

The Pesticide Periodical

Agricultural & Environmental Safety Unit

June 2025

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TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Upcoming Programs

General Standards Technician Training Course

- July 9th (Austin)

20-hour Technician Apprentice Training

- June 24th-26th (Bryan)

Termite Category

- June 18th (Plano)
- June 26th-27th (Bryan)

Pest Category

- July 7th (Virtual)

Landscape Maintenance (Lawn & Ornamental Category)

- June 18th (Virtual)



Sweet Summertime Mr. Jake Wightman, Extension Program Specialist, Editor

Before we get into this month's issue of The Pesticide Periodical, I would like to give a shout-out to all the moms we celebrated in May on Mother's Day and all of the dads we will be celebrating this month on Father's Day. As a matter of fact, none of us would be here without our moms and dads, and many of us would not be thriving as we are without them!

A friendly reminder: pesticide licensing exams are now being administered by Metro Institute for both structural and agricultural licenses. This change has been in effect since May 19th, 2025 and will continue for the foreseeable future. To schedule exams, visit Metro's website [here](#). The Texas Department of Agriculture has put together step-by-step licensure brochures that can be viewed for private applicators [here](#), commercial/noncommercial applicators [here](#), and structural applicators [here](#).

One more thing...The Agricultural & Environmental Safety Unit is holding a **two-and-a-half-day training for structural apprentice registrants (June 24th through June 26th, 2025) to fulfill their apprenticeship requirement of 20-hours of general standards classroom training**. This program is held in Bryan, TX at the Texas A&M University-RELLIS campus. The program costs \$400 to attend and includes instructional manuals as well as breakfast and lunch each day. This training provides a great foundation for structural applicators to pass the licensure exams and excel in their trade. Learn more and register for the course [here](#). **Immediately following the two-and-a-half-days of general standards instruction, the Agricultural & Environmental Safety Unit is offering an eight-hour termite category classroom training course** (12pm to 5pm on June 26th and 8am to 12pm on June 27th) for structural applicators seeking to add this category to their licenses. This course fulfills the requirement that apprentices and technicians receive eight hours of classroom training in each category they wish to hold on their technician license. Certified applicators looking for category examination preparation activities for the termite category materials are welcome to attend as well. The eight-hour Termite Category Training course costs \$150 to attend and includes an instructional manual. Meals are not provided during this course. Learn more about this course and register [here](#).

Enjoy this month's issue, and remember the Agricultural & Environmental Safety Unit is YOUR resource for pesticide safety education in Texas. JJW



New World Screwworm Update Miss Avery Brooks, AES Student Worker

This article follows up on a previous piece from [April's edition](#) of The Pesticide Periodical

New World Screwworm (NWS) is a destructive parasite of all warm-blooded animals including livestock, game animals, pets, zoo animals, and occasionally humans. In November of 2024, The United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) halted all shipments of cattle and bison from Mexico due to the detection of New World Screwworm. As of May 20, 2025 [all shipments are still being halted](#) as the New World Screwworm gets closer to the United States southern border, but the suspension is being reevaluated every 30 days. NWS was detected 700 miles away from the southern United States border in Veracruz, Mexico and there were more than [6,500](#) cases reported in 2024.

To help with eradication efforts, Secretary Brooke Rollins and the USDA have [announced](#) an investment of \$21 million to renovate an existing sterile fly production facility located in Metapa, Mexico. NWS is eradicated by using the sterile insect technique, where large amounts of sterilized males are released through ground operations or widespread aerial dispersals to overwhelm the female population and suppress matings with wild males. Currently, sterile fly dispersals are occurring in Mexico and Central America where they are releasing 100 million flies weekly. When the Metapa facility is fully operational, it will produce around 60-100 million sterile flies and will allow the USDA to double the use of the sterile insect technique.

If fly larvae are found in a wound of a living animal, you should contact a veterinarian. The veterinarian will have to [collect and submit](#) the larvae for identification purposes to the USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratory. Signs of NWS infestations include wounds that appear to not be healing or have excessive drainage or odor. In addition, animals potentially infected with NWS may exhibit irritating behavior such as head shaking. For more information about the NWS, read the **updated factsheet** [here](#).

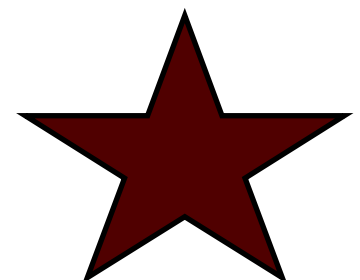
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be hosting a free educational webinar on New World Screwworm detection and response efforts on June 9, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Register for free [here](#).

Have a topic you would like us to write about? Tell us about it!

Write a letter to the editor and email it to:

jacob.wightman@ag.tamu.edu

We'll include it in the next month's issue!



Announcements

Send announcements to jacob.wightman@ag.tamu.edu

Call (979)845-3849

Are you staying up to date?

The Texas Department of Health and Human Services publish a weekly report on the activity of arboviruses in Texas. You can access these reports by visiting their website [here](#).



Help! Which license do I need to control mosquitoes?

The Texas Department of Agriculture has published a document that helps applicators figure out which license they need to control mosquitoes depending on different circumstances. View it [here](#).

You can also call the Agricultural & Environmental Safety Unit with questions at (979)845-3849

Structural Applicators: Recert...

It's June, so that means structural certified applicators have six months left to satisfy their CEU requirements and technicians have six months left to satisfy their verifiable training requirements.

The deadline for 2025 recertification activities is December 31st, 2025.

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