New World Screwworm Update

New World Screwworm

New World Screwworm (NWS) is a species of parasitic larvae of the NWS fly (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) that burrows into the living flesh of warm-blooded animals.

It primarily affects livestock, but it can infest people, pets, and wildlife, including birds.

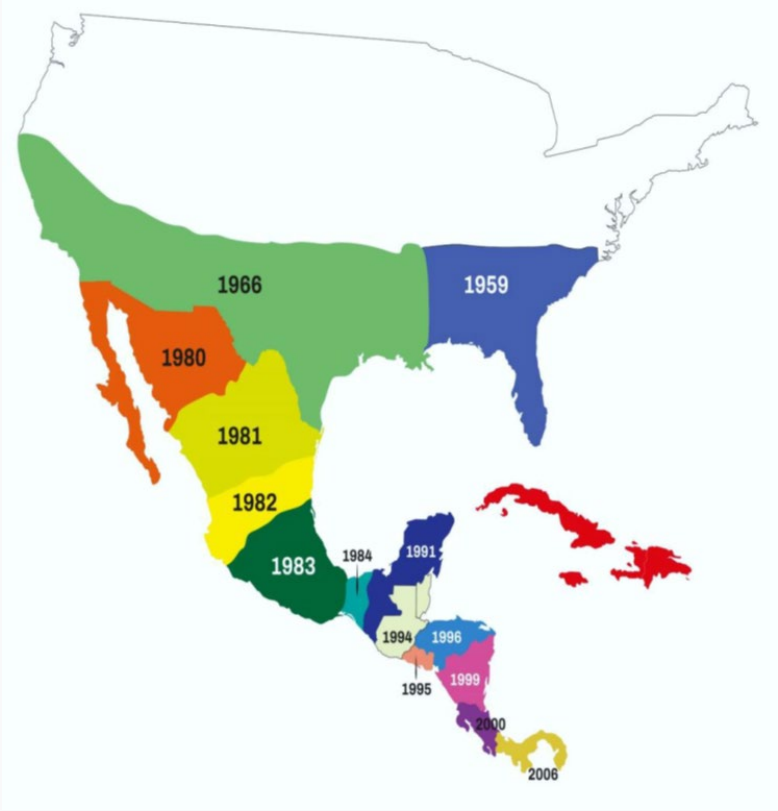
NWS is typically found in South America and the Caribbean.

New World Screwworm

- Screwworm infestations begin when a female fly lays eggs on a wound or orifice of a live warm-blooded animal.
- Wounds as small as a tick bite may attract a female to feed. One female can lay up to 3,000 eggs in her lifespan (10-30 d); hatch within 24 hours.
- After about 7 days of feeding, larvae drop to the ground, burrow into the soil, and pupate.
- Emerge up to 2 months later as adult.

