

New World Screwworm (NWS) Response

Considerations for Use of Antiparasitic Drugs and Pesticides in Free Ranging Wildlife

April 8, 2026

Note: These procedures may be revised as the situation develops or more information becomes available.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This document provides guidance on USDA recommendations for antiparasitic drugs and pesticides in free ranging wildlife. Additional policy and guidance documents can be found at www.aphis.usda.gov/fadprep. NWS-specific materials can be found on the [NWS FAD PReP site](#).

GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR REGISTERED PRODUCTS

Use of antiparasitic drugs or topical pesticides may be considered in wildlife under some circumstances and would differ in objectives and triggers for use depending on the potentially affected species and the treatment goals. The primary objective in free ranging wildlife is to reduce myiasis in an already affected population until sterile fly releases are possible.

Considerations for use of antiparasitic drugs/pesticides in free ranging wildlife include:

- 1) *Time of year:* Use of antiparasitic drugs may be most impactful during high-risk periods (e.g., spring fawning). However, during other times (e.g., fall), there are limitations on use when antiparasitic exposed animals may be consumed by humans.
- 2) *Environmental impacts:* Broad use of antiparasitic drugs may be limited by the landscape and environment. For example, ivermectin can have severe impacts on aquatic species, limiting use in areas with significant aquatic habitats^{1,2}.
- 3) *Landownership:* Landownership (e.g., tribal) may restrict the use of antiparasitic drugs. Areas with complex landownership, by numerous agencies and private organizations, may also limit the practicability of use.
- 4) *Feasibility:* Successfully targeting delivery of antiparasitic drugs to specific wildlife species while limiting impacts to non-target wildlife needs to be evaluated. Additionally, the ability to achieve a therapeutic dose over a large enough population proportion to meaningfully reduce myiasis needs to be determined.
- 5) *Product indication:* Veterinarians and/or animal owners should use antiparasitic drugs or topical pesticides that are legally marketed with indications for treatment or prevention of NWS in wildlife species.
- 6) *Extra-Label use:* Existing state and federal regulations must be followed for use of products that are not on the label. It is particularly important for veterinarians to be aware of the additional requirements for extralabel use in food-producing animals (e.g., in deer or other wildlife that might be utilized for food) and the requirement to establish a science-based, extended withdrawal period.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[EPA NWS Pesticides](#)

[FDA Animal Drugs for New World Screwworm](#)

[FDA Emergency Use Authorization \(New World Screwworm\)](#)

[Extra-label use of animal drugs](#)

¹ EPA [Impact of Pharmaceuticals Released to the Environment](#)

² EPA [Contaminants of Emerging Concern including Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products](#)