

## Second New World Screwworm Case Confirmed in South Texas Calf



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By Chris Moore



Sterile female and male (right) New World screwworm flies (USDA photo by Lance Cheung).

USDA has confirmed a second case of New World screwworm in South Texas, identifying the parasitic pest in a 1-month-old calf in Zavala County about 5.6 miles from the site of the first U.S. detection announced earlier this week.

The agency said an Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service strike team remains on the ground and is working with Texas animal health officials to contain the outbreak. USDA has deployed mobile response trailers and is releasing sterile flies as part of its eradication effort, including 2 million flies by air and 4 million by ground each week.

Movement control zones remain in place around the affected area, surveillance efforts have been intensified, and treatment supplies are available through the Texas Animal Health Commission.

The latest detection follows [USDA's confirmation Wednesday of the first New World screwworm case in the United States](#) in decades. Larvae were found in the umbilical area of a 3-week-old calf in Zavala County.

New World screwworm females lay eggs in wounds of warm-blooded animals. After hatching, the larvae feed on living tissue, causing severe injuries and potentially killing affected animals if left untreated.

Federal and state officials activated response measures outlined in USDA's New World Screwworm Response Playbook following the initial detection. Those actions included establishing a 20-kilometer infested zone, implementing quarantines and movement controls, increasing surveillance and expanding sterile fly releases.

USDA said it is working with state officials, industry groups and trading partners to limit economic disruptions and regionalize any livestock trade restrictions to affected areas whenever possible.