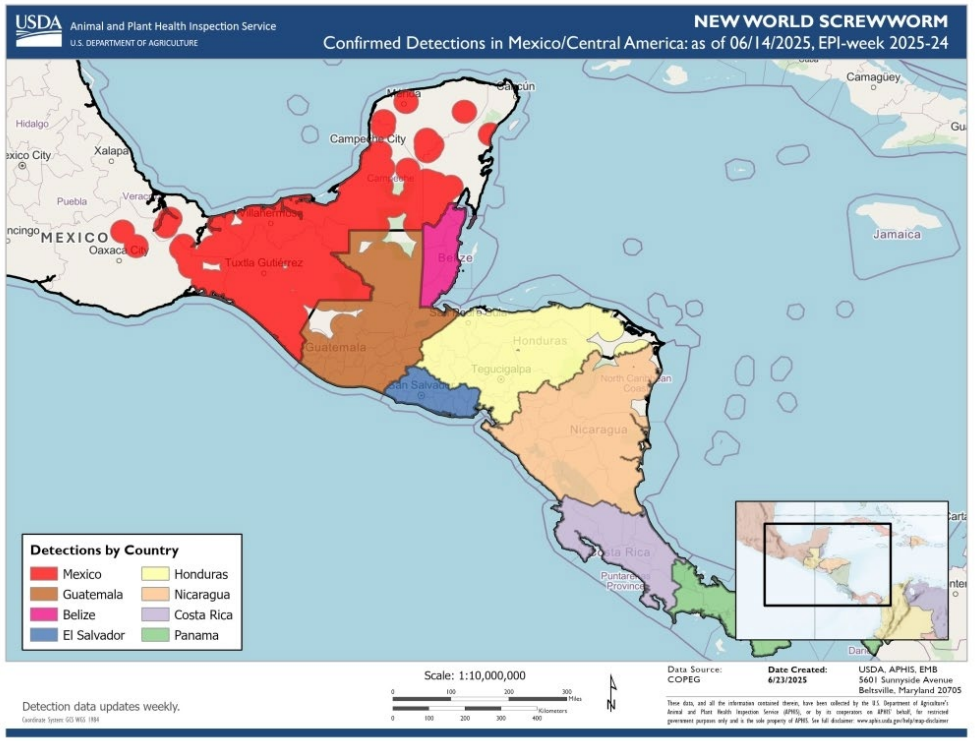
Eradication of NWS

