

## Control Ticks and reduce cattle loss



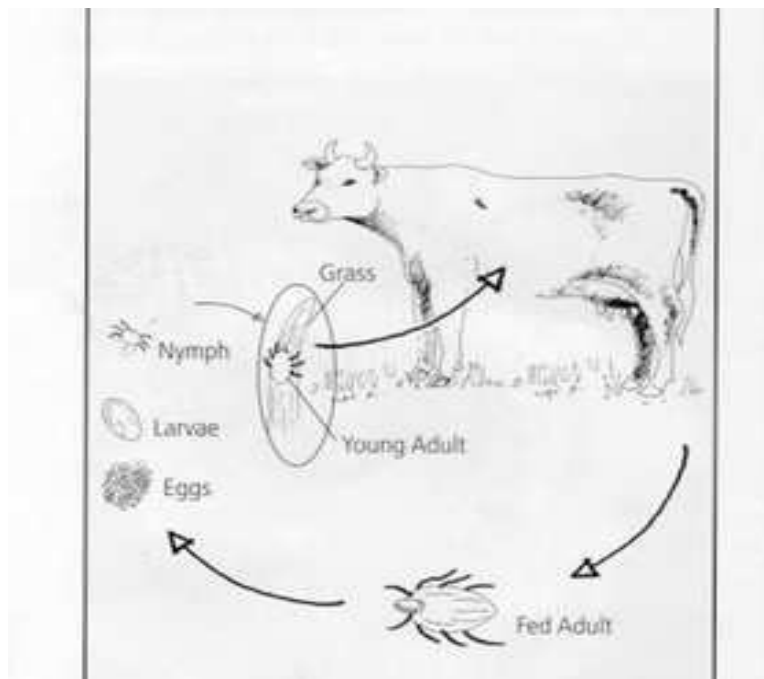
### Introduction

Ticks feed on blood of cattle and transfer diseases. Tick-borne diseases kill cattle and cause economic losses to farmers.

### LIFE OF A TICK

The life of a tick starts when a female tick lays eggs on the ground. The eggs hatch and go through the stages shown in the diagram below.

The ticks (nymphs and young adults) climb onto the grass, where they attach themselves onto a grazing cow and start feeding. It is then that they transfer the diseases.



## **CONTROL OF TICKS AND TICKBORNE DISEASES**

### **a) Hand picking (plucking)**

Pluck ticks and burn them.

### **b) Zero grazing**

Use grass or hay free from ticks and avoid contact with other animals.

### **c) Chemical control**

Certain chemicals (acaricides) are used to kill ticks on the animal. There are various types on the market. Use the correct strength as directed by the manufacturers.

### **d) Home-made products**

Farmers have experimented with home-made products and found the following effective.

#### **Pyrethrum**

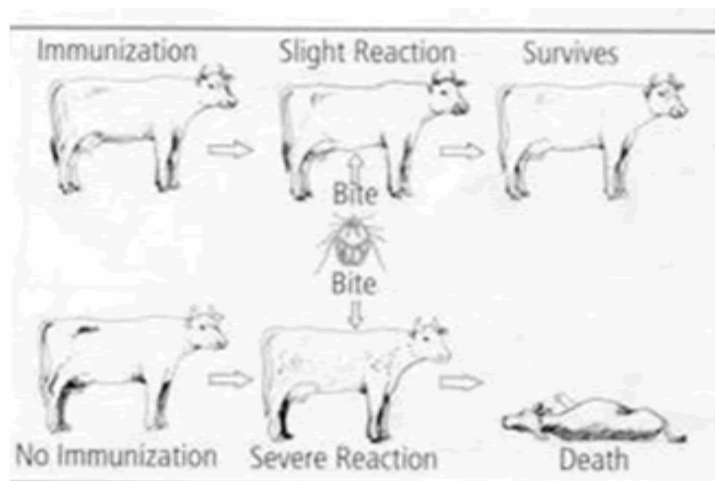
Pound 250 g of dried flowers with a little water into paste. Dissolve in 10 litres of water and for 20 minutes. Leave it standing for 12 hours then sieve and apply as shown in the diagram overleaf.

#### **Tobacco**

Pound 20 g of dried tobacco leaves with a little water. Leave it standing for 6 hours. Add 5 litres of water and apply as shown in the diagram overleaf.

## **IMMUNIZATION**

Vaccinate your cattle against important diseases like East Coast fever (ECF) to make sure your cattle do not become infected by disease, even if bitten by ticks.



## HOW TO APPLY ACARICIDES

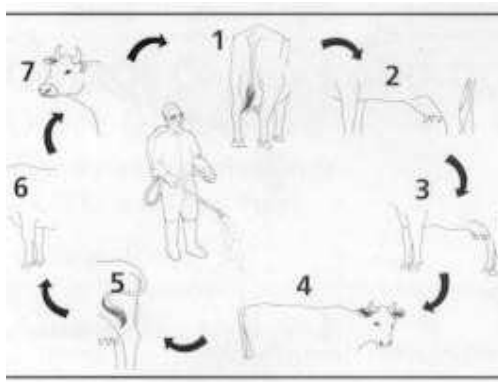
### Dipping

Good when animals are many. Farmers with animals each can come together in groups a dip.

### Hand spraying

Spray with particular attention on preferred Is shown below:

1. Hind legs
2. Udder & belly
3. Flanks X
4. Top(back)
5. Tail
6. Front legs & brisket
6. Front legs & brisket



### Other methods

Pour-on oil-based acaricide on the backline of the animal or dust them.

### SAFETY

All chemicals used for killing ticks are poisonous. Use protective clothing when handling them. Wash yourself thoroughly after completing the work.

### GENERAL ADVICE

A combination of 2 or more of the methods gives the best results. Use one of the following combinations in order of costs per animal.

- Immunization + zero grazing
- Immunization + hand picking

Immunization + home made acaricide  
Immunization + acaricide  
Immunization + acaricide + hand picking



For more information, contact:

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