

PESTICIDE REPORTS

Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources • Oklahoma State University
<http://pested.okstate.edu>



June, 2026

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- 1 JUNE 2026 TEST HELP WORKSHOPS
- 2 COURT STRIKES DOWN MALATHION OPINION
- 3 WHY GOOGLE IS SEEKING APPROVAL TO RELEASE MILLIONS OF MOSQUITOES IN FLORIDA AND CALIFORNIA
- 4 APHIS CONFIRMS DETECTION OF NEW WORLD SCREW WORM IN TEXAS
- 6 CEU MEETINGS
- 6 ONLINE CEU LINKS
- 7 ODAFF TEST INFORMATION

JUNE 2026 TEST HELP WORKSHOPS

The Oklahoma State University Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) will be holding test help workshops June 10 in Tulsa and June 11 in Oklahoma City.

The Oklahoma City workshop will be at the Oklahoma County Extension Center at 2500 N.E. 63rd St. in Oklahoma City. The Tulsa workshop will be at the Tulsa County Extension Office at 4116 E 15th St. in Tulsa.

Registration cost is \$50 before June 3 for Tulsa and \$65 after June 3. Registration cost is \$50 before June 4 for Oklahoma City and \$65 after June 4. Registration will include a copy of Applying Pesticides Correctly. This is the study manual for the core and service technician exams.

To register for this class please go to the Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) website at <http://pested.okstate.edu/html/practical.htm> and click on the register online link. Class information and an agenda is also at that website. Future 2026 workshop dates can be found on the website as well.
(OSU PSEP)

COURT STRIKES DOWN MALATHION OPINION

A federal court declared unlawful a 2022 final biological opinion that led to national restrictions on the pesticide malathion, sending it back to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Wednesday, concluding it violated the Endangered Species Act and the Administrative Procedure Act.

The USFWS's 20,000-page biological opinion concluded that malathion would not jeopardize listed endangered species or their habitats.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Northern California sent the opinion back to the agency after ruling its jeopardy determinations and critical habitat categorization were arbitrary and capricious.

"The court agrees the biological opinion's 'usage' analysis is arbitrary because it relies on arbitrary, often inflated species' range estimates and does not offer a satisfactory explanation for its reliance on pesticide usage data," the court said.

"Given every 'no jeopardy' finding relies on the 'usage' analysis, the court finds the 'no jeopardy' findings are arbitrary, capricious and not in accordance with the law."

The original lawsuit was filed by environmental groups led by the Center for Biological Diversity. The parties in the case were ordered to come up with a remedy and file a joint statement with the court by June 5, 2026.

DTN reached out to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for comment.

Malathion is used largely to control mosquitoes as well as aphids and other crop pests.

Lori Ann Burd, environmental health director at the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a statement the court's decision will allow the federal agency to change course.

"The court's decision is a much-needed course correction for the Fish and Wildlife Service, which submitted to the

pesticide industry's demands and hung more than 1,500 endangered species out to dry," Burd said.

"This decision will force the service to figure out how to actually reduce harm to animals and plants from one of the worst neurotoxic pesticides on the market. That includes nearly every endangered butterfly, beetle and dragonfly we have."

The environmental groups' original lawsuit alleged the biological opinion contained "numerous analytical shortcuts and arbitrary policy choices."

The final biological opinion was based on "agreed-upon measures including no-spray zones, reductions in application rates and number of applications," as well as other label changes that, taken together, "avoid jeopardy and adverse modification of critical habitat," according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The groups said in the lawsuit that the label restrictions may reduce harm to some listed species, but the most threatened and endangered species would not benefit.

They alleged USFWS policy choices conflict with USFWS' regulations and policies, as well as with the Endangered Species Act itself, and that it was arbitrary and capricious.

The action at issue was the EPA's national re-registration of pesticides containing malathion for all its label uses, which has more than 100 different registered uses throughout the country. The EPA determined that the chemical was "likely to adversely affect" 1,778 species and 784 critical habitats.

