

Protocols for the Potential Detection of New World Screwworm in Livestock

Veterinary Guidance

New World screwworms (NWS) are larvae or maggots of the NWS fly (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) that cause the painful condition NWS myiasis. This guide is provided to assist veterinary practitioners and their staff on protocols related to the identification, treatment, and reporting of NWS in Texas livestock.

Identification

There are several flies associated with wounds, but only NWS feed on living tissues, compared to dead tissues and fluids. NWS infestation is most often associated with the presence of a preexisting wound but may also be found in mucous membranes. Any wounds should be examined for the presence of myiasis (infestation with larval flies/maggots). 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.

Please see the TAHC NWS collection guide for additional information on proper larvae collection for official laboratory identification.

Treatment

Livestock impacted with NWS myiasis should be treated immediately. Effective treatments may vary and should be evaluated using current recommendations for specific species and areas affected.

- All visible eggs and larvae must be removed from in and around the wound and treated with a pesticide, such as permethrin. The wound should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
- Assess the level of wound care needed and treat accordingly.

Reporting

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

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, contact a local TAHC region office:

Amarillo.....	806-641-7000
Beeville.....	361-358-3234
Giddings.....	979-212-5440
Laredo.....	956-568-5741
Stephenville.....	512-556-6277
Sulphur Springs.....	903-919-3748

5:00 PM - 8:00 AM and on weekends, contact the TAHC headquarters:

Veterinarian on Call.....1-800-550-8242

