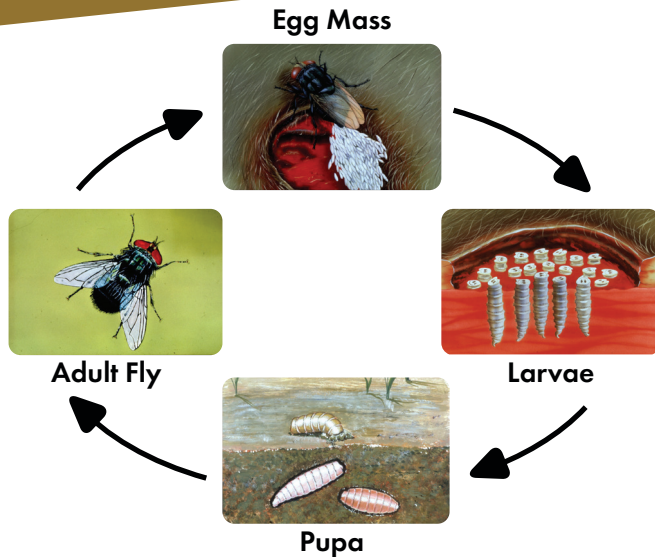


LIFE CYCLE



EGG MASS

- Adult NWS flies lay egg masses near fresh wounds.
- Each mass contains 100–300 eggs that hatch rapidly into larvae.

LARVAE

- Larvae feed on live tissue for up to 7 days, causing severe damage.
- At the end of this stage, they exit the wound and drop to the ground.

PUPA

- Larvae burrow into the soil and form pupae.
- Pupae may emerge as adults or remain dormant in the soil.

ADULT NWS FLY

- Adults are metallic in color with large reddish eyes, similar in size to houseflies.
- They live about two weeks and can lay multiple egg masses during that time.

USDA APHIS illustrations and photos

MORE INFORMATION



USDA NWS

Visit for nationwide updates, prevention methods, treatments, and more
tinyurl.com/USDA_Screwworm



KDA NWS

Visit for statewide updates, prevention methods, response efforts, and more
kyagr.com/statevet/disease-prevention.html



NEW WORLD SCREWORM

OFFICE OF STATE VETERINARIAN



KENTUCKY
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

CONTACT **KDA**

Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Office of State Veterinarian
109 Corporate Drive, Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 573-0282 | StateVet@ky.gov

kyagr.com/statevet/disease-prevention.html

kyagr.com/statevet

WHAT IS NWS?

New World screwworm (NWS) parasitic infection is a serious disease that can affect livestock, pets, wildlife, and in rare cases, people.

It is a painful condition in which the larvae (maggots) of the NWS fly burrow into the flesh of a living animal. The burrowing feeding nature of the larvae is how the fly got its name. This causes serious, often deadly damage to the animal, and a severe economic impact from those losses, trade embargoes, and eradication work.

