



**OREGON  
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AGRICULTURE**

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**To:** Lindsay Eng, Deputy Director, Oregon Department of Agriculture  
**Subject:** Summary Report on Public Comment  
**From:** Sunny Summers  
**Date:** April 1, 2026

**Rulemaking Public Comment Summary** - The purpose of this rulemaking public comment period was to allow public comment on rules to adopt import restrictions for areas infested with New World Screwworm.

**Public Hearing** – ODA held a public hearing on February 20, 2026. No verbal comments were received.

**Summary of Written Comments** - ODA accepted written testimony from the public through 5:00 p.m. on February 27, 2026. One written comment was received and is attached. ODA's rules are following USDA rules.

Dated this 1st day of April 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sunny Summers', is written over a white background.

Sunny Summers, Hearings Officer  
Oregon Department of Agriculture  
635 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
[sunny.summers@oda.oregon.gov](mailto:sunny.summers@oda.oregon.gov)  
503.400.4196

## **Public Proposal for Adoption of Emergency and Permanent Rules**

Submitted to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)

### **Re: Importation, Transit, and Quarantine Requirements for Animals from New World Screwworm (NWS) Endemic or Infested Areas**

Date of Submission: February 1, 2026

Submitted by:

Dr. Barbara J. Kahl, DVM

Mixed Animal Rural Practitioner

Equisport Farm and Veterinary Service

15500 Highway 47

Yamhill, OR 97148

Phone: 503-332-8650

(Private citizen / Oregon-licensed veterinarian and concerned resident)

Oregon Department of Agriculture

Animal Health Programs

635 Capitol St NE

Salem, OR 97301

Email: [rulemaking@oda.oregon.gov](mailto:rulemaking@oda.oregon.gov)

### **Purpose of This Proposal**

As a private citizen and licensed veterinarian practicing in Yamhill, Oregon, I respectfully submit this proposal for review and consideration during the public comment period and public hearing scheduled for February 27, 2026.

With the escalating human migration from regions endemic to New World Screwworm (NWS), including the potential introduction of infected pets or human carriers, this emerging threat poses a severe risk to public health, livestock, and wildlife, necessitating the swift enactment of emergency regulations for proactive containment and prevention.

This proposal urges ODA to adopt stringent emergency and permanent rules to prevent the introduction of New World screwworm (\**Cochliomyia hominivorax*\*) into Oregon. These rules would amend and supplement existing Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 603, Division 11, particularly provisions related to livestock importation, prohibited diseases, and animal health sanitation (e.g., OAR 603-011-0255, 603-011-1100).

Given the active and expanding NWS outbreak in Mexico (including detections in Tamaulipas near the U.S. border) and Central America—with over 149,000 reported animal cases and more than 1,200 human cases as of late January 2026—these measures are intended to establish a zero-tolerance barrier at Oregon’s borders, exceeding current federal USDA-APHIS requirements to protect Oregon’s livestock, wildlife, economy, and public health.

## **Proposed Rules**

### **Rule 1. Definitions**

- (1) “NWS-Endemic or Infested Area” means any country, region, or subnational area where NWS is confirmed present, endemic, or under active outbreak, as designated by USDA-APHIS or ODA, including but not limited to all of Mexico, all Central American countries, Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and South America.
- (2) “Warm-Blooded Animals” includes livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, swine, equines, bison), companion animals (dogs, cats), captive wildlife, birds, and other susceptible species.
- (3) “Originating From” means animals born, residing, or transiting through an NWS-Endemic or Infested Area within the preceding 12 months.
- (4) “Transit” means any movement through Oregon by any means (road, rail, air, water), including temporary passage without unloading.

### **Rule 2. Absolute Prohibition on Importation**

- (1) Importation into Oregon of any warm-blooded animals originating from an NWS-Endemic or Infested Area is strictly prohibited, regardless of USDA import permits, treatments, inspections, or certifications.
- (2) No exceptions apply, except for animals certified under USDA-APHIS sterile insect technique programs or federal eradication efforts, and only upon prior written approval from ODA’s State Veterinarian.
- (3) Eligible animals must complete mandatory quarantine and treatment in a USDA-approved facility located outside Oregon (preferably in a non-adjacent state or federal port facility) for a minimum of 21 days post-treatment using approved larvicides (e.g., Dectomax-CA1 for cattle or equivalent). Re-entry requires negative NWS testing and an ODA-endorsed Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) confirming freedom from infestation.