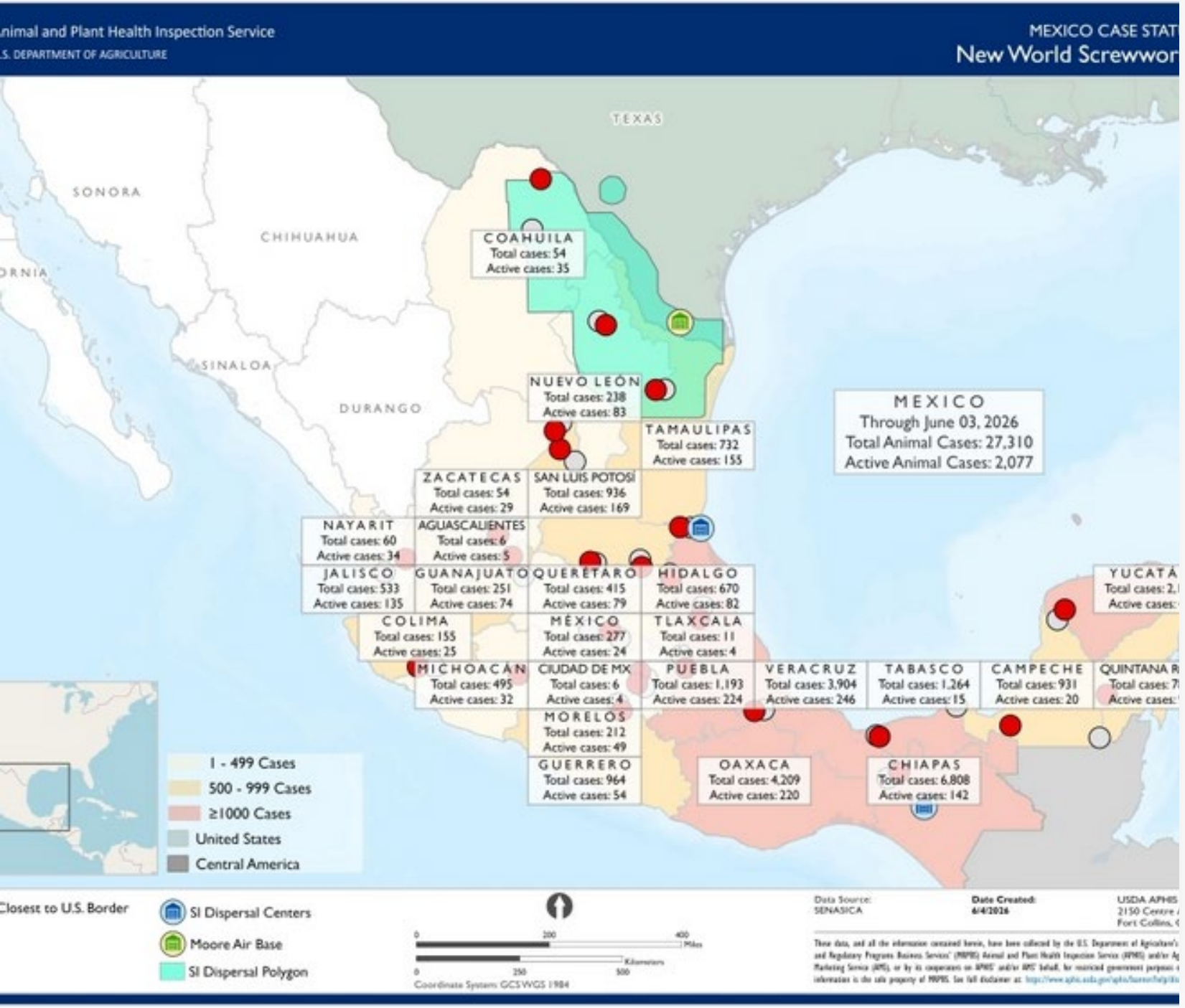
HISTORICAL CASES SEEN IN US FLORIDA KEYS



