



NEW WORLD SCREWORM

PREVENTING SCREWORM IN LARGE ANIMALS

- FOR LIVESTOCK OWNERS / HERD MANAGERS -

Risk of Screwworm to Large Animals

The New World Screwworm (NWS) (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) was detected in the United States (Texas and New Mexico) in June 2026. NWS deposits eggs in wounds of live animals causing a serious condition (myiasis) where fly larvae (maggots) consume living animal tissue at the base or edge of the wound causing an increase in wound size and resulting in a painful and rapidly worsening condition that can result in animal death if left untreated.



Check Screwworm Distribution: Use the QR code to the right to determine whether your animals are at risk of screwworm. If screwworm has been recently detected in your state, implement the measures below to help prevent screwworm myiasis in your animals.



Guidelines for Preventing Screwworm Myiasis

- **Husbandry Practices:** When possible, perform husbandry practices that may result in wounds (branding, castration, dehorning, ear-tagging, shearing) during cooler months of the year when adult fly activity is lowest. Fly activity is greatest from late spring through fall.
- **Examine for Wounds:** Regularly check animals for wounds or lesions of any size. Even small wounds can become infested by screwworm which may be difficult to see as the bore deep within the wound.
- **Wound Management:** Follow techniques to promote rapid healing, including use of topical products to stop bleeding and antiseptics and limit bacterial infection. Administer an FDA-approved animal drug for prevention of screwworm. Check wounds daily to ensure they are healing. Minimize opportunities for re-wounding. House animals to minimize wound contamination with dirt, dust, or moisture.
- **Limit Fly Strike:** Apply an insecticide approved for use on animal wounds to prevent egg-laying by screwworm and other blow flies (fly strike) and to kill screwworm larvae that may be in the wound. If possible, cover wounds with non-stick dressing and self-adhering wrap. Check dressing daily and replace as necessary.



** Animal drugs and insecticides approved for use against screwworm can be viewed using the QR code to the left. Check product labels for use restrictions including animal species that may be treated and milk/slaughter withdrawal periods.