Stop New World Screwworm

New World screwworm (NWS) is a type of maggot that eats living flesh. It can infest livestock, wildlife, pets, and sometimes birds and people. NWS causes severe wounds and can be deadly if it's not treated.

NWS flies lay eggs in open wounds or other body openings (eyes, ears, nose, mouth, or genitals). The eggs hatch into maggots, which burrow into the wound and feed on living flesh. Screwworm flies can lay their eggs in a wound as small as a bug bite.

As producers or farm owners, you play a crucial role in keeping your farm and employees safe. Help your employees protect themselves by teaching them how to recognize NWS, sharing steps to prevent NWS infestations, and supporting them if they report a possible case.

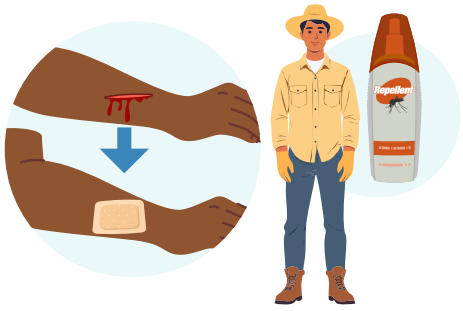
1. Know the signs of NWS

Train employees to look for signs in people:

- Seeing or feeling maggots moving in a wound or sore, ears, nose, eyes, mouth, or genitals
- Painful skin wounds or sores that get worse or don't heal after a few days
- A bad smell or bleeding from a wound
- Movement or an itchy feeling in the wound

Encourage employees to report concerns of NWS and seek medical care right away if they notice any of these signs.

2. Prevent NWS at work



Help employees protect their skin and prevent bug bites.

- Encourage employees to keep open wounds clean and covered.
- Provide adhesive bandages, disinfectants, and gauze pads for employees to cover any break in the skin.
- Encourage employees to wear loose, long-sleeved shirts, pants, socks, and hats to limit bug bites.
- Provide EPA-registered insect repellent and enough to reapply during their shift.
- Instruct employees to not apply insecticide for animals on their skin.

Explain why covering wounds and keeping bugs away are important to prevent NWS.

3. Make reporting and access to care easy

Plan ahead so employees know what to do if they see maggots in people or animals or think they have NWS.

- Encourage employees to report any sign of maggots right away.
- Make sure they know they won't be punished for reporting.
- Instruct employees to not remove the maggots themselves.
- Identify where employees can seek and receive medical care quickly to prevent NWS from spreading.

If maggots or eggs fall out of a wound, tell employees to collect them in a leak-proof container to save for a doctor or veterinarian. If available, add rubbing alcohol to the container to kill and preserve them.

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

For more information on NWS in animals, visit **www.screwworm.gov**

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