Background

- February 2023 – Panama reported an increase in cases
- July 2023 – Panama, Costa Rica
- March 2024 – Nicaragua
- September 2024 – Honduras
- October 2024 – Guatemala
- November 2024 – Mexico
- December 2024 – El Salvador and Belize





Situation In Mexico

- **First diagnosed case in Mexico on November 21, 2024**
- **As of June 5 , there were over 27,721 cases in Mexico (approx. 2,024 active cases).**
- **Majority of cases are in cattle; smaller number of cases reported in horses, pigs, dogs, sheep/goats.**
- **Most infestations are found in the navel or secondary to trauma, dehorning, or tagging**

USDA Confirms First Case of New World Screwworm in a Dog in Lea County, New Mexico, Fourth Case in Texas

Print

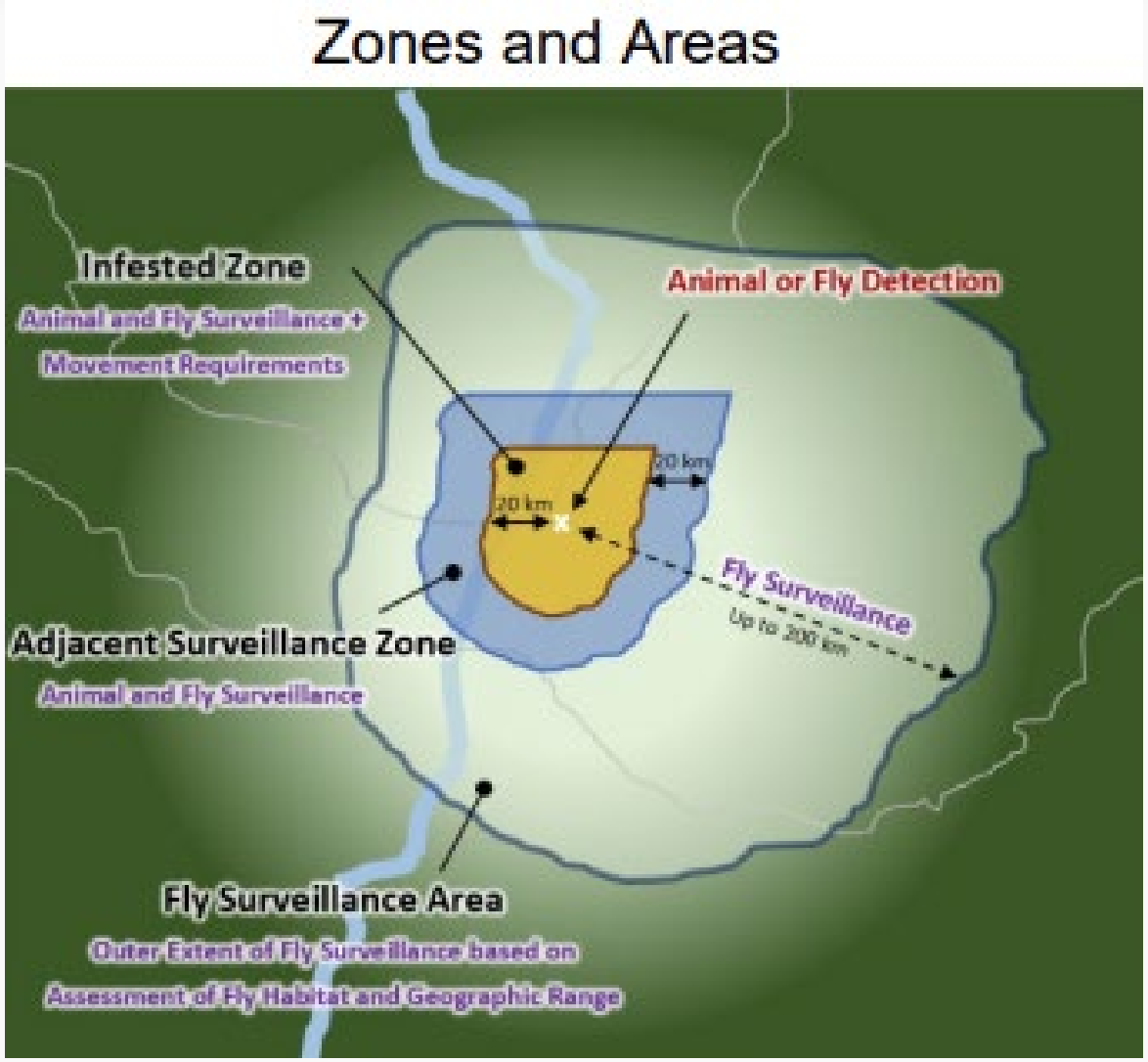
The New Mexico case was previously reported in Andrews County, Texas

