Texas Division of Emergency Management
State Situation Report

Event Name	**26-0016 New World Screwworm Response**
Date	October 18, 2026
Time	4:00 PM
Reporting Period	2:00 PM October 17, 2026, to 2:00 PM October 18, 2026

Report Number	134
TDEM Regions Affected	5, 6, 7
Disaster Districts Activated	N/A

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: The Texas Disaster Portal continues to be updated regularly with the latest guidance, resources, and information from state agencies engaged in the response to New World Screwworm (NWS). The one-stop-shop portal, located on the Texas Division of Emergency Management website, can be accessed online at screwworm.texas.gov.

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) continues livestock inspections, movement certification, and outreach in infested and adjacent zones. Inspectors are assisting producers with treatments, collecting samples for laboratory identification, ensuring treatment compliance, and conducting pre-movement inspections to support NWS response efforts.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) continues statewide animal investigations to identify animals of interest related to NWS, while supporting preparedness and awareness through educational workshops and public outreach.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services (AgriLife) continues to support NWS preparedness through its online livestock inspection education course, with ongoing enrollment and course completions strengthening awareness and response readiness.

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) continues coordinating field response activities, with animal health inspector support transitioning through demobilization.

On June 19, Governor Greg Abbott announced the launch of an enhanced website that offers comprehensive information for Texans related to the New World Screwworm (NWS). Located in TDEM's Disaster Portal, Texans can visit screwworm.texas.gov to access a "one-stop shop" of information and resources from state agency partners engaged in NWS response.

State agencies are working closely with local, state, and federal partners in the field and at the State Emergency Operations Center. State partners have contacted thousands of landowners and stakeholders and remain engaged and prepared to support response operations as efforts continue to prevent further spread of NWS.

On June 8, Governor Abbott directed TDEM to activate the Texas State Emergency Operations Center to Level II (Escalated Response) to support the state's New World Screwworm response operations.

Resources from multiple state agency partners and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) are being leveraged in response to this parasite detection.

On June 5, following confirmation of NWS detection in Texas, Gov. Abbott received a briefing and provided an update to Texans on the state's response at the Texas State Emergency Operations Center. The Governor also issued an updated state disaster declaration to address NWS and prioritize operations in Uvalde and Zavala counties.

On January 26, Gov. Abbott issued a statewide disaster declaration certifying that the spread of NWS threatened Texas's livestock industry and economy and posed an imminent threat of widespread and severe property damage for all Texas counties. The declaration also authorized the use of all available resources of the state government to cope with this disaster and allowed for the allocation of state resources to address the spread of the parasite to the Texas NWS response team.

On June 25, 2025, Gov. Abbott directed the Texas Animal Health Commission and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to establish a joint Texas New World Screwworm Response Team to lead the state's prevention and response efforts.

For more than 18 months since being informed of a positive case of NWS in Mexico, the USDA has been working to combat the impacts in coordination with state and local partners. Such measures by the USDA include importing and dispersing sterile flies in South Texas, outreach with local producers, and building a facility to assist with sterile fly operations.

The Texas Emergency Management Council continues to monitor developments.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

- Protect life and property.
- Support rapid & effective response.
- Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.

- Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM):

On June 8, the State Operations Center (SOC) activated to Level II (Escalated Response) in support of the New World Screwworm incident. The SOC continues directing interagency coordination to maintain unified communication, deploy necessary resources, and support response operations in affected regions across Texas.

TDEM Regional staff continue to remain engaged with local officials across impacted areas as well as areas that have not experienced cases.

Coordination between local, state, federal, industry, and private-sector partners remains ongoing.

