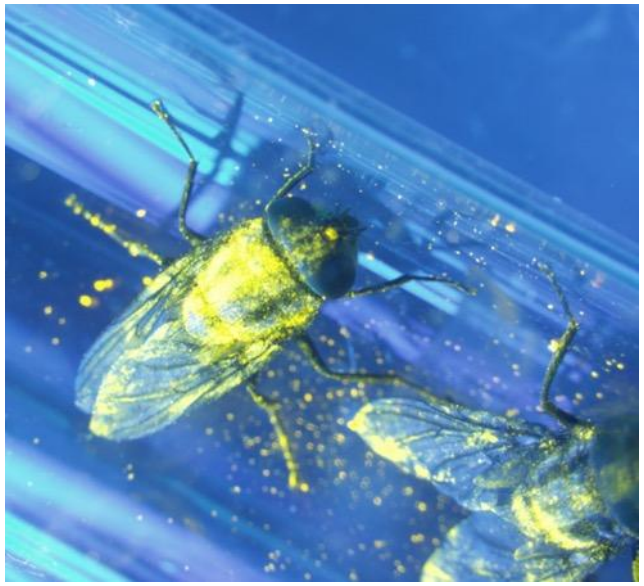
- **Sterile fly dispersal**
  - Active dispersal center in Tampico, Mexico
  - Dispersal with aircraft and ground release chambers
- Current sterile fly production is approximately 110 million flies per week (COPEG facility in Panama)
  - Need at least 400-500M flies per week for current outbreak
- Metapa, MX- sterile fruit fly facility conversion
  - Supported by $21M from USDA
  - Expected to be open July 2026; fully operational Fall 2026
  - Expected production of 100M flies per week

US Response/Preparedness Efforts - USDA-APHIS-VS

- Sterile fly **dispersal** facility established in Mission, TX
  - Opened February 9, 2026
  - Sterile NWS pupae currently being processed for dispersal

- Working to establish sterile fly **production** facility in Mission, TX
  - US Army Corps of Engineers engaged; groundbreaking April 17, 2026
  - On target for opening in Spring of 2027

