NEW WORLD SCREWWORM INFESTED ZONE (IZ) INFORMATION SHEET

WHAT IS AN INFESTED ZONE?

An Infested Zone (IZ) is a regulatory area established around a confirmed New World screwworm (NWS) detection to contain the pest, enhance surveillance, and ensure the safe movement of animals.

An IZ generally has a minimum radius of 20 kilometers (approximately 12.5 miles) around an identified infested premises. The size and shape of the zone may be adjusted based on geography, natural barriers, epidemiological findings, and the location of at-risk animal populations.

Once established, fly trapping and surveillance activities begin or continue throughout the zone.

WHY IS AN INFESTED ZONE ESTABLISHED?

An Infested Zone helps animal health officials:

- Detect additional cases quickly
- Monitor for the presence of adult flies
- Reduce the risk of spread to livestock, pets, wildlife, and other animals
- Ensure animals moving from the area have been inspected and treated as necessary

WHEN CAN AN INFESTED ZONE BE CREATED?

An Infested Zone may be established when:

- New World screwworm larvae are confirmed in livestock
- New World screwworm larvae are confirmed in wildlife
- Adult New World screwworm flies are officially confirmed through trapping

Cases involving companion animals or humans may not result in an Infested Zone if the infestation is determined to be associated with recent travel from an already known infested or endemic area.

WHAT HAPPENS WITHIN AN INFESTED ZONE?

State and federal animal health officials work with affected owners, veterinarians, livestock markets, wildlife agencies, tribal partners, and other stakeholders to:

- Investigate the confirmed case
- Monitor animals for additional wounds or infestations
- Initiate treatment and mitigation measures
- Conduct fly trapping and surveillance
- Perform epidemiological tracing

Public notifications alerts may also be used to provide information about surveillance activities, reporting requirements, animal movement requirements, and other response measures.

ANIMAL MOVEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Movement requirements apply to animals originating within an Infested Zone.

Before animals can move out of the zone, they generally must:

- Be visually inspected within five days of movement
- Be free of visible wounds and evidence of New World screwworm infestation
- Have required official identification
- Receive approved treatment when required
- Meet any applicable waiting period following treatment
- Be accompanied by required movement documentation

Animals from actively infested premises cannot move until they have been inspected and treatment has been initiated.

Movement destinations must be approved by the New Mexico State Veterinarian for intrastate movement and, when applicable, by animal health officials in the receiving state for interstate movement.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Animals leaving an Infested Zone may require a New World Screwworm Movement Certificate documenting:

- Inspection date
- Origin and destination
- Animal identification information
- Number and type of animals moved
- Treatments administered, if applicable
- Certification that animals were inspected and found free of obvious wounds and signs of infestation

HOW LONG DOES AN INFESTED ZONE REMAIN IN PLACE?

Movement requirements and surveillance activities remain in place until animal health officials determine that New World screwworm has been eradicated from the affected area. Under USDA guidance, an Infested Zone generally remains in effect for at least three months (approximately 24 days per life cycle) past the last New World screwworm detection, although the duration may vary based on suitable habitat, environmental conditions, climatic factors, surveillance results, and other epidemiological findings.

This timeframe is outlined on page 24 of the USDA APHIS New World Screwworm Response Playbook.

The exact duration is determined through ongoing surveillance, fly trapping results, and consultation with state and federal animal health officials.

REPORTING SUSPECT CASES

Anyone who observes wounds that are not healing normally, maggots in wounds, foul-smelling lesions, or other signs consistent with New World screwworm should immediately contact animal health officials and avoid moving the affected animal. For additional information and reporting resources, visit ScrewwormNM.org.

NMDA is coordinating with USDA-APHIS, New Mexico Department of Wildlife, New Mexico Department of Health, the New Mexico Livestock Board and NMSU Cooperative Extension Service to raise awareness, increase surveillance, and be prepared for rapid response.