

# New World Screwworms

## Danger to Oklahoma

Joint Session of Oklahoma Senate and  
House Agriculture Committees

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# New World Screwworms (NWS)

- Fly lays eggs around edge of wound – can be as small as a tick bite
- Larvae (maggots) burrow into wound and consume living tissue
  - Common maggots only eat dead tissue
  - NWS maggots burrow deep causing major tissue damage
    - Make animals very ill
    - Can cause death



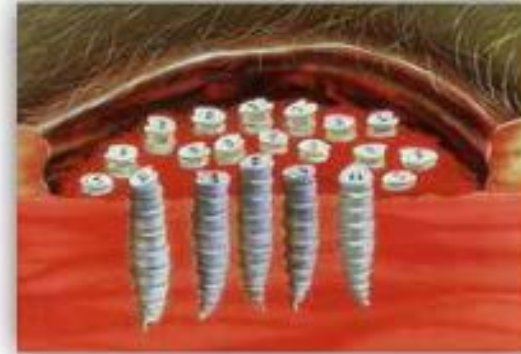
Adult female screwworm fly is attracted to the smell of an open wound on warm-blooded animals and lays her eggs on the edges of the wound.



Within a few hours the eggs hatch into worms which burrow into the wound to feed. This destructive process worsens the wound and attracts more flies which lay more eggs causing further damage.



## Life Cycle 20 Days



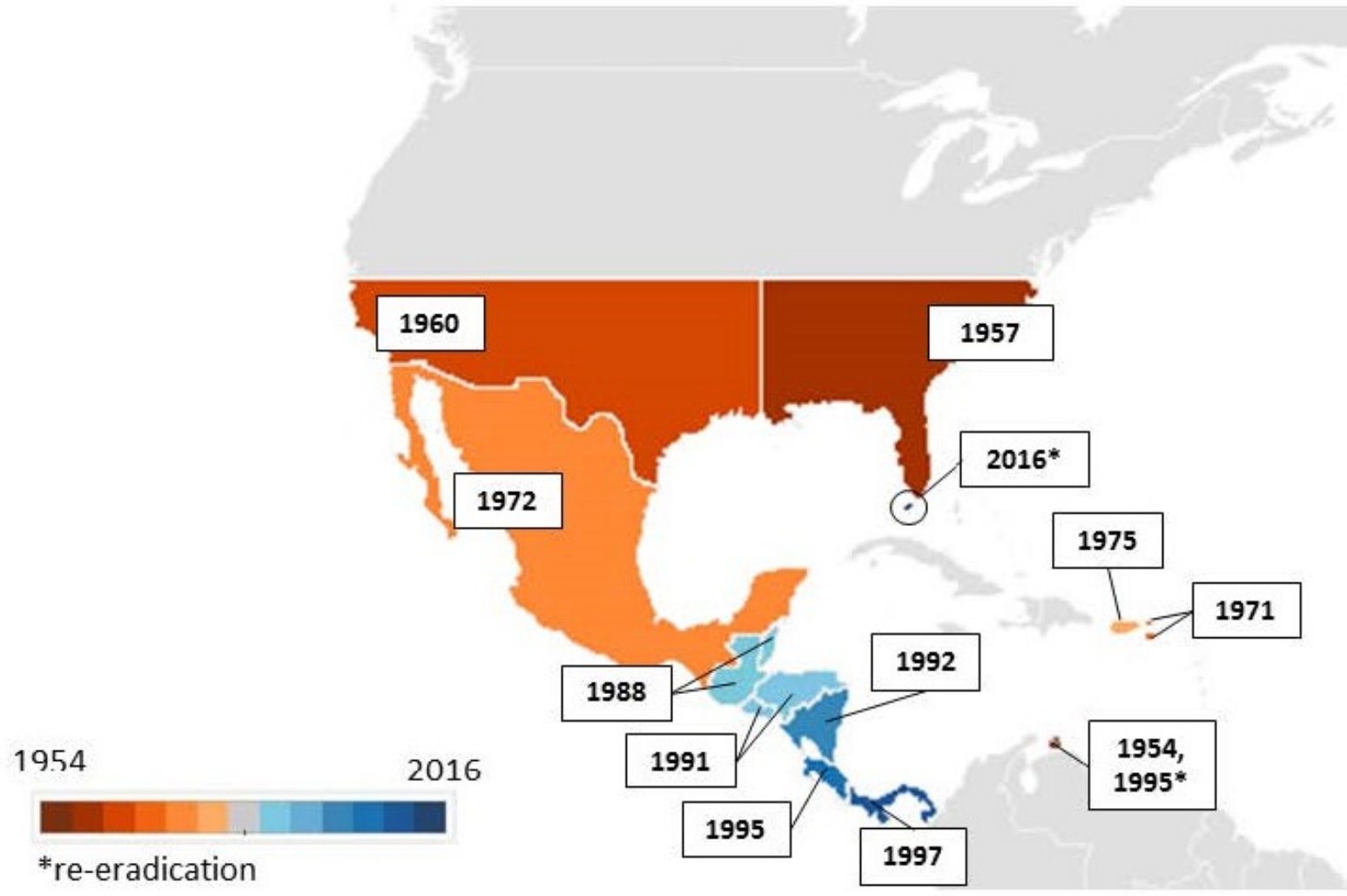
The worms feed for approximately a week and then fall off and burrow into the ground to pupate.



After at least 7 days an adult fly emerges.



# Timeline of NWS Eradication Efforts



# New World Screwworms (NWS)

- Sterile larvae produced in laboratory in Panama
  - 100 Million flies produced weekly
- Flown to fly distribution sites in Mexico
- Mature into adult flies at distribution sites and are distributed via small planes – similar to crop dusting
- As cases spread farther north more time wasted traveling from distribution sites to area of distribution
- Delays in reporting and confirming cases resulting in “chasing” cases rather than “getting ahead” of them



NWS

Legend



Google Earth

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Image Landsat / Copernicus



# Response in Oklahoma

- Education and Outreach
  - ODAFF social media, press releases, OSU Extension, Ag Media
- Surveillance
  - Fly traps similar to boll weevil or other insect traps
  - Lots of personnel resources needed to investigate reports, set out traps, check traps
- Movement Controls
  - Lots of personnel resources needed
- Sterile Fly Program
  - 18-24 months to become operational



# Questions?