



NEW WORLD SCREWORM FOR PRODUCERS

WHAT IS IT?



- New World screwworm (NWS) is a parasitic fly whose larvae (maggots) **feed on living tissue**
- Larvae "screw" into wounds or natural body openings of warm-blooded animals, including livestock, horses, pets, wildlife, and people
- Untreated cases can lead to severe wounds, infections, and death
- NWS was eradicated from the US over 50 years ago, but the parasite has recently advanced through Mexico. In June 2026, the US had its first case in a calf in South Texas.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- ***Vigilant screening after travel and rapid reporting are essential to keep Illinois free of NWS***
- Check all animals for:
 - Wounds with larvae: wounds can be any size and as small as a pinhole
 - Foul smell of decay
 - Animal Behavior: headshaking, scratching, depressed, not eating
 - Wounds leaking fluid

If you suspect New World Screwworm

**CALL THE STATE
VETERINARIAN'S OFFICE:**
(217) 872-4944

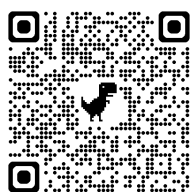
OR

**THE USDA AREA
VETERINARIAN IN CHARGE:**
(217) 547-6030 ASAP

- Provide brief history (including travel), photos, owner information, animal ID, location
- If there are fallen larvae: collect in a sealable container and cover with 70% alcohol or ethanol and keep in a dark place until further instruction



**Help Protect
Illinois Animals
Today & Report!**



USDA "NWS: what
you need to know"



agr.illinois.gov