Dyed Sterile NWS Pupae and Flies



Texas Historical Data

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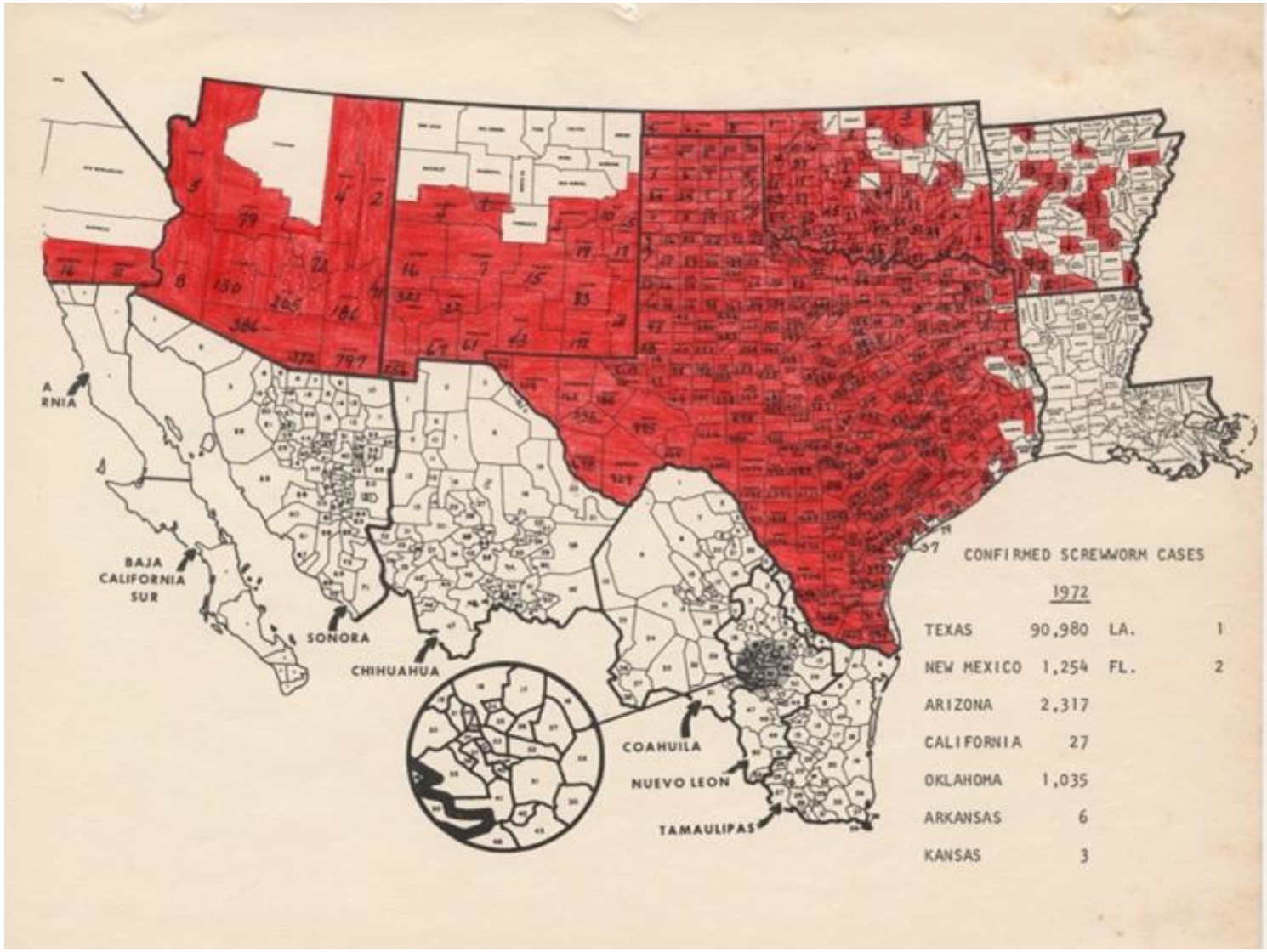
NWS Cases 1972 TX 90,980



