

Cattle tick – moving animals off restricted holdings

May 2020, Primefact 1548, Second edition

Animal Biosecurity and Welfare, NSW DPI

What are cattle tick restricted holdings?

Cattle tick is a notifiable pest under schedule one of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*.

Whenever cattle tick are found in NSW, movement restrictions will be placed on the property where they are found and adjoining holdings to control the risk of further spread.

This restriction will either be agreed to in a legal undertaking with, or given in a biosecurity direction by a NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) or Local Land Services (LLS) authorised officer. It will specify what animal owners and managers must do before animals which are cattle tick carriers can move off the property.

The restrictions are normally in place for up to two years. In this time a cattle tick eradication program is completed on the infested holding and the adjoining herds are repeatedly inspected to make sure cattle ticks are not present.

During this period animals may only move to saleyards, abattoirs or to other properties where they meet risk minimisation criteria to make sure there are no cattle ticks on animals when they are moved.

The movement protocols are strictest for high risks movements. The highest risk is from moving primary cattle tick carriers such as cattle to another property. Movements to abattoirs or to saleyards with dips are less of a risk for spread of cattle tick. Movement of cattle off holdings that adjoin an infested holding but have not had cattle tick detected are also of lower risk.

Definitions used in this document

Term	Definition
Acaricide	A chemical which kills or sterilizes ticks
Adjoining holding	Cattle ticks have not been found on the property but may be present due to factors such as tick infestation on neighbouring properties, straying animals or common management factors
Authorised officer	A person working for NSW DPI or LLS who has been authorised under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> to carry out various functions
Carrier biosecurity	A certificate issued by an authorised officer or accredited biosecurity certifier

Cattle tick – moving animals off restricted holdings

certificate	attesting that prescribed treatment and inspection requirements have been undertaken in order to manage a biosecurity risk
Cattle tick carrier	Cattle, camelids, equines, deer, goats or sheep
Clean manual inspection	An animal is manually examined and no live ticks detected. See the NSW Primefact 'Cattle tick – manual inspection of cattle tick carriers' published on the Department's website. A tick is alive if it exudes liquid when crushed
Clean treatment	A clean manual inspection of an animal or group of animals followed by a chemical treatment of a cattle tick carrier with an APVMA approved acaricide or endectocide for the control of cattle tick in accordance with all APVMA directions and label conditions, as specified in the NSW Primefact 'Cattle tick – chemical treatment of cattle tick carriers' published on the Department's website.
Clean herd treatment	A whole herd procedure where all animals in the herd are found to be free of cattle tick and are subsequently treated with acaricide
Clean herd inspection	Clean manual inspection of the whole herd by an authorised officer
Dipping	Immersion in a plunge dip containing an approved acaricide for the control of cattle tick in accordance with all APVMA directions and label conditions, as specified in the NSW Primefact 'Cattle tick – chemical treatment of cattle tick carriers' published on the Department's website.
Export slaughter interval (ESI)	The number of days following application of a chemical to an animal, which must elapse before an animal can be slaughtered at an export abattoir. This period is always equal to or longer than the withholding period (WHP) specified on the product label
Infested holding	Land where cattle tick infested animal(s) have been located
Macrocyclic lactone (ML)	An acaricide based on the macrocyclic lactone chemical group e.g. Moxidectin. These may be pour-on or injectable. These chemicals are only used if dipping or spraying is unavailable or if drug resistance is suspected.
Permit	An authorisation issued by an authorised officer which allows conduct that, in the absence of the permit would not be allowable under the Act.
Primary cattle tick carriers	Species on which cattle tick routinely complete their life cycle (i.e. cattle, buffalo, bison, deer)
Record of movement (restricted property)	A form to the effect of the form published on the Department's website titled 'Record of Movement – Cattle Tick Carrier (restricted property)' completed for the cattle tick carrier that contains a declaration that the cattle tick carrier satisfies or will satisfy the conditions of movement of a cattle tick carrier off a property under a biosecurity undertaking or biosecurity direction due to cattle tick..
Secondary cattle tick carriers	Species on which cattle tick occasionally complete their life cycle (e.g. horses, sheep, goats, camelids)
Spraying	Applying an acaricide by power spray in an approved manner

Requirements for moving primary cattle tick carriers off infested holdings

The movement requirements listed below apply in most situations and are risk based. Occasionally the requirements may be varied for particular situations such as the presence of chemical resistance or where dipping facilities are not available at a saleyards. These situations are discussed in more detail later.

Table1. Moving primary cattle tick carriers (cattle, bison, buffalo and deer)

Note for all movements:

- a copy of the record of movement (restricted property) must be provided to an authorised officer prior to the movement , and
- a record of movement (restricted property) and, if required, a carrier biosecurity certificate or permit, must accompany the cattle tick carrier to its destination.

Cattle tick – moving animals off restricted holdings

Status of eradication program	Destination	Risk minimisation requirements	Authority and forms required
Has not completed two consecutive clean herd treatments	Abattoir or a Saleyards with a dip	Clean manual inspection by an authorised officer.	Carrier biosecurity certificate to authorise the movement and a Record of movement (restricted holding)
Has not completed two consecutive clean herd treatments	Property	Two clean treatments by dipping 4-7 days apart. ¹	Carrier biosecurity certificate to authorise the movement and a Record of movement (restricted holding)
Completed two consecutive clean herd treatments by an authorised officer	Abattoir or Saleyards with a dip	Clean manual inspection by owner.	Record of movement (restricted holding)
Completed two consecutive clean herd treatments by an authorised officer	Property	Clean treatment by an authorised officer.	Carrier biosecurity certificate to authorise the movement and a Record of movement (restricted holding)

1. Where amitraz resistance is suspected and MLs are being used the intertreatment is extended.

Table2. Moving secondary cattle tick carriers (horses, camelids, goats, sheep)

Note for all movements:

- a copy of the record of movement (restricted property) must be provided to an authorised officer prior to the movement , and
- a record of movement (restricted property) and, if required, a carrier biosecurity certificate must accompany the cattle tick carrier to its destination.