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC):

NWS Statistics

As of 10/18/26 at 2:00 pm:

Total Confirmed Cases in Texas: 51

Counties affected	Total positive cases	Species affected
Pecos	1	bovine
Crockett	1	goat
Brewster	1	canine
Counties affected	**Total inactive cases**	**Species affected**
Zavala	3	cattle
Sutton	3	sheep, canine, goat
La Salle	2	cattle
Gillespie	1	goats
Pecos	4	canine, sheep
Crockett	12	sheep, cattle, goats, canine
Edwards	5	cattle, goats, sheep

Tom Green	1	cattle
Terrell	5	cattle, goats, sheep
Medina	1	cattle
Jim Hogg	1	cattle
Schleicher	1	sheep
Uvalde	1	cattle
Brewster	4	cattle
Starr	1	cattle
Val Verde	2	sheep, goat
Presidio	1	horse

NWS Certified Inspector Program Statistics

As of 10/18/26 at 2:00 PM

Application in Process	0
Certified Inspectors	902

**TAHC expanded eligible applicants to include emergency management personnel. As the program rolls out, TAHC is evaluating expansion of the program to additional groups*

Mission Information and Details

- To date, TAHC has inspected 76,511 animals in the infested zones (IZ), and 2,755 certificates have been issued for movement out of the infested zones.
- TAHC inspectors have been mobilized to conduct animal inspection/movement/outreach within the identified infested and adjacent zones. These groups will conduct inspections of livestock to identify myiasis, assist producers with topical/systemic treatments, and collect larval samples for official laboratory identification. Additionally, they will perform pre-movement inspections, ensure proper treatment compliance, and issue official NWS movement certificates as quickly as possible.
    - On October 17, a total of 2 inspections were completed on 5 animals moving out of the infested zones.
- TAHC compliance and checkpoint strike teams are operating roadside checkpoints. Roadside checkpoints have been established within the infested and adjacent zones to ensure NWS guideline compliance. Compliance teams are shifting operational focus to direct educational outreach and engagement with

producers and stakeholders throughout the infested and surveillance zones and expand movement beyond operating checkpoints.

- Livestock Market inspections are being conducted to screen livestock for signs of myiasis and verify that all animals entering a market from an Infested Zone possess a valid NWS movement certificate. Animals moving to slaughter are monitored to ensure they enter proper slaughter channels, and any changes to a non-slaughter status are confirmed to receive immediate treatment at the market.
- TAHC Regional Staff are working with local producers in the region to answer questions and assist with the coordination of local jurisdictions and assets.
- NWS Identification Specialists, located at the NVSL Mobile Lab and USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Lab, are screening suspect larval and fly submissions from the infested and adjacent zones for rapid identification. One (1) TAHC entomologist has been assigned to the mobile laboratory to assist.
- Providing information, outreach, and education to industry, animal owners, stakeholders, and the public about NWS to encourage surveillance and proper reporting.
- The TAHC New World screwworm webpage is updated regularly to provide information and resources, as it becomes available.
- Field personnel are equipped with outreach materials for distribution during response activities.
- In collaboration with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, TAHC is providing animal owners and producers, veterinarians, NWS Certified Inspectors, and other stakeholders with a quick-reference resource outlining current animal movement requirements related to NWS. This platform contains content to facilitate TAHC-compliant animal movement and is designed to simplify the identification of the correct movement requirements for various situations.
- Based on the epidemiological assessment of the Infested Zone, the TAHC Executive Director finds that sufficient evidence exists to demonstrate that the areas identified for release satisfy the criteria for release from quarantine and movement restrictions. The TAHC Executive Director further finds that the surveillance conducted following implementation of control and eradication measures has satisfied the criteria necessary for release of the affected area and the movement restrictions.
- On October 1, the TAHC Executive Director issued entry requirements for all livestock, exotic livestock, fowl, and exotic fowl from NWS-affected states outside of Texas. The additional movement requirements were implemented to prevent potential introduction or spread of NWS to new areas of Texas.

October 17

- On October 13, 2026, Infested Zone 04.D was modified. The Executive Director further releases portions of Edwards and Sutton Counties previously included within

Infested Zone 04.D and modifies and redesignates the remaining affected portions of Edwards, Sutton, and Val Verde Counties as Infested Zone 04.E.

- Infested Zone 06.B & Zone 14.A, including Schleicher and Sutton Counties, were released on October 13, 2026.

