



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM

Screwworm Information

- The presence of the New World Screwworm was reported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture on October 3, 2016, after samples collected from a wildlife refuge in Big Pine Key in Monroe County were tested and confirmed positive.
 - New World Screwworms are fly larvae (maggots) that can infest livestock and other warm-blooded animals, including people.
 - They most often enter an animal through an open wound and feed on the animal's living flesh.
 - If detected early, animals can be treated and fully recover.
- If you suspect your pet is infected with screwworm, please contact your veterinarian. To report a suspected case of screwworm in animals call 1-800-HELP-FLA (1-800-435-7352).
- While not common in humans, if you notice a suspicious lesion on your body or suspect you may have contracted screwworms, seek immediate medical attention.
- The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is working aggressively to prevent the spread of screwworm and eradicate this invasive pest. Efforts include surveillance, inspection, trapping, control methods, treatment and public outreach.
- Effective October 3, 2016, FDACS established an animal health inspection zone, including all Florida Keys.
 - Travelers with small animals or livestock moving north from Key Largo must stop at the animal health check point at mile marker XXX to be evaluated for symptoms of screwworm.
 - Travelers with small animals or livestock accompanied by a veterinary health certificate and proof of treatment effective against screwworm within 72 hours prior to movement outside the zone are not required to be evaluated.
- For information on the New World Screwworm, including how to take precautions for yourself and your pets, please visit FreshFromFlorida.com or call 1-800-HELP-FLA (1-800-435-7352).