



STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF TERRELL §

**LOCAL DECLARATION OF DISASTER REGARDING THE THREAT OF NEW
WORLD SCREWORM**

WHEREAS, the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 authorizes the presiding officer of the governing body of a political subdivision to declare a local state of disaster if the presiding officer finds that a disaster has occurred or that the occurrence or threat of disaster is imminent; and

WHEREAS, Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code authorizes the County Judge, as presiding officer of the governing body of the County, to declare a local state of disaster upon the occurrence or threat of disaster; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Animal Health Commission is charged with protecting the livestock, domestic animals, and poultry of this State and with controlling animal diseases and animal pests, and county commissioners' courts shall cooperate with and assist the Commission when requested, as provided by Section 161.003 of the Texas Agriculture Code; and

WHEREAS, Section 418.190 of the Texas Government Code requires the Texas Animal Health Commission to prepare and maintain an agriculture emergency response plan as an annex to the State Emergency Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2026, the Governor of Texas issued a statewide disaster declaration regarding the threat of the New World screwworm fly; and

WHEREAS, on June 3, 2026, New World screwworm larvae were confirmed by the United States Department of Agriculture in a 3-week-old calf in La Pryor, Texas, marking the first confirmed case in Texas in decades and demonstrating the risk of introduction and spread within the State; and

WHEREAS, the New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) is a destructive parasitic pest whose larvae infest living warm-blooded animals and can cause severe injury, death, and substantial losses to livestock, wildlife, companion animals, agricultural operations, and related commerce; and

WHEREAS, Terrell County is vulnerable to significant harm to livestock, agriculture, wildlife resources, related business activity, and property interests from the introduction or spread of New World screwworm within or near the County; and

WHEREAS, the County Judge of Terrell County finds that the confirmed presence of New World screwworm in Texas and the continuing risk of introduction or spread constitute an imminent threat of disaster within the meaning of the Texas Disaster Act and that extraordinary measures are warranted to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and mitigate that threat;

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO SECTION 418.108 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, I, DALE CARRUTHERS, COUNTY JUDGE OF TERRELL COUNTY, TEXAS, AS PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF TERRELL COUNTY, HEREBY FIND THAT THE CONFIRMED PRESENCE OF NEW WORLD SCREWWORM IN TEXAS AND THE THREAT OF ITS INTRODUCTION OR SPREAD INTO TERRELL COUNTY CONSTITUTE AN IMMINENT THREAT OF DISASTER AND DECLARE A LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER FOR TERRELL COUNTY, TEXAS.

1. Declaration.

A local state of disaster is hereby declared for Terrell County, Texas, due to the confirmed presence of New World screwworm in Texas and the imminent threat of its introduction or spread within or affecting Terrell County.

2. Activation of Emergency Management Measures.

This Declaration activates the appropriate recovery, mitigation, preparedness, and response aspects of all applicable local and interjurisdictional emergency management plans and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under this Declaration.

3. Coordination with State and Federal Agencies.

The County's Emergency Management Coordinator and other appropriate County officials are directed and authorized to coordinate with all appropriate agencies and stakeholders regarding surveillance, reporting, public information, preparedness, and response activities related to the New World screwworm threat.

4. Use of County Resources.

All available County resources reasonably necessary to cope with this threatened disaster are authorized for use in accordance with applicable law.

5. Public Information and Protective Actions.

County officials are authorized to issue and disseminate guidance to livestock owners, veterinarians, agricultural operators, exhibitors, and the public concerning identification, reporting, prevention, and response measures relating to the New World screwworm threat.

6. Filing and Publicity.

This Declaration shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk in accordance with Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code.

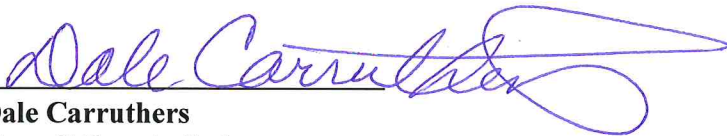
7. Duration.

This Declaration shall remain in effect for not more than seven (7) days unless continued or renewed by the Commissioners Court in accordance with Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code.

8. Request for Assistance.

Terrell County requests all appropriate state and federal assistance necessary to support preparedness, prevention, response, mitigation, and recovery efforts relating to the threat of New World screwworm.

DECLARED AND ORDERED this 5th day of June, 2026, at P.M.



Dale Carruthers
Terrell County Judge


ATTEST:

Brittany Rivera
Terrell County Clerk

No. _____
FILED TIME 3:15pm

JUN 05 2026

CLERK, COUNTY COURT, TERRELL CO., TEXAS
BY: _____ DEPUTY