

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE ANIMAL HEALTH BRANCH

New World Screwworm Detected in Texas & New Mexico

⚠️ UPDATED ENTRY REQUIREMENTS NOW IN EFFECT

CDFA has issued a Statewide Quarantine Order effective June 12, 2026. All animals entering California from an NWS-infested zone, NWS-surveillance zone, or State with an active NWS Infested Zone are now subject to enhanced entry requirements. See details below.

SACRAMENTO, CA — June 12, 2026: The California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) Animal Health Branch is issuing this updated notification to California livestock producers, veterinarians, and animal owners in response to the confirmed detection of New World Screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*, NWS) in the United States and subsequent expansion of confirmed cases.

On June 3, 2026, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) **confirmed the presence of NWS in Zavala County, Texas**. The affected animal was a 3-week-old calf with larvae identified in its umbilical area — the first confirmed detection of NWS in domestic animals in the continental United States since eradication. Since that initial detection, additional cases have been confirmed in Texas and New Mexico.

SITUATION STATUS

At this time, there are **NO confirmed detections of New World Screwworm in California**. CDFA is coordinating closely with USDA APHIS, the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), and neighboring state animal health officials to monitor the evolving situation. All California dairies, livestock operations, and animal owners are encouraged to maintain heightened vigilance.

In response to the ongoing outbreak, the California State Veterinarian has issued a **Statewide Quarantine Order (#STATEWIDE.HQ.NWS) effective June 12, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.** New mandatory entry requirements apply to all warm-blooded animals entering California from affected areas.

For the latest updates, please visit the following resources:

- **CDFA New World Screwworm webpage:** bit.ly/CDFA_NWS
- **USDA APHIS Current NWS Status:** screwworm.gov
- **USDA NWS Zone Map:** bit.ly/USDA_NWSzones
- **Texas Animal Health Commission:** www.tahc.texas.gov
- **New Mexico webpage:** <https://screwwormnm.org/>

BACKGROUND

New World Screwworm is a devastating parasitic fly whose larvae (maggots) infest the open wounds of warm-blooded animals, including livestock and wildlife, and in rare cases, humans ([see historical impact report](#)). Unlike common blow flies, NWS larvae feed on living tissue, which can be fatal if

untreated. NWS was declared eradicated from the United States in 1966 through a sustained sterile insect technique (SIT) program operated by USDA APHIS and partner agencies. California has significant livestock and wildlife populations at risk, and the re-introduction of NWS into the United States represents a serious threat to the agricultural economy and animal welfare.

NEW MANDATORY CALIFORNIA ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Effective June 12, 2026, the following requirements apply to all warm-blooded animals entering California from affected areas, pursuant to the State Veterinarian's Quarantine Order and California Food and Agricultural Code, Sections 9562 and 9564. These requirements are *in addition to* all standard California and federal entry requirements.

Animals known or reasonably suspected to be infested with NWS may not enter California unless specifically authorized by CDFA.

Animals from an NWS-Infested Zone

All livestock, equines, poultry, captive cervids, and companion animals originating from an NWS-infested zone must:

- Be individually inspected by a USDA-accredited veterinarian within **5 days** prior to arrival in California
- Be accompanied by an **electronic Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (eCVI)** containing the statement: "All animals were inspected and found free of evidence of New World Screwworm infestation."
- Be treated with an effective approved NWS treatment (when applicable to the species), administered no more than 14 days prior to arrival
- Have official individual identification and a validated National Premises Identification Number (NPIN) on file
- Obtain a **California Entry Permit** at least 48 hours (preferably 72 hours) before movement
- Travel with all required documents when entering California

Livestock and Poultry from an NWS-Surveillance Zone

Livestock and poultry originating from an NWS-surveillance zone must:

- Be individually inspected by a USDA-accredited veterinarian within **7 days** prior to arrival
- Be accompanied by an eCVI containing the required NWS statement
- Obtain a California Entry Permit at least 48 hours (preferably 72 hours) before movement
- Travel with required documents when entering California

Dairy Calves (6 months of age or younger) from Infested or Surveillance Zones

- Individual inspection within **5 days** prior to arrival
- eCVI with required NWS statement (valid for 5 days)
- Treatment with an approved systemic avermectin product (no more than 14 days prior to arrival)
- Navels of calves less than 3 weeks of age must be treated with an EPA-approved product
- California Entry Permit — permit request with required documentation at least **24 hours** before movement (72 hours preferred)

