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**U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins  
Visits Oklahoma to Highlight USDA's Efforts to Combat Screwworm**

[Oklahoma City, Okla. – Sept. 12, 2025] – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins visited Yukon, Okla. today, where she held a press conference at Express Ranches to provide an update on the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) efforts to combat the reemergence of the New World Screwworm. The Secretary was joined by Congressman Frank Lucas, U.S. Senator James Lankford, and Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Blayne Arthur.

While the Secretary did not announce any new initiatives or policy changes, the briefing provided a comprehensive overview of USDA's current screwworm prevention and response strategies. Secretary Rollins emphasized the urgency of coordinated action and outlined plans the USDA is implementing to protect the nation's food supply, livestock industry and border communities from the parasite.

"Many have said that our partnership with Mexico is as strong and as transparent as it has been in decades," said Brooke Rollins, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. "Mexico has agreed to hold all animal movement within affected zones, and we're seeing results."

The USDA's current strategy to combat the threat of screwworm is centered around a five-step plan. First, the agency is working closely with Mexican authorities to prevent the spread of screwworm within Mexico and move toward complete eradication. Second, USDA is conducting daily and weekly audits to closely monitor screwworm activity and trap data in high-risk areas. Third, traps have been deployed on both sides of the U.S. and Mexico border, including 108 operated by USDA and approximately 150 managed by Mexican officials. Fourth, the agency is strengthening wildlife migration control efforts by expanding the use of mounted tick riders and deploying detector dogs to detect screwworm in livestock and wildlife. Finally, USDA has suspended all live imports of cattle, horses, and bison through the southern border as a precautionary measure to reduce the risk of introducing the parasite into the United States.

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As part of its international response, USDA has committed \$21 million to expand an existing facility in Mexico that produces sterile screwworm flies. The expansion will enable the production of an additional 60 to 100 million sterile flies per week. This sterile fly technique, proven effective in the past, interrupts the screwworm's life cycle by rendering larvae unable to reproduce.

Secretary Rollins also announced that the USDA is preparing for long-term domestic readiness by establishing a sterile fly production and dispersal facility in Texas. The project, funded with up to \$750 million in federal resources, will allow the facility to produce up to 300 million sterile flies per week.

Looking to the future, Rollins shared that USDA will also invest \$100 million in cutting-edge technologies to accelerate eradication. An Innovation Summit will be hosted at the White House in the coming week, bringing together experts, scientists and industry leaders to develop forward-thinking solutions.

"OCA extends our appreciation to Secretary Rollins for her continued focus on eliminating this threat and protecting America's and Oklahoma's cattle industry," said Michael Kelsey, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association Executive Vice President. "We encourage USDA to continue prioritizing every available tool to combat NWS."

Screwworm, a parasitic fly that attacks warm-blooded animals, was officially eradicated from the United States in the 1980s. However, due to the pest's continued presence in parts of Latin America and its ability to migrate, USDA has remained vigilant through surveillance and cross-border cooperation.

The OCA is the trusted voice of the Oklahoma Cattle Industry and works to protect and empower Oklahoma cattlemen today, to serve tomorrow. The OCA is the only voice that speaks solely for the cattlemen of Oklahoma and represents beef producers in all 77 counties across the state. The OCA officers, board of directors and membership encourages you to join us in our advocacy efforts to ensure less government intervention, lower taxes, and a better bottom line. For more information about OCA membership, the theft reward program or activities call 405-235-4391 or visit [okcattlemen.org](http://okcattlemen.org).

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