



New World Screwworm (NWS)

Frequently Asked Questions

June 11, 2026

1. What animals are affected the most?

- Any warm-blooded animal with an open wound can be infested.

2. Can the NWS infest humans?

- Yes, humans can be infested if an open wound is exposed to any fly that is laying eggs
- Risk factors:
 - Having open, unbandaged wounds or sores with disregard to size
 - Not appropriately cleaning cuts, scrapes, or scratches

3. What are the common symptoms of NWS?

- Open wounds that get worse over time
- Swelling
- Discomfort
- Reduced milk production
- Feeling or seeing maggots within a wound
- Foul smelling odor from the site of the infestation

4. What do I do if I suspect NWS in my livestock?

- Contact state authorities
 - For livestock and pets: Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) 800-550-8242
 - For wildlife: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) 979-255-8481
 - For pets: Notify your veterinarian
- Do not delay in reporting

5. Is the U.S. food supply at risk?

- No, the food supply is not at risk. NWS is not a food safety issue. It only spreads in living animals with wounds, NOT in meat, poultry, or dairy products.

Contact

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