However, the court sided with the USFWS on the plaintiffs' allegation that the biological opinion failed to address species recovery in critical habitat determinations.

The court said federal regulations did not require a separate recovery analysis.

In August 2023, the EPA announced national restrictions on the use of malathion.

The EPA initiated an ESA consultation with the USFWS on the effects of malathion, chlorpyrifos and diazinon in January 2017.

In October 2017, the USFWS concluded in a draft biological opinion that registered uses of malathion products were likely to jeopardize 1,284 threatened and endangered species. (Progressive Farmer, May 14, 2026) <https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/crops/article/2026/05/14/court-strikes-insecticide-malathion>

WHY GOOGLE IS SEEKING APPROVAL TO RELEASE MILLIONS OF MOSQUITOES IN FLORIDA AND CALIFORNIA

Google is asking federal regulators for permission to release millions of specially treated mosquitoes in [Florida](#) and [California](#), but the goal is not to increase populations of biting mosquitoes that already swarm backyards after warm, rainy weather.

The company is seeking an experimental use permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a mosquito-control project involving male *Culex quinquefasciatus* mosquitoes. The [Federal Register notice](#) lists the submitter as "Google LLC" and identifies the pesticide chemical as "Wolbachia pipientis wAlbB Contained in Live Adult *Culex quinquefasciatus* Male Mosquitoes (DQB Strain)."

According to the Federal Register, Google is proposing to release the mosquitoes over two years in California and Florida.

The Google logo is displayed on a building at Google headquarters, on Feb. 4, 2026 in Mountain View, California. (Photo by Justin Sullivan/Getty Images)

"In Florida, up to 16,000,000 DQB Male Mosquitoes are proposed to be released in year 1, and up to 16,000,000 released in year 2. In California, up to 16,000,000 are proposed to be released in year 1, and up to 16,000,000 released in year 2," the Federal Register notice said.

That means the project could involve up to 32 million mosquitoes in Florida and up to 32 million in California over two years, or up to 64 million total across the two states.

Using mosquitoes to reduce mosquitoes populations and disease transmission

The goal is reproduction control. When Wolbachia-treated male mosquitoes mate with wild female mosquitoes, the resulting eggs are not expected to hatch. Over time, repeated releases can reduce the local population of the targeted mosquito species.

The mosquitoes in Google's proposal are male, which is a key distinction for residents who may be uneasy about the plan. Male mosquitoes do not bite people. Female mosquitoes are the ones that bite humans and animals and can spread disease.

Culex mosquitoes are found in the United States and can spread viruses such as West Nile, St. Louis encephalitis and eastern equine encephalitis, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. West Nile virus is the most common disease spread by mosquitoes in the contiguous United States.

The proposal comes as mosquito control remains a growing concern in many communities during the warmer months. *Culex* mosquitoes lay eggs on the surface of fresh or stagnant water, and larvae develop in water before becoming flying adults. That is why periods of rain followed by warm weather can heighten mosquito concerns, especially when water collects in buckets, planters, birdbaths, gutters, discarded tires or unmaintained pools.

The EPA has not yet approved the request.

"Following the review of the application and any comments and data received in response to this solicitation, EPA will decide whether to issue or deny the EUP request, and if issued, the conditions under which it is to be conducted," the Federal Register notice said. "Any issuance of an EUP will be announced in the Federal Register."

The project reflects a broader push toward targeted mosquito-control strategies that reduce reliance on broad chemical spraying. The CDC says Wolbachia bacteria cannot make people or animals sick, and mosquitoes with Wolbachia can be used in programs designed to reduce mosquito populations. The EPA regulates the use of mosquitoes with Wolbachia, while state and local authorities must also approve releases.

Google's request remains under federal review, so the mosquitoes have not been cleared for release under this experimental permit. If the application is approved, the EPA would set conditions for where, when and how the releases could take place.

