



NEWS RELEASE

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Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association Backs USDA Mexico Border Closure to Protect U.S. Herd

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK — The Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association (OCA) strongly supports the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) decision to temporarily close the U.S. southern border to shipments of cattle, bison, and horses due to the continued northward spread of the New World screwworm.

"This is a decisive and necessary step to protect the health and integrity of the U.S. cattle herd," said Michael Kelsey, Executive Vice President of the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association. "New World screwworm is a devastating pest. Oklahoma cattle producers—like our peers across the country—remember the costly fight to eradicate it decades ago, and we cannot afford to allow it to reestablish itself in the U.S."

OCA has been working alongside the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and other state affiliates for months, urging proactive measures to stop the pest's spread. Despite repeated warnings and efforts, inadequate action by Central American and Mexican authorities has allowed the screwworm to spread beyond containment zones.

"While border closures always have economic consequences, the consequences of inaction would be far worse," Kelsey added. "We commend Secretary Rollins for prioritizing biosecurity and thank USDA for their close communication with industry leaders. OCA remains committed to working with USDA, NCBA, and our partners in Congress to ensure this outbreak is contained and eradicated."

The Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association is the trusted voice of the Oklahoma Cattle Industry and works to protect and empower Oklahoma cattlemen today, to serve tomorrow. 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 www.okcattlemen.org.