

UNION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS JOURNAL 2025

June 3, 2025

The Union County Commissioners met in regular session this 3rd day of June 2025, with the following members present:

David A. Lawrence, Vice President
Tom McCarthy, Commissioner
William Narducci, County Administrator
Mallory Lehman, Clerk to the Board

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*Commissioner Lawrence called the meeting to order at 8:29 a.m.

* * *

*Mike Williamson, Marysville Journal Tribune; and Joe Case, Marysville Matters were in attendance.


* * *

Elected Officials/Department Head Meeting

The Commissioners held their monthly staff meeting this date with the following elected officials and department heads in attendance: Ginger Yonak, Director/Human Resources; Brad Gilbert, Director/EMA; Michelle Forrider, Deputy Director/Board of Elections; Sue Ware, Director/Human Services; Andrea Weaver, Auditor; Wendy Golden, Court Administrator/Common Pleas Court; Judge Don Fraser/Common Pleas Court; Magistrate Adam Reinhart, Probate and Juvenile Court; Wayne Dellinger, OSU Extension; Michelle Forrider, Deputy Director/Board of Elections; Brandon Clay, Director/Board of Elections; Jessica Cain, Office Administrator/Engineer; Brent Nickel, District Administrator/Union Soil and Water Conservation District; Eric Phillips, Director/Economic and Development; Ally Pasanen, Economic Development; Bill Buchanan, Chief Deputy Treasurer; Brad Bodenmiller, Director/LUC Regional Planning Commission; Jason Orcena, Health Commissioner/Union County Health Department; Karen Elyon, Director/Union County Tourism; Adam Negley, Executive Director/Mental Health and Recovery Board; Brad Gilbert, Director/EMA; David Phillips, Prosecutor; Thayne Gray, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney; and Tim McDermott, DVM/Franklin County OSU Extension Office were in attendance.



* * *


Mr. McDermott gave the following presentation on ticks:



An Update on Ticks

Timothy McDermott DVM
Assistant Professor, Department of Extension
Courtesy, Department of Veterinary Preventative Medicine





Myth #1 – Ticks are only active in summer.

- Ticks take one to three years to complete their life cycle depending on species and are active all year long.

Myth #2 – Ticks prefer the woods.

- Some tick species such as American Dog Tick and Gulf Coast Tick prefer open habitat such as pasture and field.

Myth #3 – Takes a day to transmit disease.

- The disease transmission time varies depending on tick species, life cycle stage, and what the disease is.

2

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Ohio Ticks



Common ticks found in Ohio

From left to right: blacklegged tick nymph, blacklegged tick female, blacklegged tick male, American dog tick female, American dog tick male, lone star tick female, lone star tick male.

- American Dog Tick
- Black Legged Tick
- Lone Star Tick
- Gulf Coast Tick
- Longhorned Tick

<https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-your-program/communicable-disease-program/resources/tick-borne-diseases>

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American Dog Tick – *Dermacentor variabilis*



Larva



Nymph



Adult Male



Adult Female

Photo Credit: <https://tickencounter.org/>

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CDC Tick Surveillance
(by species)

Select a tick surveillance year
2022

American Dog Tick Surveillance
Dermacentor variabilis - Estimated and Established Distribution

Tick Data and Maps | Sources: Esri, TomTom, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NetScout
Powered by Esri