(Yahoo News, June 4, 2026)

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/science/articles/why-google-seeking-approval-release-160338173.html>

APHIS CONFIRMS DETECTION OF NEW WORLD SCREWORM IN TEXAS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the detection of a [New World screwworm \(NWS\)](#) in a bovine in Zavala County, Texas.

NWS is a serious pest that affects livestock, pets, wildlife and less commonly, people and birds. [NWS larvae](#) (maggots) burrow into the flesh of living animals,

causing serious damage to livestock and economic losses.

The affected animal is a three-week-old calf and larvae were identified in its umbilical area. To date, there have been no further detections.

"All models showed New World Screwworm entering the country in 2025; however, thanks to the hard work across the entire Trump administration and our industry, state and local partners, we were able to buy time for this moment. Protecting our livestock industry is a national security issue of the utmost importance, and USDA is wasting no time in taking action," said Dudley Hoskins, under secretary for marketing and regulatory programs. "USDA invested heavily in the tools needed to eliminate NWS ever since cases started increasing in Central America and Mexico. The United States has defeated this pest before, and we will do it again."

USDA and Texas officials are taking immediate action to contain and eradicate NWS from the United States, following the strategies and actions outlined in the [NWS Response Playbook](#). This includes:

- Forming a unified Incident Command Team with the Texas Animal Health Commission and deploying response personnel to the area.
- Establishing a 20 km infested zone around the detection and implementing quarantines, movement controls and surveillance in this area.
- Expediting targeted release of [sterile NWS flies](#) by immediately deploying ground release chambers in the area, in addition to the 4 million sterile flies per week already being released aerially in the area.
- Increasing trapping for NWS flies along the border and just outside of the dispersal area.
- Implementing NWS surveillance and management strategies in wildlife.
- Conducting targeted outreach in the local area.

Additionally, the USDA said its National Veterinary Stockpile stands ready to assist and will provide resources including treatments, equipment and logistics support for the response as needed.

USDA said it will continue to work with state departments of agriculture, animal health officials, industry and producers to mitigate economic impacts of restrictions as much as possible, including negotiating with our trading partners to regionalize any trade restrictions on live animals, limiting them to defined geographic areas.

NWS maggots can infest livestock and other warm-blooded animals, including in rare cases people. They most often enter an animal through an open wound and feed on the animal's living flesh.

USDA urges residents in the area to check their pets and livestock for signs of NWS. Look for draining or enlarging wounds and signs of discomfort. Also look for screwworm larvae (maggots) and eggs in or around body openings, such as the nose, ears and genitalia or the navel of newborn animals. If someone suspects an animal is infected with screwworm, contact a state animal health official or [USDA area veterinarian in charge](#) immediately.

While not common in people, if someone notices a suspicious lesion on their body or suspect they may have contracted screwworm, they should seek immediate medical attention.

The U.S. food supply is safe. Screwworms do not infest meat, fruits, vegetables or other food sources. USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) ensures that the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry and egg products is safe and properly labeled. Under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA), FSIS inspection personnel must inspect all eligible animal species unless they are exempt or covered by a state inspection program.

USDA said any evidence of screwworm infestation in an animal would be identified during these inspections, and any contaminated product from an affected animal would not be allowed to enter the food supply.

For more than a year, USDA has led a unified response to NWS. As the lead coordinating agency, USDA has deployed advanced surveillance systems and supported robust cross-border response efforts in Mexico and Central America to combat the pest and push NWS away

from the United States. These efforts have bought time for USDA to increase domestic preparedness efforts.

Learn more about New World screwworm [here](#).

In May, the USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) [opened the Knipling-Bushland U.S. Livestock Insects Research Laboratory](#), a laboratory facility designed to provide tools and technologies to manage and eliminate the invasive pests that threaten the United States cattle industry, including New World screwworm.

