

# All About Ticks in Saskatchewan

Farmers are at higher risk of picking up ticks because most of their work is in and around tick habitats.

Wood Ticks: 5mm Big



Deer Ticks: < 3mm

Most ticks in Saskatchewan are Wood Ticks (>97%) which do not transmit Lyme disease to people. Deer Ticks, also known as Blacklegged Ticks, can transmit Lyme disease, but are not commonly found in Saskatchewan (0.3%). Only a small number of those found are infected with Lyme disease bacteria. The risk of Lyme disease caused by Deer Ticks is evolving in other parts of the country including British Columbia, Manitoba, and Eastern Canada. Ticks can be spread to other geographic locations by dropping off migratory birds. The most common seasons for ticks are spring and summer; ticks can be found in forests, wooded areas, tall grass, and leaf piles.

Lyme disease is the bacterial infection that is transmitted through the bite of Deer Ticks. In order for a Deer Tick to transmit Lyme disease to a person, the tick must be infected by the Lyme bacteria and must be attached to the person for 36-48 hours or more in order for the disease to be transmitted.

## Seeking Medical Attention

If you develop a rash or fever several weeks after a tick bite, see your health care provider with more information on where/when you were bit, as well as if you suspect you have a tick borne disease (such as Lyme).

For more information about ticks and Lyme disease:  
[www.canada.ca/LymeDisease](http://www.canada.ca/LymeDisease)  
[www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/diseases-and-conditions/lyme-disease](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/diseases-and-conditions/lyme-disease)

## Saskatchewan Tick Surveillance

If you find a tick on your pets/livestock, submit it to:  
Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Dept. of  
Veterinary Microbiology  
University of Saskatchewan - 52 Campus Drive  
Saskatoon SK S7N 5B4

If you find a tick on yourself/another person, submit it to:  
Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory - 5 Research Drive  
Regina SK S4S 0A4

# Tick Prevention on the Farm



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and Safety in Agriculture  
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## PREVENT

### Reduce tick habitats on the farm

- Mow the lawn to keep grass short
- Remove leaf litter, brush, & weeds from the edge of your yard, woodpiles, and other buildings
- Treat pets and livestock with oral/topical tick treatments

### Protect yourself when working in/around tall grass or bushy areas

- Wear closed-toe shoes, long sleeves, and pants
- Tuck your shirt in and pull socks overtop of your pants
- Use bug spray with DEET or Icaridin



## CHECK

- Do a full body tick-check of yourself, your children, and your pets
- Shower or bathe within 2 hours of being outdoors to for ticks check and remove any ticks that have not yet attached
- Before washing outdoor clothing put them in the dryer on high for 10 minutes to kill off any ticks

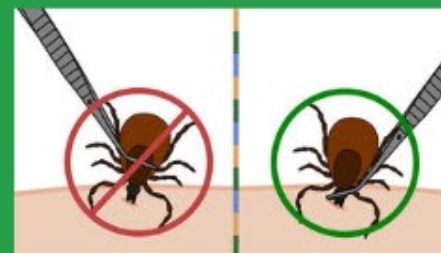
### Common Tick Locations:



## REMOVE

1. Use clean tweezers to grasp the head of the tick as close to the skin as possible
2. Slowly pull straight out, gently but firmly. Do not squeeze the tick. Squeezing can cause Lyme bacteria to be accidentally introduced into your body
3. If the parts mouth break off and remain in the skin, remove them with tweezers, or if you are unable to easily remove them leave them alone and let the skin heal - consult a healthcare provider if you have concerns
4. Wash the bite area and your hands with soap and water or disinfectant with alcohol handsanitizer

### Do NOT Remove a Tick Using:



- Nail polish
- Petroleum jelly
- Heat to burn the tick