

# UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

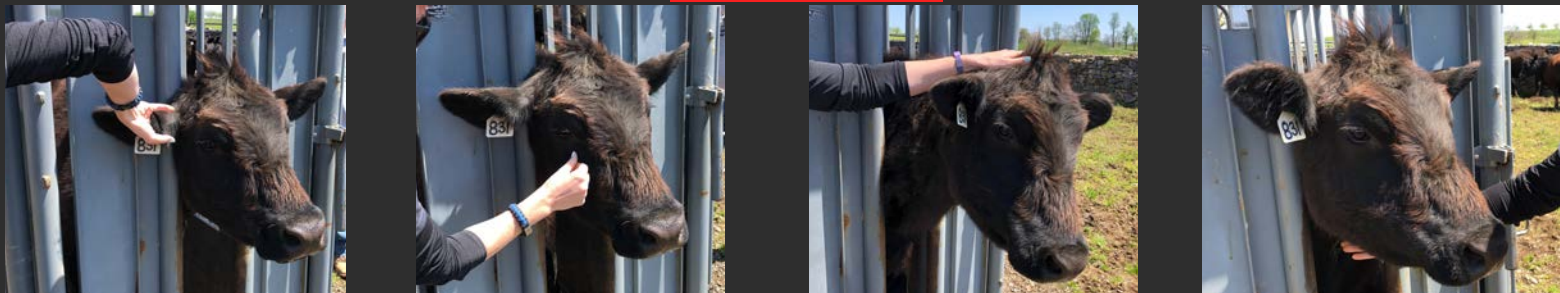
## HOW TO CHECK YOUR CATTLE FOR TICKS

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

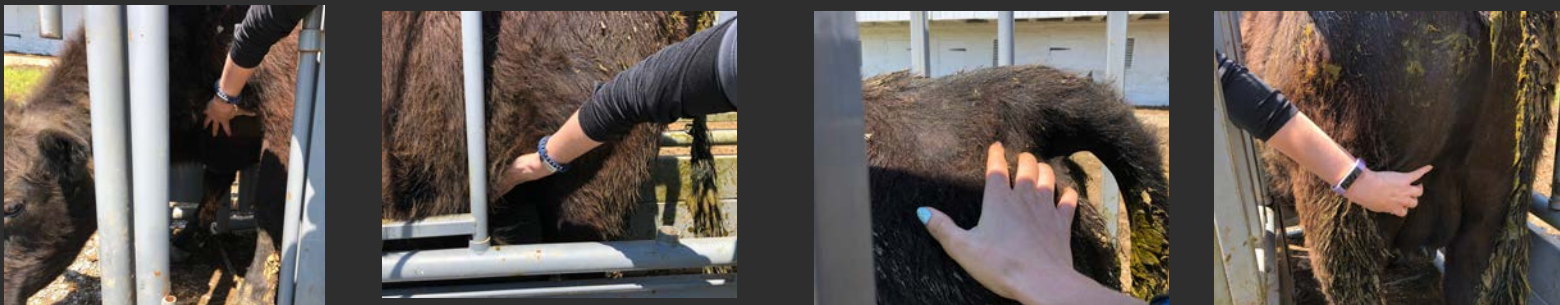
### Where to Look:



### 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 ticks:

- Remove the tick from the animal:
  - 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.
  - Using a tick spoon:
    - Apply slight downward pressure on the skin of the animal and slide the spoon notch first toward the tick.
    - Continue sliding the spoon forward until the tick is detached from the animal
- 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:

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

### Questions?

Please contact Racheal Slattery, University of Maryland Department of Animal and Avian Sciences - [rslatt@umd.edu](mailto:rslatt@umd.edu)