



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

June 25, 2025

Dr. Lewis R. "Bud" Dinges  
Executive Director and State Veterinarian  
Texas Animal Health Commission  
2105 Kramer Lane  
Austin, Texas 78758

Dr. David Yoskowitz  
Executive Director  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, Texas 78744

Dear Executive Directors:

The recent northward spread of the New World screwworm (NWS) from Central America into southern Mexico poses a serious threat to Texas livestock and wildlife. Texas boasts more ranchland than any other state and has one of the richest wildlife populations in the country. It also leads the nation in cattle inventory, and its ranching and livestock industry is a cornerstone of both the Texas and United States economies. A re-establishment of NWS in Texas could result in severe economic losses and ecological disruption.

As a border state, Texas represents the first line of defense against the potential re-entry of this harmful pest into the United States. To proactively address this threat, I am directing the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) to jointly establish a Texas New World Screwworm Response Team. This Response Team will serve as the central hub for coordination, information-sharing, and stakeholder engagement among state, federal, and industry partners. The mission for the Response Team is clear: to lead Texas' prevention and response efforts and ensure that Texas remains informed, prepared, and aligned to prevent the re-emergence of this destructive parasite.

Texas played a critical role in eradicating this pest from the United States in the 1960s and will do so again if the need arises. We stand ready to protect our land, livestock, and wildlife.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "G" and "A".

Greg Abbott  
Governor