



DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER

McMullen County, Texas

Screwworm Infestation

WHEREAS, McMullen County has confirmed the spread of the *New World Screwworm (Cochliomyia hominivorax)* within the county, posing a severe threat to livestock, wildlife, domestic animals, and potentially human health; and

WHEREAS, the screwworm is an invasive parasitic species capable of causing significant economic loss to ranchers, landowners, and agricultural operations through infestation, animal injury, and death; and

WHEREAS, McMullen County's economy and community livelihood rely heavily on cattle ranching, wildlife management, and related agricultural industries, all of which are at immediate risk due to the rapid reproductive cycle and aggressive nature of the screwworm; and

WHEREAS, the situation requires timely coordination with state and federal agencies, including the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), to implement surveillance, treatment, quarantine, and eradication measures; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 (Texas Government Code §418.108) authorizes the County Judge to declare a local state of disaster and to activate the county's emergency management plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED

That I, James E. Teal, County Judge of McMullen County, Texas, do hereby declare a Local State of Disaster due to the screwworm infestation affecting McMullen County.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED

1. This declaration activates the McMullen County Emergency Management Plan and all appropriate response, recovery, and mitigation measures.
2. County agencies are authorized to take all necessary actions to protect life, property, livestock, and wildlife.
3. This declaration authorizes the request for state and federal assistance, including but not limited to emergency resources, technical support, and eradication operations.
4. The public is urged to report suspected screwworm cases immediately to the Texas Animal Health Commission and local authorities.
5. This declaration shall take effect immediately and remain in force for thirty (30) days, unless continued or renewed by the McMullen County Commissioners Court.

ORDERED this 8 day of June, 2026.



James E. Teal
County Judge, McMullen County, Texas



Mattie Martinez
County/District Clerk, McMullen County, Texas

