



# Update on New World Screwworm (NWS)

September 2025

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# Outline

- History of NWS Distribution and Eradication
- Current outbreak status in Central American and Mexico
- USDA's Plan to Combat NWS Northward Spread

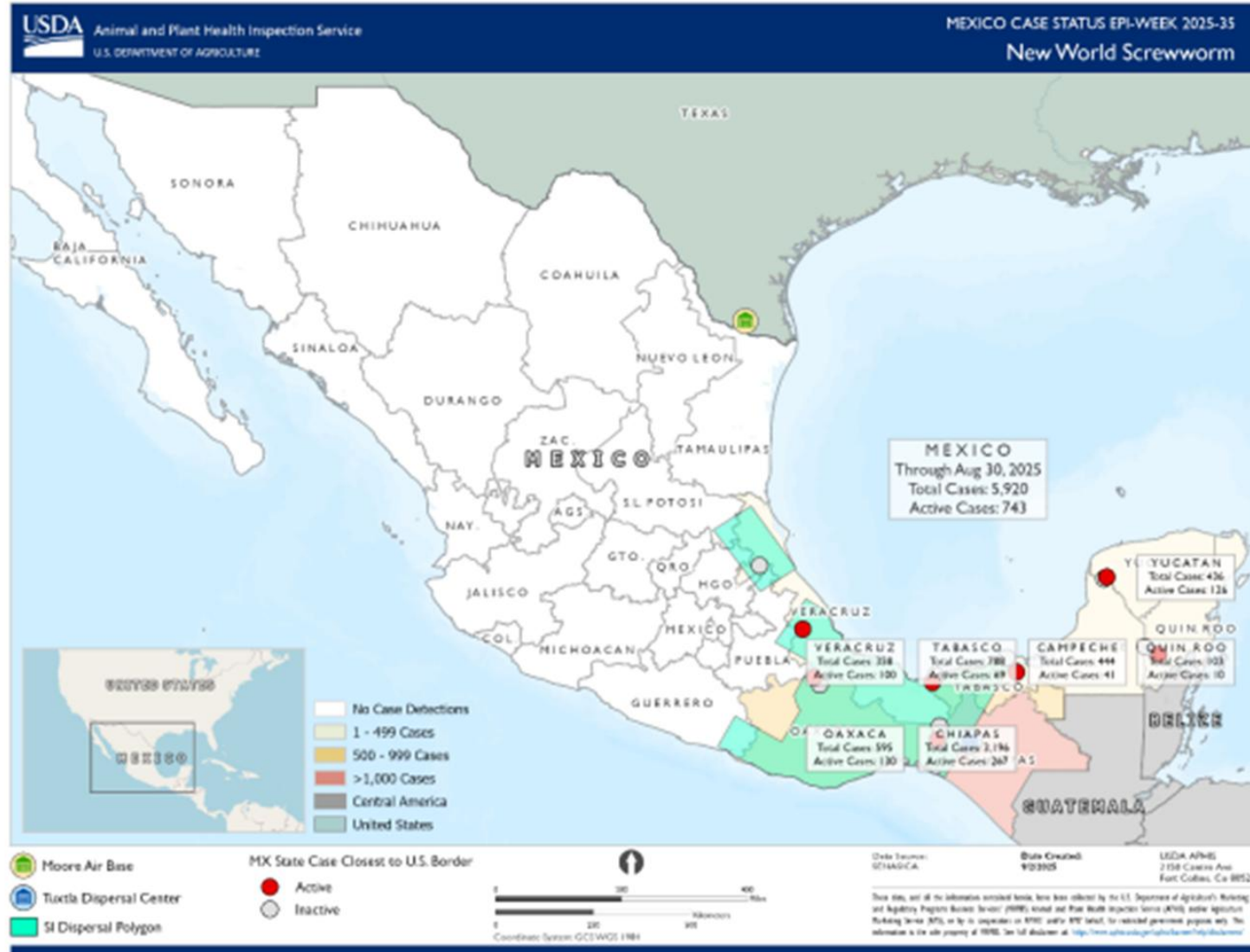


# History of screwworm distribution and eradication



# Current Outbreak Status

- Since 2023, spread through Central America
- Reported in Mexico in November 2024
- Closest case: Veracruz, Mexico (July 2025, now inactive)
- 370 miles from the U.S./Mexico border



Updated 9/5/25

# USDA's Five-Pronged Plan

- 1 Stop the Pest in Mexico
- 2 Protect the U.S. Border
- 3 Maximize Our Readiness
- 4 Take the Fight to the Screwworm
- 5 Innovate for Continued Success



USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins announces the USDA NWS Five-Pronged Plan in Edinburg, Texas on June 18, 2025

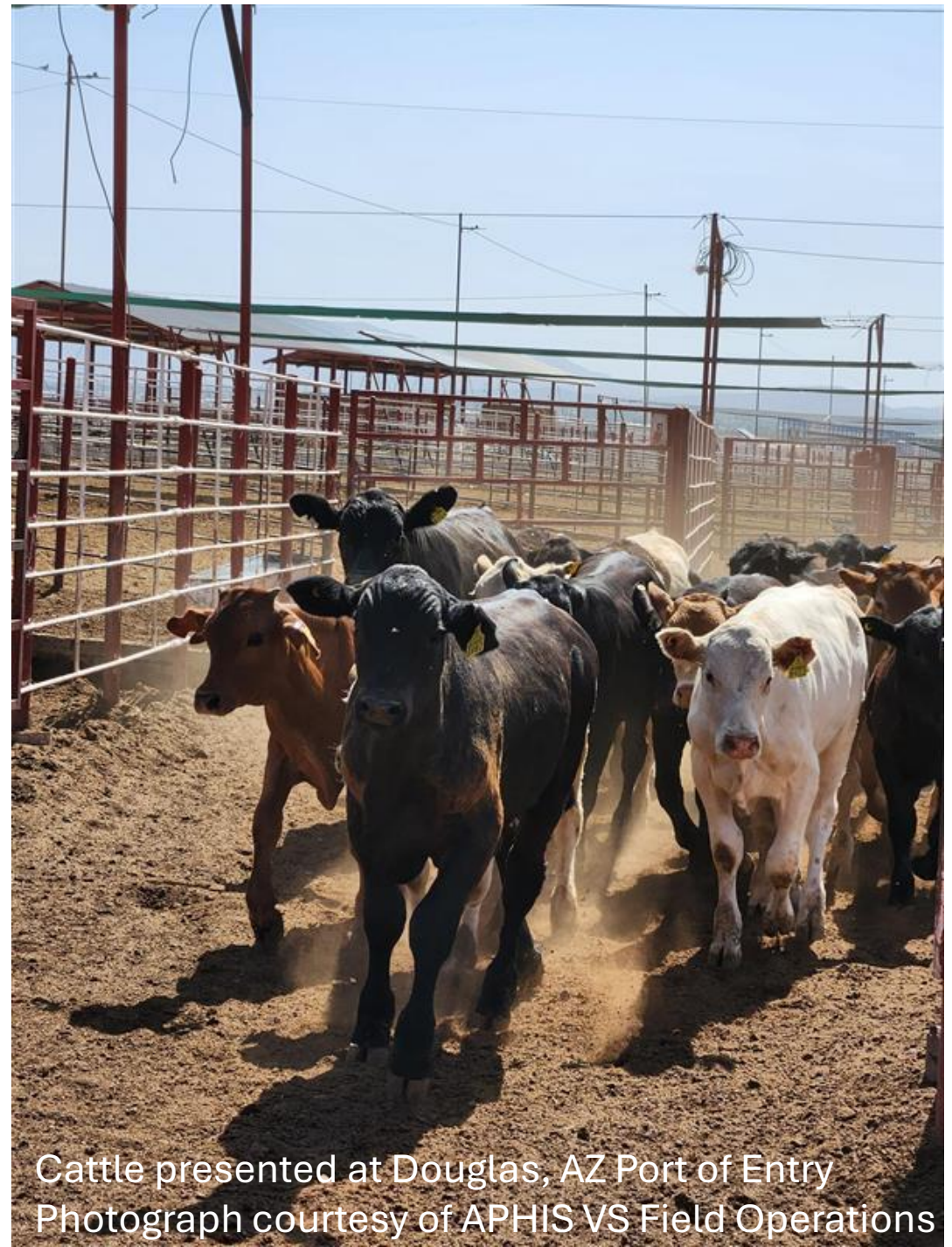
# Stop the Pest in Mexico

- Sterile insect technique
- Field surveillance and outreach
- Robust regulatory controls
  - Animal movement
  - Quarantine
- USDA working closely with Mexico
- USDA performing regular audits of Mexico's control activities



# Protect the U.S. Border

- Livestock movement controlled through southern border ports
  - All southern border land ports currently closed
  - When open, livestock are intensively inspected and have been prophylactically treated for NWS.
- Dog import requirements
  - Health certificate attesting to examination and screwworm freedom



