

TICKS

An advice paper prepared for Mullumbimby Rural Cooperative using the resources listed below.

This extract is from Wormboss (WormBoss.com.au.) and BEEF CATTLE HEALTH AND HUSBANDRY FOR THE NSW NORTH COAST 6th edition Phil Kemsley, District Veterinarian Lismore, Nathan Jennings, Senior Land Services Officer (Agricultural Advice) [Beef Cattle North Coast Handbook.pdf](#)

Three species of ticks are problems for North Coast beef cattle.

Identifying ticks

Bush tick (<i>Haemophysalis longicornis</i>)	Paralysis tick (<i>Ixodes holocyclus</i>)	Cattle tick (<i>Boophilus microplus</i>)
		
Brown not engorged	Grey not engorged	Light brown not engorged
Legs: red-brown First pair close to snout	Legs: First and fourth pair brown Second and third pair pale First pair close to snout	Legs: pale cream First pair well back from snout
Face round	Face triangular	Face broad at snout
Snout short	Snout very long	Snout short

Brochures to assist stockowners with tick identification are available from NSW Department of Primary Industries and North Coast Local Land Services offices.



Bush ticks are bloodsuckers and when present in high numbers can cause anaemia, ill thrift and even death. Bush ticks are also suspected to be the vector of theileria.

Paralysis tick and dog attack are the most common causes of calf deaths on the North Coast. The toxins in tick saliva and their potency vary between individual paralysis ticks. Even one tick can cause sickness and death in calves.

Chemical control:

- treat early in the season before tick numbers build up
- spray treatments for these are typically needed every 10 days, an ear tag is registered as an alternative.

Chemicals registered for bush tick and paralysis tick control

Chemical	Treatment
Amitraz	Spray every seven to 10 days
Cypermethrin plus chlorfenvinphos	Spray every 10 days
Flumethrin	Spray every 10 days
Zeta cypermethrin ear tags	Aids in control up to 42 days (paralysis tick only)

Cattle tick is ranked the most important disease for the Australian beef industry. Nationally estimated to cost the industry more than \$160 million a year. **NOTIFIABLE!**

The ticks suck blood causing hide damage and ill thrift and even death in heavy infestations. They can also carry and spread all three strains of tick fever.

Treatment and control: MRC has NO role in advising on cattle tick treatment.



Control and treatment of cattle tick infections are regulated by the NSW DPI cattle tick program. Inspection of cattle is carried out to ensure that eradication has been successful. Because they are one host ticks means less frequent treatments are effective, every 21 days.