

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Number: NU2024-0004

Report Name: Nicaragua Reports Screwworm Outbreak

Country: Nicaragua

Post: Managua

Report Category: National Plan, Agriculture in the News, Climate Change/Global Warming/Food Security, Livestock and Products, Agriculture in the Economy

Prepared By: Evan Mangino, Agricultural Counselor

Approved By: Evan Mangino

Report Highlights:

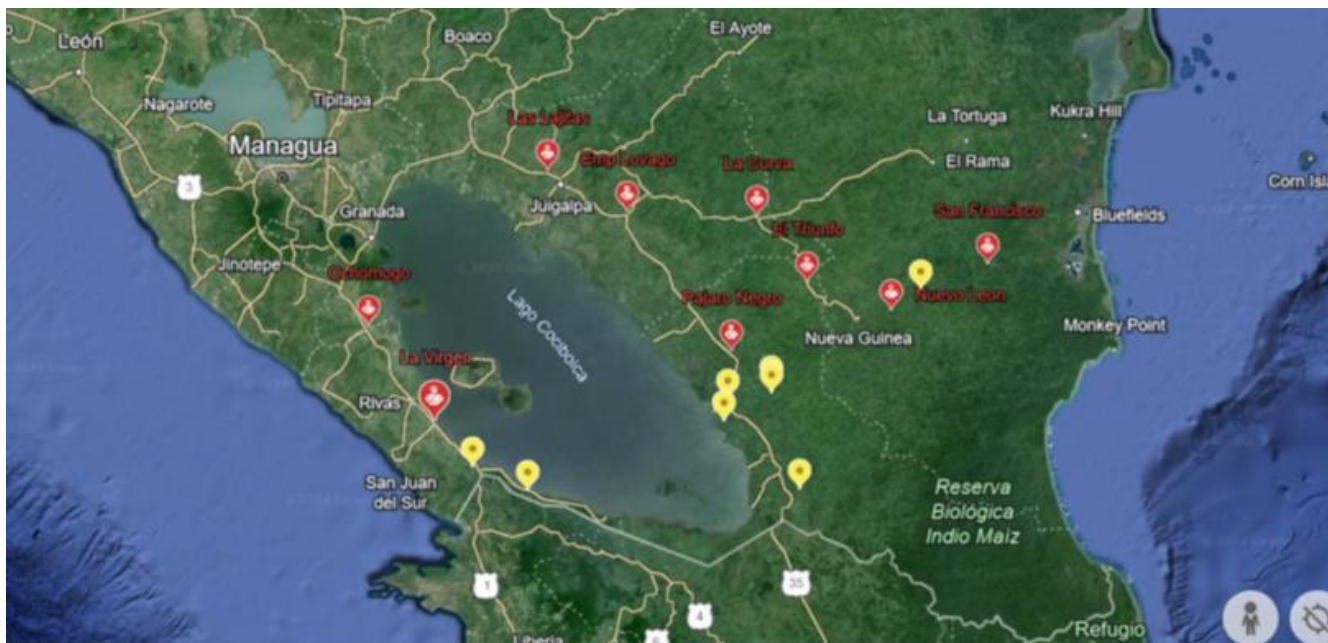
Nicaragua reported an outbreak of New World screwworm to the World Organization for Animal Health following confirmation of a sample collected on March 12, 2024. Nicaragua is the largest cattle producer in Central America and last detected screwworm in 1996. The estimated value of the benefits to Nicaragua from screwworm eradication – a joint effort between Nicaragua and the United States from 1991 to 2012 – exceeds \$200 million per year.

On April 29, 2024, Nicaragua [notified](#) the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) of the first confirmed detection of New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) since June 1996. The WOAH report noted one confirmed detection on March 12, and 68 susceptible animals (or unconfirmed detections). The WOAH report also noted the source of the outbreak as “illegal movement of animals.” [Note: Costa Rica – Nicaragua’s neighbor to the south – declared screwworm a national health emergency on February 7, 2024. See GAIN Report [CS2024-0003](#) for more information.]

