

August 2025

# Agriculture Newsletter

T.J. Adkins, Agent



## News Release

### USDA Approves Emergency Conservation and Emergency Forest Restoration Assistance for Pulaski County

Somerset, Kentucky July 10, 2025 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that Pulaski County is accepting applications for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) to address damages from tornado and high winds that occurred May 16, 2025. ECP provides cost-share and technical assistance to producers to restore farmland to pre-disaster conditions and EFRP provides financial cost-share and technical assistance to restore nonindustrial private forestland (NIPF) damaged by a qualifying natural disaster. ECP signup is now open and ends on August 15, 2025. EFRP signup is now open and ends on August 29, 2025.

“The Farm Service Agency can help producers and landowners recover from natural disasters that impacted their operation,” said Lindsey New, FSA County Executive Director for Pulaski County. “If you have an immediate need to clean up and restore your operation, please call our office before beginning any restoration activities.”

#### Emergency Conservation Program

Approved ECP practices include:

- Removing debris from farmland.
- Restoring permanent fences.
- Restoring conservation structures.

Approved ECP applicants can receive up to 75% of the cost of the approved restoration activity with a maximum cost share of \$500,000 per natural disaster event.

ECP cost share is authorized to:

- provide reimbursement of costs up to 75% of the total cost of rehabilitating the land, including availability of advance payments for up to 25% of the total allowable cost for all ECP practices before the restoration is carried out, an option that was previously only available for fence repair or replacement. The cost-share payment must be spent within 60 days; and



- allow producers who lease federally owned or managed lands, including tribal trust land, as well as state land, the opportunity to participate in ECP.

Conservation concerns present on the land prior to the qualifying natural disaster event are not eligible for ECP assistance.

### **Emergency Forest Restoration Program**

Approved EFRP practices include Hardwood, Softwood, or Mixed Forest Restoration.

Assistance for EFRP is not provided upfront. Cost-share is reimbursed at no more than 75% of the lesser of the actual costs incurred or allowable cost after a restoration activity is complete. If an EFRP application is approved, the program participant is expected to perform restoration and conservation practices based on the FSA-848A *Cost-Share Agreement* and restoration plan provided. EFRP has a maximum cost share of \$500,000 per natural disaster event.

To participate in EFRP, eligible applicants must:

- Complete restoration to meet technical standards established through FSA by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service or the state forestry agency,
- Document and keep records of all costs incurred to complete the restoration activities, including costs associated with personal labor.

To meet eligibility requirements, NIPF land must have existing tree cover or had tree cover immediately before the natural disaster occurred and be sustainable for growing trees. The land must also be owned or leased by a nonindustrial private individual, group, association, corporation or other private legal entity that has definitive decision-making authority over the land.

### **More Information**

To learn more about ECP and EFRP, producers can contact the Pulaski County FSA Office at (606) 678-4842, Ext. 2 or visit [farmers.gov/protection-recovery](https://farmers.gov/protection-recovery).

FSA helps America's farmers, ranchers and forest landowners invest in, improve, protect and expand their agricultural operations through the delivery of agricultural programs for all Americans. FSA implements agricultural policy, administers credit and loan programs, and manages conservation, commodity, disaster recovery and marketing programs through a national network of state and county offices and locally elected county committees. For more information, visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov).



# **CONFIRMED: Southern Rust on Corn**

The PDDL confirmed southern rust on a corn sample in Crittenden County today and I have turned the county red on our monitoring map. <https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/maps/southern-corn-rust>. Congrats to Dee for being the first county this year! Some points to convey if you get questions are below:

In case you are asked, we confirmed southern rust in KY on July 15 in 2024, and usually confirm it in mid-July to early-August, so this is not exceptionally early, but late-planted corn will need to be monitored as the disease develops in the state.

In general, corn at or past milk stage will likely not need an application to prevent yield loss.

