



Best Management Practices for New World Screwworm IN FARMED DEER

In the recent past...

Screwworm has previously impacted livestock and deer:

- In 2016, **15% of endangered Key Deer** died from screwworm infestation
- When present, NWS cost the U.S. cattle industry **> \$100 million annually** (1930 – 1970 estimates)
- Eradication efforts yield an estimated \$1.6 billion in producer benefits (adjusted for 2025 inflation)

How to keep your deer safe:

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Maggots in wounds or other body openings, such as the nose, ears, and genitalia or the navel of newborn animals
- Wounds that have bloody discharge and foul odor
- Wounds that become deeper and larger as the maggots grow and feed on living tissue
- Deer that are showing signs of pain including depression, irritability, not eating, and isolating themselves



Small lesions like these can be the entry point for NWS. This Key Deer was killed by NWS.

Credit: Samantha Gibbs, US Fish and Wildlife Service

What to do if you suspect an infestation

- Never treat a maggot-infested wound without contacting your veterinarian first
- Isolate and quarantine the deer on site (do not transport) and contact your veterinarian immediately
- Report to your State Veterinarian's office
- Monitor wounds for infection

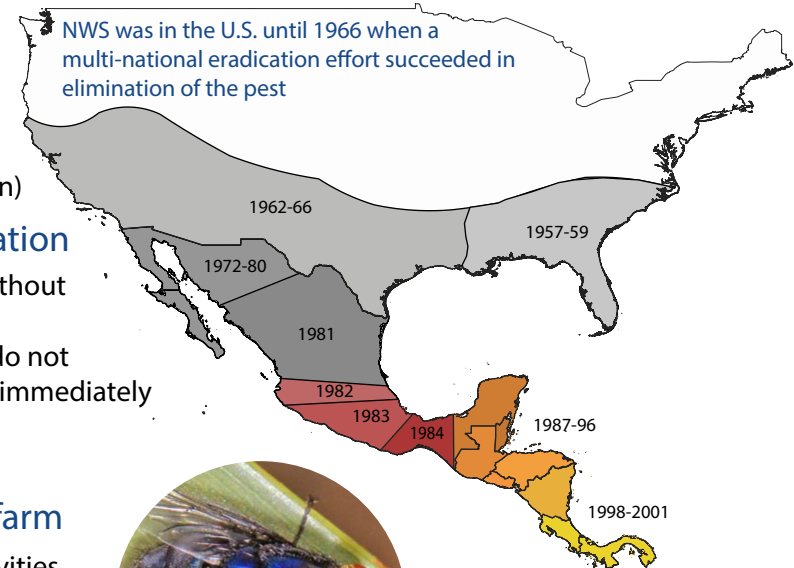
Prevent NWS from getting to your farm

- Pay attention to any wound-causing activities your herd might experience, that includes:
 - Dehorning
 - Velvet shedding
 - Fawning and umbilical cord site
 - Ear tagging or any markings
 - Fighting wounds
 - Artificial insemination
- Increase frequency of health checks

TO REPORT AN INFESTATION IN FLORIDA, PLEASE CONTACT:

Phone: 850-410-0900 or 800-342-5869

Email: RAD@FDACS.gov | Online: www.FDACS.gov/RAD



Credit: *Cochliomyia hominivorax* (Adult) Judy Gallagher, (Larva) John Kucharski, (Infestation) Laszlo Ilyes