

Ticks

What are ticks?

Ticks are parasites that feed on the blood of humans and animals. They vary in size and color. Ticks can carry and transmit a variety of diseases.

Ways to Prevent Tick Borne Illness

- Don't walk barelegged in tall grass or woods where ticks may be found
- Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and high socks. Tuck your pant legs into your socks. Wear light-colored clothing so crawling ticks can be seen more easily
- Conduct "tick checks" every 2 or 3 hours if spending a lot of time outdoors. Check all of your skin for ticks every day (help may be needed to do this). The ticks are most often found on the thigh, arms, underarms, and legs. Look for new "freckles." Ticks can be very small
- Use tick repellents containing the ingredients DEET for skin applications (which can be toxic to infants if a large amount is applied) or Permethrin on clothing. Always follow directions on the can. These repellents can be found at local stores. Wash off all repellents after going indoors

Additional Facts

- Ticks crawl, they don't jump or fly
- Ticks can be active in the all seasons including winter
- All tick bites and tick borne diseases are preventable
- Unfed ticks can look like sesame or poppy seeds on your skin
- Some clothing is made with built-in tick repellent



Lone star tick

Extension Services Fact Sheets:

- Common Ticks of Oklahoma and Tick-Borne Diseases:
<http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-2097/EPP-7001web2014.pdf>

For further information, contact a licensed pesticide applicator, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Food & Forestry (405) 521-3864, or the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service (405) 744-5000

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