



TARGETING NEW WORLD SCREWWORM FLY

*As of September 2025

What is the New World Screwworm Fly?

The New World Screwworm Fly (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) causes myiasis, or the infestation of living tissue of warm-blooded animals. If left untreated, the infestation is fatal to the animal.

Currently, the fly is affecting countries in South and Central America. If brought to the United States, a 2024 USDA study estimates a direct impact of \$700 million on Texas livestock and \$20 billion on the Texas economy. To prevent infestation in the United States, the USDA has plans to protect the border, enhance readiness, target the species directly, and innovate for continued success. As of now, all livestock imports from Mexico have been suspended.

What is the most efficient way to eradicate the New World Screwworm fly?

Female New World Screwworm flies typically mate once in their life cycle. The introduction of sterile males into infestation zones can prevent females from mating with fertile males. Over time, this will cause the population to die off. The FDA is working to approve products that target the fly in the larval stage.

Further Action of USDA

- Establish a screwworm dispersal facility in south Texas by the end of 2025
- Enhance quarantine practices and animal control/inspection checkpoints to ensure animals are free of screwworm infestation before movement
- Regularly update the USDA website with the latest information
- All veterinarians are to be prepared to make extra use label use decisions for approved animal anti-parasitic drugs
 - USDA Accredited veterinarians are required to report any cases of screwworm infestations or they risk losing their accreditation

Actions for Tribal Producers

- Conduct daily vigilant checks of all animals. Especially, after procedures like dehorning or castration. Newborns are at high risk for infestation at the umbilical cord site.
- USDA recommends visiting the FDA webpage for drugs that target the species.

For more information, visit www.aphis.usda.gov