Ticks and tick borne disease occurrence and control

Tick name	Image	Pathogen transmitted	Disease caused	Affected hosts	Key clinical signs	Prevention and control measures
Brown ear tick (Rhipicephalus appendiculatus)		Theileria parva	East Coast Fever (Theileriosis)	Cattle and buffaloes	• Loss of appetite • Fever • Swollen lymph nodes • Cough • Nasal discharge • Corneal opacity • Froth from nostrils when it dies • Difficult breathing	• Spray ticks with acaricides • Treat sick cattle with buparvaquone, pervaquone and pervexon (in exotic) or tetracyclines (in local cattle
Tropical bont tick (Amblyomma variegatum)		Cowdria ruminantium	Heartwater (Cowdriosis)	Cattle, goats, sheep and horses	• Sudden fever • Convulsions • Loss of appetite • Chewing constantly • Licking of lips • Flicking of eyelids while circling with a high-stepping movement • Standing with legs straddled and head lowered • Animal lies on sternum and then on sides and die during convulsion	• Spray ticks with acaricides • Treat sick cattle with tetracyclines
Blue tick (Boophilus decoloratus)		Babesia bigemina and Babesia argentina	Red water (Babesiosis)	Cattle and buffoloes	• High fever • Loss of appetite • Staring coat • Pale mucous membranes (anaemic), which may become yellow (jaundice) • Red urine (usually in the morning) • Body weakness	• Spray ticks with acaricides • Treat sick cattle with Diminazene aceturate or Imidocarb **dipropionate**
		Anaplasma marginale	Gall sickness (Anaplasmosis)	Cattle, bison, sheep, goats, deer and elk	• High fever • Loss of appetite • Constipation • Pale to yellow mucous membranes • Urine dark yellow • Respiratory distress • Rapid loss of condition	• Spray ticks with acaricides • Treat sick cattle with tetracyclines or **Imidocarb dipropionate (Imizol)**

NB: Each of the four classes of acaricides (Organophosphates, Pyrethroids, Amitrazes or Microlides – Amidines) should be rotated every 2 years to prevent resistance of ticks to acaricides.