

NEW WORLD SCREWWORM AWARENESS FOR 4-H & FFA LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS



PROTECT YOUR ANIMALS THROUGH DAILY OBSERVATION

WHAT IS NEW WORLD SCREWWORM?

The New World Screwworm (NWS) is a serious pest that affects warm-blooded animals, including cattle, sheep, goats, swine, horses, pets, wildlife, and occasionally people. Unlike common maggots that feed on dead tissue, screwworm larvae feed on living flesh, causing painful wounds that can rapidly worsen if left untreated.

Early detection is critical to protecting your animals and preventing the spread of this pest.

Signs of Possible Screwworm Infestation

Contact your veterinarian immediately if you observe:

- Maggots present in a wound
- A wound that appears larger each day
- Bloody or foul-smelling discharge
- Deep pockets within a wound
- Animals showing signs of pain or discomfort around a wound
- Wounds that are not healing normally

Do not assume all maggots are screwworms. Proper identification is essential!

DAILY INSPECTION CHECKLIST

All 4-H and FFA livestock exhibitors should inspect their animals every day, especially during the summer months and before, during, and after livestock shows.

Check for:

- ✓ Open cuts, scrapes, or wounds
- ✓ Areas around the eyes, ears, nose, mouth, navel, and tail
- ✓ Unusual swelling or irritation
- ✓ Foul-smelling wounds
- ✓ Visible maggots in a wound
- ✓ Animals that seem restless, depressed, or are repeatedly biting, licking, or rubbing a specific area



REMEMBER! →

DAILY OBSERVATION IS YOUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE. EARLY DETECTION AND REPORTING HELP PROTECT YOUR ANIMALS, NEIGHBORING LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS, LIVESTOCK EXHIBITIONS, AND THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY.

IF YOU SUSPECT NEW WORLD SCREWWORM



1. Isolate the animal if possible.
2. Contact your veterinarian immediately.
3. Notify your local County Extension Office.
4. Collect a sample for identification if instructed by your veterinarian or animal health officials.
5. Treat the wound as directed by your veterinarian.



- ✗ Dispose of larvae before a sample is collected.
- ✗ Move the animal to another location, exhibition, or sale.
- ✗ Share equipment with other animals until properly cleaned and disinfected.
- ✗ Delay reporting suspicious wounds.
- ✗ Discard larvae in the soil.

SHOW SMART. INSPECT DAILY. REPORT EARLY.

By practicing good animal husbandry, treating wounds promptly, and conducting daily inspections, 4-H and FFA exhibitors can help protect their animals, fellow exhibitors, and New Mexico's livestock industry.

TREAT WOUNDS PROMPTLY

Proper wound care is one of the best ways to reduce the risk of screwworm infestation.

If an animal has a cut, scrape, surgical site, or other wound:

- ✓ Clean the wound promptly.
- ✓ Follow your veterinarian's recommendations for wound treatment.
- ✓ Apply approved wound care products as directed.
 - <https://screwwormnm.org/screwworm-resources.html> → Animal Drugs for New World Screwworm
- ✓ Monitor the wound daily for signs of infection or unusual healing.
- ✓ Continue checking the wound until it is completely healed.
- ✓ Record any treatments administered.

Fresh wounds attract flies, making daily observation and prompt treatment is especially important.

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENT AND EXHIBITIONS

At this time, livestock movement restrictions apply only to designated infested zones. No additional movement restrictions are currently in place.

4-H and FFA members may continue to:

- Attend jackpot shows
- Participate in livestock exhibitions
- Transport animals to shows and events
- Buy and sell livestock as normal

However, exhibitors are strongly encouraged to:

- ✓ Inspect animals before leaving home.
- ✓ Inspect animals daily while at shows.
- ✓ Check animals again when returning home.
- ✓ Report any suspicious wounds or maggots immediately.

As conditions can change, always stay informed through your veterinarian, County Extension Office, livestock officials, and state animal health authorities.

PREVENTION TIPS

- Inspect animals daily.
- Treat wounds promptly.
- Keep animal housing and facilities clean.
- Use approved fly-control practices.
- Monitor animals closely after tagging, shearing, castration, dehorning, or other procedures that create wounds.
- Report suspicious cases immediately!

NM Awareness



Reporting Form



SAMPLE COLLECTION KITS AVAILABLE

County Extension Offices have screwworm sample collection kits available for livestock producers, and 4-H and FFA exhibitors.

These kits include materials and instructions for collecting and submitting suspect larvae for identification by animal health officials.

Contact your local County Extension Office to:

- Obtain a sample collection kit
- Receive guidance on sample collection
- Learn proper reporting procedures
- Access additional educational resources



QUESTIONS?

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE, VETERINARIAN, OR NM LIVESTOCK BOARD FOR ASSISTANCE.