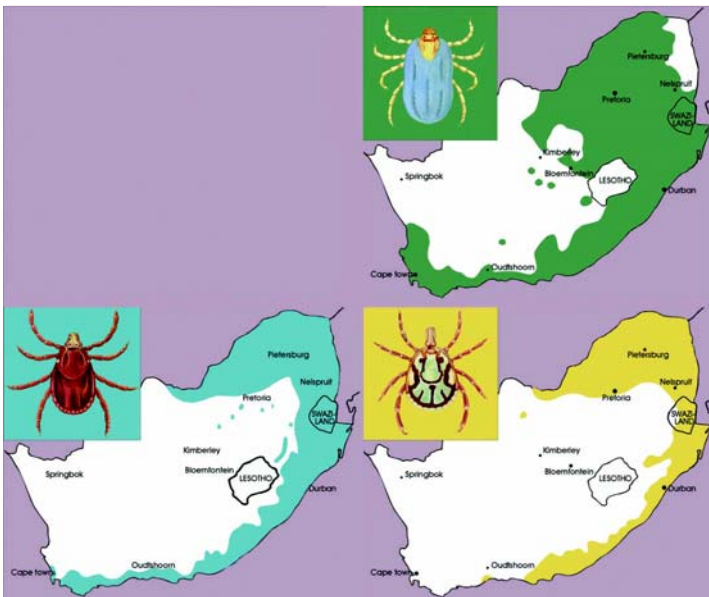




DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Frequency of tick control in cattle








J A TURTON

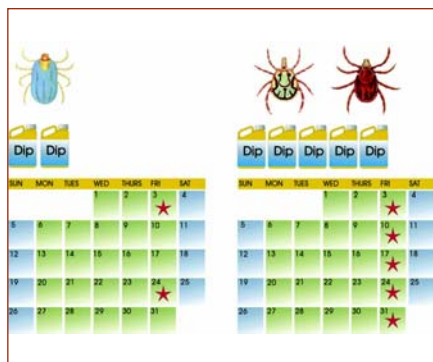
Tick control involves killing the ticks or preventing the females from laying large numbers of eggs which will develop into ticks.



How often you treat your cattle for ticks depends on many factors such as:

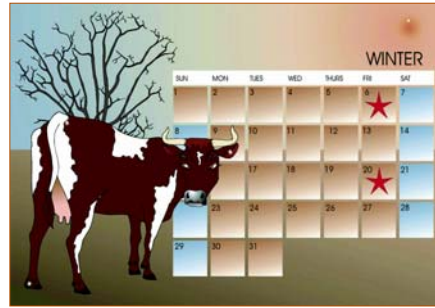
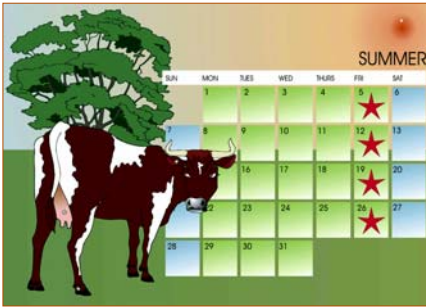
-  The tick and tick-borne disease situation in your area
-  How many ticks are present on your cattle at any particular time
-  Whether you are having tick-related problems such as abscesses, mastitis or sweating sickness resulting from ticks
-  How much money you have available and want to spend on tick control
-  Whether you want to do intensive tick control or strategic tick control.

How often you need to control ticks depends to a great extent on the type of ticks that occur in your area. For example, if you only have 1-host ticks such as the blue tick, you may only need to dip every 3 weeks in order to host ticks or 3-host ticks such as the brown ear tick or the bont tick, you need to dip every week in order to keep their numbers low.

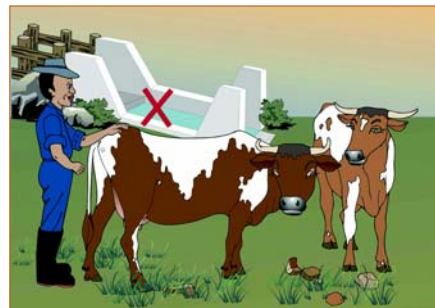
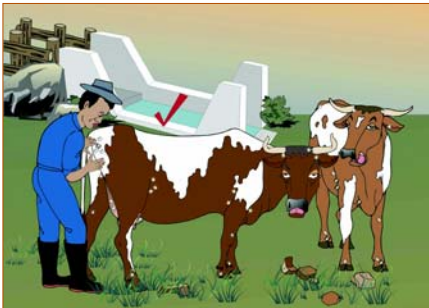


Ticks increase in number over the hot, wet months in summer, and this is when they cause most damage to cattle.

Adult ticks cause greater damage to cattle than the immature stages, and are also more frequent in summer.



Intensive tick control keeps the tick numbers low so that damage and tick-borne diseases are not a problem. It may be necessary to dip cattle every week in the summer period, and every 2 weeks during the rest of the year (in areas where there are fewer ticks you may be able to reduce this to every 2 weeks in the summer period, and every 4 weeks during the rest of the year).



Strategic tick control is less frequent tick control. You monitor your cattle and treat them when the tick numbers are high and are causing damage or when you are having tick-related problems.

Strategic tick control is preferable to intensive tick control because it is economical and gives the cattle the opportunity to be exposed to ticks and tick-borne disease and develop some protection against them.

If you are using strategic tick control, young calves should not be dipped. This allows them to develop some protection against the ticks and tick-borne diseases.

If you have heartwater in your area you may need to use a more intensive tick control method.

Some breeds of cattle (such as Ngunis and Brahmans) have greater resistance to ticks and tick-borne diseases, and do not need to be dipped as often.

For advice about the frequency of tick control required in your area, speak to your animal health technician or veterinarian.

For further information contact your nearest animal health technician or state/private veterinarian

or



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