

Dog Ticks Spread Throughout State

UNIVERSITY PARK, (Centre Co.) — Lyme disease and the Lyme-carrying deer tick have received much publicity in recent years. But another tick, and the potentially deadly disease it can harbor, is a growing concern in Pennsylvania.

"The American dog tick has expanded its range in Pennsylvania over the last few decades," says Dr. Robert Snetsinger, professor of entomology in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"From 2 to 10 percent of these ticks carry Rocky Mountain spotted fever," he says. "Because American dog ticks now exist in areas where they weren't found before, health care professionals should know the symptoms of the disease and be alert for possible cases."

About 15 cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever are reported in Pennsylvania in an average year. The number of cases in any year may range from fewer than 10 to more than 30. But Snetsinger says there likely are many more cases that are misdiagnosed or unreported.

Snetsinger believes conditions may be favorable for an upturn in Rocky Mountain spotted fever in

1995. "Our research suggests that more cases of the disease are reported in years when a milder-than-normal winter with below-average precipitation is followed by a spring season with normal or higher-than-average precipitation."

A tick must feed at least 24 hours before the disease is transmitted to the host. Three to four days after being bitten by an infected tick, a person may experience high fever — up to 105 degrees — headache, sore muscles and fatigue. The fever is commonly followed by a severe rash with reddish or purple spots.

The disease is easily treated with antibiotics. Left untreated it can be fatal, especially for young children.

The American dog tick is deep reddish brown, often with white mottling or blotches on its back. It typically reaches slightly more than an eighth of an inch in length, but can swell to more than a half-inch when engorged with the blood of a host. The adults can survive the winter, and are most active in April and May.

Dog ticks can be found in tall grass and on small plants, often along hiking trails or at the edge of wooded areas. They are common

in areas frequented by their preferred hosts — medium-sized mammals such as dogs, raccoons and opossums.

"Dogs are ideal collectors of these ticks," says Snetsinger. "When I want to collect dog ticks for the lab, I've found that it's much more effective to let a dog run up and down a hiking trail than to have my students try to find them."

A research team led by Snetsinger has tracked the spread of the American dog tick. He says it is now established virtually everywhere in Pennsylvania.

"Before 1950, dog ticks were limited to the extreme southeast and southwest corners of the state," he says. "By 1991, they had been found in virtually every county."

"The tick's spread is not easily explained because it's rarely collected from migratory birds," says Snetsinger. "A likely scenario is that people traveling with family pets and hunting dogs have introduced ticks into areas where they didn't exist previously."

Despite their spread, American dog ticks are still most common in

the southeastern and southwestern regions of the state. Snetsinger says counties where you are most likely to encounter a dog tick are Adams, Berks, Beaver, Bucks, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Lancaster, Montgomery, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Washington, Westmoreland and York.

Snetsinger says the American dog tick cannot transmit Lyme dis-

ease. And even though the number of cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever in Pennsylvania is relatively small, it's important to know the risk. "The medical community needs to be aware of the presence of this tick and alert to the likelihood that the disease it can carry may occur with increasing frequency, especially in western and central Pennsylvania," he says.



STEEL BALE BOXES

With 8-Ton Wagon Gears

3 Sizes Available - 16', 18', 20' with or without running gear
• Also: will fit sides onto your flat wagon

NEW PRODUCTS! **Double Rake Hitch**
Farm Gates Made To Your Specifications

MFD BY: **GAP HILL FARM WAGONS**
5549 Lincoln Hwy. - Gap, PA 17527 717-442-9489
Call Bet. 8:30 & 9:00 A.M.

DRAINAGE PROBLEMS?

Cocalico Equipment Specializes in Drainage Work

We do subsurface and surface drainage, terraces and waterways.

We also do horizontal boring for water & sewer, etc.
Call Us.

We Install Ponds:

- New Pond Construction
- Reconstruction of Existing Ponds
- Seal Leaking Ponds

• **FREE ESTIMATES** •
- We Sell Pipe - All Kinds - All Sizes -

COCALICO EQUIPMENT CO.
Farm Drainage & Excavating
323 Reinholds Rd. Denver, PA 17517
(717) 336-3808 (717) 738-3794

AGCO ALLIS 8600 SERIES TRACTORS

36 SPEED CHOICES

- **PTO power and versatility.** The independent PTO operates at 540/1,000 rpm with 6- and 21-spline shafts and an electrohydraulically-actuated wet PTO clutch. The 3-point hitch comes standard with telescopic stabilizers: Category II/I on the 8610; Category III/II on the 8630. Optional telescopic lower links are available.
- **Quality performance features.** The 8600 Series tractors ride on premium Goodyear radial tires. They have hydrostatic steering, a tilt-telescope steering wheel and hydraulically-actuated wet disc brakes on all four wheels for 40% better braking. These models also have electrohydraulically-actuated rear and front differential locks that an operator can manually disengage for tighter turns.

To learn about all the quality features of the 8600 Series tractors, or any of the "orange" line of AGCO Allis tractors ranging from 40 to 128 PTO hp, stop by or call us soon.

AGCO ALLIS
For the way you farm today

SEE YOUR DEALER TODAY!

MANOR MOTORS On Rt. 553 Penn Run, Pa. 15765 412-254-4753	SANDY LAKE IMPLEMENT Sandy Lake, Pa. 412-376-2489	B.H.M. FARM EQUIP., INC. Annville, Pa. 717-867-2211	HOLTRY'S EQUIPMENT Roxbury, Pa. 717-532-7261
HERNLEY'S FARM EQUIP., INC. Elizabethtown, Pa. 717-367-8867	NICHOLS FARM EQUIP. Bloomsburg, Pa. 717-784-7731	GRUMELLI FARM SERVICE Quarryville, Pa. 717-786-7318	C.J. WONSIDLER BROS. Quakertown, Pa. 215-536-7523 New Tripoli, Pa. 215-767-7611 Oley, Pa. 215-867-6257