



# Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of Marketing, Animal Industries and Consumer Services

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Animal Health

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## Subject: New World Screwworm Confirmed in the United States

The Maryland Department of Agriculture, Animal Health Program has been informed that on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) **confirmed** the detection of New World screwworm (NWS) in a 3-week-old calf in Zavala County, Texas. Zavala County is in Southwest Texas, roughly halfway between San Antonio and the U.S.-Mexico border. To date, there have been no further detections.

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.

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 four million sterile flies per week already being released aurally 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.
- USDA surveillance efforts also extend to Arizona, New Mexico and California.

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

USDA 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 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.

While not common in humans, if you notice a suspicious lesion on your body or suspect you may have contracted screwworm, 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.

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.

USDA has built a hub of materials including live updates, audience-specific guidance, tools, etc. Here are a few of the most helpful links:

- **USDA APHIS New World Screwworm Resource Hub**
- **USDA APHIS Emergency Response**
- **USDA APHIS Response Playbook**
- **USDA APHIS Myth Busters**
- **FDA Issues Emergency-Use Authorization for OTC Injectable Treatment Drug**

MDA Animal Health urges residents 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 you suspect your animal is infected with screwworm, contact the Maryland State Veterinarian or USDA area veterinarian in charge immediately.

MDA Animal Health has updated the import requirements for warm-blooded animals entering Maryland from Texas. The updated import requirements are attached and available at [MDA Animal Health](#).

Please note that many states may be implementing movement restrictions or new import requirements for animals during this outbreak. Always verify the destination state's import requirements to ensure compliance with all applicable regulations.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture, Animal Health Program may be reached at 410-841-5810 or via email at [animalhealth.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:animalhealth.mda@maryland.gov).

Regards,



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