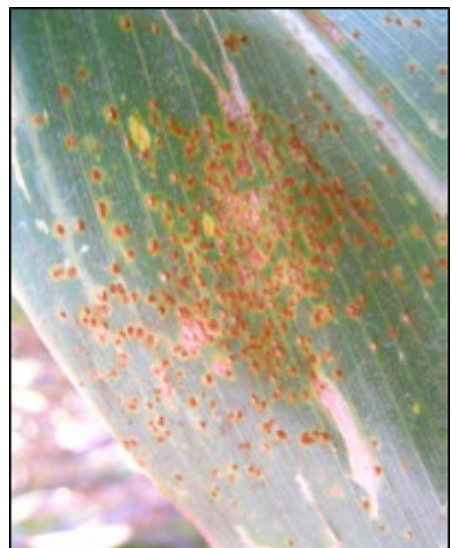
Corn that has been sprayed at VT/R1 will be probably past R2 soon and will not need another application. With current corn prices, farmers will likely not make money on fields that receive two fungicide applications, so we are trying to assess fungicide needs for specific fields rather than blanket applications.

There is particular concern about our very late-planted corn. In most cases, farmers should wait to apply fungicide until as close to VT/R1 as possible. Unless southern rust is confirmed in a pre-tassel field, we should try to wait until VT to get the maximum benefit from the fungicide application. I advocate making these decisions about pre-tassel applications for southern rust on a case-by-case basis.

Margins are tight this year, and there are some cheaper fungicide options (off-patent) that are good or very good against southern rust if an application is needed. Ratings can be found here: <https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/publications/fungicide-efficacy-for-control-of-corn-diseases>

Also, please see this table from the publication on southern rust that demonstrates the benefit of a fungicide based on the growth stage of corn. <http://cropprotectionnetwork.org/>

Photo credits: KyGrains.info





# Master Cattleman

**Presented by Lincoln, Pulaski and McCreary County Extension Office**

The Master Cattleman Program is a Kentucky Beef Network program, funded by the Kentucky Agriculture Development Board, that is developed and delivered by the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture.

It consists of:

- Six 3-hour sessions focusing on beef production and the beef industry
- On-line session for forages (with option to attend Kentucky Grazing school)
- Completion of BQCA program

These sessions focus on educational topics related to beef production and the beef industry. These sessions are designed to enhance the profitability of beef operations by equipping producers with vital information provided by University of Kentucky specialists and agents. The program provides participants with a ready reference and introduces them to several different record-keeping programs. The time spent in the sessions also allows beef producers the opportunity to network with specialists, agents, industry leaders, associates, facilitators and one another.

**Cost: \$75 or \$100/couple, due the first night of class.**

**TO REGISTER,  
CONTACT US:**



contact your local  
Extension Office



## **Marketing:**

November 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:00 pm EST

## **Genetics:**

November 10<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm EST

## **Nutrition:**

November 17<sup>th</sup>: 6:00 pm EST

## **Reproduction & Record Keeping:**

November 24<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm EST

## **Facilities and Winter Feeding:**

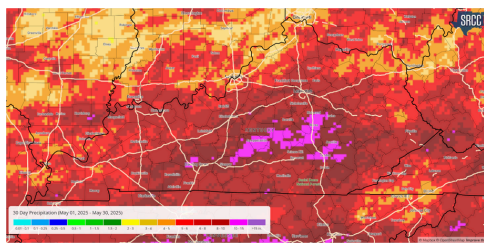
December 1<sup>st</sup> 6:00 pm EST

## **Herd Health:**

December 8<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm EST

**\*\*All classes to be held at Lincoln, Pulaski or McCreary Ext. Office**





## Exceptionally wet Start to 2025 in Kentucky

Meteorological spring officially came to a close at the end of May—and what a wet season it was! Following the second-wettest April on record, May continued the trend with consistent rainfall across the state. The official statewide average came in at 6.75 inches, which is 1.66 inches above normal, tying it for the 14th wettest May on the 131-year record.

As shown in the map below, the heaviest rainfall totals were concentrated south of the Parkway, particularly across Central Kentucky. Some locations recorded over 10 inches of rain. The highest totals in our database came from the Campbellsville, Liberty, and McKee Mesonet stations, which reported 10.30, 10.32, and 10.30 inches, respectively.

