

# New World Screwworm Current Outbreak

*November 2, 2024*

## Current Outbreak Economic Expenditures

The eradication of New World screwworms (NWS) provides approximately \$1 billion in direct benefits to US livestock producers and approximately \$3.7 billion in benefits to the general economy annually. These benefits include increased production of meat and milk; decreased death losses, veterinary costs, and labor costs in livestock production; and increased health status of wildlife populations.

Type of Funds Expended	Approximate Am	Time
USDA Emergency Funds Released	\$109.8 million	December 2023
Eradication Effort Costs (including sterile fly production)	\$54 million	Summer 2023 – October 2024

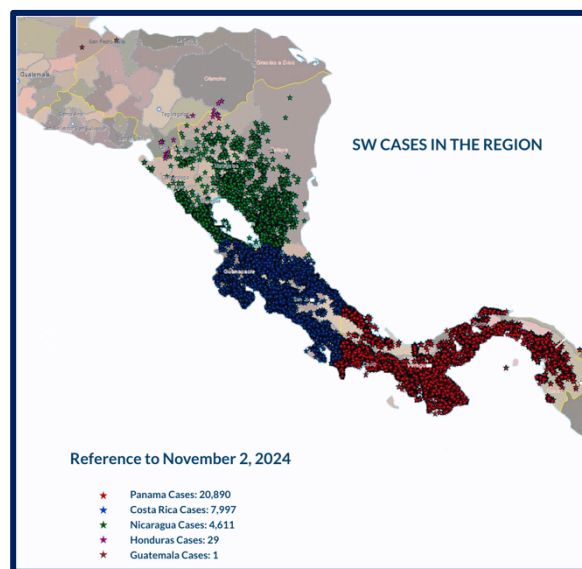
## Geographic Impact

Costa Rica declared a NWS national emergency in February 2024. Since February, NWS was detected in Nicaragua, Honduras, and most recently Guatemala. Given the ease with which NWS larvae are moved by infested wildlife and livestock and the rapid progression of NWS into free areas, the threat of reintroduction into the US is markedly increased.

Currently, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is actively working with federal and international partners to eradicate NWS in Central America and combat new detections in areas that are critical to preventing the spread to North America.

Since the declaration of the outbreak:

- Costa Rica Cases: 7,997
- Guatemala Cases: 1
- Honduras Cases: 29
- Panama Cases: 20,890
- Nicaragua Cases: 4,611



## Food Safety Information

The [USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service \(FSIS\)](#) is the regulatory agency responsible for ensuring that the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe and properly labeled. Under the [Federal Meat Inspection Act \(FMIA\)](#), FSIS inspection personnel are required to conduct inspection of all amenable species that are not otherwise exempt or State inspected. All amenable species presented for FSIS inspection at slaughter receive antemortem and postmortem inspection, as detailed in FSIS Directives [6000.1](#), [6100.1](#), and [6100.2](#). Any evidence of screwworm infection would be identified during these inspection processes, and adulterated product derived from the affected animal would not be allowed to go into commerce. All imported meat and poultry products must first meet U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) and APHIS animal health requirements and are subsequently reinspected at a federally inspected facility prior to entry into U.S. commerce.

## New World Screwworm Information & Resources

New World screwworms (NWS) are larvae or maggots of the NWS fly (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) that cause the painful condition NWS myiasis. NWS flies lay eggs in open wounds or orifices of live tissue. These eggs hatch into dangerous parasitic larvae, and the maggots burrow or screw into flesh with sharp mouth hooks. NWS primarily infest livestock, but can also affect other mammals, including humans, and birds.

General and response information on animal and bird infestations is available on the [USDA website](#). Information on human New World screwworm myiasis and how to report human disease is available on the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention website](#).

