



For Immediate Release
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TAHC Joins Secretary Rollins and Governor Abbott to Open New World Screwworm Sterile Fly Dispersal Facility in Texas

EDINBURG, TX – State Veterinarian, Dr. Lewis R. “Bud” Dinges, DVM and staff joined United States Secretary of Agriculture, Brooke L. Rollins, and Texas Governor, Greg Abbott, as they officially opened the New World screwworm sterile fly dispersal facility at Moore Air Base in South Texas.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), with ongoing coordination by government and industry partners, continue to bolster national and state preparedness for a potential NWS incursion. This sterile NWS fly dispersal facility is an important tool in NWS response; if NWS reaches the U.S., the sterile insect technique paired with fly surveillance, movement controls, and producers monitoring their animals will help prevent the spread of the pest and strengthen the response. **NWS has not been detected in Texas.**

“This facility and the many ongoing proactive efforts are great representations of the hard work Texas responders and stakeholders have accomplished and examples of the robust response USDA partners have answered with related to NWS,” said Dr. Bud Dinges. “We continue to work tirelessly and coordinate daily to stay prepared to protect Texas and the U.S. from this pest.”

While Texas government and response partners are monitoring the situation in Mexico closely and actively preparing to respond, all producers need to take proactive efforts. Animal owners can take action now by monitoring animals regularly, adjusting management practices to prevent or promptly treat wounds, and establishing a veterinary-client relationship to discuss species-specific treatment options.

While NWS is currently being combatted in Mexico, the looming threat to Texas animal agriculture is at the forefront of daily efforts with animal health partners. USDA and TAHC’s established partnerships in past animal health responses and active NWS preparedness sessions strengthen the proactive approach needed to address this issue.

Learn more about NWS [here](#).

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The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) was established in 1893 as the Livestock Sanitary Commission and charged with protecting the state’s domestic animals “from all contagious or infectious diseases of a malignant character.” TAHC remains true to this charge while evolving with the times to protect the health and marketability of all Texas livestock and poultry. Learn more about the TAHC by visiting www.tahc.texas.gov.