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Larva

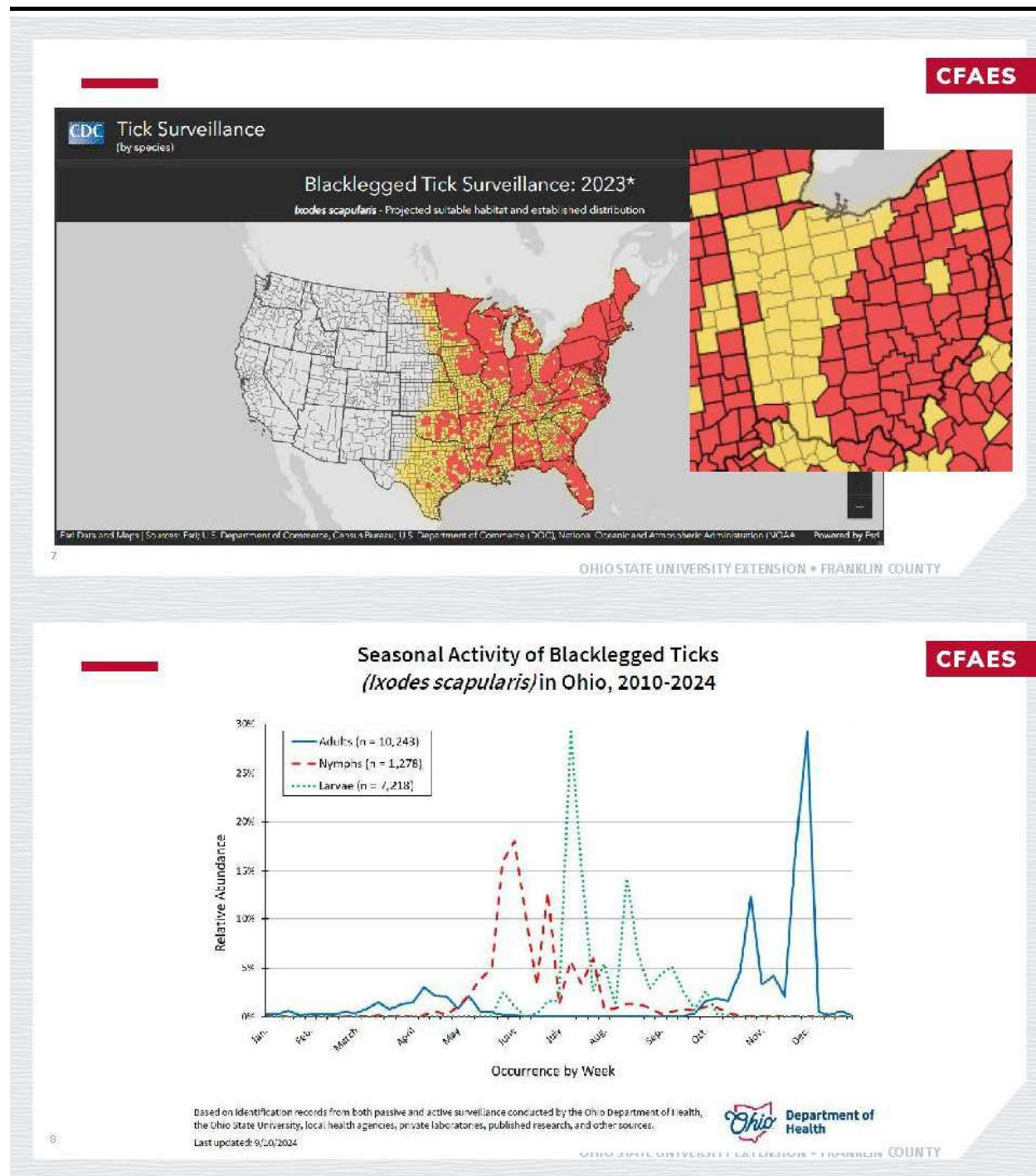
Nymph

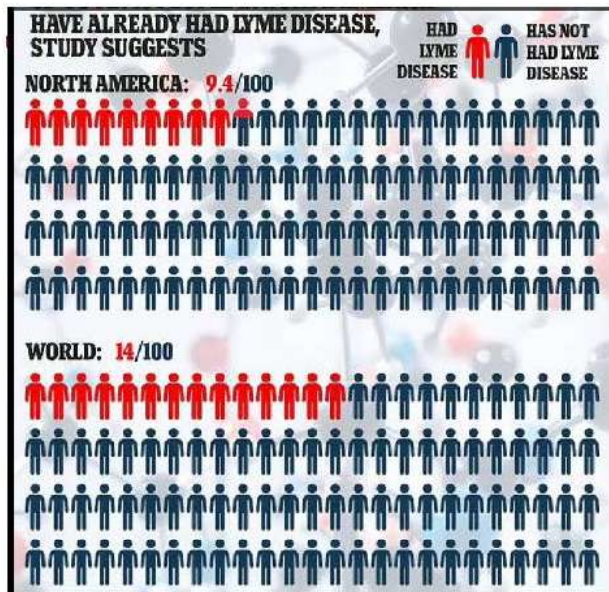
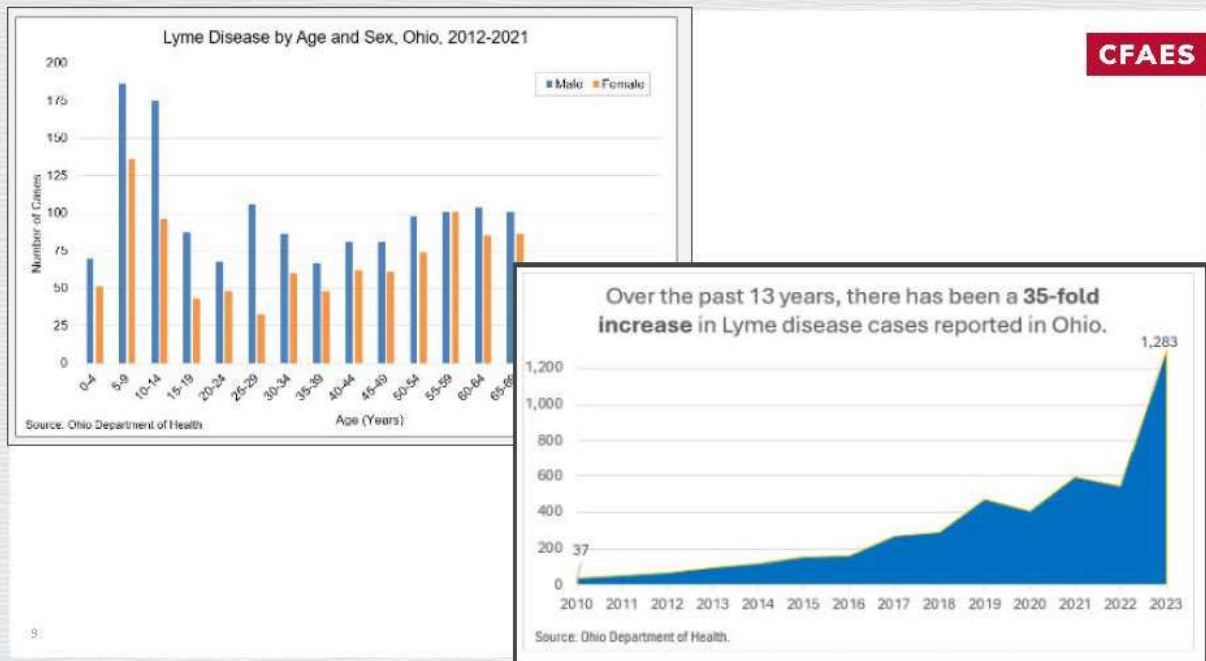
Adult Male

Adult Female

Photo Credit: <https://tickencounter.org/>

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Nearly 10% of people in North America - about 50million people - have had tick-borne illness Lyme disease, new study finds

- Scientists estimate about 50million people in North America have previously been infected with the tick-borne illness Lyme disease
- Meta-analysis was based on blood data from studies involving 150,000 people
- Globally up to 14.5 percent were estimated to have caught Lyme disease
- Highest proportion of cases were in Central Europe, followed by Eastern Asia

Deer Ticks account for 97% of tick-borne disease in the US.

