August 1, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

RE: New World Screwworm Threat

Dear Secretary Rollins,

On behalf of livestock and dairy producers, markets, wildlife managers, equine owners, agribusiness, animal health companies, and landowners across the nation, the undersigned organizations write to express our ongoing concern regarding the threat of New World screwworm (NWS) and to call for continued and focused federal leadership to prevent a catastrophic outbreak in the United States.

We are grateful for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) recent announcement at Moore Air Base regarding USDA's five-pronged plan for NWS Domestic Readiness and Response Initiative. The establishment of a sterile fly dispersal facility in partnership with the Panama-United States Commission for the Eradication and Prevention of Screwworm (COPEG) is a critical step forward in rebuilding our domestic defense against this devastating pest. However, much work remains. The U.S. still lacks a domestic sterile fly production facility, the foundation of any long-term eradication and response strategy.

Therefore, the undersigned organizations urge the Administration to immediately secure full federal funding and begin construction of a domestic sterile fly production facility. The Animal Health Protection Act was enacted to provide the Secretary with the necessary resources to protect our country and swiftly respond to animal disease and pest threats like NWS. We urge the USDA to use the powers granted under this act or any other avenue to fully fund this facility.

We recognize that other ideas have been proposed for combating NWS, but the sterile insect technique (SIT) remains the most proven, effective, and science-based solution available for eradication. Livestock and dairy producers, wildlife managers and producers across the nation are growing more concerned as the NWS moves northward to the U.S. border and know we must be armed with a domestic production facility. We respectfully ask that the USDA and leaders in Washington continue prioritizing and pursuing funding and regulatory coordination to begin immediate construction.

The stakes are simply too high to delay. USDA estimates that a NWS outbreak in Texas cattle alone could result in $1.8 billion in annual losses, including $732 million in direct impacts to producers. But the damage wouldn't stop there.

Nationally, the U.S. is home to over 71 million pigs, 5 million sheep, 2.5 million goats, more than 9 billion chickens, and 6.65 million horses, all of which are vulnerable to NWS infestation. If an outbreak were to spread across states within the historic NWS range, national livestock losses could exceed $4.3 billion annually, with total economic damages surpassing $10.6 billion. The U.S. horse industry alone contributes $177 billion to the national economy and stands to suffer significant losses should NWS spread.

Wildlife would also be severely impacted. Losses to game and nongame animals alike threaten our $400 billion wildlife-recreation economy and North American Model of Conservation Funding that it supports. Rural economies and viability of working lands are closely tied to the health and sustainability of our native wildlife populations. Also of great concern are potential threats to the costly ongoing recovery of threatened and endangered species nationwide. Losses to the nation's wildlife and livestock are not hypothetical. They are real, and they are preventable.

We sincerely appreciate the steps you and your team have already taken, and we thank you for your attention to this threat. We understand you and your team at USDA are working diligently on all viable solutions, and we consider you a partner in these efforts. However, the danger of NWS is far from over, and our members are growing more concerned as it approaches our country.

A domestic sterile fly production facility is the cornerstone of this effort. It is what our producers and partners are asking for and desperately need. Therefore, it remains our top priority. Thank you again for your steadfast efforts.

Sincerely,

Ag Workers Mutual Insurance Company
Alabama Farmers Federation
Alabama Wildlife Federation
Alaska Farm Bureau
American Dairy Sheep Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Livestock Markets and Dealers Association
American Quarter Horse Association
American Sheep Industry Association
Animal Health Institute
Arizona Cattle Growers Association
Arizona Farm Bureau
Arkansas Cattlemen's Association
Arkansas Farm Bureau
Arkansas Livestock Marketing Association
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