The situation is evolving, and new information will be provided as investigations continue.

Executive Director Orders identifying Infested Zones remain in effect, pursuant to Texas Agriculture Code, Chapters 161 – 168, and applicable regulations found in Title 4 of the Texas Administrative Code, Part 2, Chapters 31-60. This order remains in effect until the quarantine is released by the Commission.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD):

To protect the State's natural resources, including fish and wildlife, through land-based marine patrol, TPWD will serve as a force multiplier responding to requests for support from our federal, state, and local partners to prevent, detect, control, or eradicate parasitic disease outbreaks. TPWD will deploy coordinated resources to prevent, detect, control, and eradicate parasitic disease within the Texas Border region.

TPWD staff will continue to coordinate native wildlife surveillance efforts, which will include:

- Working with landowners to organize active wildlife surveillance on their properties
- Inspection of hunter-harvested carcasses when necessary, including animals harvested in State Parks and Wildlife Management Areas.
- Inspection of recently road-killed wildlife.
- Inspection of animals is handled as part of routine wildlife handling, whether that is by agencies, researchers, or other entities that encounter wildlife regularly.
- Reporting from wildlife rehabbers, private practice vets, law enforcement, taxidermists, game processors, and the public

October 18

- TPWD staff have investigated 16,957 animals statewide. Staff determined 59 of those to be animals of interest.
- Since NWS was detected in Texas, TPWD staff have presented on NWS at 73 workshops totaling approximately 6,977 attendees.

October 16

- TPWD staff have secured an accumulated total of 531 locations for NWS traps and 22 locations for GRC's for the USDA and TAHC.

October 15

- TPWD staff have contacted 7,698 TPWD cooperators and permit holders to notify them of the NWS situation and promote surveillance. 569 of those contacts are landowners and permit holders currently within IZs or SZs. As of this report, 7,031 TPWD cooperators on that list have been contacted, including those within a recently closed zone.

October 14

- All deer breeder permit holders currently located inside IZs and SZs (2) have been contacted by phone.
- There are no wildlife rehabilitation permit holders currently located inside the IZs or SZs.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife):

Currently, the AgriLife Extension SOC liaison, Public Information Officer (PIO), Disaster Assessment and Recovery (DAR) Team Members, DAR Administration, Extension Administration, and County Extension Agents are monitoring NWS movement and conditions, SOC response activity, and participating in weekly communication calls with Extension Administration, Entomologists, and Livestock Specialists. Disaster Assessment and Recovery Specialists are on standby to support County Extension Agents and ESF-11 partners with public education, animal response, and recovery efforts as requested. PIO continues to develop educational and outreach materials for publication and continues to participate in daily Joint Information Center activities.

Since June 2025, leading up to the first confirmed NWS case in Texas, AgriLife has:

- Conducted educational programs on NWS reaching over 21,200 participants.
- Established an 18-member working group of Extension Specialists across livestock, wildlife, and human disciplines focused on the development of educational information, outreach techniques, and resources for use by County Extension Agents and other appropriate Extension personnel across Texas.
- Developed a County Extension NWS Educational Toolkit, complete with videos and PowerPoint Slide Decks for use in local producer and community educational outreach efforts.
- Through a grant from USDA-APHIS, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has distributed 1,000 NWS larva collection kits among the Southern and Western County Extension offices for use in NWS detection and identification.
- Provided expertise with local and state government representatives to better inform their preparation should an incident occur.
- As of July 13, 2026, the following online printable resources are now available through the AgriLife Extension New World Screwworm hub:
    - The AgriLife Extension pocket guide is available as a printable resource on

the AgriLife website. The pocket guide provides basic information about New World screwworm, available treatment options, and general resources for Texans.

- A Field Guide for Beef Cattle Producers provides early detection information, reporting, sample collection, submission, and treatment information. This resource is also available on the AgriLife Extension NWS hub.

