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Ticks and Flies That Carry Animal Diseases

Last Modified:



This bull is receiving a doramectin injection to protect it from tropical bont ticks.

Certain ticks and flies (also called vectors) can injure and transfer disease to people and animals and threaten American agriculture. APHIS has put in place measures to

prevent the entry, establishment, and spread of exotic vectors. These safeguards include import inspections, testing, identification, surveillance, and targeted response and treatment strategies.

Asian Longhorned Ticks

Asian longhorned ticks are aggressive biters. They can form large infestations on an animal, causing stress, reduced growth and production, and severe blood loss. This pest can also spread diseases that impact both animals and people.

Tropical Bont Ticks

(PDF, 519.88 KB)

Tropical bont ticks are periodically detected in the U.S. Virgin Islands. These ticks cause painful wounds to livestock and wildlife. They are known to spread the bacterial disease heartwater.

Cattle Fever Ticks

Cattle fever ticks are important parasites of cattle because they can carry bovine babesiosis and anaplasmosis. APHIS and partners have confined this pest to a permanent quarantine zone along the Texas-Mexico border.

Red Sheep Tick

(PDF, 178.26 KB)

The red sheep tick was detected in the United States in 2020 in Rhode Island. It has not been found anywhere else in this country. This pest can transmit several diseases to livestock.

New World Screwworm

New World screwworm is a serious livestock pest. It feeds on the living tissue of warmblooded animals. If untreated, it can cause deadly damage to animals and people.

Mosquitoes, Culicoides, and Other Flies

Several diseases of significance to livestock health are spread by mosquitoes, biting midges (Culicoides), and other flies.

Vector-Borne Diseases of Significance

African Horse Sickness

Disease Alert: African Horse Sickness

Equine Encephalitis Viruses (Eastern, Western, and Venezuelan) and West Nile Virus

Disease Alert: Vector-Borne Equine Encephalitides
Equine Arbovirus Dashboard: West Nile virus and Eastern equine encephalitis cases over the past 15 years
Disease Alert: Vesicular Stomatitis

Rift Valley Fever

Disease Response Strategy: Rift Valley Fever (RVF) (1.23 MB)
RVF Standard Operating Procedures: Overview of Etiology and Ecology (339.47 KB)
RVF Case Definition (164.52 KB)
Coming Soon: RVF Factsheet

Japanese Encephalitis

Disease Response Strategy: Japanese Encephalitis (2.36 MB)

Case Definition: Japanese Encephalitis (150.26 KB)
Emerging Risk Notice: Japanese Encephalitis Virus (211.64 KB)
Coming Soon: Japanese Encephalitis Factsheet

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