

NEW WORLD SCREWWORM



WHAT TEXAS PRODUCERS NEED TO KNOW

New World screwworm (NWS) is a parasitic fly that attacks living tissue in warm-blooded animals. Early detection and rapid reporting are critical to protecting Texas livestock, wildlife, pets, and people.



WHAT IS NEW WORLD SCREWWORM?

New World screwworm (NWS) is a parasitic fly whose larvae feed on living tissue. Female flies lay eggs in wounds or natural openings of animals. After hatching, larvae burrow into flesh, causing severe injury, infection, and potentially death if left untreated.

KEY FACTS

- ✓ Attacks livestock, wildlife, pets, birds, and people
- ✓ One female can lay 200-300 eggs
- ✓ Larvae mature within 5-7 days
- ✓ Larvae feed on living tissue
- ✓ Adult flies can travel several miles

IDENTIFICATION & SYMPTOMS

ADULT FLY



- Metallic blue-green body
- Orange eyes
- Three dark stripes on back
- Slightly larger than a housefly

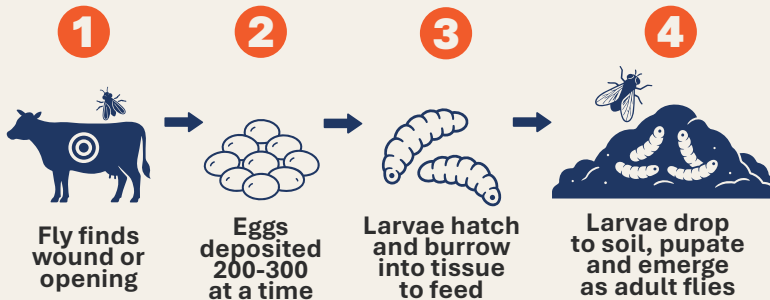
WATCH FOR:

- ✓ Irritated or depressed behavior
- ✓ Loss of appetite
- ✓ Head shaking
- ✓ Smell of decaying flesh
- ✓ Evidence of fly strike
- ✓ Presence of fly larvae (maggots) in wounds
- ✓ Isolation from other animals or people



Screwworm infestations are very painful. Animals may become depressed, stop eating and separate themselves from other animals and people. Egg masses may be around or in the wound; larvae may be visible by the third day of infestation. Because they feed on living flesh, the wound can become larger as NWS maggots burrow deep into wounds or openings.

HOW INFESTATION OCCURS



Adult flies fly several miles, and the movement of infested livestock or wildlife can lead to spread over even longer distances.



PREVENTION

PROTECT YOUR OPERATION

- ✓ Inspect livestock regularly
- ✓ Check wounds immediately
- ✓ Treat umbilical cords of newborn animals
- ✓ Protect animals from ticks and parasites
- ✓ Remove sharp hazards from pens and equipment
- ✓ Inspect pets returning from international travel
- ✓ Inspect vehicles leaving infested areas
- ✓ Keep wounds clean and covered
- ✓ Use USDA approved insecticides when appropriate

AVOID CREATING NEW WOUNDS

If operating in an affected area, postpone when possible:

Branding | Castration | Dehorning | Ear Notching | Tail Docking | Shearing



SAFETY FOR RESPONDERS

RECOMMENDED PPE

Level D protection for most response activities

Disposable gloves

Cut-resistant gloves when needed

Cover all personal wounds

Use a tarp or barrier to prevent larvae from reaching soil and continuing the life cycle

Some response activities may require protection above LEVEL D. Follow USDA guidance.



TREATMENT

Animals infested with NWS should be treated according to their veterinarian's recommendations.



REPORT SUSPECTED CASES IMMEDIATELY

"I urge all Texas producers to report suspected New World screwworm cases to their veterinarian, USDA, Texas Animal Health Commission, or the Texas Department of Agriculture."

-Commissioner Sid Miller

LIVESTOCK
Texas Animal Health Commission
State Veterinarian
1-800-550-8242

WILDLIFE
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Report suspected cases
512-389-4505

INFORMATION
For all other reporting, visit
SCREWWORM.GOV