Cattle presented at Douglas, AZ Port of Entry  
Photograph courtesy of APHIS VS Field Operations

# Protect the U.S. Border

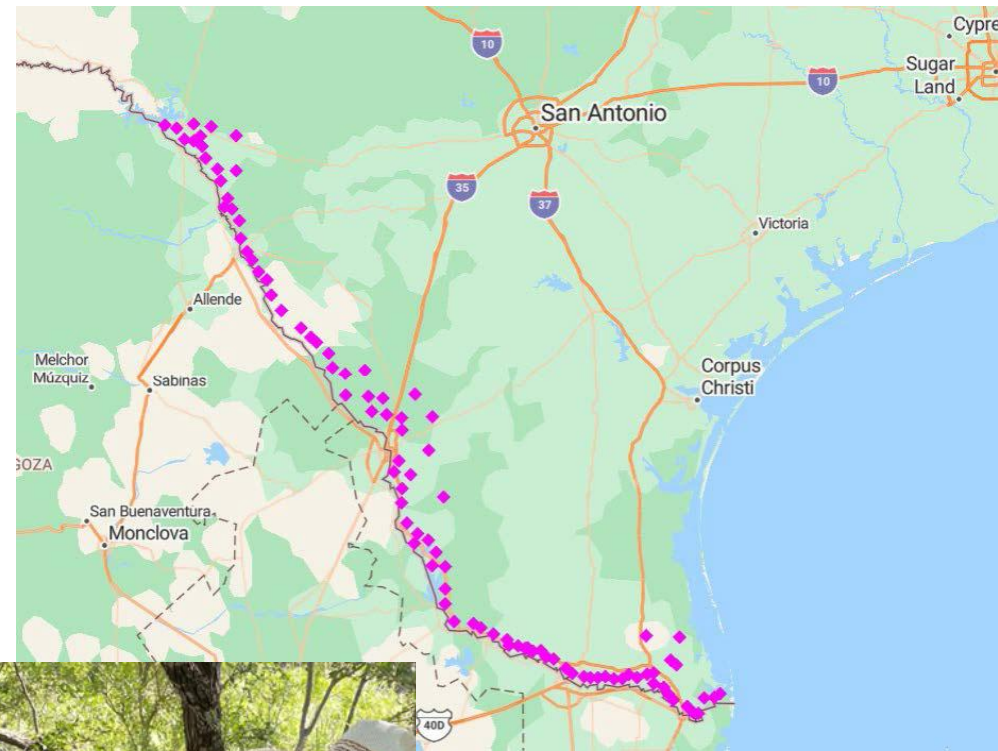
- Tick Riders
  - USDA horse mounted patrol inspectors ride along the TX-Mexico border and look for signs of stray/smuggled livestock
  - Apprehended livestock are preventatively treated for NWS
- Beagle Brigade
  - USDA is training detector dogs to detect screwworm infestations in livestock and other animals on border and at ports of entry



USDA Tick Riders intercept and treat stray livestock along the U.S.-Mexico border for screwworm.

