

# New World Screwworm Sample Collection Procedure for Producers

New World screwworm (NWS) larvae or maggots are often found in pre-existing wounds or mucous membranes causing NWS myiasis. After observation, if NWS infestation or myiasis is suspected, samples should be collected and submitted for official identification. Avoid spreading the pest by keeping animals confined during this process. Suspected cases of NWS myiasis are reportable to the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC). This guide is provided to aid producers in the collection and submission of pests for official laboratory identification.

## Supplies

The following is needed for NWS collection:

- Gloves
- 70% alcohol (ethanol or isopryl)
- Forceps
- Screw cap vial or container
- Tape to seal container
- Plastic bag with a zipper closure

## Additional Resources

TAHC New World Screwworm webpage:  
[https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal\\_health/fevertickspests/#screwworms](https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/fevertickspests/#screwworms)

USDA New World Screwworm Emergency Response:  
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-emergencies/nws>

## Collection Procedure

- Using forceps, gently remove larvae of different sizes from several sites within the open wound, especially the deepest part of the wound.
- Place the larvae in the vial or container and ensure they are completely submerged in alcohol. Seal the container and place it in the plastic bag for shipment.
- All larvae not submitted for official identification should be destroyed and disposed of properly and the wound treated as directed by your veterinarian. Do not allow stray larvae to fall on the ground during collection.

## Submission Procedure

To receive direction on sample collection submission, contact a TAHC region office or the veterinarian on call, 1-800-550-8242. Samples cannot be submitted without first consulting with USDA-APHIS to obtain proper shipping and tracking information.

For proper sample submission, animal health officials will request the animal owner to provide:

- Owner contact information;
- Address or geographic description of the location the sample was collected;
- County where sample was collected;
- Species of the host; and
- Location larvae or maggots were found on the host.

