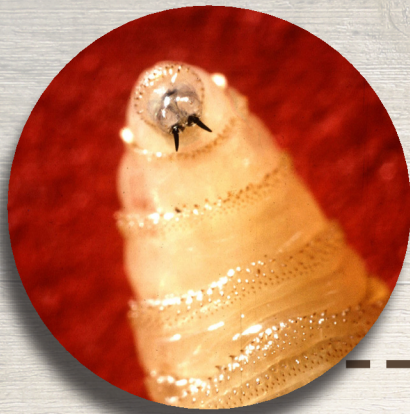




NEW WORLD SCREWWORM

What Producers, Exhibitors and Animal Owners Need to Know

What is New World Screwworm?

The New World screwworm (NWS) is a parasitic fly native to the Western Hemisphere. It lays eggs in the living tissue of fresh wounds and body openings (nose, eyes, ears, mouth and genitals) in warm-blooded animals including swine, horses, sheep, goats, dogs and wildlife such as deer and birds. The name screwworm refers to the maggots' feeding behavior as they burrow (screw) into the wound, feeding as they go like a screw being driven into wood. Maggots cause extensive damage by tearing at the hosts' tissue with sharp mouth hooks. The wound can become larger and deepen as more maggots hatch and feed on living tissue. As a result, NWS can cause serious, sometimes deadly damage to the animal.

New World Screwworm was eradicated in the U.S. in the 1960s. Until June 2023, Panama was considered the biological barrier against NWS for the rest of Central and North America. Since then, the pest has migrated north, primarily through the transportation of NWS maggot-infested animals. NWS was again confirmed in the southern U.S. in June 2026.

Adult screwworm flies are about the size of a common housefly (or slightly larger). They have orange eyes, a metallic blue or green body and three dark stripes along their backs. The flies spend most of their time in forests and other wooded areas.

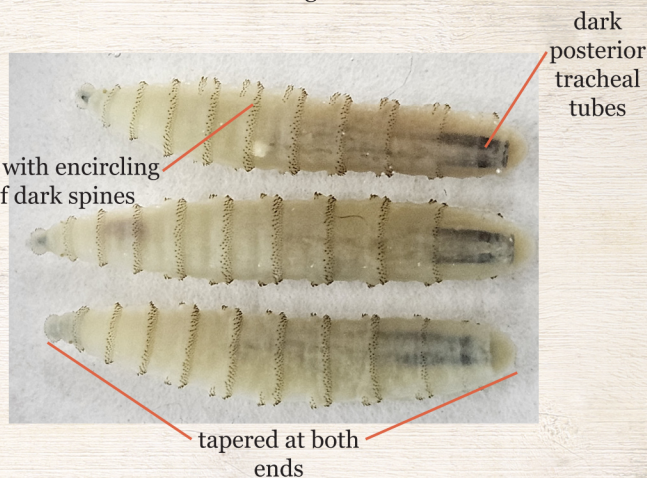
Adult Screwworm Flies

About the size of a common housefly (or slightly larger).



Screwworm Larvae

Burrow into a wound, feeding as they go like a screw driving into wood.



Can an animal infested with New World Screwworm be treated?

Yes, if the infestation is caught early, it is treatable under the advice and care of your veterinarian. Most animals fully recover and food animals safely enter the food supply.

Does New World Screwworm impact food safety?

No. New World Screwworm is not a food safety issue. It is safe to eat properly handled and cooked meat products.

How can producers, exhibitors and animal owners protect their animals?



PREPARE

- Develop and implement strong fly protocol for all animals.
- Develop and implement strong biosecurity measures.
 - ❑ Individually identify animals according to species standards. Record all animal movements on and off the premises.
 - ❑ Purchase animals from premises that practice good biosecurity. Isolate new animals for 21-30 days before introducing them to the herd.
- Clean, treat and cover open wounds.
- Register your farm for a premises ID so the Missouri Department of Agriculture can notify you if NWS is confirmed in your area.
- Develop a strong working relationship with your local veterinarian.
- If NWS is detected in Missouri, delay practices which cause skin openings such as castration, dehorning or branding when possible. Thoroughly treat areas where these practices are performed.

INSPECT

- Regularly monitor animals for signs of infection or maggots, especially around areas of tagging, notching, castration, dehorning, branding, umbilical site, scrapes, lesions, tick-feeding sites and body openings such as nose, eyes, ears, mouth and genitals.
- Exhibitors or anyone traveling with animals are encouraged to inspect animals before leaving home, daily while traveling and after returning home. Follow all state and federal animal movement restrictions, requirements and exhibition rules that apply.
- For animals that have traveled near infested zones, perform additional monitoring for at least 7 days.
- Know the signs:
 - ❑ Bloody or light-colored drainage from a cut or wound.
 - ❑ A cut or wound that rapidly enlarges for seemingly no reason.
 - ❑ White or cream-colored runny substance (the eggs) in and around a wound.
 - ❑ Presence of fly larvae (maggots) in wounds.
 - ❑ Irritated behavior and signs of pain.
 - ❑ Head shaking.
 - ❑ Reduced appetite.
 - ❑ Fever and other signs of secondary infection.
 - ❑ Foul odor or smell of decay.

ACT

If you see an animal with signs of infestation, report it immediately.

- **For livestock:** Contact your local veterinarian or the Missouri Department of Agriculture Animal Health Division at Animal.Health@mda.mo.gov or (573) 751-3377.
- **For pets:** Contact your local veterinarian, who will work with the Missouri Department of Agriculture Animal Health Division.
- **For wildlife:** Contact the Missouri Department of Conservation at (573) 522-0142.

Premises ID Registration



Biosecurity Basics



Current Animal Movement Requirements



For Veterinarians



agriculture.mo.gov/NWS | screwworm.gov | extension.missouri.edu