When combining March, April, and May, Kentucky averaged 19.99 inches of precipitation for meteorological spring—nearly 5.5 inches above normal—ranking as the 4th wettest spring on record (chart provided). I know spring planting has been a challenge for many this year, but honestly, I’d rather deal with a bit too much rain than face drought conditions!

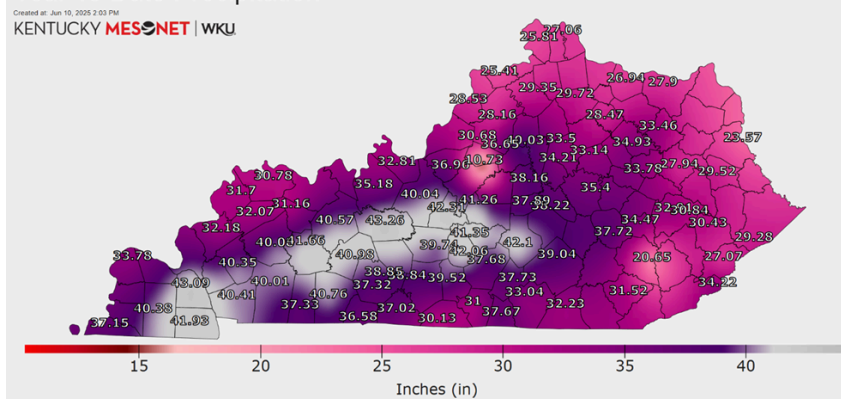
But it gets even more impressive: extending the data back to January 1st, 2025 now ranks as the wettest January–May period on record in Kentucky. Over those five months, the state has averaged 31.51 inches of precipitation, which is a remarkable 9.41 inches above normal.

Kentucky Top-10 Wettest Springs on Record (1895-2025)				
Year	Rank	Prctp	Prctp Norm	Prctp Dep
2011	1	24.33	14.5	9.83
1935	2	21.82	14.5	7.32
1927	3	20.21	14.5	5.71
2025	4	19.99	14.5	5.49
1983	5	19.47	14.5	4.97
1975	6	19.26	14.5	4.76
1997	7	19.01	14.5	4.51
1912	8	18.73	14.5	4.23
1973	9	18.64	14.5	4.14
1984	10	18.62	14.5	4.12
Data Courtesy: Midwestern Regional Climate Center cli-MATE toolkit: <a href="https://mrcc.purdue.edu/CLIMATE/">https://mrcc.purdue.edu/CLIMATE/</a>				

Looking at the year-to-date precipitation data from the Kentucky Mesonet (map below), many stations across the Pennyryle and Central Kentucky regions have already surpassed 40 inches. Grayson County leads the way with 43.26 inches. To put that in perspective, Kentucky’s annual average is 50.36 inches—and we still have seven months to go. Bottom line: it’s been an exceptionally wet start to the year.