### **Rule 3. Prohibition on Transit and Border Proximity**

- (1) No warm-blooded animals originating from an NWS-Endemic or Infested Area may transit through Oregon under any circumstances, including air transportation or drive-through on interstate highways (e.g., I-5, I-84).
- (2) Ground transporters must reroute via adjacent states (Washington, Idaho, California, Nevada) using pre-approved detour routes documented with GPS tracking or electronic logging. Routes require prior notification to and approval by ODA.
- (3) Violation results in immediate seizure, mandatory external quarantine, treatment, or humane destruction at the owner's expense, plus civil penalties.
- (4) Animals and transport vehicles may not approach within 50 miles of Oregon's borders if originating from infested areas, to mitigate risk of fly dispersal.

#### **Rule 4. Mandatory External Quarantine and Surveillance**

- (1) In-state quarantine of animals originating from or exposed to NWS-Endemic or Infested Areas is prohibited. All quarantine must occur outside Oregon in approved facilities.
- (2) Quarantine duration: Minimum 21 days, with daily wound/larvae inspections and required larvicide and wound treatments.
- (3) Post-quarantine movement requires a CVI issued within 5 days by a veterinary official at the quarantine site, detailing origin, travel history, inspections, treatments, and NWS-free status. ODA endorsement is mandatory.
- (4) ODA should enhance border surveillance through checkpoints, fly traps, veterinary inspections, and a dedicated reporting hotline (503-986-4711). All veterinarians, producers, and the public must report suspected NWS (e.g., wounds with larvae, foul odor) within 24 hours.

#### **Rule 5. Documentation, Permits, and Traceability**

- (1) An ODA import permit is required for any animal potentially linked to infested areas; such permits should be denied if any NWS risk is present.
- (2) All required CVIs must include full origin and travel details, NWS inspection results, and quarantine certification. Federal documents alone are insufficient.
- (3) Animals must comply with USDA Animal Disease Traceability requirements (9 CFR Part 86), including electronic identification for traceability.

#### **Rule 6. Enforcement and Penalties**

- (1) Violations are subject to civil penalties up to \$10,000 per animal, seizure, external quarantine or destruction costs borne by the owner/transporter, and potential license revocation.

(2) ODA should coordinate with USDA-APHIS, adjacent states, and federal ports to enforce prohibitions, detours, and federal import suspensions (e.g., ongoing restrictions from Mexico).

(3) Emergency powers should allow immediate implementation of enhanced measures if NWS detections approach U.S. borders.

#### **Rule 7. Public Education and Reporting**

(1) ODA should disseminate educational materials on NWS recognition, wound management, travel advisories for pets and livestock, and prevention to producers, veterinarians, and the public.

(2) Immediate reporting of suspicious infestations is mandatory; samples must be preserved (e.g., in 70% alcohol) for laboratory confirmation.

#### **Requested Action and Timeline**

I respectfully request that ODA:

- Consider these proposed rules for emergency adoption (pursuant to ORS 183.335) due to the imminent threat to Oregon's livestock, wildlife, economy, and public health.
- Proceed with permanent rulemaking following the public comment period.

A 60-day grace period for any pre-existing import arrangements is suggested if emergency rules are adopted.

#### **Public Comment Period**

This proposal is submitted in advance of the public comment period ending February 27, 2026. I will attend or participate in the public hearing on that date (virtually or in person) to provide additional testimony if requested.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and for your ongoing efforts to safeguard Oregon's agricultural and natural resources. As a practicing veterinarian in rural Oregon, I am deeply concerned about the potential impacts of NWS introduction on our animal populations and communities.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Barbara J. Kahl, DVM  
Yamhill, Oregon