Status of eradication program	Destination	Risk minimisation requirements	Authority and forms required
Has not completed two consecutive clean herd treatments	Abattoir Or Saleyards with a dip	Clean manual inspection by an authorised officer.	Carrier biosecurity certificate to authorise the movement and a Record of movement (restricted holding)
Has not completed two consecutive clean herd treatments	Property	Clean treatment by an authorised officer.	Carrier biosecurity certificate to authorise the movement and a Record of movement (restricted holding)

Cattle tick – moving animals off restricted holdings

Completed two consecutive clean herd treatments by an authorised officer	Abattoir or Saleyards with a dip	Clean manual inspection by owner.	Record of movement (restricted holding)
Completed two consecutive clean herd treatments by an authorised officer	Property	Clean treatment by an authorised officer.	Carrier biosecurity certificate to authorise the movement and a Record of movement (restricted holding)

Table 3. Moving cattle tick carriers off adjoining holdings

Note for all movements:

- a copy of the record of movement (restricted property) must be provided to an authorised officer prior to the movement , and
- a record of movement (restricted property) and, if required, a carrier biosecurity certificate must accompany the cattle tick carrier to its destination.

Status of eradication program	Destination	Risk minimisation requirements	Authority and forms required
Has not completed one clean herd inspection	Abattoir Or Saleyards with a dip	Clean manual inspection by an authorised officer.	Carrier biosecurity certificate to authorise the movement and a Record of movement (restricted holding)
Has not completed one clean herd inspection	Property	Clean treatment by an authorised officer.	Carrier biosecurity certificate to authorise the movement and a Record of movement (restricted holding)
Has completed one clean herd inspection by an authorised officer	Abattoir or Saleyards with a dip	Clean manual inspection by owner.	Record of movement (restricted holding)
Has completed one clean herd inspection by an authorised officer	Property	Clean treatment by an authorised officer.	Carrier biosecurity certificate to authorise the movement and a Record of movement (restricted holding)

Chemical treatments

When cattle are getting treated for movement they must be presented visually free of cattle tick and one or more preliminary treatments may be required to achieve the clean inspection status.

Final treatments prior to movement will be by plunge dipping wherever possible. For small consignments of less than ten animals, power spraying with a contact acaricide may be permitted. For larger consignments where dipping is not feasible the use of pour on or injectable MLs will be considered on a case by case basis.

MLs are not contact killers like chemicals used in dips and sprays. MLs are taken up by ticks when they are feeding and they affect their egg laying ability. So it is necessary to wait four days after treatment to ensure any ticks have time to have a blood feed and take in the ML before they are moved.

Animals treated with contact killers must be moved within 24 hours.

Where injectable MLs have been used, the relevant ESI must be observed and may determine when the movement can occur if the cattle are sold for slaughter.

It is a label requirement that cattle cannot be treated at less than 21 day intervals by pour-on MLs. (e.g. Cydectin®). Where the herd is being treated by pour-on ML and treatments are required at less than 21 day intervals in order to move animals off the holding amitraz dips or sprays would normally be used for the movement treatment. Where amitraz resistance is suspected the retreatment interval would be based on DPI technical advice.

Saleyards without a dip

Saleyards outside the far north coast of NSW do not have dipping facilities and when cattle tick outbreaks occur outside the far north coast movement requirements for cattle moving off restricted holdings to saleyards without dips will have customised requirements. When numbers are small, amitraz by power spray will be used. Injectable MLs reach rapid blood levels but can have extended ESIs which will need careful management to prevent violative residues if slaughtered

Chemical resistance

In the tick infested zone in Queensland, chemical resistance limits the effectiveness of many of the acaricides used to control cattle tick. Occasionally resistant cattle ticks are suspected or confirmed in NSW cattle tick infestations usually associated with recent livestock introductions from Queensland.

In NSW cattle tick resistance has been seen to amitraz and flumethrin and previously to organophosphates. In Australia resistance has not yet been confirmed in cattle ticks to any of the MLs but ML cattle tick resistance has been reported in South America and South Africa so it likely it will emerge here eventually.

Where resistance is suspected dipping is less effective and repeated manual inspections and treatments using MLs (pour on or injectable) will be required in order to move animals off infested holdings.

Costs for movement inspection and treatments

The cattle tick program covers all the chemical costs for movement treatments except in the instance where injectable MLs are used for a movement treatment on adjoining holdings. Dipping is the preferred treatment due to cost and efficacy but spraying can be effective as well but only consignments of less than 10 head can be dealt with by hand spraying unless a dedicated spray race is available.

More information

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/beef-cattle/health-and-disease/parasitic-and-protozoal-diseases/ticks>

General biosecurity enquires phone 1800 680 244 or email

animal.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au

PUB17/213

© State of New South Wales through Department of Planning, Industry & Environment 2020. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (May 2020). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment or the user's independent adviser.