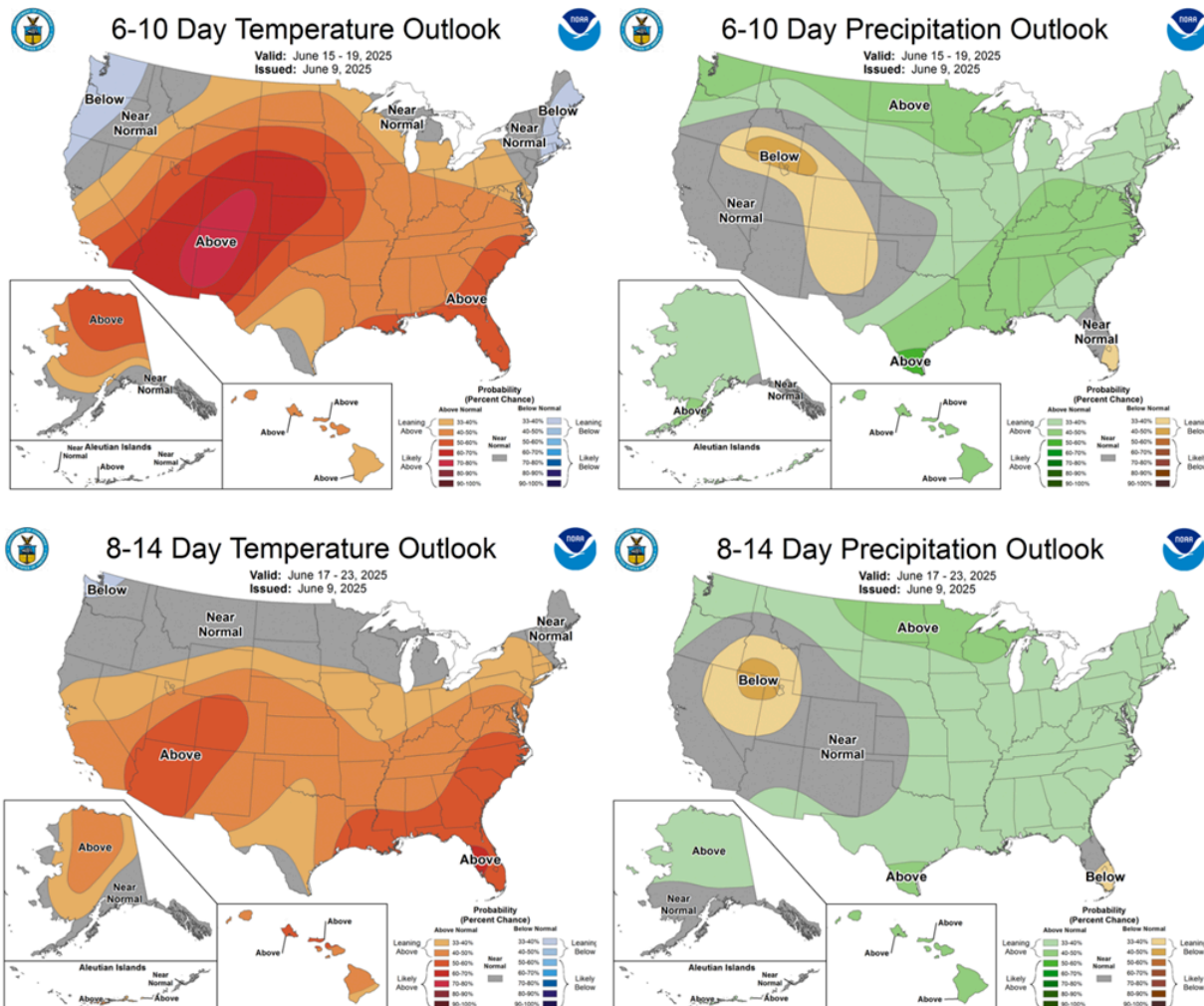
## Year To Date Precipitation

Created at: Jun 10, 2025 2:03 PM  
KENTUCKY MESONET | WKU



Will it continue? Forecasts and outlooks suggest that it will—along with the eventual return of summer heat (May's state average temperature was 1.1°F below normal, which has caused heat unit accumulations to fall behind schedule since May 1).

Below are the 6–10 day and 8–14 day outlooks, both of which lean toward above-normal temperatures and rainfall during those periods. Keep in mind: the darker the shading on the maps, the higher the confidence in the forecast. To put things in perspective, average highs this time of year typically range from the mid to upper 80s, while average lows fall in the low to mid 60s.



