



New World Screwworm

Checklist for Management of Premises with Infested Animals

Background

This guide is for owners with animals **confirmed to be infested** with New World screwworm (NWS). The goal of the checklist is to provide guidance on monitoring recovery of infested animals, preventing additional animals from becoming infested, and stopping the NWS life cycle on the premises to the greatest extent possible. Refer to the [NWS Foreign Animal Disease Investigation \(FADI\) Manual](#) for guidance on sampling and submitting specimens.

Contact Numbers

Case Manager (name and number): _____

Local Veterinarian (name and number): _____

VS [Area Veterinarian in Charge](#) (AVIC; name and number): _____

[State Animal Health Official](#) (SAHO; name and number): _____

Owner Responsibilities

1. Complete the NWS epidemiological questionnaire with the Case Manager or assigned state/federal personnel.
2. Notify the SAHO and/or AVIC of any new infestations.
3. Isolate and monitor affected animals until they are fully recovered and their wounds have healed. To prevent spread, do not move these animals off-site; keep in an area for easy access, observation and ongoing treatment.
4. Coordinate with APHIS and the State to appropriately clean and dispose of infested carcasses and materials.
5. Comply with State, Federal and Tribal environmental regulations regarding pesticide and drug use, incineration, deep burial and other carcass disposal.

I, _____, the owner and/or manager acknowledge I have read the above conditions.

Owner Signature: _____

Disposal and Disinfestation

Properly disposing infested carcasses and materials is critical because it:

- 1) **Stops the NWS fly life cycle, 2) Reduces the total NWS population, and 3) Reduces further infestations and spread.**

NWS flies lay eggs in animal wounds, hatch into larvae, fall off the animal, burrow in the ground and pupate. NWS larvae normally pupate in about 1 inch (2-3 cm) of soil, but pupation can occur within organic material (e.g. manure or natural bedding) and protected sites (e.g. cracks and crevices or below bedding materials).

The [Disposal and Disinfestation of Animals and Materials](#) document contains detailed information. Reference the following checklists to ensure all steps have been completed.

Animal Carcass Disposal

- Inspect carcasses for fly eggs or maggots.
 - Retrieve all visible maggots and eggs before disposal and put them in isopropyl alcohol or ethanol.
- Ideally, freeze and/or cremate animal carcasses. If not, bury carcasses with at least 4 feet of tightly packed dirt. Lining the hole with at least 2 inches of lime and coating the carcasses is recommended before adding and packing dirt.

Bedding and Waste

- Gather all animal debris and waste from areas where infested animals have been held.
- Apply an EPA registered NWS animal pesticide¹ to the materials, if feasible and allowable.
- Double-bag the materials and freeze or incinerate.
- Once all waste is removed, when feasible and allowable, apply EPA registered pesticide to the area.
- Animal material that may contain viable pupae, such as manure, should be disposed of in a manner that will kill that stage; incineration is preferred.

¹ See [EPA NWS Pesticides](#)



Animal Management and Husbandry

Monitor animals regularly to catch new infestations early. Untreated screwworm can lead to deep wound infestations and death, and increase fly burden in the area, which puts your and your neighbor's animals at greater risk.

Consult with your veterinarian before initiating new treatments. If you do not intend to move your animals, do not treat animals without wounds unless directed by APHIS, State authorities, or your veterinarian. Improper insecticide use can lead to resistance.

Managing Infested Animals

Work with your local veterinarian to assess new wounds on animals and determine best treatments, such as wound care, topical medications, and/or systemic drugs.

- Apply medications and insecticides to animals according to label or veterinarian's instructions.
- Re-check wounds every two to three days and reapply any treatments as directed until wounds are healed.

Managing Non-infested Animals

- Avoid procedures like dehorning, hot branding, etc. that create wounds, or delay procedures and perform in cooler/colder months.
- Establish a schedule to check/inspect all animals for new wounds at least every three to five days.

- Use preventative insecticides, as directed by your veterinarian, to protect animals from other wound-causing parasites, such as ticks and mosquitoes.
- See Section 4 of the [NWS Response Playbook](#) for managing wildlife on premises with infested animals.

Moving Animals off an Infested Premises

- Do not move infested animals off your premises.
- Do not move any animal, even non-infested, without following Infested Zone movement requirements. Inspection and treatment requirements must be met before moving any animal off your premises.
- Follow all Infested Zone movement requirements before moving non-infested animals off the premises.

Premises Management

Manage your premises to decrease the number of flies that can reproduce, mature and spread. USDA NRCS is also available to provide technical assistance and resources. Reach out to your [Local Service Center](#) for more information.

Land Management

If maggots have reached the ground, if possible, collect and bag the top 2 inches of soil within 1.5 feet surrounding and underneath any carcasses for incineration, freezing, or deep burial.

Alternately, or in addition:

- Treat the area immediately surrounding and beneath the carcass with labeled pesticide.
- Secure plastic sheeting to the ground covering the carcass or where the animal was located. Make sure all life stages of the fly are dead before removing sheeting.
- If an approved pesticide cannot be applied to the soil, facilities with dirt floors that held infested animals should not hold new animals for 90 days.

- Inspect the premises for and remove sharp objects, repair fences, etc. to prevent further wounds.
- After all waste has been removed, spray holding areas (stalls, stocks, alleyways, etc.) with a larvicidal pesticide, according to label instructions and then sweep out to identify, collect and dispose of larvae or pupae.
- Maintain effective fly control around buildings and pastures to minimize NWS risk.

Vehicles and Equipment

- Inspect and clean transport vehicles in areas with concrete or otherwise hard and sealed floors.
- Treat trucks, trailers, and other conveyances used to transport infested animals with insecticide before further use.

Additional Resources

The [NWS FAD PReP website](#) will be updated with new NWS response and policy guidance during the outbreak; please review documents frequently as procedures change. Please also see the [APHIS NWS website](#).

NRCS provides producers with technical assistance and resources to reduce the potential for NWS establishment and risk of infestation and spread, while complementing and supporting APHIS' regulatory and operational response. Integrating [NRCS conservation practices and activities](#) enhances farm readiness, protect livestock health, and strengthen national biosecurity.

If you suspect an NWS infestation, contact your [State Animal Health Official](#) and/or the [APHIS Area Veterinarian in Charge](#).