

June 2026

# New World Screwworm

## National effort aimed at protecting livestock through early detection

In June 2026, officials in Texas detected the presence of the New World screwworm in a young calf about 50 miles east of Mexico. New World screwworm poses a serious threat to livestock, pets, wildlife, and in rare cases, people. The larvae feed on living tissue and can cause severe wounds, animal suffering, and significant economic harm if not detected and treated quickly. Livestock are at high risk because those animals live outdoors and are prone to cuts, branding, castration, and tick bites—making them ideal targets.

In 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, or APHIS, confirmed an unprecedented number of New World screwworm cases in Panama. Since then, cases have been detected in every Central American country and Mexico. APHIS is leading an aggressive, national response to the New World screwworm.

The Forest Service is taking steps to reach grazing permittees to raise awareness, asking ranchers to assist the national effort to detect the presence of screwworm as early as possible.

National forest supervisors will—if warranted—take steps to issue emergency closures and/or restrictions.



*The New World screwworm (Cochliomyia hominivorax) is a parasitic fly whose larvae feed on the living tissue of warm-blooded animals. Photo courtesy of USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

### Resources Are Available

- [Screwworm.gov](https://www.screwworm.gov)
- **Department of Agriculture:**
  - [USDA’s New World Screwworm Domestic Readiness and Response Policy Initiative](#)
- **Forest Service:**
  - Check your [local national forest or grassland](#) site for potential information about New World screwworm. Forest supervisors may issue closures or take other actions in the event the screwworm is found in or near National Forest System lands.
  - Be prepared to work with your rangeland specialists.
- **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service:**
  - Website: [New World Screwworm](#)
  - [Current Status](#)
  - Fact Sheet: [The Facts About New World Screwworm](#)
  - [Response Playbook](#): New World Screwworm
  - [Report Suspected Cases of Screwworm](#)
  - [What You Need to Know](#): Information for livestock producers, hunters, pet owners, and more.
- **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension:**
  - Website: [Livestock Management Considerations for New World screwworm](#)
  - Fact Sheet: [Livestock Management Considerations for New World Screwworm](#)