

## Justification for Emergency Regulation

EMERGENCY REGULATION TEMPORARILY AMENDING THE RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE IMPORTATION OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS (250-RICR-40-05-1) TO RESTRICT ENTRY OF ANIMALS FROM STATES AFFECTED WITH NEW WORLD SCREWWORM.

250-RICR-40-05-12

DEM has determined New World Screwworm (NWS) is a parasitic infestation caused by *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, and is a serious pest affecting humans, domestic animals and wildlife species that are warm-blooded ("susceptible species"). Therefore, the prevention of the spread of this pest is of utmost importance to the citizens of the state.

1. On June 3, 2026 NWS was detected in TX and has continued to spread in that state. It has also spread to NM.
2. The movement of animals from infested zones or adjacent surveillance zones (as established by USDA where this pest has been detected) poses a significant risk of spreading this pest to new locations.
3. Animal Health Officials from all six New England States are imposing movement restrictions on any susceptible species originating from within an infested zone or an adjacent surveillance zone to prevent the introduction of this pest into the northeast.
4. RI receives a significant number of animals from states that are currently affected by NWS; and the number of states affected is predicted to grow as this infestation progresses.
5. DEM views the public health, domestic animal health and wildlife health as being in imminent peril.
6. DEM views the financial risk to the Rhode Island livestock industry as being in imminent peril.

**Therefore, an immediate action is required to mitigate the aforementioned risks.**