- Texas A&M AgriLife Research has completed its study evaluating ivermectin-medicated feed products for white-tailed deer as a potential New World screwworm control measure. Data was submitted to the FDA on July 31, 2026, and is under review. The next trial will test doramectin, the active ingredient in Dectomax, in the medicated feed and is expected to begin in the coming weeks.

October 18

- The New World Screwworm Preparedness and Response Education Course for Livestock Inspection remains available on the AgriLife Learn website. As of 8:30 a.m. on October 18, 6,851 individuals had enrolled, with 3,507 completing the modules and earning completion certificates.

October 17

- DAR Specialists on rotation 10 deployed, to conduct livestock inspections at the Producer's Livestock Market in San Angelo on October 18. The remaining DAR Specialists on the ninth rotation will demobilize on October 18, 2026.

- County Extension Agents across the state have been actively working with landowners to educate them on best management practices for monitoring livestock for infestation. From June 3 to October 12, County Extension Agents conducted 592 NWS educational programs, reaching 33,292 landowners in group programs. 854,989 landowners have been taught by individual contacts, and 146 Newsletters have been distributed, reaching an additional 136,676 individuals.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS):

DSHS State Medical Operations Center (SMOC) is at Increased Readiness in support of this incident. DSHS continues working with state partners and lead agencies to ensure ESF-8's ongoing support.

DSHS is prepared to support, as needed, to assist in protecting the Texas livestock industry and wildlife. DSHS is ready to respond to human cases, should that occur.

Ongoing Coordination

- Center for Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (CHEPR)
    - DSHS currently has one animal health inspector deployed to support ongoing response activities in the field. One animal health inspector is being released October 18, 2026.

DSHS staff across regional offices continue reaching out to partners to ensure animal

control officers, veterinarians, local health departments, county judges, tribal nations, and other regional partners have the latest guidance and resources for identification, sampling, and reporting NWS.

Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL):

The Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) has deployed one laboratory professional to the Texas Animal Health Commission's (TAHC) Pleasanton office to join the United States Department of Agriculture mobile detection unit deployed from USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL). The lab is now operational and accepting samples for identification. A second professional remains stationed in the State Operations Center (SOC) in Austin.

TVMDL is educating clients to contact TAHC for triage of a suspected fly or larvae instead of direct submission to TVMDL, however, TVMDL Client Services staff review every daily submission and flag any cases submitted for fly/larvae ID. Laboratorians who have passed the USDA proficiency test for NWS identification stand ready to review submissions and will immediately contact TAHC and USDA should a suspect case be identified. Suspect samples will be routed as directed by TAHC and USDA.

Laboratory personnel at all four agency locations are on standby to support ESF-11 partners as needed.

TVMDL veterinarians are assisting the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in producing screwworm collection kits. TVMDL is working to validate high-throughput testing, should the need arise.

October 18

- TVMDL received 0 submissions from USDA traps and 0 submissions from private citizens on October 17, 2026. In total, 0 submissions were received by TVMDL College Station on October 17, 2026.

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA):

The Texas Department of Agriculture continues to conduct surveillance, gather intelligence, collect evidence, and monitor any signs of the New World Screwworm fly in relevant portions of the state. Traps specific for the New World Screwworm have been deployed and are continually monitored, with all suspect samples sent to our state and federal partners for identification of suspect fly species.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ):

TCEQ continues to closely monitor the NWS response and will coordinate with state and federal partners to provide technical assistance and guidance on carcass disposal.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):

TxDOT continues to support the State Operations Center through daily coordination and situational awareness activities. The department is coordinating with TAHC on compliance checkpoint locations as the New World Screwworm response expands, providing affected districts with operational updates. TxDOT Emergency Management personnel also distribute daily response information and educational materials statewide to maintain awareness and support coordinated operations.

Texas Military Department (TMD):

The Texas Military Department (TMD) is supporting state agency partners in response with a SOC support team.

Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Team (VET):

On June 18, VET returned from an assigned status in the field to an available status from home stations and remains available on an as-needed basis.