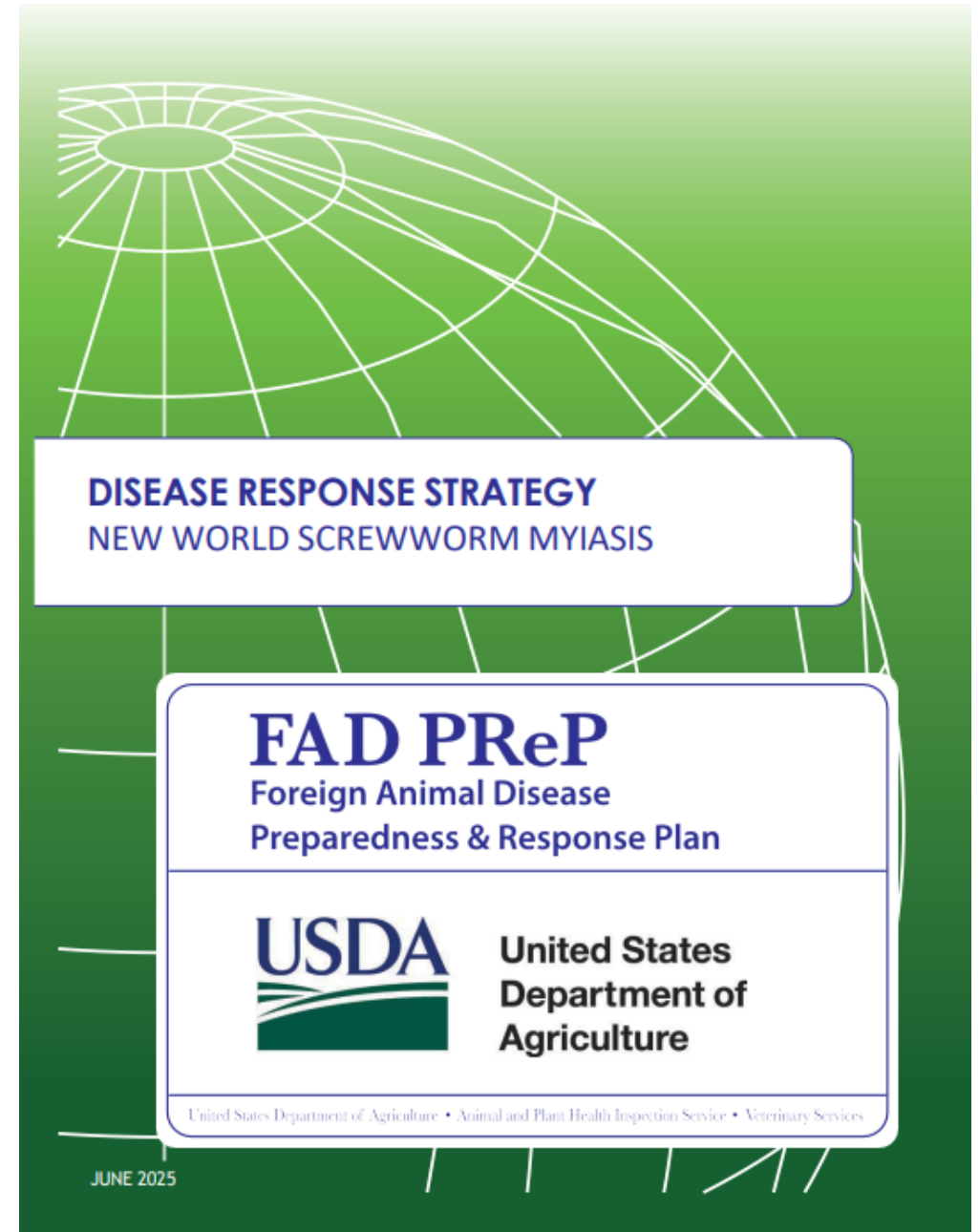
# Surveillance and Trapping

- Proactive surveillance, out of an abundance of caution
- Began July 23, 2025, in Texas
- 100+ screwworm traps placed in 8 border counties
- Also monitoring 8,500+ exotic fruit fly traps
- Additional trap locations in NM and AZ, considering additional locations in CA