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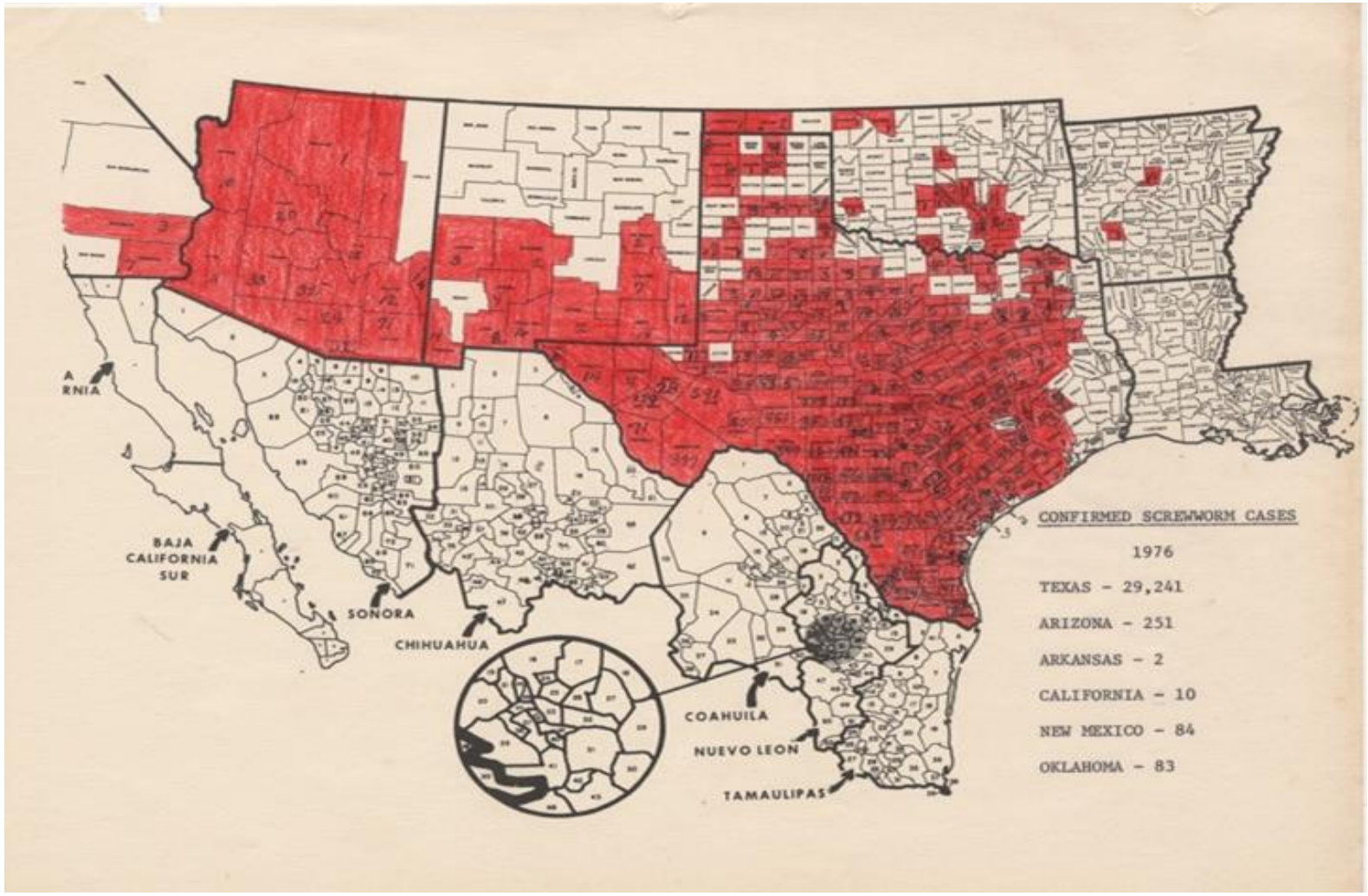
NWS Cases 1976 TX 29,241



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

Preparedness Efforts – Response Plans

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

Preparedness Efforts – Response Plans

- **Treatment**
  - Sterile fly production
    - Panama; Mexico and U.S. in the future
  - Systemic/pharmaceuticals (parasiticides)
    - Multiple groups (SAHOs, USDA, industry) working to identify products with known efficacy against NWS
    - Manufacturing companies already working with FDA for approval of other drugs and pesticides
  - Topical/environmental (insecticides)
    - Some already approved
    - Working with EPA and manufacturers to expand approved product list through the “2 ee” process

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

NWS Treatments – Local

- 3/10/2026 – F10 Antiseptic Wound Spray with Insecticide
  - Emergency use authorization (EUA)
  - Prevention and treatment in multiple species
    - Cattle, horses, minor hoof stock
    - Raptors, wild birds, pet birds
    - Captive wild, exotic, and zoo mammals
  - 30-day meat withdrawal
  - 10-day milk withdrawal
  - Available over-the-counter (OTC)
  - Weekly dosing interval as part of wound management

NWS Treatments – Local

- 4/27/2026 – F10 Antiseptic Barrier Ointment with Insecticide
  - Emergency use authorization (EUA)
  - Prevention and treatment in multiple species
    - Cattle, horses, minor hoof stock
    - Raptors, wild birds, pet birds
    - Captive wild, exotic, and zoo mammals
  - 30-day meat withdrawal
  - 10-day milk withdrawal
  - Available over-the-counter (OTC)
  - Apply every 2-3 days until wound granulates

NWS Treatments – Local

- 4/27/2026 – Negasunt Powder
  - Emergency use authorization (EUA)
  - Prevention and treatment in multiple species
    - Cattle, swine, sheep, goats, horses, donkeys, domestic equine hybrids
    - Captive wild, exotic, and zoo mammals
  - 28-day meat withdrawal; not for use in lactating animals or pre-ruminating calves
  - Veterinary prescription required
  - Apply every 2-3 days until wound granulates

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)

