NEW WORLD SCREWWORM

Cleaning and Disinfestation of Cattle Transport in an Infested Zone

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If your farm is in a New World screwworm (NWS) infested zone extra vigilence in monitoring your cattle is needed. If an infested animal is found on your farm or after offloading cattle brought onto the farm, livestock transport vehicles will require disinfestation measures. These protocols prioritize preventing larval escape, eliminating fly populations and blocking infestation sources.

Along with managing premises of infested animals, transport trailers pose a particular risk because of how NWS larvae behave. These parasites feed only on living tissue but abandon their host to pupate once the host dies or when the larvae reach maturity. This means trailers can easily harbor viable pupae, adult flies or organic material containing them —making vehicles potential vectors for spreading the infestation.

The following cleaning and disinfestation best practices for dairy cattle transport vehicles are based on the NWS life cycle. The goal is to prevent spread of NWS. **Check your state regulations, as additional requirements may apply:**



State requirements can vary and may change over time. The NMPF website has information for some state screwworm pages, where it was available. Contact your state animal health official for the most up-to-date information in your own state.

Site Selection & Set Up

Use sealed, hard flooring. All cleaning and disinfection of transport vehicles should take place on concrete or equivalent sealed surfaces. If not possible, place tarps underneath to catch all debris. This prevents NWS larvae, which burrow about 1 inch into soil to pupate, from escaping into the ground.

Contain all runoff and debris. Manage wastewater and organic material so that viable life stages cannot migrate to surrounding vegetation or soil.

Physical Disposal & Cleaning

Remove all bedding and manure. Completely strip the trailer of all bedding materials, such as straw and shavings, and manure. NWS larvae pupate in bedding or within moist organic material.

Scrape tight spaces thoroughly. Larvae seek protected areas to pupate. Scrape clean all cracks, crevices, floor gates, joints and other tight spots where organic material can hide.

Dispose of waste in a biosecure manner. Animal waste and bedding must be disposed of in a manner approved by your state agricultural agency. Incineration is preferred; contact your state for other approved disposal options.

Chemical Disinfestation & Insecticide Treatment

Standard disinfectants are ineffective against New World screwworm. Instead, direct insecticidal treatment is required.

Apply EPA-approved insecticide. After removing all organic matter, treat the entire vehicle interior, exterior and underside with a product approved by EPA for NWS control. This targets eggs, remaining larvae and emerging adult flies that may be present on structural surfaces.

Treat before transporting livestock again. Vehicles must be treated and cleared before being used to transport other animals.

Vector Exclusion & Driver Biosecurity

Inspect vehicles for maggots and adult flies. Before leaving an NWS-infested or adjacent surveillance zone, drivers should inspect their vehicles, including the cab and other enclosed spaces, for larvae and adult screwworm flies. While adult flies are not commonly seen, these flies are metallic blue-green with orange eyes and can travel long distances if transported inadvertently.

Clean gear between operations. Drivers and handlers should clean and disinfect their boots, clothing and other equipment between loading operations or different ranch allotments. This prevents transferring larvae or flies to other locations.

Disposal of Materials

Small amounts: Double-bag and treat. For small amounts, double-bag bedding and manure, then spray both bags inside with an EPA-approved insecticide.

Large amounts: Treat thoroughly or incinerate. For larger amounts, treat with EPA-approved insecticide and allow adequate contact time, or incinerate if available.

Contact your state animal health office for how to dispose of this regulated material or other disposal requirements.

Administrative Requirements for Cattle Movement from an Infested Zone

Obtain a state movement permit. If an NWS-infested zone is active, a state-issued movement permit is required before transporting livestock. Contact your state animal health office or the APHIS Area Veterinarian in Charge to initiate the permitting process.

Inspect animals for open wounds. State-approved personnel must inspect all animals for open wounds before transport. This includes tick bites, brand sites, navels and other skin lesions that could harbor larvae. Animals with open wounds must be cleared by a veterinarian and treated with approved larvicides before being transported.

Contact authorities if NWS is suspected. If you suspect any NWS presence, or if you need the current list of EPA-approved insecticides, contact your state animal health official or the local USDA APHIS area office immediately.