



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Protect Your Livestock Against New World Screwworm



Check Daily. Report Early. Prevent Spread.

What is New World Screwworm?

New world screwworm (NWS) is a dangerous fly pest whose maggots feed on living flesh of animals. Flies lay eggs in open wounds. Maggots hatch quickly and can cause severe damage. All livestock are at risk: cattle, sheep, goats, horses, and more.



What To Look For:

- Open wounds that won't heal
- Bloody or oozing discharge
- Strong, foul smell
- Maggots in or around wounds



Act Immediately

If you see maggots in a wound, isolate the animal immediately and contact your veterinarian. Moving animals can spread the pest quickly.

High-Risk Situations

- Branding, castration, dehorning
- Calving/lambing (navels)
- Injuries or predator wounds
- Transport or sale events

Prevention

Prevention is your best defense against NWS. Best prevention practices include checking animals daily, especially during fly season, treating all wounds immediately, removing manure and reducing fly breeding areas, and fly control.

What Happens If NWS Is Detected in Arkansas?

If NWS is detected in Arkansas, animal movement near the detection will be restricted. State and federal teams will coordinate a response to contain and eliminate the pest.

Find additional resources from the U.S. Department of Agriculture by scanning this QR code or going to [screwworm.gov](https://www.screwworm.gov).