NWS Treatments – Systemic

- 5/19/2026 – Dectomax- EUA
  - **Dairy cattle treatment and prevention**
    - Label dose; 48 hours to effect
    - 300 mcg doramectin/kg bw
    - Prevention up to 21 days
    - 35-day meat withdrawal
    - 19-day milk withdrawal
  - **Sheep prevention**
    - 300 mcg doramectin/kg bw
    - 35-day withdrawal
  - **Swine prevention**
    - 300 mcg doramectin/kg bw
    - 24-day withdrawal
  - **Deer prevention**
    - 200 mcg doramectin/kg bw
    - 35-day withdrawal
  - **Horse prevention**

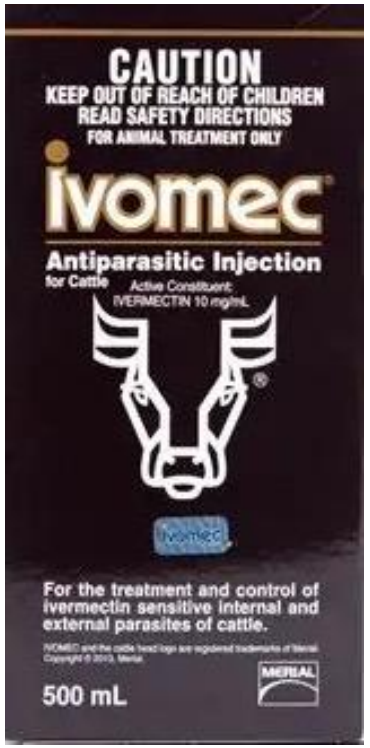
  - Dectomax ONLY – no other preparations
  - Available over-the-counter (OTC)

NWS Treatments – Systemic

- 12/4/2025 – Exzolt Cattle CA-1
  - Treatment
  - Prevention up to 14 days
  - Cattle only
    - Beef - 2 months and older
    - Except breeding bulls ≥1 year old
    - Dairy – replacement heifers and dry cows less than 20 months of age
  - Label dose
  - 98-day withdrawal
    - 44 days if continually exposed to temperatures >60^{0}F
  - Prescription only

NWS Treatments – Systemic

- 2/5/2026 – Ivomec (ivermectin)
  - EUA for **prevention, not treatment**, of infestation in cattle
    - Within 24 hours of birth
    - When inducing wound(s) (castration, dehorning, etc.) or at appearance of uninfested wound
  - Conditions
    - Not for lactating dairy cattle or calves intended for veal
    - 35-day meat withdrawal
    - Same dose and administration per label instruction
  - Available over-the-counter (OTC)



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

NWS Treatments – Systemic

- 12/17/2025 – Credelio Quattro CA-1
  - Conditional approval for treatment
  - Dogs only
  - At label dose

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

NWS Treatments – Resources

- Resource for EPA approved pesticide products:

  https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/pesticides-for-nws.pdf

- Resource for FDA approved parasiticide products:

  https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/safety-health/animal-drugs-new-world-screwworm

