

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  
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