



Minnesota

MEAT MINUTE

Photo: Medicine Creek Farm, Finlayson, MN

Volume 13, Issue 8
September 2026



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In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Venison Donation Program Update

The MDA has mailed out information to all licensed processors on registering for the venison donation program in time for the upcoming deer hunting season. Keep in mind that you must register each year to participate. Registration and information on processor participation requirements can be found on our [website](#). Once your application is received by MDA, detailed information will be sent to you which outlines the documentation and reimbursement process. The MN DNR will be updating their website with current information on their new electronic licensing system (ELS), Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and carcass import and movement restrictions, along with changes in mandatory testing in certain management zones.

Food Safety During Potluck Picnics

Check out these [helpful tips](#) to help keep food safe during your gatherings.

- Wash hands before and after handling food
- Avoid cross-contamination
- Cook foods thoroughly
- Observe the two-hour rule
- Keep hot foods hot, and cold foods cold
- Keep food out of the danger zone (temps between 40 and 140 degrees Fahrenheit)





New World Screwworm, a Re-emerging Threat to Our Food Supply

New World screwworm (NWS) was once considered a pest of the past, eradicated from the United States in the 1960s, but unfortunately, it's back. In June 2026, NWS was confirmed in Texas. Although Minnesota remains free of NWS, every sector of the food animal industry, including meat processors, play a critical role in protecting our state from this pest.

The adult NWS fly is metallic blue-green. Female screwworm flies lay their eggs in fresh wounds of any size, like castration sites, dehorning sites and trauma wounds. NWS larvae (maggots) consume living tissue, which often leaves a pocket-like wound in any warm-blooded

animal. Even very small wounds can become infected. If left untreated, screwworm infestations can destroy large amounts of muscle and other tissues, reducing carcass value and animal welfare.

Meat processors may be among the first to observe suspicious lesions when handling livestock. Signs of screwworm infestation include:

- Any fresh wound, even small ones, that fail to heal normally or rapidly worsen.
- A putrid, decaying odor from the infected wound.
- White-to-cream-colored larvae visible within the wound.
- Irritated behavior or head shaking.

If you suspect NWS, even if you are unsure, report it immediately to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) or the USDA:

- MN BAH: 651-296-2942 (business hours) or 24/7 to MN Duty Officer at 1-800-422-0798
- USDA Veterinary Services District Office at 651-269-0228 during business hours
- USDA Foreign Animal Disease Hotline at 1-866-536-7593 for 24-hour reporting
- Be prepared to provide your contact information, the farmer or animal owner's contact information, the location of the animals, and the signs observed in the animals.

Vigilance from producers, veterinarians, and meat processors remains one of Minnesota's strongest defenses against the re-establishment of this destructive pest. Learn more at the [USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's website](#), or the MDA's [New World Screwworm webpage](#).

Meat Inspector Calendar No Inspection Dates

- September 7
Labor Day
- November 11
Veterans Day
- November 26-27
Thanksgiving Day and
Day After
- December 25
Christmas Day
- January 1, 2027
New Years Day
- January 18, 2027
Martin Luther King Day

Meat, Poultry, and Egg Inspection Staff

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QUESTIONS? Call the Dairy and Meat Inspection Division at 651-201-6300