

TIMELY TOPICS

OSU EXTENSION - NORTHEAST DISTRICT
June 2020 – Volume 40 – Issue 6



EXTENSION

The paralytic (dumb) form of the disease is a progressive paralysis. In these animals, the throat is paralyzed, and the animal cannot swallow or vocalize normally. Cattle might have a high-pitched bellow or attempt to bellow with no sound being produced. Due to the progressive paralysis, rumination will cease which may result in bloat. They also may appear to be straining to urinate or defecate. These animals will have problems walking and will become recumbent. This form is often mistaken as a digestive problem. Some producers may think the animal is aborting or has a urinary problem. These animals usually die in 2 to 6 days from respiratory failure.

When an animal has neurological signs, rabies should be suspected. Producers should avoid contact with the animal and contact their local veterinarian. If the veterinarian suspects rabies, he/she will not treat the animal since the condition is fatal and the danger to humans is not worth the risk of treatment. To confirm the diagnosis of rabies, a veterinarian will submit the brain for testing.

Rabies can be prevented by vaccination and by preventing unnecessary exposure of domestic animals to wildlife. All pets should be vaccinated. Obviously, vaccinating a large herd or flock of animals would not be cost effective. However, animals that are in constant contact with humans such as show animals or horses should be vaccinated. If a producer has a family milk cow, she would be a good candidate for vaccination. Preventing contact with wildlife is difficult but paying close attention to sanitation should discourage wildlife from entering areas where animals are kept. Rabid animals are dangerous. If animals have the furious form, they may attack and injure producers. Animals with the dumb form of the disease can infect unsuspecting producers. Anytime an animal is suspected of having rabies a veterinarian should be contacted. As stated earlier, most people who die of rabies in the US are not even aware that they have been exposed. More information about rabies is available at the Oklahoma State Department of Health at https://www.ok.gov/health/Prevention_and_Preparedness/Acute_Disease_Service/Disease_Information/Rabies_Surveillance_Data_and_Statistics.html. Livestock producers with questions about rabies should contact their local veterinarian or Oklahoma State University County Extension Educator.

Ticks

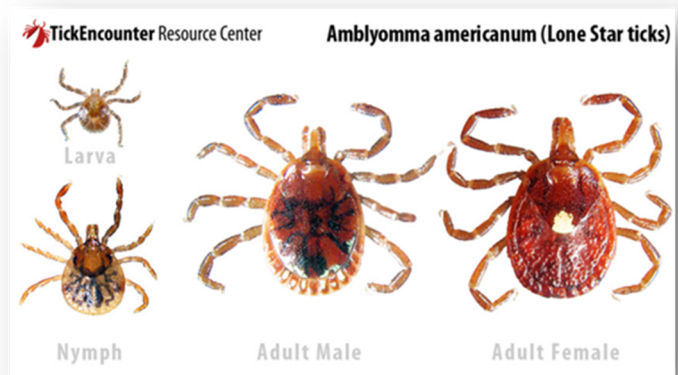
Earl H. Ward, Area Livestock Specialist

Have you ever gotten back from a great day in the outdoors and find a few travelers have attached themselves to your wagon so to speak? Of course, once you find one crawling, you feel a hundred of them crawling. Ticks have been and will continue to be a problem, especially in our livestock operations.

Ticks belong to the Arachnida class along with spiders. They have four stages of life: the egg; a six-legged larvae or seed tick; the nymph; and adult with eight legs. The eggs are laid on the ground and work their way up the stems and leaves of plants until they can attach themselves to a host. Ticks require one, two, or three hosts to move from larvae to the adult stage. The larva, nymph and adult stages of three-host ticks are each spent on a different animal. Most ticks causing problems in livestock are three host ticks.

Lone Star Tick

Lone Star Tick adults are brown to tan, 1/3-inch-long before feeding and up to 1/2-inch long engorged. Females



TIMELY TOPICS

OSU EXTENSION - NORTHEAST DISTRICT
June 2020 – Volume 40 – Issue 6

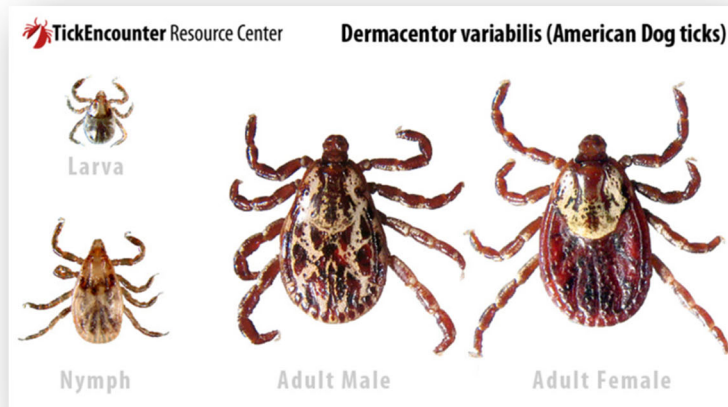


EXTENSION

have a single silvery-white spot on its back while males have scattered spots or streaks around the margins of the body. They do not carry disease in the larva stage and have no preference on the species of animal to feed on.

American Dog Tick

The American Dog Tick occurs primarily in wooded, shrubby and long-grass areas. However, it is possible for residential areas to support populations of this tick. Shrubs, weeds, tall grass, clutter and debris on the property attracts the rodents that are hosts for immature ticks. It is also the major vector for Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.



Gulf Coast Tick

The Gulf Coast Tick looks very similar to the dog tick but possesses larger mouth parts. The adult ticks, which feed primarily on the ears of large mammals, cause weight and blood loss, plus irritate their hosts. Their larvae and nymphs feed on small rodents and ground dwelling birds.

Spinose Ear Tick

The Spinose Ear Tick utilizes a single host in completing its lifecycle. When larvae encounter a suitable host they crawl to the ear and attach below the hair line. Adults do not feed, but adult females can survive for two years, depositing up to 1500 eggs in

several clutches.

Now that we are all feeling creepy crawlers on our backs, how do we control ticks on our livestock. For more information on controlling ticks and tick-borne illnesses visit your local OSU Extension Office.

Factsheets:

EPP-7001 Common Ticks of Oklahoma and Tick-Borne Diseases

EPP-7019 External Parasites of Goats

VTMD-7000 Beef Cattle Ectoparasites

