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USDA Confirms New World Screwworm in Arizona

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WASHINGTON, D.C., October 28, 2026—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed a case of New World screwworm (NWS) in a dog in Cochise County, Arizona. This is the first detection of NWS in Arizona.

Samples from the dog were tested and confirmed at the APHIS National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa. APHIS is working closely with the Arizona Department of Agriculture on a joint response.

New World screwworm is a serious pest that affects livestock, pets, wildlife, and, less commonly, people. The larvae feed on living tissue and can cause severe wounds, animal suffering, and significant economic impacts if not detected and treated quickly.

APHIS and Arizona animal health officials are implementing response activities outlined in the APHIS NWS Response Playbook, including:

- Establishing a 20-km infested zone around the latest detection implementing animal movement controls for the area

- Increasing live animal surveillance and trapping
- Releasing sterile flies
- Implementing targeted outreach to local producers, veterinarians, and communities

Guidance for Pet and Livestock Owners

USDA urges animal owners in the area to inspect animals daily for:

- Draining or enlarging wounds;
- Maggots or egg masses in wounds;
- Signs of discomfort or irritability; and
- Lesions around body openings, including the ears, nose, genital area, and umbilicus.

Anyone who suspects an infestation should immediately contact a veterinarian, state animal health official, or USDA. Information about reporting suspect cases is available on the USDA NWS reporting page.

A complete list of confirmed NWS detections in the United States is available on USDA's public dashboard at screwworm.gov under "Current Status." The dashboard is updated daily at 6:00 p.m. ET.

Additional information about New World screwworm, prevention, reporting, and current response efforts is available at screwworm.gov.

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