



A collection pen

### Grazing management

The free-living stages of ticks can remain viable in pastures for two years or so. Rotational grazing would therefore, give time for the free stages of ticks to die, however, due to shortages of grazing land, it is impracticable to practice rotation.

*This information package was developed by the ASARECA Livestock and Fisheries Programme project on "Tick and tick borne diseases prevention and control in Eastern and Central Africa" after identifying knowledge gaps on tick management among farmers in the region through a baseline survey. Translation into local languages is in progress.*



## Tick management and control

What Farmers Need to Know





Tick control involves breaking the parasite's life cycle by applying acaricides on the animals and managing the grazing environment.

### Treatment with acaricides

The main method of tick control is regular application of acaricides such as organophosphates (Steladone®), diamidines (amitraz), synthetic pyrethroids (deltamethrin) etc.

### Methods of acaricide application

- Plunge dips
- Spray race
- Pour-ons
- Hand spray
- Hand wash

### Choice of acaricide

- Choose an acaricide based on professional advice and existing policy
- Use the acaricide consistently without changing to another until advised by an extension worker.

### Dilution rate

Each acaricide has its specific dilution rate which must be strictly adhered to namely:

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## What Farmers Need to Know



### A plunge dip

- Tactic: 40mls in 20 litres of water
- Decatix: 15ml in 20 litres of water

In case of pour-on formulations e.g. Bayticol pour-on:

- apply 1ml of product per 10kg body weight
- Apply the product along the back of an animal as mentioned in the instructions



- Strictly adhere to the recommended dose
- Do not dilute the product with water

### Problems of using acaricides

- The plunge dip and spray race are very expensive to construct and maintain
- Most farmers are small holders with only a few head of cattle. They find it uneconomical to operate any of the two methods unless under communal ownership and maintenance
- Complete wetting is difficult to achieve with hand sprays. Acaricide that drips from the animal after hand spraying is wasted, causing environmental pollution
- Users are exposed to the harmful effects of acaricides if they lack protective clothing.
- Existence of fake, ineffective and adulterated acaricides on the market
- When low concentrations of acaricides are used, the ticks develop resistance to the acaricides
- Haphazard change from one acaricide to another can lead to exhaustion of the available spectrum of acaricides on the market
- Water scarcity in pastoral areas
- Acaricides are generally expensive