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 8, 2026 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is sharing additional details about the epidemiological investigation into the case that was reported earlier today in Andrews County, Texas. While the veterinarian who reported the case is located in Texas, the dog resides at a household in Lea County, New Mexico. Therefore, the location of the case will be reclassified to be the first case detected in New Mexico.

This is believed to be an isolated case; however, because the dog's recent travel and exposure history remain unknown, USDA and state partners have initiated inspection of additional animals in the dog's home and increased outreach in the area while continuing to investigate the animal's movement history.

The plan in New Mexico

- Upon confirmation (possibly presumptive) of NWS in NM
  - Establish 20km (~12.4mi) radius circle or polygon
    - Called the Infested Zone (IZ)
      - Movement controls within IZ for livestock
        - Depends on commodity class (*i.e.* slaughter/show/sale)
      - Potential for mandatory treatment for animals on an infested premises (or within 20km IZ)
      - Area trapping and surveillance
- Stop the Spread
  - Visualize livestock
  - MOVEMENT CONTROL creates BOTTLENECKS
    - Movement with written permit only
    - Mandatory treatment and identification



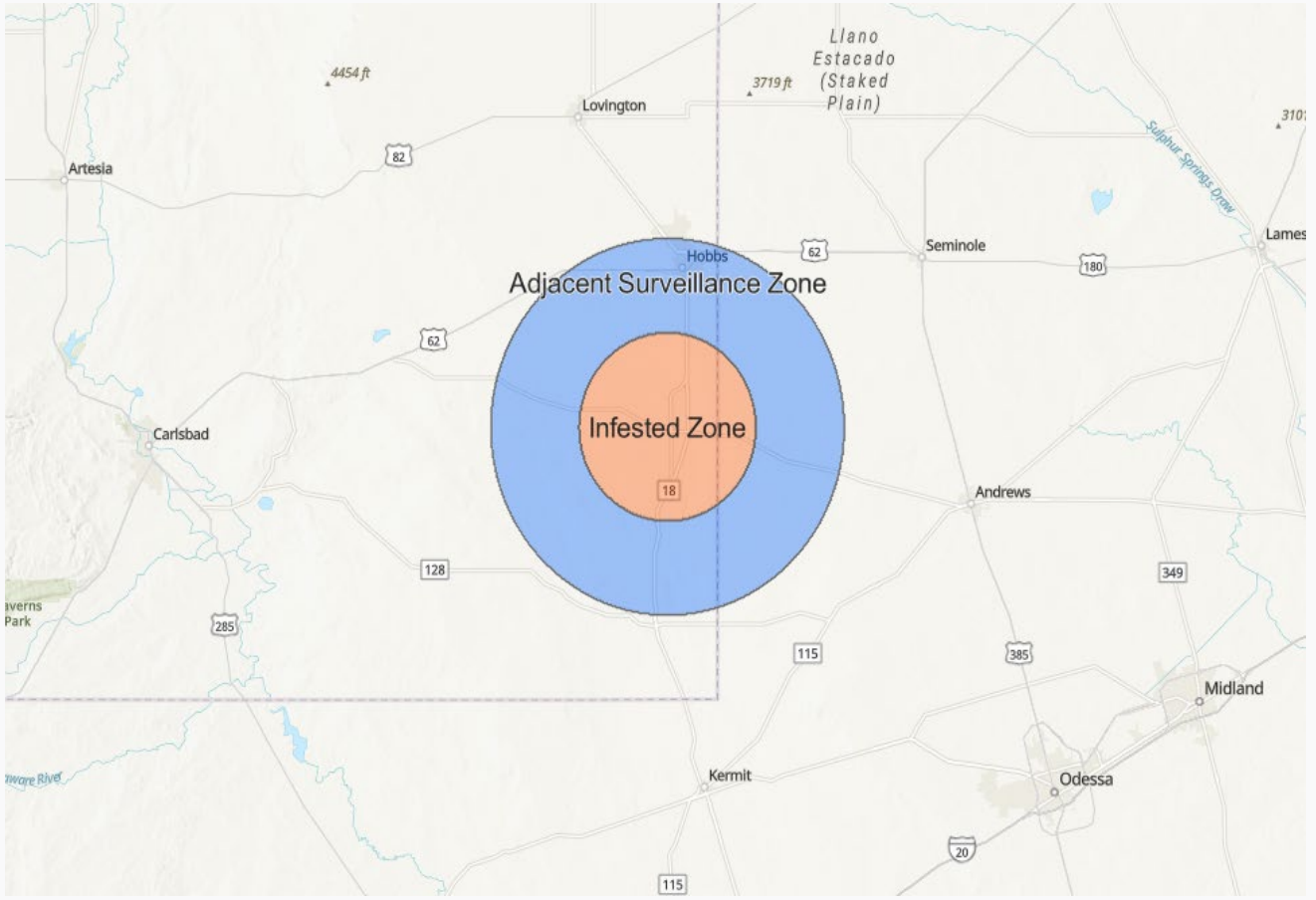
U.S. Response on the Ground

Movement Control

- **20 km (12-mile) infested zone** around detection -animal **movement restrictions** in affected area
- Intensified:
  - Fly trapping grid
  - Wildlife surveillance
  - Premises inspections

This Is about **Containment**

- The response is:
  - Immediate
  - Heavily resourced
  - Modeled on proven eradication strategy
- Success depends on: Rapid detection + reporting
- Producer vigilance = front line defense



U.S. Response on the Ground

Animal Movement Requirements

Movement requirements apply to animals originating within an Infested Zone.

Before animals can move within or out of the zone, they generally must:

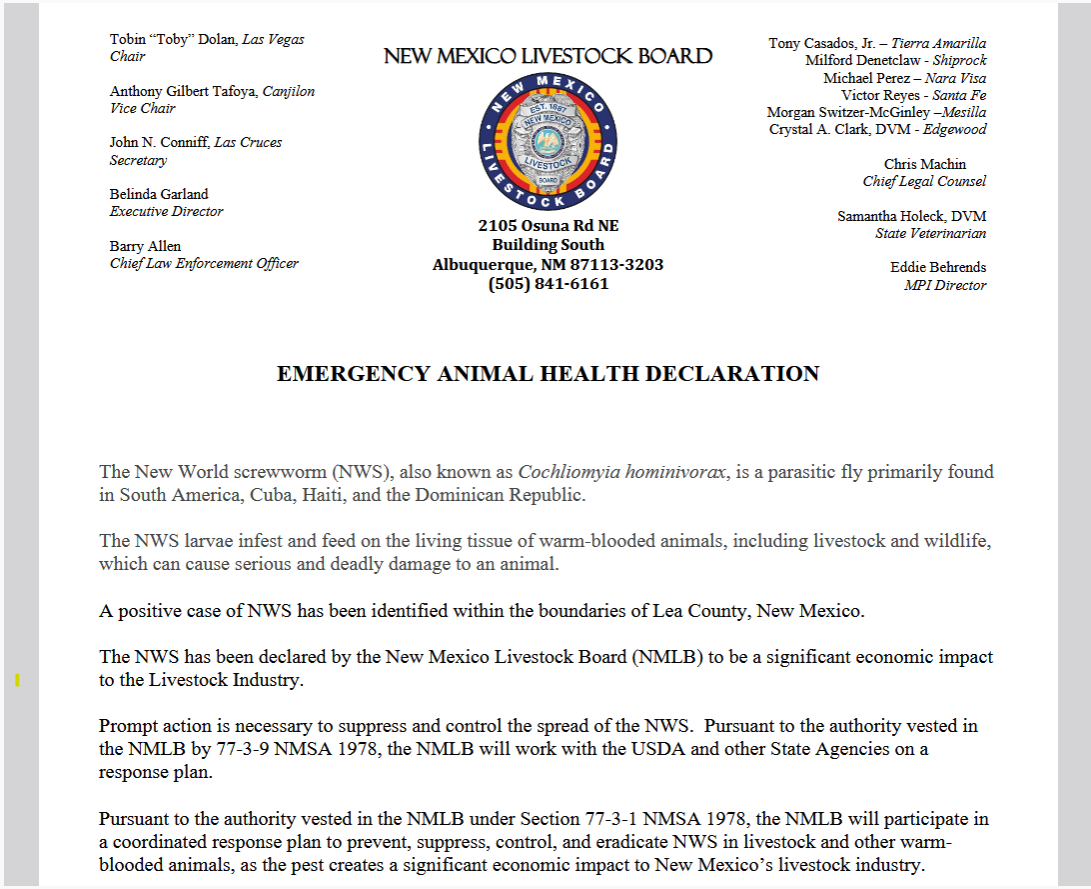
- Be visually inspected within five days of movement
- Be free of visible wounds and evidence of New World screwworm infestation
- Have required official identification
- Receive approved treatment when required
- Meet any applicable waiting period following treatment
- Be accompanied by required movement documentation

Animals from actively infested premises cannot move until they have been inspected and treatment has been initiated.

Movement destinations must be approved by the New Mexico State Veterinarian for intrastate movement and, when applicable, by animal health officials in the receiving state for interstate movement.

U.S. Response on the Ground

- **Activates emergency response systems**
  - Turns on coordinated response plans and incident management
- **Allows control measures on animals and movement**
  - Establishes **infested zones**
  - Requires inspection/treatment before animals can move
  - Can restrict or stop movement of animals to prevent spread
- **Authorizes disease/pest control operations**
  - Surveillance (testing, trapping, inspections)
  - Control/eradication (e.g., insect control, treatment programs)
  - Field investigations and monitoring



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EMERGENCY ANIMAL HEALTH DECLARATION

The New World screwworm (NWS), also known as *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, is a parasitic fly primarily found in South America, Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic.

The NWS larvae infest and feed on the living tissue of warm-blooded animals, including livestock and wildlife, which can cause serious and deadly damage to an animal.