QUICK FACTS

Cochliomyia homnivorax

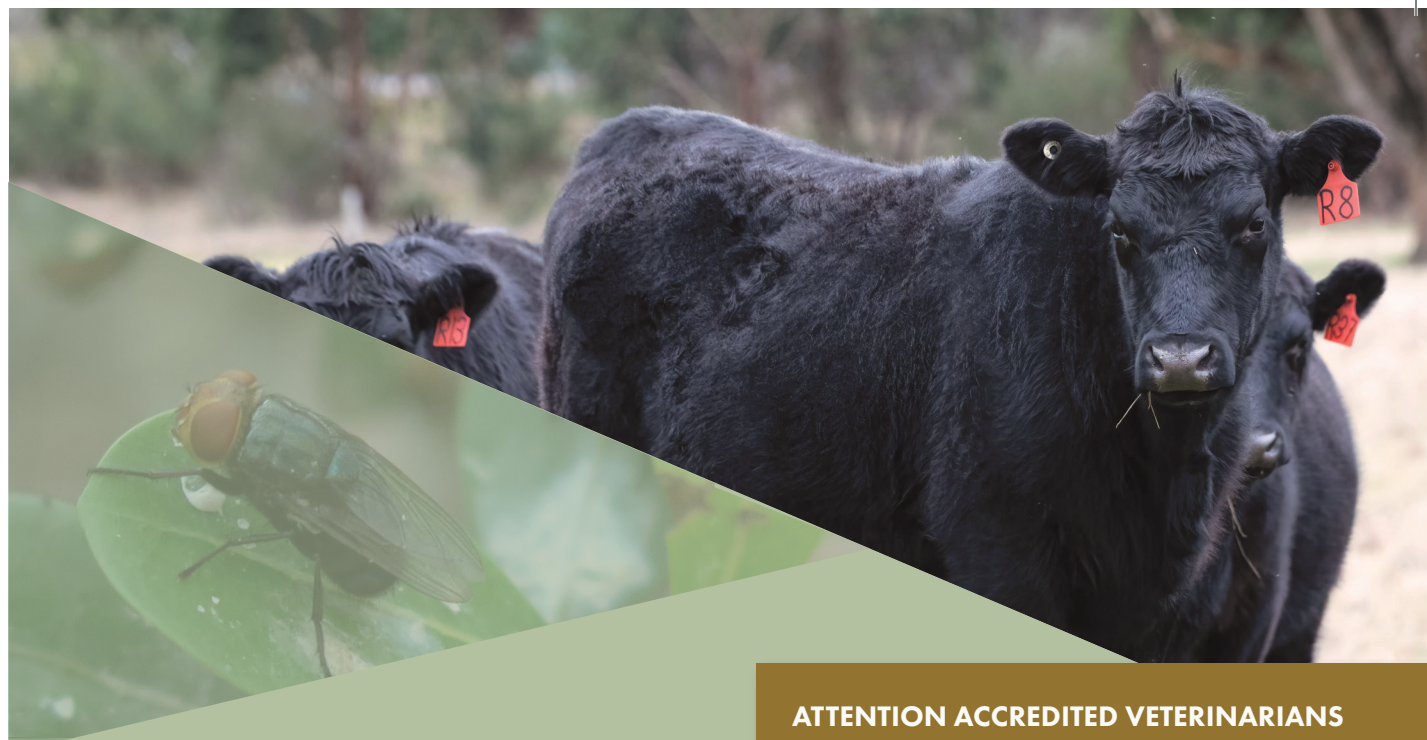


An adult fly is about the size of a common housefly, with metallic blue, bluish purple, or green body and large reddish color eyes.

Female NWS flies lay egg masses that develop into tissue-eating larvae.

Although eradicated from the U.S. in 1966, it is spreading north from South America, including cases in Central America and Mexico.

March 2025 the U.S. border closed to live animal imports from Mexico.



WHO'S AT RISK?

- Pets, livestock, wildlife and humans with exposed wounds
- Female livestock genitalia
- Navel of newborn livestock

HOW TO SPOT

- **Maggots in wounds or other body openings**, such as nose, ears, genitalia, or the navel of newborn animals.
- Wounds with **bloody discharge and foul odor**.
- **Egg masses** near or in the wound.
- Wounds that become **deeper or larger**.
- Animals showing **signs of pain**, such as depression, irritability, not eating, or isolation.

ATTENTION ACCREDITED VETERINARIANS

You are legally required to report all suspected and diagnosed cases to USDA and your State Animal Health Official. This requirement applies to any disease for which USDA has a control or eradication program in place and for any animal diseases not known to exist in the United States.

SEE IT, REPORT IT

Report any suspicious wounds, maggots, or infestations immediately to a local vet, State Animal Health Official, or USDA veterinarian.

Anyone can report suspected cases of NWS. This disease threatens U.S. agriculture, animal health, and public safety. Early detection and rapid response are essential to stop its spread.