

Livestock & Ticks

What you need to know



1

Lyme disease endangers horses and anaplasmosis endangers horses and cattle

The Blacklegged tick is known to transmit Lyme disease to horses, but cows, sheep, and goats do not contract the disease. The Blacklegged tick can also transmit equine granulocytic anaplasmosis to horses and bovine anaplasmosis to cattle.

2

Handling animals with ticks increases the risk of tick bites and tick borne disease to humans

Even though not all your livestock are susceptible to diseases, they are still just as likely to carry ticks. The best way to check your animals for ticks is by running your hands over their coats. Remember to check likely spots, such as around the eyes, behind the ears, and under the legs.

Daily checks are recommended for horses because it generally takes a day for Lyme disease to be transmitted to horses.

3

You can minimize livestock interactions with ticks through pasture management

Moving fence lines away from brush and hedgerows can keep livestock away from tick habitat. Eliminating brush and woody debris from pastures and the perimeter reduce small animal habitat, which reduces immature tick hosts. Ticks are susceptible to drying out in sunny areas with low cut grasses.

4

Products to repel and kill ticks can be purchased and used

You can protect your livestock from ticks using Permethrin containing sprays or tags. Permethrin immobilizes black legged ticks after just a minute of exposure. Many livestock insect sprays and ear tags contain permethrin.

BE MINDFUL...They can't check themselves

Ticks can also cause skin irritation and secondary infections in animals. In some cases, heavy tick infestations in cattle have caused loss to physical condition, such as weight loss, anemia, and reduced milk production.

Horses are susceptible to tick borne diseases which can result in death and severe illness. Check your horses daily with your hands and pay close attention to all symptoms of sickness.



Graphics and information adapted from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

This material is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2018-70027-28588.



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Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture



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