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
TDEM	SOC Support	13	0	Activated	SOC
AgriLife	SOC Liaison	2	2	Assigned	Austin
AgriLife	Administration	3	3	Activated	College Station
AgriLife	SMEs	16	16	Activated	Statewide
AgriLife	PIO	1	1	Activated	College Station
AgriLife	DAR Specialists/ Area Chiefs	26	26	Activated	Statewide
AgriLife	DAR Livestock Inspection Teams	3	3	Assigned	San Angelo
AgriLife	County Extension Agents	250+	0	Activated	Statewide
DSHS	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC
DSHS	PIO	1	0	Assigned	SOC
DSHS	SMOC Staff	10	0	Assigned	All Public Health Regions

DSHS	Animal Health Inspector	1	0	Released	San Saba
DSHS	Animal Health Inspector	1	0	Assigned	Alpine
DSHS	Veterinarians/Entomologists	20	0	Assigned	Austin/Public Health Regions
DSHS	Regional Staff	27	0	Assigned	All Public Health Regions
DSHS	Meat Safety Assurance	118	0	Assigned	Statewide
TAHC	Administration	2	0	Assigned	Remote
TAHC	IMT	1	0	Assigned	Jourdanton
TAHC	IMT	1	0	Assigned	SOC
TAHC	IMT	6	0	Assigned	Remote
TAHC	Response Staff	26	47	Assigned	Field/Remote
TAHC	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC
TDA	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	Remote
TDA	JIC PIO	1	0	Assigned	Remote
TDA	Inspector	1	1	Assigned	Cameron County
TDA	Inspector	1	1	Assigned	Zapata County
TDA	Inspector	1	1	Assigned	Harris County
TDA	Inspector	1	1	Assigned	Galveston County
TDA	Fly Traps	0	38	Assigned	Hidalgo County
TDA	Fly Traps	0	24	Assigned	Starr County
TDA	Fly Traps	0	61	Assigned	Webb County
TDA	Fly Traps	0	2	Assigned	El Paso County
TDA	Fly Traps	0	4	Assigned	Nueces County
TDA	Fly Traps	0	6	Assigned	Val Verde County
TDA	Fly Traps	0	6	Assigned	Harris County
TDA	Fly Traps	0	6	Assigned	Galveston County
TDA	Fly Traps	0	26	Assigned	Maverick County
TDA	Fly Traps	0	4	Assigned	Kinney County

Texas A&M VET	Type 3 VET	15	12	Available	Fredericksburg/ Gillespie County
TMD	SOC Support MRP	10	0	Assigned	Austin
TPWD	SOC Liaison	1	1	Assigned	SOC
TPWD	JIC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	Remote
TPWD	Game Wardens/ State Park Police	500	500	Available	Statewide
TPWD	Wildlife Biologist	1	1	Assigned	Region 6
TPWD	Wildlife Biologist	1	1	Assigned	Region 7
TPWD	State Parks Staff	2	0	Assigned	Region 6
TXCC	SOC Liaison	2	0	Assigned	SOC
TxDOT	EMC	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TVMDL	SOC Liaison	1	1	Assigned	Austin
TVMDL	Administration	3	0	Activated	College Station
TVMDL	Sample Review / Processing	7	0	Assigned	College Station
TVMDL	Parasite ID SMEs	1	0	Activated	Atascosa Co.
TVMDL	Parasite ID SMEs	6	0	Activated	College Station
TVMDL	Veterinary Diagnostics	3	0	Activated	College Station / Canyon
TVMDL	High Throughput Testing	3	0	Activated	College Station
TVMDL	Communications	1	0	Assigned	College Station
TVMDL	Quality Assurance	2	0	Activated	College Station
TVMDL	Field Veterinarian	1	0	Available	Jourdanton

FINAL COMMENTS: The State Operations Center (SOC) is currently operating at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions). The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues to monitor the situation and will provide additional situation reports as needed.

The four levels of SOC activation are:

Level I (Emergency Conditions)

Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)

Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)

Level IV (Normal Conditions)

This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at:

https://tdem.texas.gov/response/state-operations-center#tab-3

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