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Resumption of equine imports from Mexico after New World Screwworm detection

Effective January 21, 2025, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will again permit the importation of equines from Mexico with additional mitigations to guard against introduction of New World Screwworm (NWS). APHIS temporarily suspended livestock imports from Mexico after that country detected NWS on November 22, 2024. NWS (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) is a devastating pest that can cause serious, often deadly damage to the affected animal.

APHIS and Mexico's National Service for Health, Safety, and Food Quality (SENASICA) have now developed an import protocol that details a stepwise NWS pre-clearance inspection and treatment plan based on APHIS regulations for importation of equines from NWS-affected regions. Equines will also undergo screwworm examinations during the required import quarantine. The protocol and associated health certification documents are available on the APHIS website.

In summary, equines must be inspected by an approved veterinarian for evidence of NWS infestation and treated with ivermectin or an equivalent APHIS-approved product within 3-5 days prior to entry into import quarantine. Oral ivermectin paste that is formulated for horses and administered per the manufacturer's label may be used instead of injectable ivermectin. In addition, the equines must be inspected under direct supervision of a SENASICA veterinarian within 24 hours prior to entry into import quarantine and any visible wounds treated at that time. Certification of

both inspections must be presented at the time of importation. APHIS will examine the equines for NWS on the first and last days of the 7-day import quarantine. Animals with evidence of NWS infestation at any point in the process are not eligible to import until they are treated, wounds are healed, and they are found free of NWS.

Please contact LAIPolicy@usda.gov with any questions regarding this announcement.

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