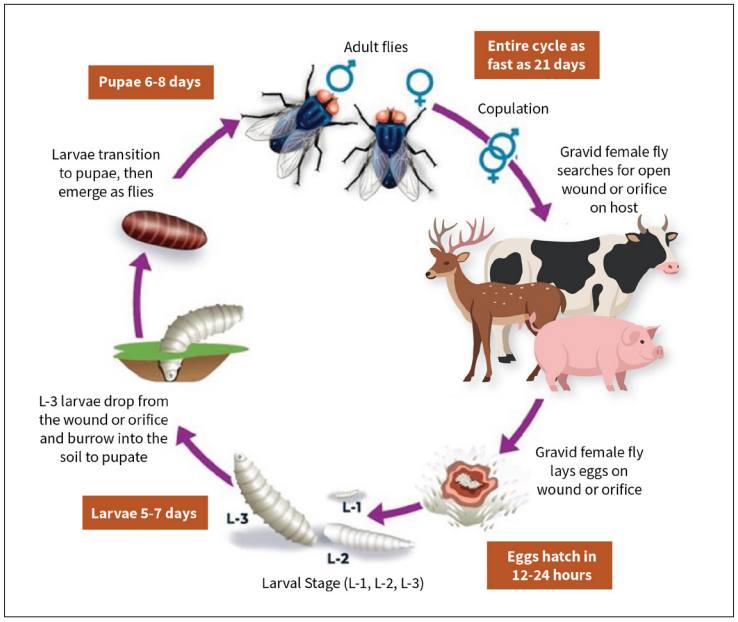
New World Screwworm: What Tribal Communities Need To Know

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) works with Tribes, States, producers, veterinarians, and wildlife partners to prevent, detect, and respond to animal diseases and pests that threaten livestock, wildlife, pets, and agricultural resources. One of these threats is New World screwworm (NWS).

About NWS

NWS is a serious pest that affects livestock, wildlife, pets, and in rare cases, people and birds. Early detection and rapid reporting are critical to protecting Tribal lands, livestock operations, wildlife populations, subsistence resources, and local economies.

Adult screwworm flies are about the size of a common housefly or slightly larger. Their larvae (maggots) feed on the living tissue of warm-blooded animals. Female flies lay eggs in wounds, and the maggots burrow into the flesh, causing severe tissue damage.





Key Facts

- NWS is a pest, not a virus.
- It is not contagious. It doesn't spread between animals or from animals to people.
- NWS is treatable. Animals recover fully when infestations are promptly treated.
- Untreated infestations can be fatal to livestock, wildlife, pets, and people.
- The U.S. food supply is safe. NWS is not a food safety issue. It is not spread through meat, poultry, or dairy products.
- Reporting suspected cases quickly helps ensure rapid response and access to assistance.

How Infestations Occur

Infestations begin when a female fly lays eggs on a wound or body opening. After hatching, the larvae burrow into the wound and feed on living tissue.

NWS can infest many types of wounds, including tick bites, cuts, and dehorning or branding wounds.

Infestations are also common in the navels of newborn animals and the genital areas of animals that have recently given birth.

Signs To Watch For

Regularly check livestock, pets, and other warm-blooded animals for:

- Maggots or white egg masses in wounds or body openings, including the nose, ears, eyes, genital area, or the navel of newborn animals
- A foul odor or smell of decay
- Signs of pain or distress, such as irritation, depression, not eating, or isolation from other animals or people

Many fly species look like screwworm flies. An actual NWS fly may be a harmless sterile fly released as part of eradication efforts. For this reason, you should report suspicious wounds and infestations, **not** the flies themselves.

If You Suspect NWS

Report Immediately!

If your Tribe has a Tribal veterinarian or another animal health authority, contact them first.

If no Tribal animal health authority is available, report suspected cases to:

- The closest State Veterinarian, or
- The APHIS Veterinary Services office near you.

For State and APHIS contacts, visit www.aphis.usda.gov/report-screwworm.



Learn More

For more information about USDA's response to screwworm, current case information, and reporting resources, visit screwworm.gov.

For information on how NWS affects people or to report suspected human cases, visit www.cdc.gov/new-world-screwworm/about.

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