



USDA Strengthens Disease Preparedness Efforts



Screenshot from the USDA's new website, [Screwworm.gov](https://www.screwworm.gov), launched in November 2025 to centralize national information on the New World Screwworm. Image taken from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) website.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In the past week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) launched [Screwworm.gov](https://www.screwworm.gov), a new website that brings together federal resources and updates on the New World Screwworm. While the parasite is not currently found in the United States, it has become a major threat to livestock in South America since around 2023. The new website provides producers, veterinarians, and the public with up-to-date information on prevention, response coordination, and federal preparedness under USDA's One Health approach.

The New World Screwworm is a fly species that can cause severe and often fatal infections in both animals and humans. The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is coordinating a multi-agency effort with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of the Interior to prevent the pest from spreading to the United States. Thanks to strong surveillance and control programs, the current risk to U.S. livestock remains low.

The new website also arrives in the midst of guidance from APHIS on Equine Herpesvirus (EHV), another highly contagious virus group affecting horses worldwide. As of November 25, 2025, at least 27 confirmed cases tied to an event in Texas have been reported across eight states. Although EHV is not a risk to humans, it can cause respiratory illness, neurological complications, abortions, and death in horses. Horse owners are encouraged to contact their veterinarian immediately if they notice fever, nasal discharge, weakness, or difficulty standing in their animals. For current updates and prevention resources, visit **Screwworm.gov** and the USDA's official EHV page at aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/equine/herpesvirus.