



Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association update on New World Screwworm in Mexico

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) released information yesterday that Mexican officials have detected a New World Screwworm in Mexico's southern state of Chiapas.

New World Screwworm has been eradicated from the U.S. since 1966. New World Screwworm began its migration north from Costa Rica back in early February 2024. Since then, cases had been confirmed only as far north as Guatemala. However, on Friday, Nov. 22 Mexico's Chief Veterinary Officer confirmed a cow with the New World Screwworm larvae arrived at an inspection point close to the Mexico/Guatemala border.

USDA-APHIS notified Mexico that the U.S. is restricting the importation of animal commodities originating from or transiting Mexico, effective immediately. Whether Mexico will still be accepting exports from the U.S. is unknown at this time.

TSCRA supports prompt and effective actions to stop the movement of the New World Screwworm and protect U.S. cattle herds. TSCRA has been, and continues to, work with state and federal agencies and legislators to stress the importance of an expedient response, including funding to mitigate potential outbreaks in Texas and the U.S.

The New World Screwworm can infect not only cattle but other livestock, equine and wildlife. Texas Animal Health Commission has advised producers to report any suspicious wounds on livestock that appear as if they are infected with fly maggots. To report a suspected or confirmed case of New World Screwworm to the Texas Animal Health Commission, call 1-800-550-8242. The hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can also submit a written complaint using the TAHC Complaint Form.

The impact of a New World Screwworm outbreak in the U.S. would result in serious impacts to the beef industry. While economic implications and effects on the U.S. cattle herds are unknown, they will be exacerbated by the stress of drought, higher input costs and labor shortages in the agriculture industry.

As the New World Screwworm situation progresses, please feel free to contact our government relations office with the information listed below for any questions or additional information.