

where the ticks attach. These are the ears under the tail and the scrotum/udder.

2. Spray your animals every two weeks in the rainy seasons and once a month in the dry season.

3. Mix your acaricides properly according to instruction on the label



farmer spraying ears

What are the economic benefits of this low-cost method?

Spot spraying (or target spraying) reduces the quantities of the acaricides required. As a result, this also reduces the amount of money spent on the acaricide. Only 1-2 litres of wash is used.

The number of ticks on the animals is still reduced greatly.

Less quantity of water is spent.

Less labour is required

5. Reduces on the abuse of acaricides. Usually farmers tend to mix insufficient quantities of acaricides in water (in order to save on acaricides) which has a danger of causing ticks becoming resistant to acaricides.

6. Physical damage to the hides is eliminated. This raises the value of the hide.

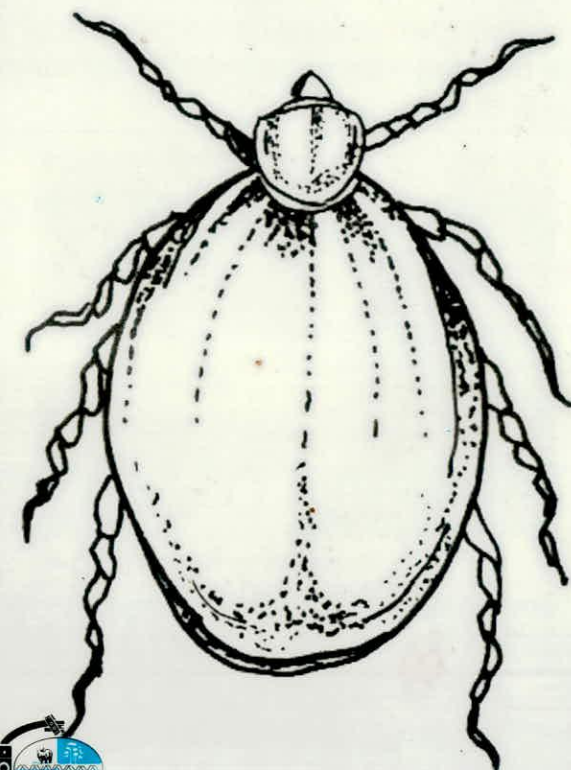
If you keep local cattle, you can now control ticks cheaply!

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# AFFORDABLE TICK CONTROL FOR LOCAL CATTLE



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## What are ticks?

Ticks are parasites that feed on the blood of cattle. There are three common cattle ticks that cause economic losses in cattle farming.

These are: the Brown tick, bont tick and the Blue tick. These ticks also feed on other domestic and wild animals.

## What problems do ticks cause to cattle?

1. The brown ear tick. This tick feeds mainly in the ears of cattle. It causes a disease known as East Coast Fever (ECF). This disease kills exotic cattle and many calves of local cattle.



*Brown ear ticks*

2. The bont tick is a tick with many bright colours. It is a big tick, and is found on the udder or the scrotum and under the pits between the legs and the body. The bont tick causes a disease known as heart water. This disease kills both young and adult cattle.

3. The blue tick is a small tick, which is usually found on the body and dew lap. It causes two diseases: red water (the animal passes red urine) and Gall sickness.

## What else do ticks do to cattle?

1. When the animal is bitten by many ticks, a lot of blood is lost. This results in slow growth and poor body conditions.
2. Many tick bites reduce milk yields in cows.
3. When ticks bite they cause irritation (itching) so the animal does not eat properly because it spends time trying to remove the ticks (grooming)
4. They cause wounds through which other disease parasites can enter the body
5. They cause damage to hides making them lose market value
6. They cause damage to the udder thus affecting milk yield and suckling calves



*Sensitising farmers*

## How are ticks controlled on cattle?

1. Ticks are controlled by spraying or

dipping cattle in acaricides.

2. There are many types of acaricides on the market.

3. The farmer has to be careful and must follow the instructions on the label when mixing.

4. The farmer should spray and dip cattle properly and seek guidance from extension workers



*Farmers mixing acaricide*

## Why have most farmers stopped controlling ticks on their animals?

1. The acaricides have become very expensive for farmers keeping a few local cattle.
2. Local animals are tolerant to tick bites when they grow beyond nine months
3. Adult local cattle are not affected so much by diseases caused by ticks

## How can we control ticks cheaply on local cattle?

1. A new method that is cheap and affordable to farmers has been introduced where you just spray at the three sites