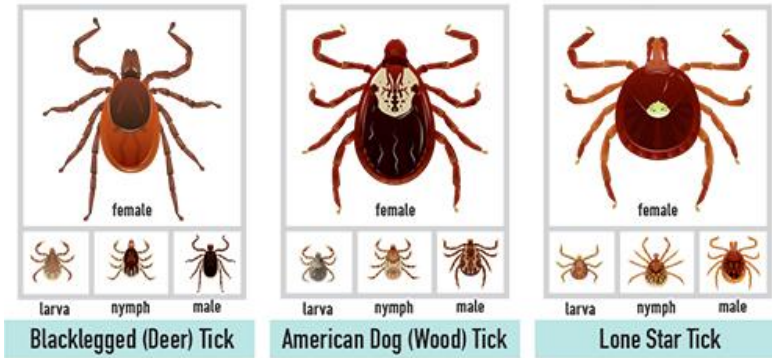


General Information

There are three varieties of ticks commonly found in Iowa, the blacklegged tick (deer tick), the American dog tick (wood tick), and the Lone Star tick.



Tick Overview

- Tick season in Iowa is from March through November.
- Ticks (larvae and nymphs) must bite a host and feed on blood for their development.
- The deer tick can spread Lyme disease, but the dog tick does not.
- Lyme disease causes a wide range of symptoms.
 - A bullseye-shaped rash around a tick bite area is a sign of infection.

Prevention

- Wear a hat, long pants, and a long-sleeve shirt.
- Tuck your shirt into your pants and tuck your pants into your socks.
- Wear light-colored clothing for easier visualization of ticks.
- Use insect repellent for ticks and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Check for ticks at least once a day, especially, after you have been in brushy, woody, or grassy areas.
 - Ticks are often found on the scalp, ears, back of your knees, underarms, and groin area.
- Shower as soon as possible to wash off unattached ticks.
- Tumble drying clothes on high heat will help kill any remaining ticks.

Removing Attached Ticks

- Remove an attached tick by using tweezers to grasp the tick's mouthparts where they enter the skin. Pull steadily directly away from your skin.
- To dispose of a removed tick, submerge it in rubbing alcohol, flush it down the toilet, or wrap it tightly in tape and throw it away.
- Clean the wound and disinfect the site of the bite.
- Call your doctor if you experience any signs or symptoms of Lyme disease such as a bullseye rash, fever, joint pain, rash, or inflammation at the bite site.

Discussion Date:

Supervisor:

Participants:

Source: Iowa DNR and ISU
Extension
Photo Source: [Cornell CALS](#)