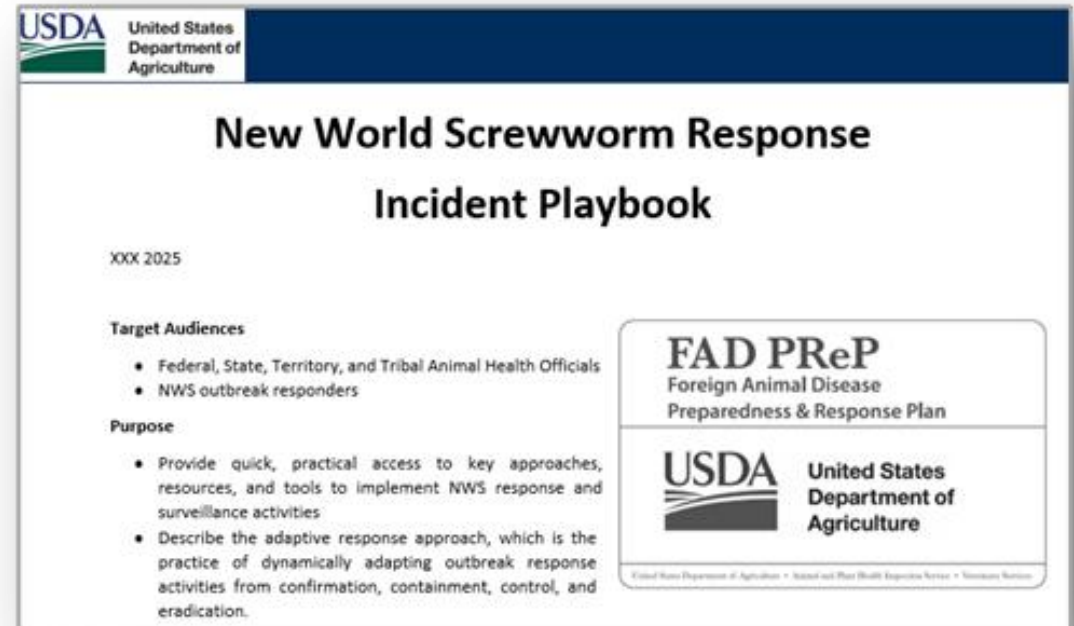
# Maximize Our Readiness

- Updated NWS Strategy Plan and currently finalizing NWS Playbook
- Working closely with state animal health and agriculture officials
- Training, outreach, and education
- Availability of treatments



# NWS Incident Playbook

- Being drafted in close consultation with state and industry
- Will be a useful resource to help animal health officials and responders manage and adapt their response to NWS
- Maintain coordination and communication among States/Territories, Tribal, and industry stakeholders



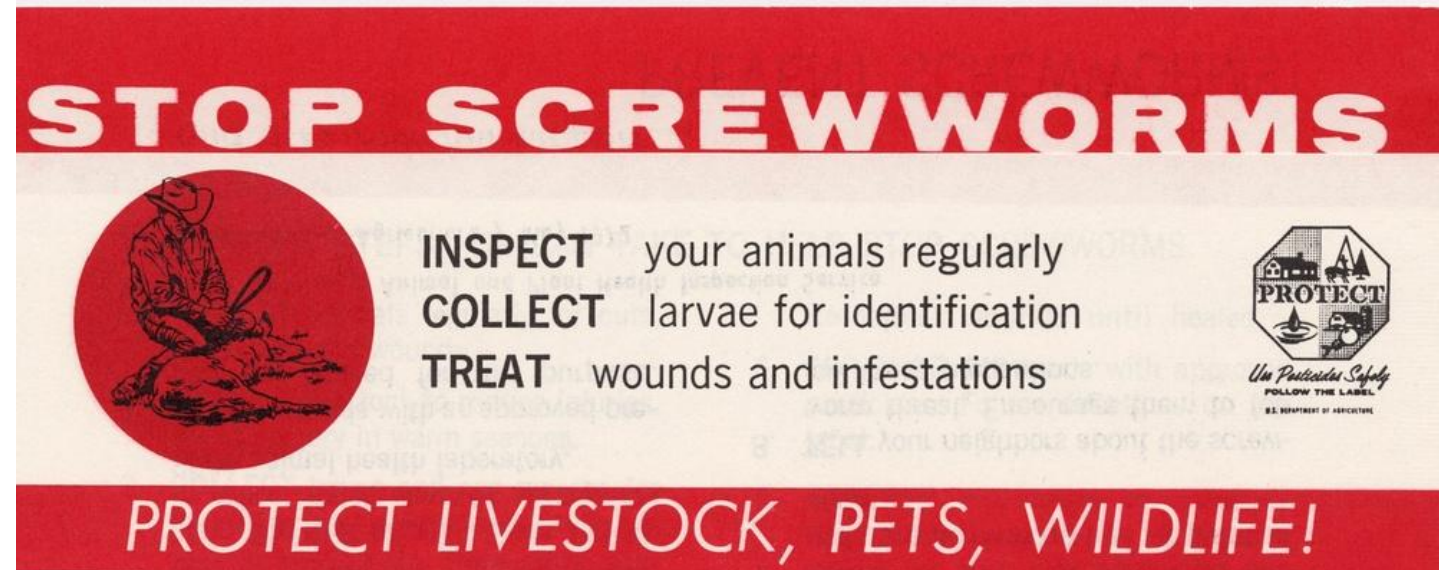
# Take the Fight to the Screwworm

- USDA providing \$21M to fund renovation of a facility in Metapa, Mexico to produce NWS flies
- USDA currently building a sterile insect dispersal facility and will be building a domestic sterile fly production facility in southern Texas



# Innovate for Continued Success

- USDA will provide up to \$100 million to invest in viable innovations that will augment U.S. NWS preparedness and response
- Innovations in sterile fly production
- Novel traps and lures
- Therapeutics



1972 APHIS NWS brochure

“The United States has defeated NWS before and we will do it again.”

USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins

Thank you!

Please contact  
[APHIS.NWS.Program@usda.gov](mailto:APHIS.NWS.Program@usda.gov)  
for NWS questions

The screwworm jar at  
the National  
Veterinary Services  
Laboratories

