

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK
ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIVISION
OFFICIAL ORDER NO. 26-01**

DATE: June 4, 2026

DATE EFFECTIVE: June 4, 2026

SUBJECT: **Import Restriction on Animals Entering the State of Montana Due to the Detection of New World Screwworm in the United States**

STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION: Montana Code Annotated §§ 81-1-302, 81-2-102(1)(d), and 81-2-703.

ORDERED BY: Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, DVM
State Veterinarian
Animal Health Administrator

REVIEWED BY: Michael Honeycutt
Executive Officer
Montana Board of Livestock

ORDER

The Montana Department of Livestock (Department) is statutorily charged with exercising supervision to protect the livestock interests of the state from disease. Mont. Code Ann. § 81-1-102(1).

On June 3, 2026 the United States Department of Agriculture confirmed a case of New World Screwworm (NWS) (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) in Zavala County, Texas. NWS is a fly that lays eggs in open wounds and orifices of any warm-blooded animal. The eggs hatch into larvae, which feed on living tissue causing severe injury to and potential death of infested animals. The fly was eradicated from the United States in 1966, and its reintroduction has the potential to cause significant economic damage to the livestock industry in the United States. As a pest of all warm-blooded animals NWS can infest all livestock species, wildlife, poultry and other birds, dogs, cats, and other small pets, as well as humans. After feeding in open wounds, larvae drop to the ground to pupate and later hatch into adult flies that go on to lay eggs and infest additional animals. Therefore, any movement of infested animals poses a risk of moving the fly to new areas where it could establish additional populations and sources of infestation.

Accordingly, the Department's Animal Health Administrator/State Veterinarian has determined that circumstances exist constituting an imminent peril to animal health and welfare in the State of Montana and is issuing an emergency order stopping the import of animals from states with NWS infestations until specific prevention measures have been met.

For purposes of this Order, the following definitions shall apply:

1. “Animals” means all warm-blooded animals, including cattle, horses, mules, asses, other equids, sheep, llamas, alpacas, bison, swine, ostriches, rheas, emus, goats, alternative livestock as defined in § 87-4-406, MCA, dogs, cats, rabbits, rodents, game animals, fur-bearing and wild animals, and poultry and other birds.
2. “Approved treatment” means a systemic treatment that is experimentally, conditionally, or fully licensed or approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Center for Biologics or the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or the Environmental Protection Agency, for use in animals against internal or external parasites and shown to be effective against NWS larvae.
3. “CVI” means a certificate of veterinary inspection and has the same definition as “health certificate” set forth in Admin. R. Mont. 32.3.201(1)(e).
4. “Infested state” means a state that has had a detection of NWS. A state is considered infested until state or federal officials declare the state free of NWS.
5. “Infested zone” means a geographic area designated by the state animal health official (SAHO) of a state where NWS has been detected or by USDA and approved by the SAHO of a state where NWS has been detected. An area or zone is considered infested until state or federal officials declare the freedom from NWS.
6. “New World Screwworm” or “NWS” means the fly, eggs, pupae, or larvae of the genus and species *Cochliomyia hominivorax*.
7. “Official identification” or “ID” means:
 - a. For cattle, an official 840 RFID tag or an existing National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tag if placed prior to November 2024;
 - b. For sheep and goats, an official 840 RFID tag or a scrapie tag with both a flock number and individual animal number;
 - c. For swine, an official 840 RFID tag or a metal NUES tag;
 - d. For horses, a microchip or photographs of the horse (both sides and front);
 - e. For dogs and cats, a microchip or photographs of the pet (both sides and front);
 - f. For all other species, a microchip or other ID approved by the State Veterinarian.
8. “Originating from” means the animal has been physically present in the specified geographic area for any period of time beginning June 3, 2026.
9. “Wound” means any break in or injury to the integument, including the skin and mucous membranes. Wounds may include but are not limited to punctures, lacerations, other trauma, surgical locations, newly applied brands, tags, dehornings, the unhealed umbilicus of newborn calves, and females within 72 hours of birth.

Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 81-2-102(1)(d), IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

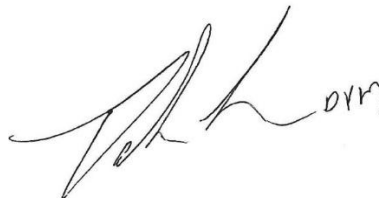
- A. In addition to the requirements below, all existing importation requirements for animals eligible for entry into Montana found in Title 32, chapter 3, subchapter 2 of the Administrative Rules of Montana remain in place, unless modified by this Order.
- B. Animals originating from an infested state may not enter Montana with a CVI issued prior to the initial detection of NWS in the infested state and must comply with the requirements of this Order to be eligible for entry into Montana.

- C. Equids from an infested state may not travel to Montana on an extended equine CVI pursuant to Admin. R. Mont. 32.3.216(8).
- D. To be eligible to enter Montana, all cattle, bison, swine, poultry, sheep, goats, equids, and alternative livestock originating from:
1. an infested zone must have an import permit from the Department and a CVI documenting the following:
 - i. a copy of the movement permit or other official document supplied by the state of origin documenting that animals have met the state's requirements to leave an infested zone;
 - ii. the animals listed on the CVI have been administered an approved treatment no less than 72 hours and no more than 14 days prior to entry into Montana;
 - iii. a statement confirming all animals listed on the CVI have been inspected and are free from wounds and evidence of NWS larvae infestation with;
 - iv. the official identification of all animals listed on the CVI; and
 - v. the CVI is issued within 5 days prior to movement to Montana; or
 2. the following Texas counties (Atascosa, Bandera, Bee, Bexar, Blanco, Brewster, Brooks, Comal, Crockett, Dimmit, Duval, Edwards, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Hays, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, La Salle, Live Oak, Llano, Mason, Maverick, McMullen, Medina, Menard, Pecos, Real, Starr, Sutton, Terrell, Uvalde, Val Verde, Webb, Wilson, Zapata, Zavala) and located outside of an infested zone must have an import permit from the Department and a CVI documenting the following:
 - i. a statement confirming all animals listed on the CVI have been inspected and are free from wounds and evidence of NWS larvae infestation with;
 - ii. the official identification of all animals listed on the CVI; and
 - iii. the CVI is issued within 5 days prior to movement to Montana.
- E. To be eligible to enter Montana, all animals not subject to paragraph D originating from:
1. an infested zone must have an import permit from the Department and a CVI documenting the following:

- i. the animals listed on the CVI have been administered an approved treatment no less than 72 hours and no more than 14 days prior to entry into Montana;
 - ii. a statement confirming all animals listed on the CVI have been inspected and are free from wounds and evidence of NWS larvae infestation with;
 - iii. the official identification of all animals listed on the CVI; and
 - iv. the CVI is issued within 5 days prior to movement to Montana; or
 - 2. an infested state but outside the infested zone must have an import permit from the Department and a CVI documenting the following:
 - i. a statement confirming all animals listed on the CVI have been inspected and are free from wounds and evidence of NWS larvae infestation with;
 - ii. the official identification of all animals listed on the CVI; and
 - iii. the CVI is issued within 5 days prior to movement to Montana.
- F. Notwithstanding the requirements of paragraphs D and E, if any animal in a shipment intending to enter Montana is suspected of having a NWS infestation, no animals in the shipment may enter Montana until all animals have been treated as required by paragraph D.1.ii and all wounds have healed.
- G. This Order is effective immediately.

This Order may last no longer than five (5) years and is subject to review, modification, or annulment by the Board of Livestock. Mont. Code Ann. §§ 81-2-102(2) and 81-1-302. The Board of Livestock’s next regularly scheduled meeting is set for August 27, 2026. Official meeting information, including the agenda and public participation opportunities, will be available at <https://liv.mt.gov/Board-of-Livestock/index> when it becomes available.

DR. TAHNEE SZYMANSKI, DVM



Montana Department of Livestock
State Veterinarian and Animal Health Administrator