<https://news.ysu.edu/2023/10/12/mcig-defuse-ticking-public-health-time-bomb>

30
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-10916111/nearly-10-percent-of-people-in-north-america-deer-ticks-borne-illness-lyme-disease.html>

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Gulf Coast Tick – *Amblyomma maculatum*

Photo Credit: <https://tickencounter.org/>

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11

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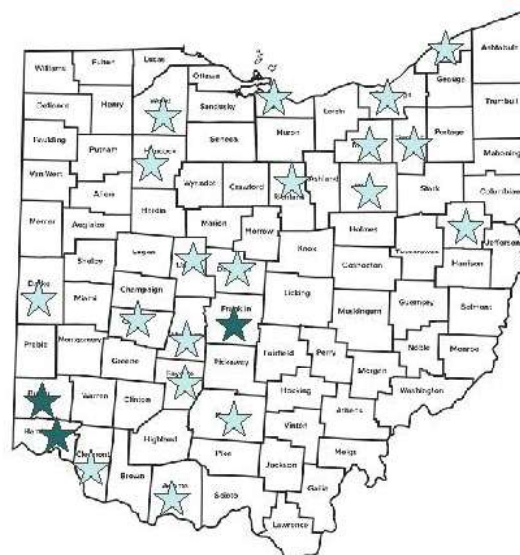
Gulf coast tick reports in Ohio 1994 to 2023

Humans: *Rickettsia parkeri*Canine: *Hepatozoon americanum*

Cattle: Gotch ear

★ Reported

★ Established



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12

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Lone Star Tick – *Amblyomma americanum*



