

New World Screwworm Response Playbook

The Positives:

- Clarification that when tracing animals that have left an infested premises, “animals already in-transit when NWS is detected at their premises of origin can proceed to their first destination to be inspected and treated there as appropriate.”
- Acknowledgement that education/vigilance for companion animals and other species needs to be just as robust; this isn’t only about cattle producers.
- Removed requirement for individual pre-movement inspection of cattle, allowing for group inspection (*for more details, see COB Guidance below.*)
- Better delineation of DOI and USFWS responsibilities.
- Stricter recommendations around controlling movement of capture wildlife/wildlife carcasses, such as hunter check stations in/around an Infested Zone.
- Tighter language around the factors to weigh before treating wildlife (delivery methods, achieving efficacy, non-target species impact, etc.) to minimize resistance to common drugs.
- Clarification on what it takes to lift an Infested Zone designation. Depending on weather/conditions, active surveillance in an IZ continues for 3-4 life cycles after the last detection. In a temperate climate, that’s roughly 3 months.

The Negatives:

- Playbook remains very open-ended on what active surveillance activities in and around an IZ or Adjacent Surveillance Zone may be called for by state and federal officials. Could include on-farm visits, movement control checkpoints on roadways, and inspection of non-livestock animals in close proximity (e.g. guardian dogs).
- If an infested animal is detected at a temporary aggregation point (e.g. a market), the infested animal(s) must be returned to the premises of origin or held and treated. Additional mitigation actions might be required for the facility, based on how long the infested animals were housed on site. This potentially creates a burden on markets.

The Still Unclear:

- What will surveillance of domestic animals entail on-farm?

Updated NWS Resources from NCBA, including updated Response Playbook

- The first draft made mention of indemnity scenarios and that language has been stripped from the second version. As authorized by Title 9 of the CFR, APHIS provides indemnity to producers to remove animals considered affected, suspect, or exposed to diseases of concern (e.g. compensating when animals must be depopulated to control a dangerous infectious disease.) Separately, FSA also provides compensation through the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) to producers for livestock loss due to covered diseases. We have no reason to think that indemnity is no longer on the table, but we need to have additional discussions.

New World Screwworm National Continuity of Business Standardized Animal Movement Guidance

We will follow up with a more user-friendly, FAQ version of the information below

- If you are moving livestock **FROM** any premises in an Infested Zone (regardless of whether the premises itself is infested) **TO** any premises outside of the IZ, **then these requirements apply.**
- If you are moving livestock **FROM** any premises in an Infested Zone (regardless of whether the premises itself is infested) **TO** another premises inside the IZ, **then these requirements *might* apply; your SAHO will decide and inform folks.**
- If you are moving livestock **FROM** any premises outside an Infested Zone **TO** any premises inside an IZ, **these requirements don't apply.**
- If you are moving livestock **FROM** any premises outside an Infested Zone **THROUGH** an IZ without stopping and without being inside the IZ for more than 24 hours, **these requirements don't apply.**

The Positives:

- Stops short of providing a literal template, but it does include better language encouraging SAHOs to work together to provide a standardized NWS animal movement certificate. This is a step in the right direction to minimize a regulatory patchwork.
- Clarifies that SAHOs may approve multiple animal movements to be recorded under one NWS animal movement certificate, i.e. “batch approval,” in cases whether the same movement pattern is being done repeatedly and frequently.