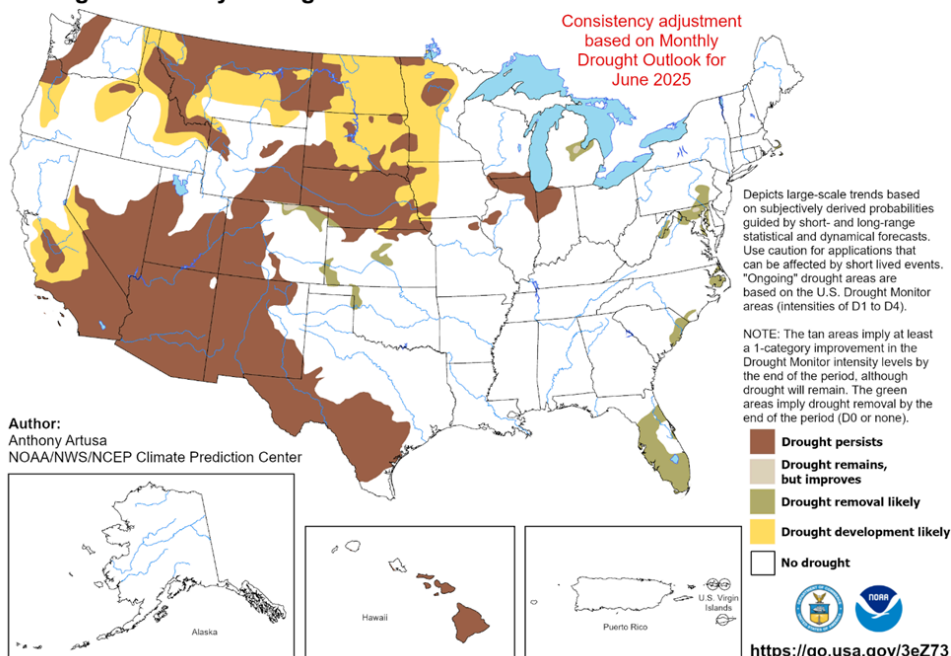
These outlooks are updated daily and can be viewed at the following link. Here, you can also find the monthly and seasonal outlooks. The summer outlook (June-August) is a little more indifferent when it come to precipitation, but saying that, the Climate Prediction Center just released their latest seasonal drought outlook (map below), which favors much of the Ohio Valley remaining drought free through the summer months. Thanks to our wet spring, soil moisture and streamflows are in relatively good shape as we head into the heart of summer. Here's to hoping it stays that way!



# U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

## Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for June 1 - August 31, 2025  
Released May 31, 2025



Citation: Dixon, M., 2025.

Exceptionally Wet Start to 2025 in Kentucky. Kentucky Field Crops News, Vol 1, Issue 6. University of Kentucky, June 13, 2025.



## Hay Testing Even More Important in 2025

*Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK Research and Education Center at Princeton*

In many parts of Kentucky first cutting hay was delayed. Although yields were good, forage quality is another story. As the grass plant reaches maturity (gets mature seed) yield goes up, but quality decreases (Figure 1). This year we were on the right side of this figure, good yield but lower quality. We have already got our hay testing results back from the lab for our first cutting and that is exactly what they show (Table 1).

I wish we could have been more timely in our hay harvest this spring but weather conditions were just not conducive to dry hay harvest. In fact, weather records indicate that we are seeing a trend toward fewer baling days in May (baling day = 3 curing days + 1 harvest day). It is just getting tougher to be timely with our first cutting harvested as dry hay. So, the question becomes what do we do? The list of practical solutions is short; in fact, there is really one viable alternative and that is baleage. High quality baleage can be made with a curing window as short as 2 days (one day to mow and wilt and a second day to bale and wrap). This provides more opportunities to harvest at the correct stage of maturity (late boot to early head).

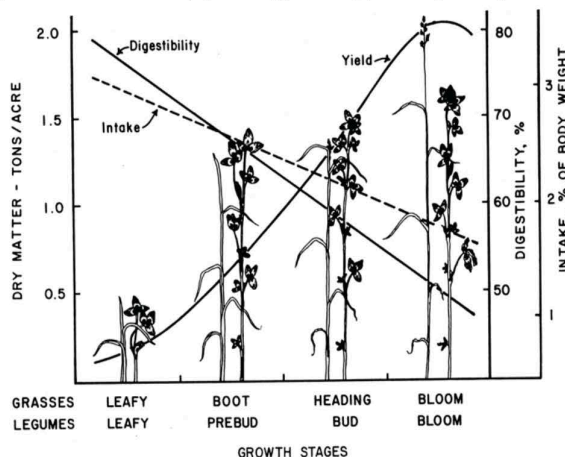


Figure 1. As plant maturity increases, yield increases and forage quality (digestibility and crude protein) decreases. The single most important factor impacting forage quality is stage of maturity at harvest.

