

SCREWORM

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necessary actions." Kentucky ranks among the nation's leading beef cattle states and is home to a world-renowned horse industry, making prevention and early detection especially important to the Commonwealth's agricultural economy.

While the current outbreak remains hundreds of miles from Kentucky, historical records show New World Screwworm occurred across much of the southern United States, including Kentucky, before nationwide eradication efforts succeeded in 1966.

Because the region still provides suitable habitat for the pest, animal health officials consider early detection and containment critical to preventing re-establishment of the parasite.

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture strengthened entry requirements June 11 for susceptible livestock arriving from affected areas.

Animals showing signs

of screwworm infestation are prohibited from entering Kentucky. Additional requirements include veterinary inspections, health certificates, permit numbers, and post-arrival inspections.

The emergency restrictions remain in effect through at least Aug. 1.

New World Screwworm is a flesh-eating parasite whose larvae feed on living tissue. Unlike common maggots that feed on dead tissue, screwworm larvae burrow deep into healthy flesh, causing severe wounds, secondary infections, and potentially death if untreated.

The parasite can affect cattle, horses, sheep, goats, swine, pets, wildlife, and, in rare cases, humans. Female flies are attracted to even minor wounds, including tick bites, branding sites, surgical wounds, ear-tag locations, and the navels of newborn animals. The flies lay masses of eggs that hatch into larvae, which then burrow into liv-

ing tissue and enlarge the wound as they feed.

University of Kentucky livestock specialists warn that a widespread outbreak in the United States could have significant economic consequences. Historic outbreaks in Texas affected hundreds of thousands of livestock and caused substantial economic losses before being brought under control.

Agriculture officials note that livestock imported from Mexico represent an important part of the cattle supply chain in the southern United States. For that reason, federal and state agencies are responding aggressively to prevent the parasite from becoming re-established north of the border.

USDA has established quarantine and surveillance zones, increased trapping efforts, and expanded the release of sterile flies, the same technique that successfully eradicated New World Screwworm from the

United States in 1966.

Millions of sterile flies are being released to disrupt the insect's reproductive cycle and prevent it from becoming established.

Kentucky animal health officials continue urging producers, horse owners, veterinarians, and pet owners to watch for signs of possible infestation.

Warning signs include:

- Maggots present in wounds or body openings.
- Enlarging wounds with bloody discharge.
- Foul odors from wounds.
- Excessive irritation or head shaking.
- Animals that stop eating, isolate themselves, or appear depressed.
- Wounds that rapidly worsen despite treatment.

Officials stress that New World Screwworm is an animal health issue rather than a food safety concern. The parasite does not infest meat, poultry, dairy products, fruits, or vegetables, and USDA inspection sys-

tems are designed to identify affected animals before they enter the food supply.

Livestock owners who observe suspicious wounds, unusual maggot infestations, or other possible signs of screwworm infection are encouraged to contact their veterinarian immediately and report concerns to the Kentucky

Department of Agriculture's Office of the State Veterinarian.

While the outbreak remains confined to Texas and New Mexico, Kentucky officials say early detection, rapid reporting, and strict animal movement controls remain the Commonwealth's best defense against the parasite.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The City of Vanceburg Electric Plant Board will retain a qualified engineering firm to provide engineering services related to planning, design, construction administration, inspection, and other required services for the Vanceburg Well Project. Funding sources for this project may include, but are not limited to, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the Government Resources Accelerating Needed Transformation (GRANT) Program, and other applicable state and federal funding opportunities.

The Electric Plant Board will accept Statements of Qualifications from engineering firms interested in providing services for this project until 4:30 p.m. ET / 3:30 p.m. CT on June 26, 2026. An RFQ packet containing project information and the criteria that will be used to select the engineering firm may be obtained at www.btadd.com or by contacting Kristie Dodge, Community Development Director, Buffalo Trace Area Development District, via email at kdodge@btadd.com.