Association of West Virginia Livestock Auction Markets
Boone & Crockett Club
California Cattlemen's Association
California Farm Bureau
California Livestock Auction Markets
California Wool Growers Association
Colorado Cattlemen's Association
Colorado Farm Bureau
Colorado Wool Growers Association
Connecticut Farm Bureau
Dairy Producers of New Mexico
Dairy Producers of Utah
Delaware Farm Bureau
East Foundation
Florida Association of Livestock Markets
Florida Cattlemen's Association
Florida Farm Bureau
Florida Strawberry Growers Association
Florida Wildlife Federation
Georgia Cattlemen's Association
Georgia Farm Bureau
Georgia Livestock Markets Association
Georgia Wildlife Federation
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Hawaii Farm Bureau
Idaho Dairymen's Association
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation
Idaho Livestock Auction Association
Idaho Wildlife Federation
Illinois Beef Association
Illinois Farm Bureau
Illinois Milk Producers
Independent Cattlemen's Association
Indiana Dairy Producers
Indiana Farm Bureau
Iowa Farm Bureau
Kansas Dairy Association
Kansas Farm Bureau
Kansas Horse Council
Kansas Livestock Association
Kansas Livestock Marketing Association
Kentucky Cattlemen's Association
Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation
Livestock Marketing Association

Livestock Marketing Association of Texas
LMA Texas Legislative Advisory Group
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
Louisiana Livestock Marketing Association
Maine Farm Bureau
Maryland Farm Bureau
Maryland Sheep Breeders
Massachusetts Farm Bureau
Michigan Cattlemen's Association
Michigan Farm Bureau
Milk Producers Council
Minnesota Farm Bureau
Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers
Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association
Mississippi Cattlemen's Association
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation
Missouri Dairy
Missouri Farm Bureau
Montana Association of Livestock Auction Markets
Montana Association of State Grazing Districts
Montana Cattle Feeders Association
Montana Pork Producers Council
Montana Public Lands Council
Montana Stockgrowers Association
Montana Wool Growers Association
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Deer Association
National Milk Producers Federation
Nebraska Cattlemen
Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation
Nebraska Livestock Markets Association
Nebraska State Dairy Association
Nevada Farm Bureau Federation
New Hampshire Farm Bureau
New Jersey Farm Bureau
New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau
New York Beef Producers' Association
New York Farm Bureau
North Carolina Cattlemen's Association
North Carolina Farm Bureau
North Carolina Pork Council
North Carolina Wildlife Federation
North Dakota Farm Bureau
North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers Association

North Dakota Stockmen's Association
Ohio Cattlemen's Association
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association
Oklahoma Farm Bureau
Oklahoma Livestock Marketing Association
Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Oregon Dairy Farmers' Association
Oregon Farm Bureau
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
Pennsylvania Livestock Auction Association
Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.
Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania
Puerto Rico Farm Bureau
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
South Carolina Farm Bureau
South Carolina Sheep Industry Association
South Carolina Wildlife Federation
South Dakota Farm Bureau
South Dakota Livestock Auction Markets Association
South Dakota Sheep Growers Association
Southeast Dairy Farmers Association
South Texans' Property Rights Association
Tennessee Cattlemen's Association
Tennessee Dairy Producers Association
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation
Tennessee Poultry Association
Tennessee Sheep Producers Association
Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association
Tennessee Wildlife Federation
Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council
Texas Association of Dairymen
Texas Bighorn Society
Texas Cattle Feeders Association
Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society
Texas Citrus Mutual
Texas Conservation Alliance
Texas Corn Producers Association
Texas Farm Bureau
Texas Grain & Feed Association
Texas International Produce Association
Texas Pork Producers Association
Texas Poultry Federation

Texas Quarter Horse Association
Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association
Texas Vegetable Association
Texas Wheat Producers Association
Texas Wildlife Association
The Wildlife Society
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
United Dairy Farmers of Florida
Utah Cattlemen's Association
Utah Farm Bureau Federation
Vermont Farm Bureau
Virginia Agribusiness Council
Virginia Cattlemen's Association
Virginia Farm Bureau
Virginia Horse Council
Virginia Livestock Markets Association
Virginia Sheep Producers Association
Washington Cattle Feeders Association
Washington Cattlemen's Association
Washington Farm Bureau
Washington State Dairy Federation
Washington State Sheep Producers
West Virginia Cattlemen's Association
West Virginia Farm Bureau
Western United Dairies
Wild Sheep Foundation
Wisconsin Farm Bureau
Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
Wyoming Stock Growers Association
Wyoming Wool Growers Association

Cc:

U.S. Senate

U.S. House of Representatives