



WHEREAS, the County Judge of Atascosa County finds that the threat of introduction or spread of New World screwworm constitutes 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 treat;

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO SECTION 418.108 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, I, WELDON P. CUDE, COUNTY JUDGE OF ATASCOSA COUNTY, TEXAS AS PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF ATASCOSA COUNTY, HEREBY FIND THAT THE THREAT OF DISASTER ARISING FROM THE POTENTIAL INTRODUCTION AND SPREAD OF NEW WORLD SCREWWORM IS IMMINENT AND DECLARE A LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER FOR ATASCOSA COUNTY, TEXAS.

1. Declaration.

A **local state of disaster** is hereby declared for Atascosa County, Texas, due to the imminent threat posed by New World screwworm to livestock, domestic animals, wildlife, agriculture, commerce and related property interests within the 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, as authorized by Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code.

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 the Texas Division of Emergency Management, the Texas Animal Health Commission, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, the United States Department of Agriculture, and other appropriate agencies, and stakeholders regarding surveillance, reporting, public information, preparedness, and response activities related to the New Worlds screwworm threat. The County shall cooperate with and assist the Texas Animal Health Commission as authorized and requested under applicable law, including Section 161.041 of the Texas Agriculture Code.

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. County officials are authorized to take lawful actions necessary to protect the public welfare and the County's agricultural and property interests.

5. Public Information and Protective Actions.

County officials are authorized to issue and disseminate guidance to livestock owners, veterinarians, agricultural operators, exhibitors, and the pubic concerning



**LOCAL DECLARATION OF DISASTER
REGARDING THE THREAT OF NEW WORLD SCREWORM
IN ATASCOSA COUNTY, TEXAS**

**STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF ATASCOSA §**

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 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 is imminent;

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 commissioner's 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;

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2026, the Governor of Texas issued a **statewide disaster declaration** to prevent the spread of the New World screwworm fly, stating that although the pest is not yet present in Texas or the United States, its northward spread from Mexico toward the southern border poses a serious threat to Texas livestock and wildlife;

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;

WHEREAS, Atascosa County is vulnerable to significant harm to livestock, agriculture, wildlife resources, related business activity, and property interests if the New World screwworm materializes within Atascosa County; and



identification, reporting, prevention, and response measures relating to the New World screwworm threat, consistent with guidance from appropriate state and federal authorities.

6. Filing and Publicity.

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

8. Request for Assistance.

Atascosa 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 9th of June, 2026, at 11:00 a.m./p.m.

The Honorable Weldon P. Cude
County Judge Atascosa County

ATTEST:

Theresa Carrasco
Atascosa County Clerk