Photo Credit: <https://tickencounter.org/>

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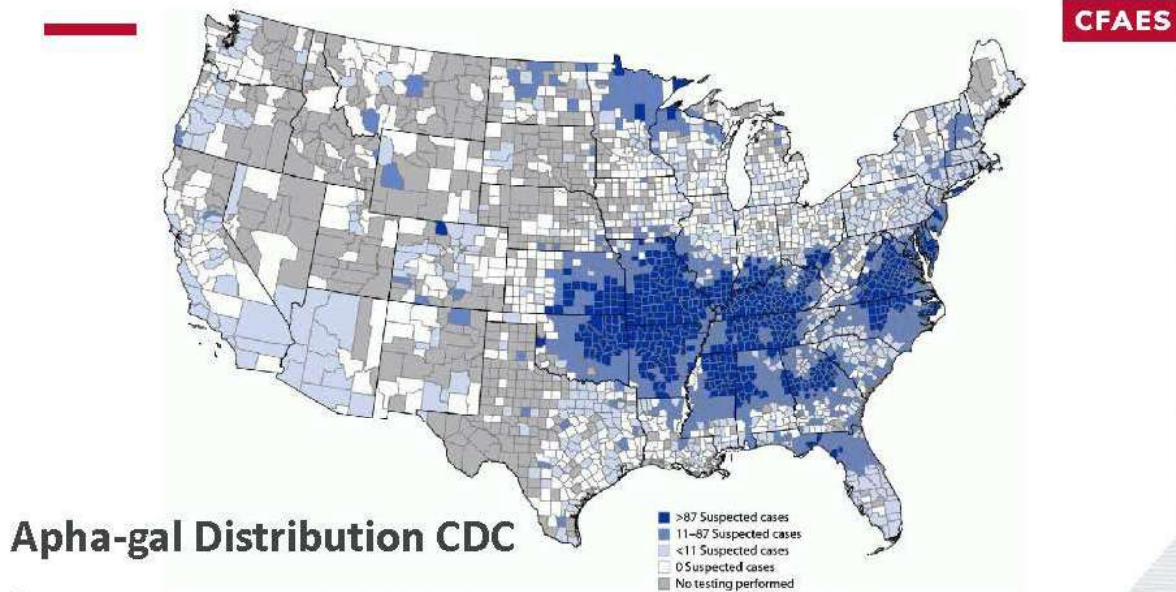
13

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14

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15

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16

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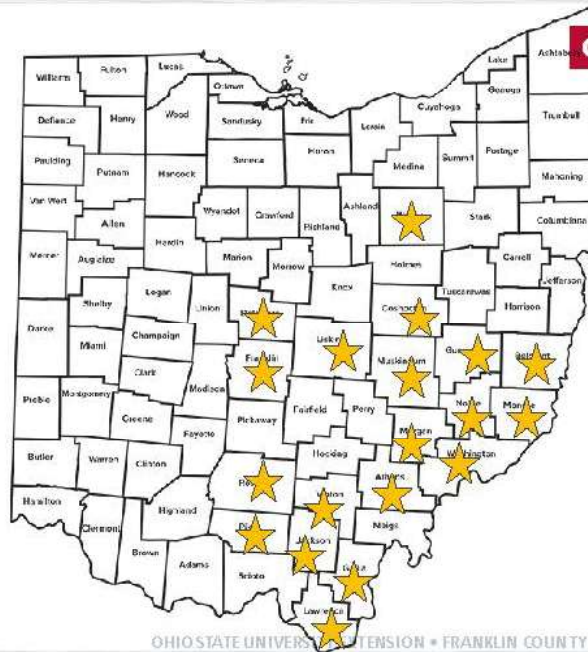
Longhorned Tick Characteristics of Note:

- Vector multiple pathogens
- Wide host range
- Parthenogenetic reproduction



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17

Ohio counties with Longhorned Ticks ★

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18



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21 States Plus Washington DC

USDA Situation Report as of October 1, 2024.


■ Established
■ Reported

Established: At least six individual ticks or at least two of the three host-seeking life stages have been identified in a single collection period (one year).
Reported: A single life stage (host or vegetation association) is present with no consistent collections over time and space.

Criteria taken from: Dennis DT, Nisicmo TS, Victor JC, Paul WS, Pizman J. Reported distribution of Ixodes scapularis and Ixodes pallidus (Acari: Ixodidae) in the United States. J Med Entomol 1988 Sep;25(4):429-33. doi: 10.1093/jmedent/25.4.429. PMID: 9775304.