Field	CP <sup>†</sup>	ADF	NDF	TDN	Meet CP Requirements		Meet TDN Requirements	
	%	%	%	%	Dry	Lactating	Dry	Lactating
1	8.9	40.1	59.1	55.5	yes	no	yes	no
2	9.9	39.4	60.0	56.2	yes	no	yes	no
3	8.2	41.6	67.2	53.8	yes	no	yes	no
4	10.6	41.0	64.5	54.5	yes	yes	yes	no
5	8.3	40.7	65.6	54.8	yes	no	yes	no
Avg	9.2	40.6	63.3	55.0	yes	no	yes	no

Table 1. Forage quality of 2025 first harvest hay at UK Research and Education Center in Princeton. <sup>†</sup>CP, crude protein, ADF, acid detergent fiber, NDF, neutral detergent fiber, TDN, total digestible nutrients.

## Hay Testing Even More Important in Wet Years

In years like this one, hay testing becomes even more important. Since most of Kentucky's first cutting hay was put up at an advanced stage of maturity, testing is going to be a critical part of making sure that we meet the nutrient requirements of our cows this winter. The single most important factor impacting rebreeding in cow herds is body condition at calving. To design an effective supplementation program for our lower quality hay we must know what the quality is. If you have never tested your hay, this is the year to start!

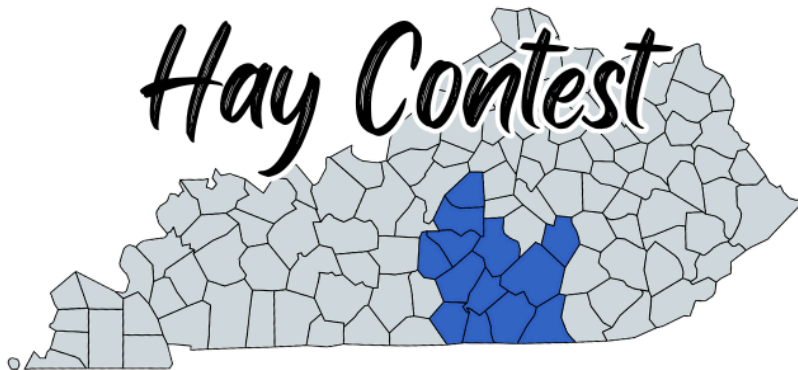
### FORAGE MANAGEMENT TIPS

✓	Test first cutting hay and use the results to develop a supplementation strategy for this winter.
✓	Graze summer annuals pastures and fertilize with 40-60 lb N/A if regrowth is desired.
✓	Identify pastures to stockpile for winter grazing. Pastures should be well drained and have a strong sod. Limit summer grazing so that they are ready to grow as conditions cool and rain comes in late summer.
✓	Do NOT mow hayfields or graze pastures closer than 4-5 inches.
✓	Soil test pastures to determine nutrient needs.
✓	Use UKY variety testing results to select varieties that will be planted in the fall.
✓	If drought occurs, confine animals to one pasture and feed hay.



# SOUTH-CENTRAL KY

## Hay Contest



Contact your local agriculture and natural resources extension agent for more information.

Deadline for sample submission is September 30th, 2025.

### Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H Youth Development  
Community and Economic Development

### MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.



# The New World Screwworm: Texas is at Risk but what about Kentucky?

**Dr. Michelle Arnold, Ruminant Extension Veterinarian, University of Kentucky**

The New World screwworm (NWS, *Cochliomyia hominivorax*) is a blow fly that is native to the Western Hemisphere. Unlike most species of blow flies, adult female screwworms do not lay eggs on dead and decaying flesh. Instead, they lay eggs on living mammals at the borders of fresh wounds or at the edge of body orifices. The larvae (maggots) feed on the host's living flesh, causing extensive damage by tearing at the host's tissue with sharp mouth hooks (see Figure 1). The term "myiasis" is used to refer to the infestation of wounds by fly larvae/maggots. The wound will become larger and deeper as more eggs hatch and larvae feed on the living tissue, which



Figure 1: NWS larvae are pale with encircling black spines and sharp mouth hooks. Accessed from "Update on New World Screwworm 2025"; Gleeson Murphy; Parasitology, Chemistry, Analytical Services (PCAS), USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services.

