



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE

ANIMAL HEALTH BRANCH

New World Screwworm Detected in Texas

Notification to California Producers and Veterinarians

SACRAMENTO, CA — June 4, 2026: The California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) Animal Health Branch is issuing this notification to California livestock producers and veterinarians in response to a confirmed detection of New World Screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*, NWS) in the United States.

On June 3, 2026, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) **confirmed the presence of NWS in Zavala County, Texas**. The affected animal is a **3-week-old calf** and larvae were identified in its umbilical area. This is the first confirmed detection of NWS in animals in the continental United States since the parasite was eradicated from the U.S.

SITUATION STATUS

At this time, there are **NO confirmed detections of New World Screwworm in California**. CDFA is coordinating closely with USDA APHIS and neighboring state animal health officials to monitor the situation. All California dairies and livestock operations are encouraged to maintain vigilance.

CDFA will issue additional updates as new information becomes available. For the latest CDFA updates, please visit: [CDFA NWS Updates](#)

For national NWS detection data, visit the USDA APHIS website: [USDA APHIS Current Status](#)

For updates on the situation in Texas, including a zone map, please visit: [Texas Animal Health Commission](#)

BACKGROUND

New World Screwworm is a devastating parasitic fly whose larvae (maggots) infest the open wounds of warm-blooded animals, including livestock and wildlife, and in rare cases, humans. Unlike common blow flies, NWS larvae feed on living tissue, which can be fatal if untreated. NWS had been eradicated from the United States, Canada, and Mexico through a sustained sterile insect technique (SIT) program operated by USDA APHIS and partner agencies.

California has significant livestock and wildlife populations at risk. The re-introduction of NWS into the United States represents a serious threat to the agricultural economy and animal welfare.

CURRENT IMPORT REQUIREMENTS TO ENTER CALIFORNIA FROM THE INFECTED ZONE

Consistent with the USDA NWS Continuity of Business Plan and Playbook, the Following Import Requirements Apply to Livestock Coming From an NWS-Infested Zone (Interstate to California)

- **Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (iCVI)** that includes the statement: “All animals were inspected and found free of evidence of NWS infestation.”

- **California entry permit** must be requested from CDFA **at least 48-72 hours before movement**, and the permit number must appear on the iCVI.
- Animals must be **individually inspected for NWS within 5 days of movement** by an authorized inspector (currently this includes accredited veterinarians or regulatory officials).
- Animals must receive a **treatment effective against NWS** by the movement date.
- Animals must have **official individual identification** and originate from a premises with a **validated Premises Identification Number (PIN)**.
- Treatment is not required for animals going directly to slaughter within 72 hours of an inspection.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR PRODUCERS AND VETERINARIANS

All California livestock producers and veterinarians are urged to take the following precautions immediately:

- Inspect all livestock — including cattle, sheep, goats, horses, swine, and other warm-blooded animals — regularly for wounds and for signs of infestation on **mucous membranes**, including the **mouth, eyes, nose, anus, mammary glands, and genitalia**, as well as common wound sites such as the navel (in newborns), dehorning/castration sites, tick bites, and any other open injuries.
- Be alert for signs of NWS infestation, including animals scratching or rubbing at wounds, foul smelling discharge, cream colored larvae in wound tissue, or unusual wound enlargement, and do NOT move potentially infested animals off the premises without first contacting CDFA or USDA APHIS.
- As part of general preparedness, producers may wish to consider strategies to minimize wound risks, such as planning the timing of elective husbandry procedures and strengthening fly control measures.
- Report any suspicious wounds or confirmed/suspected NWS infestations immediately to 866-922-2473.

REPORTING SUSPICIOUS CASES

California producers and veterinarians who observe suspicious wound infestations in livestock or wildlife should contact CDFA immediately. Do not attempt to self-treat suspected NWS cases before consulting with a veterinarian or regulatory official.

INQUIRIES

For public inquiries regarding New World Screwworm in California, please send an e-mail to nicki.humphrey@cdfa.ca.gov or nicholas.kimutis@cdfa.ca.gov or call **866-922-2473**. For media inquiries, please call **916-654-0462** or send an e-mail to OfficeOfPublicAffairs@cdfa.ca.gov.

Follow us on Social Media: Facebook at Animal Health Branch-CDFA and on Instagram at animalhealthbranch_cdfa.