



Building your no-fly-zone for New World Screwworm



What is New World Screwworm (NWS)?

A pest. The New World Screwworm fly doesn't necessarily cause any direct damage to animals, it's the larvae the female flies lay on animals that are destructive. The "screw" part of the name comes from the maggots behavior of burrowing deeper into the host animal's skin as it matures.

Why does it matter in Minnesota?

The NWS is a threat anywhere it has available hosts and can survive to spread to the next life cycle. With long haul animal movements spanning across the country it doesn't take much for the fly or its larvae to accidentally end up in Minnesota. While we have the protection of Old Man Winter in January, the fly is capable of surviving and spreading during our warmer months, which is when farmers and livestock haulers need to be alert.

How can little larvae harm a 1,000-pound steer?



Source: CDC

The NWS larvae feed on living tissue, which is different than many other types of maggots. This means the animal becomes more susceptible to a secondary infection because bacteria and germs have a much quicker pathway into the animal. Additionally, large infestations can weaken an animal enough to make it susceptible to other issues or illnesses. Even though cattle are most closely associated with NWS, the fly can lay its larvae on any open wound and people and pets are also at risk.

How do you protect the herd?

Prevention for flies and a keen eye are the best ways to prevent NWS from affecting your herd or entering our state. Fly dips and sprays are a good method for livestock and spotting and treating open wounds quickly also helps. If you're importing animals be sure to do a spot check when you're loading/unloading.

Additional Information:

[USDA's NWS brochure \(https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/bro-new-world-screwworm.pdf\)](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/bro-new-world-screwworm.pdf)

