



ASIAN LONGHORNED TICK

In late 2017, the USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) confirmed the presence of the Asian longhorned tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*) in the United States. The Asian longhorned tick is not native to the United States, but is a serious threat to livestock in Australia, New Zealand and countries in eastern Asia. After the initial finding, animal health officials began exploring how and when the tick arrived in the U.S. They hypothesize the tick entered the country via domestic pets (e.g. dogs), horses, livestock or humans.

In July 2021, the Asian longhorned tick was first identified in Missouri. There have been three identifications in Missouri since then. Asian longhorned ticks have been found in 17 states since 2017.

Why are state and federal agencies concerned?

This tick is known to infest a wide range of species including North American wildlife species, humans, dogs, cats and livestock. The tick can attach itself to these warm-blooded animals to feed. If too many ticks attach to one animal, the loss of blood can kill the animal. In other countries, the Asian longhorned tick can transmit the agent of bovine theileriosis to cattle and babesiosis to several domestic animal species. Although we have not seen it carry these diseases in the U.S., animal health authorities continue to monitor it closely.

What are state and federal agencies doing?

State agencies, in collaboration with USDA-APHIS and the CDC, will continue tick collection and identification throughout Missouri and states across the country. Federal agencies and animal health professionals will continue to monitor wildlife, livestock and horses in local areas for these ticks. The primary goal is to prevent the spread of the Asian longhorn tick throughout the U.S.



What do **LONGHORNED TICKS** look like?

The adult longhorned tick is light brown in color and grows to the size of a pea when it is full of blood. The other life stages of the tick are very small and difficult to see with the naked eye.



Pictured above are (left) engorged female, (center) partially engorged female and (right) engorged larvae.

Photo courtesy of James L. Occi, Rutgers University



WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Collect suspected longhorn ticks and send them to NVSL using the [Parasite Submission Form](#).

Call the NVSL Lab at (515) 337-7514 with questions.

1

COLLECT
ANY SUSPICIOUS TICKS
(for official identification)

2

PLACE
THE TICK IN A LEAK PROOF CONTAINER
(Preserve in isopropyl alcohol)

3

MAIL
TICKS TO:
National Veterinary Services Lab
1920 Dayton Avenue
Ames, IA 50010



ANIMAL HEALTH