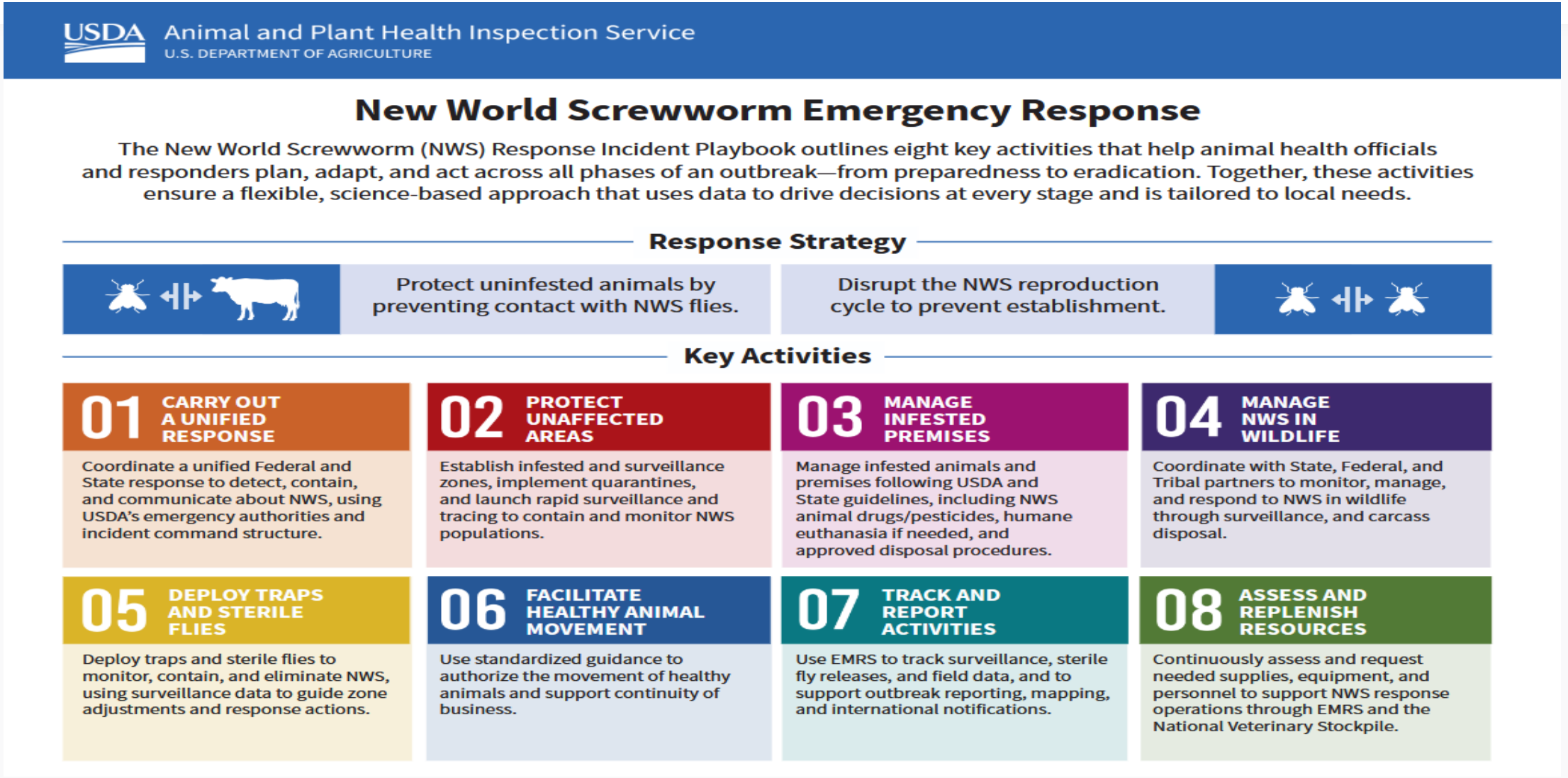
A positive case of NWS has been identified within the boundaries of Lea County, New Mexico.

The NWS has been declared by the New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB) to be a significant economic impact to the Livestock Industry.

Prompt action is necessary to suppress and control the spread of the NWS. Pursuant to the authority vested in the NMLB by 77-3-9 NMSA 1978, the NMLB will work with the USDA and other State Agencies on a response plan.

Pursuant to the authority vested in the NMLB under Section 77-3-1 NMSA 1978, the NMLB will participate in a coordinated response plan to prevent, suppress, control, and eradicate NWS in livestock and other warm-blooded animals, as the pest creates a significant economic impact to New Mexico's livestock industry.

U.S. Response on the Ground



What Producers Need To Do

- **Be Alert, Not Alarmed –** The road ahead will not be without difficulty, but our commitment remains strong.
- **Watch & Act Fast**
  - Inspect cattle **frequently (especially wounds & calves)**
  - Treat **all wounds immediately**
  - Look for:
    - Maggots in wounds
    - Foul odor, worsening lesions
- Get a Premises ID
- **Report Immediately**
  - Suspected cases → **call the NMLB or visit screwwormnm.org**
- 1 untreated wound = potential outbreak source
- Early detection = stops spread

What Producers Need To Do

- **Increase trapping in SE NM**
  - We area looking to work with producers to put out fly traps in select area.

- Any management activities such as **branding and processing calves need to be wrapped up ASAP** to give animals time to heal.
  - But also consider the umbilical wound in a 3 week old calf.....

- There is **no need** to administer preventatives for NWS now.
  - HOWEVER… Do **consider tick and fly control** in your herds. Wounds caused by ticks, lice, and other typical flies we see on cattle and horses will make your livestock vulnerable. Good ectoparasite control now will protect your herd later.

Questions?

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