



Goal:

Protect the U.S. livestock industry, economy, food supply, and public health.

While NWS is present in parts of South America, it was eradicated from the United States decades ago, with the exception of a small outbreak in the Florida Keys in 2017.

In recent years, NWS has moved northward through Central America and Mexico. USDA continues to lead intensive surveillance and monitoring systems along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Sterile insect technique, when paired with surveillance, movement restrictions, and education and outreach, is an effective tool for controlling and eradicating New World screwworm.

Scan QR code for more information.



Anyone CAN report suspected cases of NWS

Immediately report any maggots or infestations to a local accredited veterinarian, the Mississippi Board of Animal Health or a USDA veterinarian.

Early detection and elimination is vital.

**ATTENTION
ACCREDITED VETERINARIANS!**

You are legally required to report all diagnosed or suspected cases of a reportable disease to USDA and your State Animal Health Official.

Contact Us

Mississippi Board of Animal Health

www.mbah.ms.gov

msstatevet@mdac.ms.gov

Office: 601-359-1170

After hours: 888-646-8731

New World Screwworm

Essential Information



*A publication of the
Mississippi Board of Animal Health*



NWS in a goat's leg. Photo credit: COPEG

What it affects...

New World screwworm (NWS) myiasis is a serious disease that affects livestock, pets, wildlife, occasionally birds, and in rare cases, people. The disease is most often detected in cattle, swine, horses, small ruminants, and dogs.

Myiasis occurs when NWS fly larvae (maggots) burrow into the flesh of a living animal, causing very painful wounds.

Suceptible areas:

- Castration sites
- Branding sites
- Dehorning sites
- Umbilical area
- External reproductive organs
- Tick bites

What to look for...

- Maggots in wounds or other body openings, such as the nose, ears, and genitalia or the navel of newborn animals
- Wounds that have bloody discharge and foul odor
- Wounds that become deeper and larger as the maggots grow and feed on living tissue
- Animals that are showing signs of pain including depression, irritability, not eating, and isolating themselves from other animals or people



NWS in a horse's leg. Photo credit: COPEG

What they look like...

The adult screwworm fly is about the size of a common housefly (or slightly larger), with orange eyes, a metallic blue or green body, and three dark stripes along its back.

Maggots (larvae) cause extensive damage by tearing at the hosts' tissue with sharp mouth hooks. The wound can quickly become enlarged and deeper as more maggots hatch and feed on living tissue.



Mature NWS Larvae (maggots)



NWS pupae



Closeup of NWS larva, showing mouth hooks

Photo credit: USDA