19

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20

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US field collected ALHT with pathogen positives:

- PCR positive ticks:
 - *Theileria orientalis* Ikeda type
 - *Borrelia burgdorferi* (Lyme dz.)
 - *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*
 - Bourbon virus
 - *Babesia microti*

Pathogens transmitted laboratory:

- *Rickettsia rickettsii* (RMSF)
- *Theileria orientalis* Ikeda
- Heartland virus
- Powassan virus
- **NOT**
 - Lyme , *A. phag*, Tularemia

Allergy EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF ALLERGY AND CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY EAACI

Brief Communication | Full Access

***Haemaphysalis longicornis* tick bites are a possible cause of red meat allergy in Japan**

Y. Chinushi, K. Ishiwata, K. Yamaji, H. Takahashi, C. Morita

21

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Longhorned ticks and bovine health

- Feeding damage can cause mortality through overwhelming numbers on the animal and secondary blood loss.
- *Theileria orientalis* (Ikeda type)
 - Anemia, inappetence
 - Weakness, Increased HR/RR
 - Fever, jaundice, mortality

(Dinkel et al 2021; Thompson et al 2020)

22

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DISASTER ASSISTANCE Livestock Indemnity Program

Owners or contract growers who suffer livestock losses due to an eligible cause of loss must submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to the local FSA office that serves the physical location county where the livestock losses occurred. All of the owner's or contract grower's interest in inventory of eligible livestock in that county for the calendar year must be accounted for and summarized when determining eligibility.

An owner or contract grower must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is first apparent as well as file an application for payment within 60 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.

Theileria Disaster Assistance

- Commercial livestock
- File notice within 30 days
- Have a positive diagnosis
- Eligible because:
 - Caused by vector
 - No vaccine
 - No treatment

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Longhorned Tick control options

Pasture control

- Pesticide application
 - Must touch the tick
 - Rapid reintroduction
 - Edge habitat
- Pyrethroids best, Carbamates OK
 - Resistance concerns
- Management intensive grazing
- Fire control?
- Make stored forages?

Animal control

- Companion animal
 - Multiple options
 - Not labelled? → VCPR
- Livestock
 - Multiple options
 - Must be labelled for ticks
 - Partner with fly control!
 - Ivermectin → VCPR

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Tick Control - Personal

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Permethrin Treated Clothing

- Purchased
- Self Treat

Personal

- Tick Checks
- Knowledge
- Companion Animals

Repellents – Topical

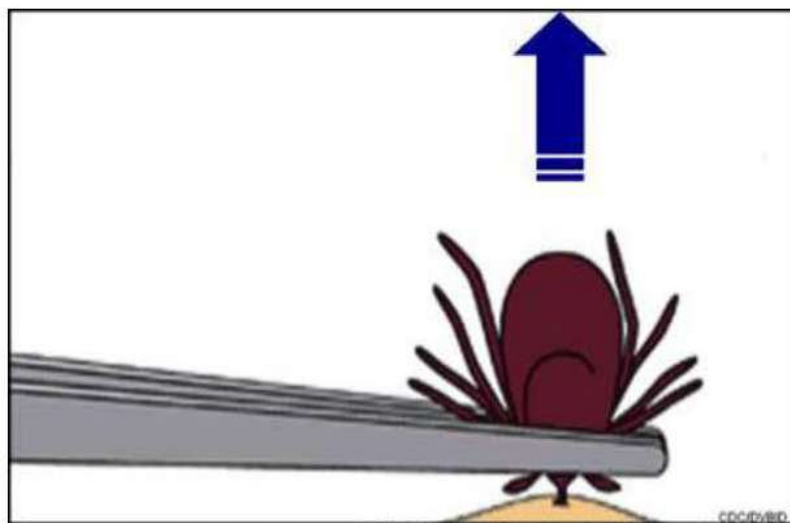
- DEET
- Picaridin
- IR3535
- Nookatone

25

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Correct Removal of a Tick

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26

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Take Homes

- Tick diseases are prevention diseases
- All FOUR Seasons
- New diseases/species/ranges
- Bacterial, Viral, Protozoal, Allergic
- Need a personal plan for safety
- Permethrin Treated Clothes + Repellants
- Companion Animals can break biosecurity
- Proper Removal
- Submit Tick for Testing

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27

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Buckeye Tick Test

[Home](#) | [Detailed Services](#) | [About](#) | [Order](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Contact](#)

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Got Ticks?
Let trained experts at Ohio State's Buckeye Tick Test test them!
It's as easy as 1-2-3:

- 1. Review our services**
Our tick testing panels are specific to the germs transmitted by different species of ticks and include all the most common tick-borne diseases of humans and animals, like Lyme disease. (for \$49.99 per tick)
- 2. Place your order**
Complete a form with your information to generate an order ID #. This order number must accompany your submission.
*For expedited orders, please email tick@osu.edu
- 3. Mail your tick(s)**
Place your tick(s) in a zip-loc plastic bag and mail it to our lab or show it off in person. Delivery addresses are provided once your order is submitted. Results will be returned via email within 72 hours after receipt of your tick(s). See a sample report [here](#).