(PCT Online, June 4, 2026)

<https://www.pctonline.com/news/aphis-confirms-the-detection-of-a-new-world-screwworm-in-texas/>

CEU MEETINGS

Please note that some of these meetings are virtual using Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Please contact the meeting host directly if you have any questions.

Date: June 10-11, 2026

Title: Managing Dutch Elm Disease and Common Oklahoma Tree Pests: Tree Injection BMPs with Lab Tour

Location: Oklahoma State University Stillwater OK

Contact: Jennifer Olson (405)-744-9961

<https://agriculture.okstate.edu/departments-programs/entomol-plant-path/research-and-extension/plant-disease-insect-diag-lab>

CEU's:	Category(s):
5	3A
5	10

Date: June 16, 2026

Title: Pests Management in Pastures and Hayfields

Location: contact OSU Southeast District Office

Contact: Michael Trammell (580)-332-7011

<https://extension.okstate.edu/county/southeast-district>

CEU's:	Category(s):
2	1A
2	10
2	Private

Date: September 2, 2026

Title: ENSYSTEX - 2026 CEU Workshop

Location: Tulsa OK

Contact: Don Stetler (281)-217-2965

<https://ensystexceu.com/#95d40a97-d688-4731-9d1a-1e00ab8de51e>

CEU's:	Category(s):
1	7A
2	7B

ODAFF APPROVED ONLINE CEU COURSE LINKS

Online Pest Control Courses

<https://www.onlinepestcontrolcourses.com/>

PestED.com

<https://www.pested.com/>

Certified Training Institute

<https://www.certifiedtraininginstitute.com/>

WSU URBAN IPM AND PESTICIDE SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM

<https://pep.wsu.edu/rct/recertonline/>

CEU University

<http://www.ceuschool.org/>

Technical Learning College

<http://www.abctlc.com/>

All Star Pro Training

www.allstarce.com

Wood Destroying Organism Inspection Course

www.nachi.org/wdocourse.htm

CTN Educational Services Inc

<https://ctnedu.com/>

Veseris

<http://www.pestweb.com/>

AG CEU Online

<https://agceuonline.com/courses/state/37>

Target Specialty Products Online Training

<https://www.target-specialty.com/training/online-training>

American Pest CEUs <https://americanpestceus.com/>

Pestschool.com <https://pestschool.com/>

For more information and an updated list of CEU meetings, click on this link:

<http://www.kellysolutions.com/OK/applicators/courses/searchCourseTitle.asp>

ODAFF TEST INFORMATION

Testing will be done at testing centers in multiple locations around the state by PSI Services LLC.

Reservation must be made in advance at <https://test-takers.psiexams.com/okpest> or call **855-579-4643**

PSI locations.

Oklahoma City 3800 N Classen Blvd, Ste C-20, Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Tulsa 2840 E. 51st Street, Brittany Square Office Park, Suite 215, Tulsa, OK 74105

McAlester 21 East Carl Albert Parkway (US Hwy 270), McAlester, Oklahoma 74501

Woodward 1915 Oklahoma Ave, Suite 3, Woodward, OK 73801

Lawton Great Plains Technology Center, 4500 West Lee Blvd Building 300- RM 308, Lawton, OK 73505

Enid Autry Technology Center, 1201 W. Willow Rd, Room 402, Enid, OK 73703

Ponca City Pioneer Technology Center, 2101 N Ash, Ponca City, OK 74601

South Penn - Moore Norman Technology Center
13301 S. Pennsylvania, Oklahoma City OK

Weatherford-Southwestern Oklahoma State University 1001 N 7th St. Weatherford OK

Durant-Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
1802 Chukka Hina Drive, Durant OK

Ardmore-Southern Tech, 2610 Sam Noble Parkway, Ardmore

If you have questions on pesticide certification. Please email or call:
Kevin Shelton 405-744-1060 kevin.shelton@okstate.edu

Charles Luper
405-744-5808 charles.luper@okstate.edu

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