

CATTLE AND TICKS - HOW, WHERE AND WHAT TO DO

Where to Look:

How to Look:



- Using your hand, slowly feel in and around the ears, eyes, forehead, and face. Move on to the neck, brisket, behind the front legs and along the belly to the rear flank. Finally, feel around the tail head, down and around the udder, and the length of the tail.
- Be sure to apply some pressure as you run your hand along the animal. Its best to use the back of your hand versus your palm as it will be easier to feel the unusual bumps that may be ticks.
- Don't wear gloves as they can block your ability to feel the ticks, especially smaller ones.

What to do if you find any ticks:

- Remove the tick from the animal (or yourself):
 - Using tweezers or a leatherman pliers:
Grasp the tick as close to the skin of the animal as possible - **we ID the ticks based on their mouthparts so its important to have the head still attached**
 - Pull upward with steady even pressure until the tick is detached.
 - Place the detached ticks on to the sticky side of some masking or painters tape.
 - Place the pieces of tape into a plastic bag with a damp paper towel
- Label the bag with the farm name, address, date and location on the animal where the tick(s) were found, as well as an email or phone number for the lab to contact you -

Please don't freeze



All collected ticks should be mailed to:

University of Maryland - Dr. Megan Fritz
4291 Field House Drive
Plant Sciences Building Rm 4112
College Park, MD 20742

Theileria orientalis ikeda

- **What is *Theileria orientalis ikeda*?**
 - It's a pathogen cattle can develop after being bitten by ALTs
- **Most common times of infection?**
 - Sept-Nov and April-June
- **What is the Incubation Period?**
 - 48-72 hrs after tick attaches
 - 8-48 days to show signs of infection
- **What are signs in infected cattle?**
 - severe anemia (pale mucosal membranes, jaundice), fever, lethargy - exercise intolerance, lack of appetite, weight loss, severe labored breathing
- **Fatality Rate?**
 - 3-90% depending on the health, age and reproductive status of the animal - particularly calves and pregnant heifers

Once infected, there is no cure, the animal will have a chronic infection and be a carrier of the pathogen.

Potential Control Methods

- **Chemical Control****
 - Spray, Pour-on or Ear Tag Acaricides (Pesticides used to kill ticks) for Cattle**
 - Spray Examples: Bayer Permethrin II, Starbar E-PRO, Prolate Lintox-HD, Prozap VIP Insect Spray
 - Pour-on Examples: Y-TEX Brute, Y-TEX Gardstar EC, Martin's FLY-BAN, Martin's Permethrin 1.0%, Martin's Permethrin 1.0% Synergized, Ultra Boss, Boss
 - Ear Tag Examples: Gardstar Plus, Y-TEX Python, Cylence Ultra, Max40
 - Potential Pasture Products**
 - Sevin SL Carbaryl Insecticide - Bayer
 - Paradigm VC - Winfield Solutions, LLC

****Please make sure to read and follow all label instructions****

- **Environmental Control**
 - **Limit cattle access to wooded areas** - whitetail deer are a large source of exposure
 - If possible, have a short mowed barrier between woods/treelined areas and cattle pastures
 - **Minimize tick habitat** - keep pastures trimmed and brush free as much as possible
 - **Use rotational grazing** - minimize tick exposure by changing up grazing locations for your cattle on a regular basis

Questions?

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Resources

- <https://wvstateu.edu/wvsu/media/Outreach/VMCVM-Theileria-summary-1-14-20.pdf>
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34197609/>
- https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/downloads/theileria-orientalis-ikeda-notice.pdf
- https://vitals.vetmed.vt.edu/content/dam/vitals_vetmed_vt_edu/documents/theileria-summary.pdf