



EXTENSION



# NEW WORLD SCREWWORM

*What you need to know*

## WHAT IS NEW WORLD SCREWWORM?

- A parasitic fly whose larvae feed on living tissue, not dead tissue
- This is not a new fly species; it refers to the New World (North, Central and South America)
- Eggs are laid in open wounds or body openings
- Larvae quickly burrow causing severe damage
- Infestations can lead to rapid animal decline and death if untreated

## WHY IT MATTERS

- Larvae destroy healthy tissue, enlarging wounds rapidly
- Animals can decline and die within days to weeks if untreated
- Potential major economic impact to livestock industries and rural economies

## FOR MORE INFO

Scan the code to visit the OSU Extension New World screwworm website  
[screwworm.okstate.edu](http://screwworm.okstate.edu)



## CONTACTS

### Jonathan Cammack

Extension Specialist for Livestock Entomology and Parasitology, OSU Extension

### Rosslyn Biggs, DVM

Extension Veterinarian, OSU Extension

### NWS service email

[screwworm@okstate.edu](mailto:screwworm@okstate.edu)

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF)

405-522-6141

### USDA Wildlife Services

866-487-3297



## HOW IT SPREADS

- Female flies are attracted to even small wounds (cuts, insect bites, surgical sites)
- Each female may lay hundreds of eggs at a time
- Larvae feed for several days, then drop to the soil to pupate and continue the cycle

## INSPECT

Look for these signs:

- Foul-smelling wounds that worsen quickly
- Visible maggots in wounds
- Licking, biting or protecting a wound, restlessness or unusual behavior
- Lesions at navels (newborns), branding/dehorning/castration sites, ear tags or tick bites

Check animals frequently, especially:

- Newborns (umbilical area)
- Recently processed animals
- Any animal with wounds

## PREVENT

- Treat wounds immediately
- Maintain clean facilities and safe handling practices
- Minimize elective procedures that create wounds (castration, dehorning, branding)
- Maintain a strong veterinary-client-patient relationship

## RESPOND

- Contact your veterinarian or county OSU Extension office immediately
- Isolate suspected animals
- Do not move animals off-site
- Early action is critical to prevent spread

## REPORT

- For livestock or pets, contact your local veterinarian or the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF)
- OSU Extension specialists and county OSU Extension educators are available to help
- For wild animals, contact your local USDA Wildlife Services office

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER REPORTING

Authorities implement:

- Quarantines, inspections and movement controls
- Active surveillance and trapping
- Sterile fly releases to stop reproduction

**The U.S. eliminated screwworm before using these tools and it can be done again.**

**Visit [screwworm.okstate.edu](http://screwworm.okstate.edu)**

Oklahoma State University, as an equal opportunity employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination. Oklahoma State University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all individuals and does not discriminate based on race, religion, age, sex, color, national origin, marital status, disability, or veteran status with regard to employment, educational programs and activities, and/or admissions.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director of Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This publication is printed and issued by Oklahoma State University as authorized by the Vice President for Agricultural Programs and has been prepared and distributed at a cost of 20 cents per copy.