

# Weekly Article

## Another Tick to Check For

### 12-8-2020

Hello, my Name is Richard Purdin with OSU Extension, Ag and Natural Resource and Community Development Educator for Adams County. I hope to better inform local producers and the public of the latest news in the world of agriculture. The second week of December has brought some welcomed dry and warmer air to the region. Hopefully, this weather trend will allow the last few corn fields to be gleaned and make feeding cattle a little more tolerable for producers. Even though winter is just starting, it will not be long that spring will be here and more of us will be spending more time outside in nature. With warmer and shorter winters and longer periods of warm and humid summers there has been a steady increase in the migration of tick species commonly associated with the southern region of the United State. The newest tick on the block is called the Gulf Coast Tick. Here are a few facts about this tick species.

- The Gulf Coast Tick was first identified in the mid 1800's in the southern coastal areas of the county.
- In the early 1900's this tick species was credited to the spread of the screw worm due to its large sized hypostome (mouth part).
- It has migrated up the Mississippi River and Ohio River valleys and has been found in Butler and Hamilton county Ohio.
- The Gulf Coast tick can travel on wildlife such as birds and prefers a similar habitat as the American Dog tick.
- This tick feeds on livestock, pets, and humans, transmitting many diseases but most commonly Hepatozoonosis in canines and Rickettsia parkeri in humans.
- Rickettsia parkeri can cause symptoms very similar to Rocky Mountain spotted fever.
- Permethrin treated clothing and spray on (for livestock) have shown good results in keeping this pest off humans and animals.

Some other details to go over is

- The OSU Extension Office will be open by appointment only starting December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, so if you need assistance call (937) 544 2339 to make an appointment first.
- USDA will be providing direct assistance to farmers impacted by Corona virus for the second time this year. Producers can contact the FSA office to sign up for their second round of payments for 2020. Sign up deadline is December 11<sup>th</sup>,

2020 you should call before coming to the office. The phone number to call is (937) 544 2033.

- Our new 2020 Plat Books are for sale. Call the office to make an appointment to buy one at (937) 544-2339.
- 2021 GAP recertification training will be available to producers online or through the mail. The Online training course will begin January 11<sup>th</sup> and run to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. For more details or question please call the office at (937) 544 2339.
- For producer who still have not yet elected a 2021 crop safety net program Agriculture Risk Coverage or Price Loss Coverage there is a recording of the webinar explaining the programs go to <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/events/archived-videos>. The deadline to sign up for a program will be March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

#### From the Field

In scouting field conditions for Adams County, the following is things I have noticed.

1. Corn Harvest is wrapping up
2. Some tobacco producers have began taking down and stripping.
3. With some morning low temperatures in the mid 20's the soil has had some freeze and thawing in the upper portion of the soil profile.
4. Winter grazing of stockpiled pastures.