

June 26, 2026

The Honorable Brooke L. Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250
Delivery via Email

Dear Secretary Rollins:

We write on behalf of Texas sheep and goat producers regarding an unintended consequence of Florida's recently adopted emergency restrictions on livestock imports related to New World Screwworm (NWS).

We appreciate the efforts of USDA, the State of Texas, and the State of Florida to protect animal health and prevent the spread of NWS. We recognize that states have a legitimate interest in safeguarding their livestock industries and understand Florida's desire to take precautionary measures in response to recent NWS detections.

However, Florida's emergency rule has created a significant marketing challenge for Texas sheep and goat producers. Under the rule, animals originating from a county where NWS has been detected, as well as animals originating from adjoining counties, must receive an approved treatment for NWS no more than fourteen days before entering Florida. The rule further requires documentation of that treatment on the Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.

For decades, Florida has served as an important destination market for Texas sheep and goats. Unlike many other livestock sectors, Texas sheep and goat producers rely heavily on out-of-state slaughter markets, and Florida processors represent a critical source of demand. As a result, disruptions to this marketing channel have immediate economic consequences for producers, sale barns, transporters, and rural communities throughout Texas.

The challenge arises from the interaction between Florida's treatment requirement and the withdrawal periods associated with commonly used NWS treatments. One of the most widely utilized products for NWS prevention and treatment is doramectin (Dectomax). While effective against NWS, the product carries a 35-day slaughter withdrawal period. Florida's rule requires



treatment within fourteen days of entry, but Florida meat processors are generally unwilling to hold animals for the additional time necessary to satisfy the withdrawal requirement before slaughter. Consequently, many Texas sheep and goats are no longer economically viable for Florida processors, causing buyers to seek alternative sources of supply.

If this situation continues, Texas producers risk permanently losing access to longstanding Florida markets. Once processors establish new supply chains, those market relationships may be difficult or impossible to recover, even after the current NWS situation is resolved.

We respectfully request USDA's assistance in identifying practical solutions that protect animal health while preserving interstate commerce and market access for Texas producers.

Specifically, we ask USDA to work with Florida agricultural officials, industry stakeholders, and animal health experts to evaluate whether alternative treatment protocols, approved products with shorter withdrawal periods, additional testing or inspection options, or other science-based approaches could achieve Florida's biosecurity objectives without unnecessarily disrupting livestock markets.

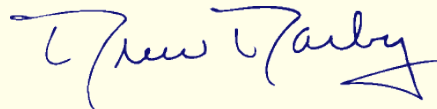
Texas producers remain committed to preventing the spread of NWS and complying with appropriate animal health safeguards. We believe there is a path forward that protects both animal health and the economic viability of the sheep and goat industry.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and for your continued commitment to American agriculture. We appreciate your consideration and stand ready to assist in any way possible.

Respectfully submitted,



Pete Flores
State Senator, District 24



Drew Darby
State Representative, District 72



Ellen Troxclair
State Representative, District 19



Charles Perry
State Senator, District 28



Ryan Guillen
State Representative, District 31



Wes Virdell
State Representative, District 53



Kevin Sparks
State Senator, District 31



Don McLaughlin
State Representative, District 80