Equines and Companion Animals from a State with an Active NWS-Infested Zone

- Individual inspection by a USDA-accredited veterinarian within **7 days** prior to arrival
- eCVI with required NWS statement
- California Entry Permit at least 48 hours (preferably 72 hours) before movement

Dogs and Cats Entering from Mexico

- Individual NWS inspection within **5 days** prior to entry into the United States
- Veterinary certificate confirming the animal was inspected and found free of NWS infestation (or, if previously infested, quarantined and treated until free of infestation)
- Dogs must also comply with all applicable USDA import requirements
- California Entry Permit obtained within 5 days prior to entry into California

Key Exemptions

- Livestock moving directly to slaughter: exempt from treatment if slaughter occurs within 72 hours of inspection; eCVI valid for 3 days; diversion prohibited
- NPIP hatching eggs and chicks less than 5 days of age: exempt when moving under VS Form 9-3
- Table eggs: exempt from requirements
- Indoor-raised small mammals (for example hamsters, rabbits, rodents) from an infested zone: exempt from systemic treatment, but must meet inspection, certification, and permit requirements

HOW TO OBTAIN A CALIFORNIA ENTRY PERMIT

Email: NWSpermitting@cdfa.ca.gov | evet@cdfa.ca.gov

Phone: (909) 247-8789

Submit permit requests at least 48 hours before movement (72 hours preferred). Dairy calf movements require documentation at least 24 hours in advance.

Note: Extended Equine Movement Permits, Owner-Shipper Statements, Pasture-to-Pasture Permits, and other alternate movement documents are **not accepted** for animals subject to these NWS requirements unless specifically authorized by the State Veterinarian.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ANIMALS ARRIVE IN CALIFORNIA?

All animals entering California under these requirements must be inspected on arrival at the California destination. Currently, the required inspection can be done by the animal owner/person receiving the animals within 12 hours of arrival in California. If your animal appears to be sick or presents clinical signs of NWS, such as any larvae or foul-smelling wounds being detected, contact your veterinarian immediately for an examination, and notify CDFA within 24 hours of observation.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR PRODUCERS AND VETERINARIANS

All California livestock producers and veterinarians are urged to take the following precautions:

- Regularly inspect all livestock — cattle, sheep, goats, horses, swine, and other warm-blooded animals — for wounds and signs of infestation on mucous membranes, including the mouth,

eyes, nose, anus, mammary glands, and genitalia, as well as common wound sites such as the navel (in newborns), dehorning/castration sites, tick bites, and other open injuries

- Be alert for signs of NWS infestation: animals scratching or rubbing at wounds, foul-smelling discharge, cream-colored larvae in wound tissue, or unusual wound enlargement
- Do NOT move potentially infested animals off premises without first contacting CDFA or USDA APHIS
- Consider strategies to minimize wound risk, such as planning the timing of elective husbandry procedures and strengthening fly control measures
- Report any suspicious wounds or confirmed/suspected NWS infestations immediately to **866-922-2473**

REPORTING SUSPICIOUS CASES

California producers and veterinarians who observe suspicious wound infestations in livestock or wildlife should contact CDFA immediately. Do not attempt to self-treat suspected NWS cases before consulting with a veterinarian or regulatory official.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS CASES IMMEDIATELY

Phone: **866-922-2473**

Email: NWSinfo@cdfa.ca.gov

INQUIRIES

For general inquiries regarding New World Screwworm in California:

- Email: NWSinfo@cdfa.ca.gov
- Phone: **866-922-2473**

For media inquiries: 916-654-0462 or OfficeOfPublicAffairs@cdfa.ca.gov

Follow us on social media: *Facebook: Animal Health Branch-CDFA* | *Instagram: @animalhealthbranch_cdfa*

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- **CDFA NWS Entry Requirements:** [Entry Requirements](#)
- **CDFA NWS Entry Requirements FAQ:** [Entry Requirements FAQ](#)
- **CDFA Entry Permit Information:** cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health/Entry_Requirements.html
- **USDA APHIS NWS Webpage:** screwworm.gov
- **USDA NWS Zone Map:** bit.ly/USDA_NWSzones
- **Texas Animal Health Commission:** tahc.texas.gov
- **Texas Infested Zone:** [Map](#)
- **New Mexico webpage:** <https://screwwormnm.org/>
- **New Mexico Infest Zone:** [Map](#)

Additional entry requirements help protect California animals, agriculture, and communities.