Nicaragua has approximately 6 million head of cattle, generating nearly \$1 billion of beef, dairy, and live animal exports annually. In addition to increased mortality, screwworm can significantly reduce on-farm revenues from remaining cattle, affecting rural livelihoods more broadly. Effective treatment of cattle affected by screwworm requires use of larvicidal compounds that result in dairy cattle being withdrawn from milk supply chains. Most cattle in Nicaragua are ‘dual purpose’ animals, relied upon primarily for milk as a stable source of income.

On April 3, the Nicaraguan legislature published [Executive Decree 030-2024](#), declaring the screwworm outbreak a national health emergency. Under the decree, the national animal health authority, the Institute for Agricultural Protection and Health (IPSA), established a National Campaign for the prevention, control, eradication of screwworm along with stringent reporting requirements and the authority for on-farm inspections and animal movement control points. As of April 4, IPSA had established nine animal movement control points along key transportation arteries in the southern half of the country (see map below).

Figure 1. Map of Nicaraguan Animal Movement Control Points



Source: [IPSA](#)

Note: Red markers correspond to animal movement control points.

The attached document was downloaded from [IPSA's screwworm website](#). In addition to a number of graphic images of screwworm cases, the document also includes instructional material to assist with citizen surveillance and detection of the screwworm fly and its larvae.

Figure 2. Screwworm Fly Identification Poster

The poster is a green and white informational graphic. At the top left is the logo for the 'Gobierno de Reconciliación y Unidad Nacional' with the slogan '¡El Pueblo, Presidente!'. At the top right is the logo for 'IPSA INSTITUTO DE PROTECCIÓN Y SANIDAD AGROPECUARIA'. The main title in large, bold, white letters on a green background reads 'CAMPAÑA NACIONAL DE PREVENCIÓN CONTROL Y ERRADICACIÓN DEL GUSANO BARRENADOR DEL GANADO'. The central image shows a large, detailed illustration of a screwworm fly with a metallic blue-green thorax and reddish-brown head and legs. Three callout boxes with yellow lines point to specific features: 1) 'OJOS ROJIZOS ANARANJADOS.' (Reddish-brown eyes) pointing to the fly's head. 2) 'COLOR AZUL VERDESO BRILLANTE (METÁLICO) en su tórax tiene 3 rayas de color negro la del centro es mas corta.' (Shiny blue-green color on its thorax has 3 black stripes, the middle one is shorter) pointing to the fly's thorax. 3) 'SU TAMAÑO DE 8-10 MM (EL DOBLE DE UNA MOSCA DOMÉSTICA.)' (Its size is 8-10 mm (twice that of a housefly)) pointing to the fly's body. Below the main illustration, a text box states: 'Las infestaciones comienzan en cualquier lesión abierta incluyendo laceraciones, heridas de castración, ombligos de animales recién nacidos o picaduras de garrapatas.' At the bottom, a white banner with green text reads '¡¡LA VIGILANCIA EPIDEMIOLÓGICA ES TAREA DE TODOS!!!'. Below this, on a green background, it says 'REPORTA A NUESTRAS LÍNEAS' next to a WhatsApp icon, followed by the phone numbers '8577-4014' and '2298-1330 EXT. 151 / 450' next to a circular logo.

Gobierno de Reconciliación y Unidad Nacional
¡El Pueblo, Presidente!

IPSA
INSTITUTO DE PROTECCIÓN Y SANIDAD AGROPECUARIA

**CAMPAÑA NACIONAL DE PREVENCIÓN
CONTROL Y ERRADICACIÓN DEL GUSANO BARRENADOR DEL GANADO**

OJOS ROJIZOS ANARANJADOS.

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¡¡LA VIGILANCIA EPIDEMIOLÓGICA ES TAREA DE TODOS!!!

REPORTA A NUESTRAS LÍNEAS

8577-4014
2298-1330 EXT. 151 / 450

Source: [IPSA screwworm website](#).

Attachments:

[SITUACION ACTUAL DE GBG 04-04-2024.pdf](#)