

NWS Response

Disposal and Disinfestation of Animals and Materials

April 8, 2026

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

PURPOSE

This document provides recommendations for the disinfestation of animals and their environment (i.e. soil, stalls, trailers, etc.), and if necessary, the disposal of animal carcasses that must be euthanized or are found dead. Each event will be unique and any suspected NWS cases should be immediately reported to state or federal animal health officials.¹ Additional policy and guidance documents can be found [here](#). NWS-specific materials can be found on the [NWS FAD PReP website](#).

Always comply with State, Federal, Territory, and Tribal environmental regulations regarding pesticide² and drug³ use, rendering, incineration, deep burial and other carcass disposal.

GENERAL GUIDANCE

1) Animals Found Dead

Considerations: Report dead or dying animals that have signs of NWS maggot infestation, including geocoordinates, to state or federal animal/wildlife regulatory authorities. NWS maggots may potentially survive for a few days after an animal dies, continuing to feed before leaving the wound and then burrowing in the soil to pupate. These carcasses should be inspected for signs of maggots or myiasis and disposed of as soon as possible. There are currently no pesticides registered for use against NWS on carcasses. However, if an U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered NWS pesticide for this use becomes available², it should be applied to the carcass to help kill any remaining life stages. If maggots have reached the ground for pupation, if possible, collect and bag the top 2 inches of soil within 1.5 feet surrounding and underneath the carcass for incineration, freezing, or deep burial. Alternately, or in addition, the area immediately surrounding and beneath the carcass may be treated with a pesticide. The pesticide product must be labeled for that use site (i.e., where the product can be applied) and for targeting NWS or the use against NWS must be otherwise allowed under [FIFRA 2\(ee\) regulations](#). A list of potential pesticides for NWS is maintained by EPA. *All chemicals and treatments must be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's product label and local, state, and federal regulations.*

¹ See [NWS Foreign Animal Disease Investigation Guide](#)

² [EPA NWS Pesticides](#)

³ [FDA Animal Drugs for New World Screwworm](#)

Goal: Kill maggots to prevent them from pupating and perpetuating the NWS life cycle.

Alternative option for treating soil in immediate vicinity of a found carcass:

Plastic sheeting can be secured to the ground covering the carcass or where the animal was (see below for carcass removal) to heat the soil, kill pupae, and trap emerging adults. Make sure all life stages of the fly are dead before removing sheeting.

2) Euthanized Animals

Plan for appropriate disposal prior to euthanizing any animal with NWS.

USDA is not expecting widespread depopulation of domestic animals or wildlife during an NWS response. Domestic animals can recover with prompt maggot removal and treatment.

Euthanasia following [AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia of Animals](#) should be considered for individual animals that are unlikely to recover from infestation or in infested wildlife that cannot be treated.

Contained/controlled animals: If the animal is under human control or otherwise contained, euthanasia should be done in an area that can be easily disinfested. Do not give injectable treatments as they will not have time to work and will prolong the animal's suffering. If possible, try to euthanize animals indoors to minimize maggot pupation in the environment. Hard, smooth floors or temporary floor lining, such as a tarp, can be easily cleaned, treated or disposed of after treatment. If outdoors, wrap in plastic sheeting or a bag before moving the carcass.

Free-ranging animals: If the animal is free-ranging, minimize stress to the animal that might cause them to run, potentially spreading pupae over a large area. Once humanely euthanized, wrap the carcass in plastic sheeting or a bag before movement.

If possible, remove/retrieve all visible maggots and eggs before disposal and put them in isopropyl alcohol or ethanol to kill them. Check with animal health authorities about submitting maggots to a lab for confirmation. Otherwise, samples can be held or disposed of once they are dead. Smaller animals could be placed in garbage or carcass bags, double-bagged with bags securely closed.

Carcass Disposal

Ideal disposal: Freeze and/or cremate carcasses

- Freeze carcass: Place animals in a single layer in the freezer so as much of carcass is exposed to freezing temperatures to kill maggots, turning the carcass over if needed. If possible, leave in freezer for a week to ensure all maggots are dead. Freezers containers/space may be purchased or rented to aid in disposal where needed. If the animal is not already bagged, place in bag for further disposal.
- Cremate/Incinerate carcass: Abide by all relevant local, state or tribal regulations for cremation. Burn permits may be required. Consider capacity, throughput, fuel types and who would operate the unit.

Alternative Disposal Options

Deep burial: It is critical that buried carcasses are covered with at least 4 feet of tightly packed dirt to prevent pupae from emerging into flies that could crawl to the surface. A recommendation is to line the hole with at least 2 inches of hydrated lime then coat the carcass in lime before adding and packing dirt. Hydrated lime is often used in the burial of dead animals, absorbing moisture from the carcass creating a drier environment. The combination of lime and moisture generates heat, increases the pH and creates an alkaline condition. This will hasten the decomposition of the carcass but may not kill NWS.

Beware that direct contact with hydrated lime can cause burns. If the animal is euthanized with barbiturates, it should be buried 6-8 ft deep to prevent secondary intoxication to scavengers. Consult local authorities for deep burial following euthanasia with barbiturates as it may not be conducive or permitted in that specific environment.

Disposal Methods to Avoid

- Leaving on landscape to naturally decompose (perpetuates infestation in the environment)
- Landfill, even if bagged
- Composting
- Rendering
- Transportation off premises (unless bagged or otherwise fully contained)

Disposal/Disinfestation of Animal Bedding and Waste

- When feasible and listed as a use site on the pesticide label, animal bedding and waste should be sprayed with pesticide prior to removal, promptly double-bagged, and sealed tightly. All bags should be disposed of as regulated garbage.
- Animal bedding and waste can be bagged and frozen or incinerated as well. Check with local environmental authorities before incineration.
- Holding areas (stalls, stocks, alleyways...etc.), after all waste has been removed, should be sprayed with a larvicidal pesticide according to label instructions, including contact time and then swept out to identify larval or pupal flies. These should be collected and disposed of as previously described.
- Given that there may not be a registered pesticide for soil application, facilities with dirt floors that have held infested animals must not hold new animals for three (3) biological life cycles (90 days). This is to ensure that no pupae in the dirt are hatching into flies. Facilities with concrete floors should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis prior to receiving additional animals.

Once disposal occurs, premises monitoring is recommended. Examples may include fly trapping, wildlife surveillance, and monitoring of domestic animals for myiasis.