

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3806

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to study and report on strategies to combat the New World screwworm and enhance the United States' preparedness and response capabilities against potential outbreaks.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 6, 2025

Ms. DE LA CRUZ (for herself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ROY, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. ARRINGTON, and Mr. GILL of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to study and report on strategies to combat the New World screwworm and enhance the United States' preparedness and response capabilities against potential outbreaks.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “New World Screwworm
5 Preparedness Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia*
2 hominivorax) (in this section referred to as “NWS”)
3 is a parasitic fly whose larvae infest and feed on the
4 living tissue of warm-blooded animals, including live-
5 stock, wildlife, and, in rare cases, humans.

6 (2) NWS infestations can lead to severe dam-
7 age, secondary infections, and often death in af-
8 fected animals, posing a significant threat to agricul-
9 tural economies, wildlife populations, and public
10 health.

11 (3) The United States successfully eradicated
12 NWS in the 1960s through significant efforts, pri-
13 marily utilizing the sterile insect technique, which
14 involves releasing sterile male flies to disrupt repro-
15 duction in wild populations.

16 (4) Recent outbreaks and confirmed detections
17 of NWS in neighboring countries, particularly Mex-
18 ico, indicate an increasing risk of reintroduction and
19 establishment of NWS within the United States.

20 (5) Proactive measures, including enhanced sur-
21 veillance, rapid response capabilities, and continued
22 research into innovative control methods, are critical
23 to preventing a widespread NWS outbreak and miti-
24 gating its potential economic and ecological impact.

1 **SEC. 3. STUDY AND REPORT ON NEW WORLD SCREWORM**
2 **PREPAREDNESS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agri-
5 culture, acting through the Administrator of the Animal
6 and Plant Health Inspection Service (in this section re-
7 ferred to as the “Secretary”) shall conduct a comprehen-
8 sive study on the current State of United States prepared-
9 ness and response capabilities to combat the New World
10 screwworm (in this section referred to as “NWS”).

11 (b) COMPONENTS OF THE STUDY.—The study under
12 this section shall include the following:

13 (1) CURRENT THREAT ASSESSMENT.—An anal-
14 ysis of the current threat posed by NWS to the
15 United States, including—

16 (A) the migratory patterns and confirmed
17 detections of NWS in countries bordering the
18 United States;

19 (B) the potential pathways for NWS intro-
20 duction into the United States;

21 (C) the economic impact of a potential
22 NWS outbreak on the United States livestock
23 industry, including cattle, swine, and other sus-
24 ceptible animals; and

25 (D) the ecological impact of a potential
26 NWS outbreak on domestic wildlife populations.

1 (2) STERILE INSECT TECHNIQUE CAPABILI-
2 TIES.—A review of the United States capacity to
3 produce and deploy sterile NWS flies, including—

4 (A) the current status and capacity of ex-
5 isting NWS sterile fly production facilities;

6 (B) the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of
7 establishing new or expanding existing modular
8 NWS sterile fly rearing facilities within the
9 United States, including potential locations
10 based on risk assessment; and

11 (C) the logistical requirements for effective
12 dispersal of sterile flies in areas at risk of infes-
13 tation.

14 (3) SURVEILLANCE AND DETECTION SYS-
15 TEMS.—An evaluation of current NWS surveillance
16 and detection systems, including—

17 (A) the effectiveness of border inspection
18 protocols for live animals;

19 (B) the adequacy of diagnostic capabilities
20 and laboratory infrastructure; and

21 (C) the integration of public and private
22 sector reporting mechanisms for suspected
23 NWS cases.

1 (4) EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS.—An exam-
2 ination of existing emergency response plans for
3 NWS outbreaks, including—

4 (A) the coordination mechanisms between
5 Federal, State, and local agencies;

6 (B) the availability of resources for rapid
7 containment and eradication efforts; and

8 (C) protocols for animal movement restric-
9 tions and public outreach during an outbreak.

10 (5) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.—
11 Identification of critical research and development
12 needs to enhance NWS prevention, control, and
13 eradication, including—

14 (A) new diagnostic tools;

15 (B) improved sterile insect techniques;

16 (C) alternative control methods; and

17 (D) genetic research into NWS
18 vulnerabilities.

19 (6) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.—An as-
20 sessment of the effectiveness of current international
21 co-operation efforts with affected countries and rec-
22 ommendations for strengthening such partnerships
23 to establish and maintain biological barriers.

1 (c) STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION.—In conducting
2 the study under this section, the Secretary shall consult
3 with relevant stakeholders, including—

4 (1) livestock producers and industry associa-
5 tions;

6 (2) wildlife management agencies;

7 (3) veterinary professionals;

8 (4) scientific experts in entomology, epidemi-
9 ology, and animal health; and

10 (5) State and local agricultural and public
11 health officials.

12 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 6
13 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
14 retary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of
15 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-
16 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, and make
17 publicly available, a report—

18 (1) detailing the findings of the study under
19 this section; and

20 (2) providing recommendations for legislative
21 and administrative actions to improve the United
22 States' ability to combat NWS.

○