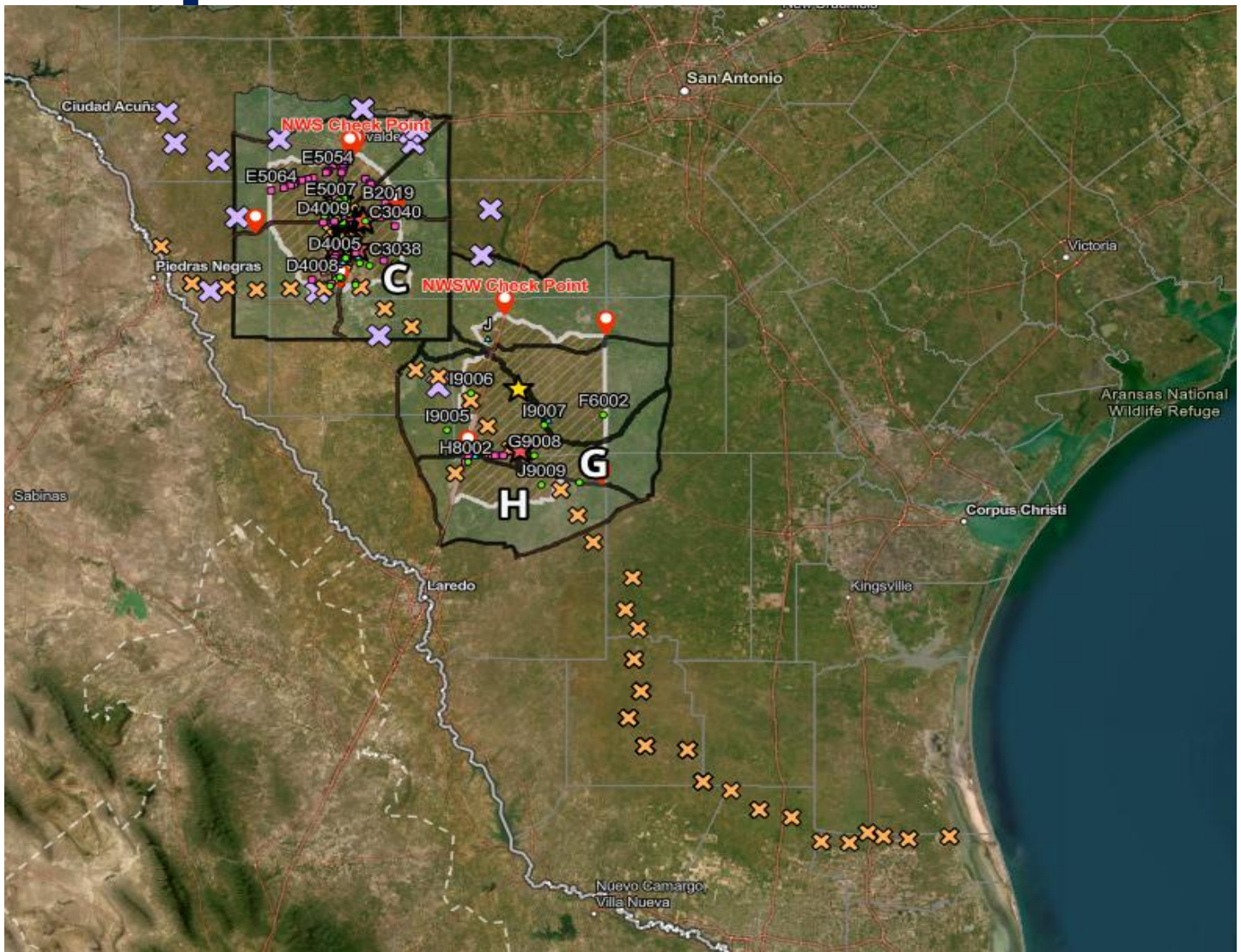
Preparedness Efforts – Response Plans

- **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

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**

Ground release chambers and fly traps



What to do if you find larvae on a live animal?

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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

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

Confirmed Infestation – Livestock Movement Restrictions

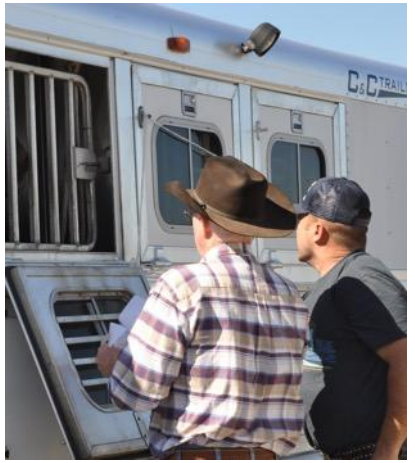
- "Infested Zone" quarantine area established based on epidemiological assessment
  - Minimum 12-mile (20 km) area initially
  - Will include movement restrictions

- 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

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



What can animal owners do now?

