

# SIERRA STOCK REVIEW

## Resources for Ranching in the Foothills

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Placer - Nevada - Yuba - Sutter

### PLACER COUNTY

2855 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Auburn, CA 95603  
(530) 889 - 7385

### NEVADA COUNTY

255 S. Auburn Street  
Grass Valley, CA 95945  
(530) 273 - 4563

### YUBA/SUTTER

142A Garden Highway  
Yuba City, CA 95991  
(530) 882-7515  
alnwarn@ucanr.edu

### ► Spring Forage Crop

An unseasonably dry March had us all questioning if we were going into a drought year, and how to potentially prepare for that. However, with the rain picking back up through April and May, rangeland pasture production took off. Data from forage samples collected at the Sierra Foothill Research & Extension Center in Browns Valley (1,500ft elevation) showed a peak forage yield of 4,775 lbs per acre on May 14, 2026. The historical peak forage yield average is 3,258 lbs per acre at this location.

### ► What's That Weed? Yellow Nutsedge

This is yellow nutsedge, a state-listed noxious weed in California. This invasive weed is found in summer irrigated pastures and can grow in altitudes up to 3300 ft. Nutsegde is especialy difficult to control, as it develops an extensive underground system, of rhizomes, tubers, and roots.



The weed produces straw colored spikelets from June to October on a mature plant that is just under 3 feet tall. Yellow nutsedge prefers sandy, well drained soils where water is plentiful, and seeds can disperse through the water, particularly when flooding. Controlling tuber development is key to removing nutsedge, as mature tubers can resprout up to a dozen times. If you are able to remove young nutsedge plants before they develop their inital 5 to 6 leaves, you will be succesful in removal. Be sure to dig down at least 8 to 14 inches to remove the entire young plant. Herbicides are not effective at controlling mature nutsedge plants. To read more about control options for nutsedge from UC IPM, [click here](#).

### ► New World Screwworm

You have likely heard the news that the New World Screwwrom (NWS) has made its way into the United States, with Texas and New Mexico making the first observations in June. This pest, which deposits eggs in wounds of live animals and causes a serious condition in which fly larve consume living animal tissue, has NOT made it to California. However, it is important for folks who are working directly with livestock to be able to recognize the signs of a potential New World Screwworm case. The fly does not travel far on its own, but there is a chance for the pest to travel on livestock that are being transported from other areas. To reduce this risk, the CDFA has implemented strict entry requirements for livestock entering the state from areas in NWS surveillance zones. For more information, check out the [fact sheet](#) from the California Screwworm Working Group that is attached to this newsletter.



## ► From the Field: Estimating Fecal Parasite Loads



UC Livestock advisors and veterinary medicine specialists throughout the state are currently collaborating on a research project to better understand the parasite burden and management factors that influence worm loads in California cattle, sheep, and goats. A majority of the research conducted in ruminant parasite management comes from the Southeastern United States, where they experience hot, humid summers that greatly increase parasite risk in livestock. To better understand internal parasite load in our unique California climate and to determine which management factors play a role in total worm loads, advisors will be collecting fresh fecal samples from up to ten ranches in their region. The samples will be analyzed for fecal egg counts in the lab, and advisors will be able to evaluate how grazing management, stocking density, irrigated pasture, transhumance, and environmental variables affect parasite levels. Stay tuned for results!

## ► Upcoming Events

**Sierra Harvest AG SKILLS**  
With Nevada County Resource Conservation District

Farm + Ranch IRRIGATION & Water Systems  
101 (Class 1 of a 2-part series)

Tuesday, July 7  
4:30 - 6:30 PM

- Join Sierra Harvest and Nevada County RCD for a two-part workshop on farm and ranch irrigation and water systems.
- Classroom Discussion: July 7<sup>th</sup>
- Field Workshop: July 16<sup>th</sup>
- Register:  
<https://events.humanitix.com/irrigation-and-water-systems-101>

**FIELD DAY**  
At Sierra Foothill REC  
SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>

- Save the Date for a Field Day at Sierra Foothill REC in Browns Valley on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>
- Join us for a day in the field where we will tour the research center and hear from UC advisors and specialists about their projects and findings
- Topics include oak trees, beef cattle, climate change, and soil amendments
- Registration: <https://link.ucanr.edu/sfrec2026>



# NEW WORLD SCREWWORM

## FACT SHEET



Photo Credit: USDA

### IMPACT OF SCREWWORM

The New World Screwworm (NWS) (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) was detected in the United States (Texas and New Mexico) in June 2026. NWS deposits eggs in wounds of live animals, and occasionally people, causing a serious condition (myiasis) where fly larvae (maggots) consume living animal tissue at the base or edge of the wound. This maggot feeding activity can result in a rapidly worsening condition that can result in animal death if left untreated.

**Geographic Distribution:** Prior to 2023, screwworm was restricted to South America and a few Caribbean islands with a quarantine barrier maintained in Panama by joint USDA-Panama release of sterile male flies. Screwworm recently escaped this quarantine and rapidly spread northward, reaching the United States in June 2026. Use the QR code to the right to view the current distribution of confirmed cases of screwworm in the United States.



- **Fly Movement:** Adult flies typically travel only a few miles on their own. Long-distance spread occurs primarily when infested livestock, dogs, or other animals are moved by people



Screwworm maggots.  
Photo Credit: USDA

- **Clinical Signs:** Infested animals may develop enlarging wounds that are foul-smelling or produce excessive discharge. Animals may appear uncomfortable, irritable, or isolate themselves from other animals. In humans, infestations may cause pain or a sensation of movement within a wound or body opening. Close examination of wounds, lesions, or body openings may reveal maggots with bands of spines encircling their bodies (see image).
- **Foreign Animal Disease:** Screwworm is a reportable disease and must be reported within 24 hours. Report suspect livestock and pet cases to CDFA Animal Health Branch (**866-922-2473**), wildlife cases to USDA Wildlife Services Office (**866-487-3297**), or human cases to CDPH Epi on Call (**961-328-3605**).

- **Quarantine:** Animal health officials will quarantine all premises within an infested zone. During quarantine, CDFA and USDA will perform a case investigation and may recommend additional control measures to include administration of effective treatment products and/or sterile fly release to control the fly population. The quarantine will be released when surveillance and epi show no evidence of a reproducing fly population.
- **Additional Information:** More information is available at [www.screwworm.gov](http://www.screwworm.gov), [bit.ly/CDFA\\_NWS](http://bit.ly/CDFA_NWS), and at [murillolab.ucr.edu/screwworm](http://murillolab.ucr.edu/screwworm).