Updated NWS Resources from NCBA, including updated Response Playbook

- Dropped two key phrases from the attestation language on the certificates that have real impacts on continuity of business: “All animals were individually inspected and found free of obvious wounds and evidence of NWS infestation.”
- As is typical when dealing with a foreign animal disease outbreak, APHIS will require official animal ID for movement out of an Infested Zone, even if your cattle are not covered by any intrastate ID requirements or the federal interstate ID requirements. The flexibility on methods is a positive. Official animal ID, (e.g. 840 tags), backtags that stay on for 14+ days, sealed trucks/ trailers to slaughter or to a destination where other ID will be applied, and any other method a SAHO approves are all fair game.
- Animals that are not group-housed require individual visual inspection, but animals that *are* group-housed — including feedlot cattle and cattle in pens at temporary aggregation points — can be inspected visually as a group.
- For all movements (interstate and intrastate, transfer movement or direct to slaughter), the pre-movement inspections and the signature on the NWS animal movement certificate can be done by an authorized NWS certified inspector. This is major; previously, most of that work had to be done all by accredited vets. (Note: interstate movements still require an iCVI in addition to the NWS animal movement certificate, and iCVIs still require an accredited vet.)
- If an animal is leaving the premises of origin inside an IZ to go to slaughter, some movement requirements are relaxed in both the first and second draft documents. However, they now have 72 hours to get to slaughter before additional restrictions kick in, up from 24 hours in the first draft. Big improvement for cull cattle, custom feeders, and others.
- Language was also added to empower SAHOs to approve specific cases of infested animals shipping direct to a slaughter facility, rather than being excluded from the shipment. This is a small but important nuance that leaves culling/slaughter open as an option for managing a significant/extensive outbreak, or outbreak in an area with limited carcass disposal options.
- The timeline of inspection has also been simplified. It was previously 4-7 days out, inspection (must be a vet) à 3 days out, inspection (can be authorized inspector). Now, it's 2-5 days out, inspection (can be non-vet) à within 24 hours out, inspection (can just be done by a farm owner or worker).
- Clarified the language around moving non-infested animals from a premises that DID have infested animals, and edited the “in isolation” verbiage. The new language

Updated NWS Resources from NCBA, including updated Response Playbook

still maintains stringent requirements to reduce spread, but isn't punitive toward small producers who may not have infrastructure like multiple pens, big barns, etc.

- The requirements for animals TRANSITING THROUGH a market before going on to another production site or to slaughter have been clarified and streamlined.

The Negatives:

- An NWS animal movement certificate must be submitted to the origin SAHO at least 48 hours prior to movement. We argued against this provision in the first draft on the grounds that it's redundant. Prior notification for interstate movement makes sense because it gives the destination SAHO a heads-up on what to expect; movement within one state isn't the same.

The Neutral:

- A validated Premise ID is required on the NWS animal movement certificate. This is something producers in border states and the Southern Plains could obtain now, to save time in any potential outbreak.
- There seems to be more flexibility in the second draft for SAHOs to approve temporary aggregation points (e.g. markets and sale barns) who request permission to offer NWS inspections, ID, treatments, and certification on-site as a service to their customers. The voluntary bit here is key; it alleviates the unintentional burden on markets, but also still allows them to receive cattle who haven't completed all these requirements at their farm/ranch of origin.
- APHIS reserves the right to enforce the full slate of requirements, if they deem necessary, for movement from one premises to another within the same Infested Zone. We foresee this only being used in extreme cases, or in cases where a localized/"Focal" outbreak happens to on a major feedlot.

The Still Unclear:

- Where do commuter herds fit into this matrix of movement requirements? We'll seek clarification.
- There are exemptions made for some specific cases, like dairy calves — will any exemptions be made for emergency circumstances, like moving cattle from one premises in an IZ to another on short notice due to fire? We'll seek clarification.

Other New Documents to Flag (Not Exhaustive)

Updated NWS Resources from NCBA, including updated Response Playbook

- [Pre-movement Animal Inspection Checklist](#). Producers may be eligible to become authorized NWS inspectors.
- [Best Practices for Evaluation of Animals for NWS](#). It's for vets, but has some great info on what to look for when evaluating maggots/larvae and how to collect a sample.
- [Establishing and Releasing NWS Zones and Areas](#) and [NWS Phases and Types of an Outbreak](#). Addresses the “What zone am I in and for how long?”
- [Overview of Wildlife Surveillance](#). If you're a producer who already deals with any kind of state or federally managed species, sit in a migration corridor, hunt on your land, provide habitat in some sort of agreement, anything like that, this is good to know in case cooperation/assistance is asked of you.
- [Checklist for Management of Premises with Infested Animals](#). Self-explanatory.
- [Disposal and Disinfestation of Animals and Materials](#). Very useful info that was new, frankly, or at least clearer to me about length of survival in soil, conditions that can kill pupae in soil, pesticide options to spray a carcass rather than spray the ground, etc.
- [NWS Initial Epidemiological Interview](#)
- [Considerations for Use of Antiparasitic Drugs and Pesticides in Free Ranging Wildlife](#)

And Reupping These for Quick Reference:

- [Screwworm.gov](#)
- [FDA animal drugs page](#)
- [EPA pesticides list](#)
- [CDC handout for farm/ranch workers](#)