



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of Marketing, Animal Industries and Consumer Services

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Subject: 25 Confirmed Cases of New World Screwworm - 24 Confirmed in Texas and 1 Confirmed in New Mexico

As of Friday, June 26, 2026 there are a total of 25 confirmed cases of New World Screwworm (NWS). The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the most recent cases - 5 sheep and 1 cow that were confirmed positive for NWS on June 24, 2026 in Texas. USDA and the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) are working as quickly as possible to gather additional details about these cases, establish surveillance and testing in the area, and share outreach materials and information.

In addition, USDA APHIS confirmed a case of NWS in a dog in Lea County, New Mexico on June 7, 2026. This is an isolated case. USDA and the New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB) initiated inspection of animals and increased outreach in the area, along with investigating the animal's movement history. No additional cases of NWS have been identified in the area.

NWS is a serious pest that threatens livestock, pets, wildlife, and, in rare cases, people. The larvae burrow into the living tissue of animals, causing severe wounds, animal suffering, and significant economic losses.

"This situation is evolving, and we expect new information to emerge as our investigation continues. USDA is committed to sharing what we learn quickly, accurately, and transparently so animal owners and local communities have the information they need to stay vigilant," said Dudley Hoskins, Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs. "We are working closely with our partners in New Mexico, Texas, and across the region to ensure we identify, contain, and respond to any potential cases as swiftly as possible."

USDA and TAHC Response

USDA and the TAHC continue to lead an aggressive unified response, with over 100 people actively responding on the ground and hundreds of additional people around the country providing laboratory diagnostics, logistics, treatment distribution, air operations, outreach, operational planning, and resource support for the response. APHIS and TAHC will continue to surge additional trained personnel as needed to ensure an effective response.

For each new case, USDA and TAHC implement actions outlined in the [NWS Response Playbook](#), including:

- Establishing and maintaining a 20km infested zone with quarantines, movement controls, and heightened surveillance around confirmed detections
- Increasing trapping along the border and outside the dispersal zone
- Conducting surveillance and management strategies in wildlife
- Implementing targeted outreach to local producers, veterinarians, and communities

USDA and New Mexico Response

APHIS and the NMLB are working together closely to implement actions outlined in the [NWS Response Playbook](#), including:

- continuing the epidemiological investigation,
- sampling additional animals in the household,
- fly trapping,
- preparing for release of sterile insects should it be needed, and
- conducting outreach in the area to encourage reporting of additional suspect cases

Intensified Sterile Fly Releases

USDA continues to release sterile flies over and just outside of the infested areas. To ensure sterile fly release operations can be deployed to affected areas in Texas and in northern Mexico near the border as quickly and efficiently as possible, USDA has activated the sterile fly dispersal facility at Moore Air Base in Edinburg, Texas. Sterile pupae arrived at the facility on Friday, and aerial dispersal flights originating from the base will begin tomorrow.

Because it is important to continue ongoing surveillance efforts while releasing sterile insects, it is possible that **sterile** NWS flies could be caught and/or reported. To ensure officials can tell the difference between sterile and wild NWS flies, USDA dyes the sterile pupae, and the dye transfers to the sterile flies when they hatch. The fluorescent green or orange dye glows under UV light and may also be visible to the naked eye. If a sterile fly is captured in a trap, this dye allows animal health officials to quickly rule the fly out as a threat.

Guidance for Pet and Livestock Owners

USDA urges everyone in the area to check animals for:

- Draining or enlarging wounds
- Maggots or egg masses
- Signs of discomfort
- Lesions in body openings (nose, ears, genitalia, umbilical area)

Though rare in people, anyone who notices a suspicious lesion should seek immediate medical care.

Food Safety

The U.S. food supply remains safe. NWS does not infest meat, fruits, vegetables, or other food products. Any affected animal would be identified during USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service inspection, and no contaminated product would enter commerce.

Transparency and Sustained On the Ground Response

USDA and its Texas and New Mexico partners are operating with full transparency, committed to keeping producers, veterinarians, local communities, and the public informed as new information becomes available. USDA will continue to provide timely updates and maintain a visible, sustained presence in affected areas.

More information about New World Screwworm is available at Screwworm.gov.

Anyone who suspects a screwworm infestation should immediately contact the Maryland State Veterinarian or the USDA Area Veterinarian in Charge. USDA has established this [contact page](#) to ensure everyone can easily find the correct contact information.

MDA Animal Health has updated the import requirements for warm-blooded animals entering Maryland from Texas or New Mexico and for animals returning to Maryland after travel to either state.

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.

Regards,



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