



# TALKING SCREWWORMS

## EXPLORING CHATGPT AND GOOGLE AI OVERVIEW'S RESPONSES ABOUT NEW WORLD SCREWWORM IN TEXAS

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### INTRODUCTION

- New World screwworm (NWS) is a parasitic fly that affects livestock, pets, and wildlife (USDA APHIS, 2026).
- Texas has been identified as a state at high risk for NWS reemergence (Valdez-Espinoza et al., 2025).
- The first confirmed animal case in the current outbreak occurred June 3, 2026 (CDC, 2026).
- Livestock owners should seek guidance from official regulatory agencies, including the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC, 2026).
- AI chatbots are increasingly used as convenient sources of animal-health information (Chen & Liu, 2021; Landaverde, 2025).
- AI responses may reflect biased, incomplete, or inaccurate source material (Roumeliotis & Tselikas, 2023).

#### Research Questions

- (1) How do ChatGPT and Google AI overview describe what Texas livestock owners should do if they suspect NWS infection?
- (2) How do ChatGPT's and Google AI's overview information about NWS compare with TAHC guidance for livestock owners?

### METHODS

- Standardized prompt: "I own livestock in Texas, and I suspect one of my cows is infected with screwworm. What should I do?" was entered into ChatGPT (free version) and Google once daily on June 23–25, 2026.
- Responses were copied, stored, and summarized for analysis.
- AI recommendations were compared with official TAHC guidance (TAHC, 2026):



Monitor animals for NWS signs



Notify TAHC/USDA, including the appropriate hotline



Isolate and do not move potentially infected animals



Treat and cover wounds

### RESULTS

"I own livestock in Texas, and I suspect one of my cows is infected with screwworm. What should I do?"



- **ChatGPT** emphasized contacting a veterinarian, monitoring the herd, and gathering case details before reporting.
- ChatGPT and Google AI Overview produced highly similar responses across all three days.
- Both described suspected NWS infection as urgent.
- Both tools asked follow-up questions to tailor guidance to the animal, herd, location, and symptoms.

- **Google AI Overview** emphasized immediate isolation, avoiding animal movement, and step-by-step response actions.
- Both frequently cited the Texas Animal Health Commission and USDA.
- Both consistently recommended actions aligned with TAHC guidance (TAHC, 2026)



ChatGPT



AI Overview

### CONCLUSIONS

- ChatGPT and Google AI Overview gave largely consistent, urgent guidance for suspected NWS cases.
- Both tools closely aligned with TAHC recommendations: inspect, report, isolate, avoid transport, and treat wounds (TAHC, 2026).
- Differences were mainly in the order and emphasis of recommendations.

### IMPLICATIONS

- AI chatbots may provide fast, useful initial guidance for livestock owners.
- Users should verify AI information with official TAHC and USDA sources (Roumeliotis & Tselikas, 2023; TAHC, 2026).
- Future research should assess other chatbots and track response accuracy over time.

### ABSTRACT & REFERENCES

