

I recently read a couple articles in the Beef magazine promoting the idea of reopening the Mexican border to cattle imports. The articles suggest there is no real concern of the New World Screwworm (NWS) invading the USA via live animals. They want you to believe that proper controls on the Mexican side will prevent contaminated cattle from crossing the border. They ignore the fact that the NWS can lay eggs undetected in nose, ears, mouths and navel.

Many of the comments promoting reopening the border were made by Jourdan Bell from Cattlemex. This is a bias self-motivated article. Her family is the largest importer of Mexican cattle. Of course, she wants to reopen the border even if it puts all of us at risk. Cattlemex is a major marketer and exporter of Mexican stocker and feeder cattle with operations in both Mexico and the United States. While they specialize in importing cattle into the U.S., they are a diversified agricultural firm involved in livestock sourcing, transportation, and pastures in Mexico. They primarily act as marketers, supplier, and broker, rather than, operating, conventional feedlots, themselves.

To suggest the NWS is nothing to worry about is delusional. We need to continue to develop and release sterile flies to push the NWS back to southern regions of Mexico before allowing the risk of bringing any Mexican cattle/NWS into the USA. The beef from these cattle still fills much of the US Beef supply there just being fed and harvested south of the border with US grown feed.

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