

TICKS

Ticks are an increasing problem at the moment. *Haemaphysalis longicornis*, commonly called **Cattle Tick** is an external parasite similar to lice and fleas, but they have a few major differences.

- They are not host specific, so as well as cattle, they will infest deer, sheep, goats, horses, rabbits, dogs and occasionally humans.
- It is a three host tick, meaning each of its growing stages feeds on three different hosts. They then drop to the ground, between hosts, and go through a moult.
- An adult female can grow to 9mm when fully gorged with blood.
- She may lay hundreds of eggs on the ground which hatch into larvae and migrate to the tops of the pasture, along with the older nymph stages.
- When an animal walks past they attach themselves to the legs or body.
- Ticks are commonly found on the head, ears, udder, limbs and groin.
- Because a large part of the tick lifecycle is spent on the ground, treating the animal may kill the ticks on the body, but those on the ground survive.
- Around the world ticks are responsible for transmitting a number of diseases. In New Zealand they can transmit a bovine blood disease called Theileria, causing anaemia in cattle.
- A number of products are available to treat Cattle Ticks, including Bayticol for larger herds or flocks, Frontline spray for dogs and horses and correctly diluted Ripcord for horses.
- Talk to us for advice on what is most suitable in your situation.