Statements of Qualifications must be submitted to:

Buffalo Trace Area Development District
Attn: Statement of Qualifications – Vanceburg Well Project
P.O. Box 460
Maysville, KY 41056

Statements of Qualifications will be ranked based on the written materials submitted, in accordance with the criteria outlined in the RFQ packet. The City of Vanceburg Electric Plant Board reserves the right to reject any and all submissions.

This solicitation for Statements of Qualifications is being conducted to fulfill state and federal funding agency procurement requirements. Respondents are advised that the following requirements may apply: (1) Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968; (2) Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; (3) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; (4) Executive Order 11246; and (5) Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities. All of these requirements may be incorporated into any contract issued pursuant to this solicitation.

The City of Vanceburg Electric Plant Board is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages responses from all qualified firms.

Gayle Massie, Chair
Vanceburg Electric Plant Board

Public Notice 23-25c

DATA CENTER

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ing residential customers from subsidizing new large-scale users.

Environmental and consumer advocates generally agree protections are in place but argue additional safeguards may be needed.

Byron Gary, an attorney with the Kentucky Resources Council, said utilities should consider requiring data centers to help pay for new infra-

structure, commit to long-term power purchases, and reduce electricity use during periods of peak demand.

Utility officials counter that existing requirements already provide substantial protection for residential ratepayers. Kentucky Power officials note that large industrial customers are required to enter long-term contracts and pay for most of their reserved electric capacity whether

it is used or not.

Lawmakers considered legislation during this year's General Assembly that would have established statewide protections against data centers shifting costs to other customers, but the bill did not pass before the session ended.

The debate is expected to continue next year as Kentucky communities compete for large data center projects that prom-

ise significant tax revenue and economic development but also require enormous amounts of electricity.

Because Kentucky Power serves customers throughout northeastern Kentucky, including Lewis County, local residents are likely to be watching closely as negotiations continue.

Editor's Note: The proposed hyperscale data center would be located in neighboring Boyd and Greenup counties and could be served by Kentucky Power, which also serves customers in Lewis County. This article is based on reporting by Kentucky Lantern reporter Liam Niemeyer and has been edited for length and style.

COUNCIL

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to require Front Street residents to place mailboxes near the sidewalk has been put on hold for the time being.

Billman announced that veterans banners have been reinstalled throughout the city. Utility poles where the banners are attached will be numbered and a map created to help families and visitors locate individual banners.

The mayor also outlined plans for the city's Fourth of July celebration, which will include a parade, Ducky Derby, entertainment by Hunter Jordan, a burnout competition at the former school property on West Second Street, and

what Billman described as the largest fireworks display the city has ever presented.

Following an executive session, council revisited a previously approved plan to sell city-owned property on Halbert Avenue, across from public housing.

Council Member Patton made a motion to put a hold on the plan, seconded by Council Member Richard Walje.

Walje presented a proposal to retain the property and explore acquiring adjacent land for possible future recreational development, including a park, walking trails and green space.

He said the issue is "near and dear" to him. "To me, it's a no-brainer and common sense," he added.

After extensive discussion, the motion to place the sale on hold resulted in a 3-3 vote. Mayor Billman cast the tie-breaking vote against delaying the sale, allowing the previous decision to move forward. "My decision is, we sell it," Billman said in breaking the tie.

Billman cited the cost of cleanup, lack of direct access to the property, and the city's limited financial resources as reasons for supporting the sale.

The meeting adjourned following the vote.

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Pulmonology nurse practitioner **Anna Bayes, APRN**, specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of lung conditions and diseases of the chest, particularly COPD, asthma, lung nodules, pulmonary hypertension, and sleep disorders.

(606) 408-7438

Rheumatology nurse practitioner **Julie Estep, APRN**, specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of inflammatory (rheumatic) diseases, including disorders that affect the muscles, joints and bones; connective tissue diseases that affect ligaments, tendons, skin, and other organs; and autoimmune diseases.

(606) 408-0847

Cardiology nurse practitioner **Kristy Turley, APRN**, specializes in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cardiovascular diseases, including coronary artery disease, acute coronary syndromes, angina, valve disease, heart failure, and cardiac arrhythmias.

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