



APHIS Veterinary Services Offers New Training to Identify and Respond to New World Screwworm

New World screwworm is a growing threat. Would you recognize it?

In response to the northern movement and subsequent threat of New World screwworm (NWS, *Cochliomyia hominivorax*), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Veterinary Accreditation Program has developed a new training module for veterinarians and those in the veterinary, companion animal, and livestock industries.

The training module, *Module 41: New World Screwworm: A 21st Century Perspective*, is available online at www.aphis.usda.gov/nvap/training-modules. The module covers signs of NWS, its life cycle, control measures, and reporting methods. It also covers the potential animal, human, and financial impacts associated with an incursion of NWS.

USDA recommends that every veterinarian and veterinary technician, regardless of practice type, review this module to learn how to recognize and respond to NWS.

NWS' Northward Spread

After moving north past Panama's Darien Gap, NWS detections in Panama exploded from an average of 25 cases per year to more than 6,500 cases in 2023. Since then, NWS has continued northward and has been detected in Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico. Nicaragua's health ministry has confirmed at least 30 cases of NWS in people, two of which required lifesaving hospital treatment.



USDA's Response

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is partnering with other USDA agencies, the U.S. Department of State, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and affected countries to respond to the outbreak. **Veterinarians and veterinary technicians are tremendously important in recognizing this pest.** Immediately report suspected cases of foreign animal pests and diseases to your [State animal health officials](#) and [Federal animal health officials](#).

While most veterinarians use APHIS Approved Supplemental Training modules to renew their accreditation, most State veterinary licensing boards have also approved these modules as Continuing Education for renewing veterinary and veterinary technician licenses. Check with your State licensing authorities.