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Enhanced Management Practices

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

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://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/livestock-management-considerations-for-new-world-screwworm/

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

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

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

Report Suspicions to a TAHC Region Office

AMARILLO REGION 806.641.7000
REGION MANAGER, TY MCCOY

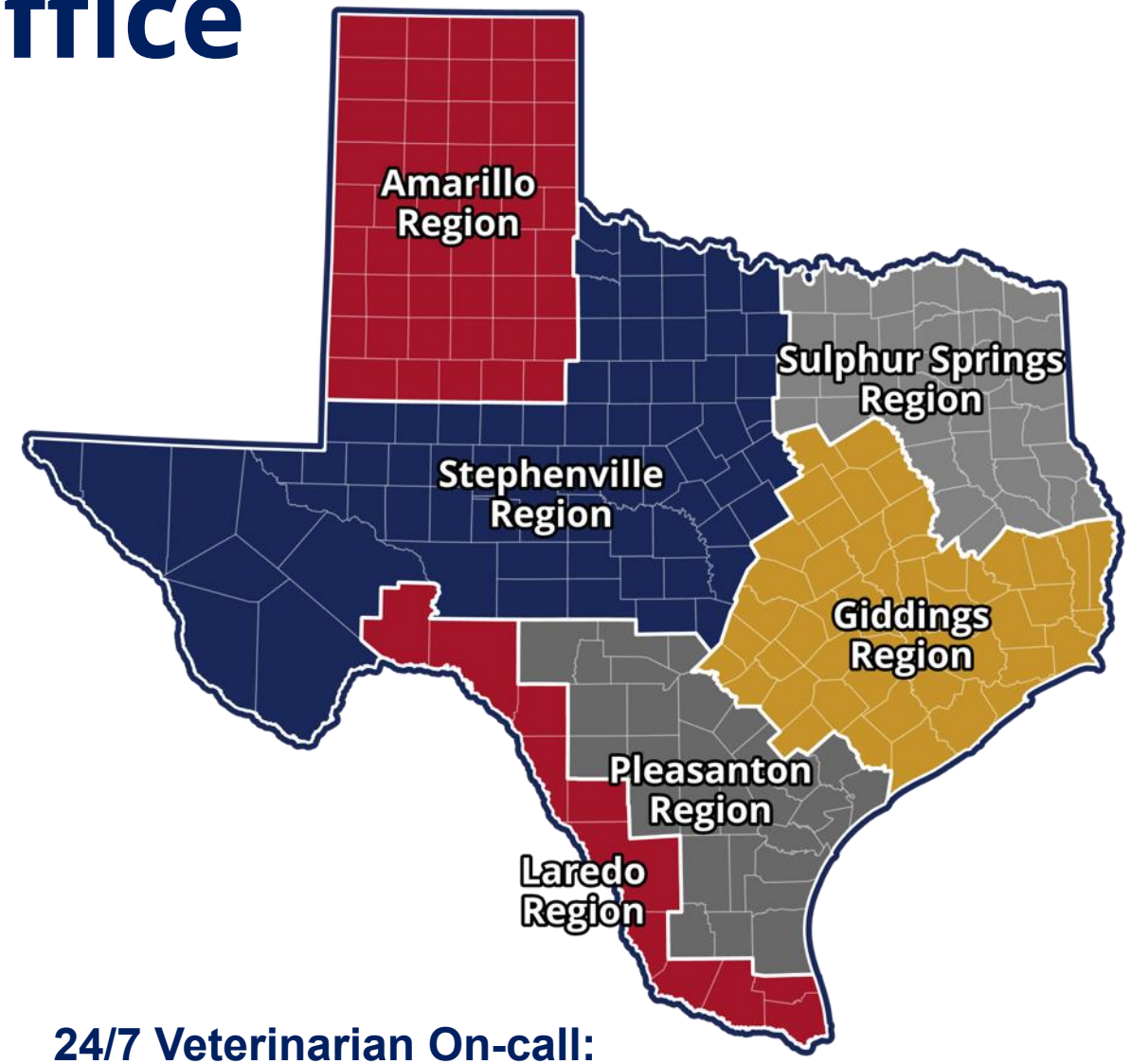
PLEASANTON REGION 361.358.3234
REGION DIRECTOR, DR. WAYNE CROUCH
REGION MANAGER, TY BILLINGS

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

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/