# BEWARE

**For the full article contact our office at  
606-679-6361**

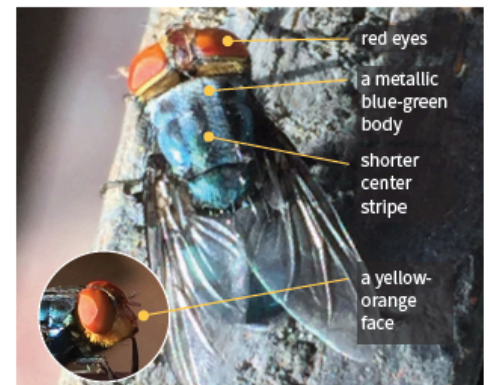
## **Box 1-What to look for:**

- Maggots in wounds or other body openings, such as the nose, ears, and genitalia or the navel of newborn animals.
- Wounds that have bloody discharge and foul odor
- Wounds that become deeper and larger as the maggots grow and feed on living tissue. Larvae may not be seen at all if the wounds are deep.
- Animals that are showing signs of pain including depression, irritability, not eating, and isolating themselves from other animals or people. Animals may be seen rubbing against trees and/or standing in water.
- Co-infestation with maggot species that feed on dead tissue may also occur. Because they feed on live flesh, NWS maggots may burrow deep into wounds or openings, while other species of maggots may appear around the outer surface of the wound and hide the screwworm larvae from detection.

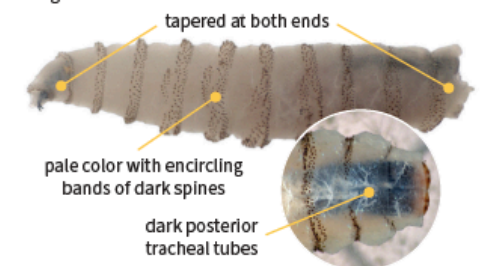
**USDA** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## **New World Screwworm**

New World screwworm is a devastating pest that can affect livestock, pets, wildlife, occasionally birds, and in rare cases, people. Adult screwworm flies are about the size of a common housefly (or slightly larger).



Screwworm larvae (maggots) burrow into a wound, feeding as they go like a screw driving into wood. The maggots cause extensive damage by tearing at the hosts' tissue with sharp mouth hooks. The wound becomes deeper and larger as more maggots hatch and feed on living tissue.



Scan the QR code to learn more about this pest. Immediately report signs to your State Animal Health Official ([www.usaha.org/saho/](http://www.usaha.org/saho/)) or USDA Area Veterinarian in Charge ([www.aphis.usda.gov/contact/animal-health](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/contact/animal-health))



## Cucumber, Corn, and Bean Salsa

**2-3** large cucumbers  
**2** tomatoes  
**1** yellow bell pepper  
**1** small red onion  
**¼ cup** chopped fresh cilantro  
**½ cup** black beans

**Wash** all vegetables. Finely **chop** cucumbers, tomatoes, pepper, and onion. **Combine** in a large mixing bowl with chopped cilantro. **Drain** and rinse beans and add to chopped vegetables. **Add** corn. If using canned corn instead of fresh, **drain** off liquid prior to adding to vegetables.

**In a small bowl**, mix together ranch

**½ cup** fresh whole kernel corn, cooked

**1 ounce** package dry ranch dressing mix

**⅛ cup** cider vinegar

**2 tablespoons** sugar, optional

dressing packet, vinegar, and sugar. **Pour** dressing over vegetables and mix well. **Serve** immediately or refrigerate until chilled.

**Yield:** Makes 20, ½ cup servings.

**Nutrition Analysis:** 50 calories, 0 g fat, 130 mg sodium, 7 g carbohydrates, 2 g fiber, 70% Daily Value of vitamin C and 6% Daily Value of vitamin A