Procedure for eradicating cattle tick from infested land

This procedure must be followed when eradicating cattle tick from infested land in the free zone.

Eradication procedures

To eradicate cattle tick from infested land and meet the legal requirement, a person must comply with at least one of the following with a record of the steps they have taken:

1. Chemical treatment program
2. Destocking
3. Pasture spelling

Chemical treatment

Chemical treatment is an effective way of eradicating cattle tick from infested land (restricted place). The chemical treatment prevents the parasitic stage of cattle tick from progressing to the adult reproductive stage. This reduces or removes the possibility of re-infestation by non-parasitic cattle ticks. Chemical treatments act most effectively when applied over the summer months.

The application of chemical treatments as a way of eradicating cattle tick from infested land (restricted place) must comply with the following conditions:

- The treatment program should be conducted over a minimum of 26 weeks commencing no later than 1 October and ending 31 March. A program may commence earlier depending on seasonal conditions, for example earlier than normal summer storm season, but should still run until 31 March.
- The chemical being used must reasonably be expected to kill ticks in the local area (i.e. there is no known chemical resistance).
- The person applying the chemical treatment must ensure that the chemical is used in compliance with the registration and label instructions of the chemical and must consider any re-treatment intervals that limit the use of the chemical.
- The chemical must be applied in accordance with the instructions provided by the manufacturer of the chemical and recommended treatment intervals must be strictly adhered to.
- Retreatment intervals must not exceed the label claim for effectiveness of the chemical. For example if a chemical product claims to be effective against the life cycle of the cattle tick for 21 days, retreatment with another chemical must be conducted within 21 days of application.
- All cattle tick carriers on the infested property must be treated.
- The owner or person in charge of the cattle tick carriers must take reasonable measures to limit the chance of re-infestation. This includes, but is not limited to:
    - ensuring that perimeter fences are secure;
    - ensuring that any cattle tick carriers moved on to the property are tick free.

- The owner or person in charge of the cattle tick carriers must keep the following records as evidence of the actions taken to eradicate cattle tick:
    - Evidence of the purchase of chemical treatment proportionate to the number of livestock treated.
    - Records of chemical treatments undertaken including the chemical name, concentration, application method and date of treatment.

Destocking

Destocking involves removing all cattle tick carriers from infested land (restricted place) for a time period that prevents the non-parasitic stages of the cattle tick life cycle being completed. To maximise the success of destocking the following steps must be taken:

- All cattle tick carriers are to be removed from the property for a period of time that takes into consideration the local environmental conditions.
    - During summer conditions, the period must be a minimum of 9 months.
    - During cooler and/or drier conditions, the period must be a minimum of 6-9 months.
    - If there is any doubt about the period of time required for eradication, a longer time should be chosen to prevent re-infestation.
- The property must be well fenced and if practical it should have a minimum 10 metre buffer zone from any neighbouring properties where cattle tick carriers are kept.
- The property owner must ensure that no other cattle tick carriers, including straying livestock, can access the property during the destocking period.
- If cattle tick carriers are to be reintroduced to the property after the destocking period is complete, a small group of tick free sentinel or test cattle tick carriers should be introduced to the property. The carriers should be manually inspected between 2 to 3 weeks following their introduction to determine the effectiveness of the destocking program;
- The owner or person in charge of the cattle tick carriers must keep the following records as evidence of the actions taken to eradicate cattle tick.
    - Movement records to show that carriers have been removed from the property.
    - NLIS movement records as contained in the NLIS database showing the details of carriers removed from the property.

Pasture spelling

Pasture spelling involves a combination of destocking and chemical treatments specific to a particular paddock on infested land (restricted place). To maximise the success of pasture spelling the following steps must be taken:

- All cattle tick carriers are to be removed from the paddock for a period of time however this period will be less than that described for a complete destocking program.
- The paddock must be well fenced.
- If practical a buffer zone of at least 10 metres should be maintained between the paddock and any adjacent paddock where cattle tick carriers are kept.
- If carriers are reintroduced to the paddock, prophylactic chemical treatments must occur prior to reintroduction.

- A chemical treatment regime as described above must be maintained for the duration that the carriers are in the paddock.

Whilst the carriers are on the remainder of the infested land (restricted place), they must be undergoing a chemical treatment regime.

Environmental conditions

The procedures stated above may be assisted by specific environmental conditions in some localities. Using the procedures in combination with environmental conditions may achieve a result in a shorter time frame than stated. For example where extremely hot and dry conditions are experienced during the cooler months (May to December) or where ground cover is limited, the pasture spelling or destocking periods may be reduced or the use of chemical treatments may be more effective.