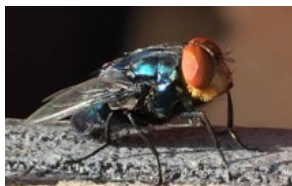




ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



New World Screwworm

Early detection and reporting are critical to protect Arkansas livestock and companion animals.

What is NWS?

New world screwworm (NWS) is a parasitic fly whose larvae infest living tissue of warm-blooded animals. Eggs are laid in wounds; larvae hatch within hours and cause severe damage if untreated. All animals are at risk: livestock and companion animals alike.

What To Watch For

- High-Risk Situations: Wounds, surgery, birthing, branding, and transport stress.
- Signs: Foul-smelling wounds, discharge, tissue damage, and visible larvae.
- Animals may show lethargy, pain, and reduced appetite.

If You Suspect NWS

1. Report immediately to the Arkansas Department of Agriculture.
2. Do not move animals from the premises.
3. Isolate affected animals.
4. Follow state and federal guidance for sample submission.



Prevention

Prevention is the best defense against NWS. Best prevention practices include monitoring animals daily, especially during fly season, promptly treating all wounds, implementing fly control measures, maintaining sanitation, and reducing environmental attractants.

Regulatory Response

If NWS is confirmed in Arkansas, state and federal officials will implement premises quarantines and movement restrictions. Infested and surveillance zones will be designated, and a coordinated response will be activated to contain and eradicate the pest.

Additional Resources

- American Veterinary Medical Association
<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/one-health/veterinarians-and-public-health/new-world-screwworm>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
<https://www.screwworm.gov>
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration
<https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/safety-health/new-world-screwworm-information-veterinarians>