<https://buckeyeticktest.osu.edu>

28

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Introducing The Bite Site



kx.osu.edu/bite

Note: "This work is supported by the Crop Protection and Pest Management Program grant 20247000643574, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture."

"Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and should not be construed to represent any official USDA or U.S. Government determination or policy."



National Institute of Food and Agriculture

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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* * *

Judge Rodger, Michelle Forrider and Brandon Clay left before the presentation was over.

* * *

Elected Officials/Department Head Updates:

- David Phillips stated Judge Rodger had to leave the meeting early for court. He was at the national drug court conference, Rise, last week. The topic was the best practices for drug court, and it was very informative. There will be a meeting in the future to discuss changes in drug court protocol. There will be media training on Tuesday, June 24, at London Avenue. The first part of the training will be on First Amendment rights and how to avoid being sued. The second part will be on how to handle crisis communications. This is free for employees to attend, and the Commissioners have helped pay for this training.
- Commissioner McCarthy asked if there will be an email sent to notify employees about this training, and Mr. Narducci stated he will send out an email later today.
- Wendy Golden had no report.
- Ginger Yonak passed on a message from Board of Elections since Brandon and Michelle had to leave for their Board meeting. The deadline for candidate petitions is Monday, August 4. June is the final month of the Wellness Program. It ends on June 30. There are many job openings within the county, and HR will be sending out the job postings this week.
- Eric Phillips introduced Economic Development's newest employee, Ally Pasanen. Ally started full time this month.
- Ally Pasanen stated she graduated from The Ohio State University this spring. She started part time at Economic Development in March. She is originally from northeast Ohio but decided to stay in central Ohio after college.
- Brad Gilbert stated the EMA office is staying busy.

UNION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS JOURNAL 2025

June 3, 2025

- Magistrate Adam Reinhart had no report.
- Brad Bodenmiller stated there is an open position at LUC. Gram Dick has left. He was a Planner 1.
- Jessica Cain stated the Engineer's Office will be starting chip seal next week in the northern part of the county. There are still mechanic and building inspector job openings.
- Sue Ware stated Job and Family has job openings, and they are actively looking to fill those positions.
- Adam Negley stated it is contract season at Mental Health and Recovery Board. They received their draft state allocations that are still pending with the state budget. Their Board will approve all provider contracts when they meet later this month. All providers have submitted applications for funding, and services will reflect in fiscal year 2025. This is contingent on what happens with budgets at the federal level.
- Karen Eylon stated there is an America 250 meeting later today. She personally thanked Jason Orcena and the staff at the Health Department, specifically Tamisha Matus. Tamisha helped the Union County Farmer's Market to get SNAP and EBT approval. There is now a one-page flyer for local venues to display that lists all Union County hotels. Local hotel stays continue to increase. This is do to the work Honda brings to the county.
- Jason Orcena stated Richwood will have a brand new pickleball court opening. There has been an increase in Lyme disease in Union County due to ticks, but there are also continued cases of mosquito related diseases. The Health Department will continue tick drags this year, and they are hopeful they can get in contact with a local farmer to do a drag there. The last safety town is this week. They are still waiting on the final state and federal budgets. The state lab used to test ticks and mosquitoes for diseases sent in by residents is directly funded by state and federal funds. Currently, both have been cut in the proposed budgets.
- Andrea Weaver stated CAAO, and herself are also awaiting the state budget approval. She has been trying to educate residents in the county, and around the state, about different ways for immediate real estate tax relief. She is part of a group of other County Auditor's doing these presentations. She leaves for the CAAO Summer Conference this evening. The deadline for tax abstract submittal is June 9. Data entry was halted due to the cyber incident last month and has just recently resumed. All 40 tax districts in the county will have changes. She hopes the abstract will be approved by the Ohio Department of Taxation in August. Once that is approved, parcel owners will receive a postcard stating where to find their new property tax information and where to sign up for an informal meeting with an appraiser. Final tax values will be given at the end of the year. There are many property owners using their properties for short-term rentals. It is hard to find them and value them properly. A property that is no longer used as a single-family dwelling is taxed differently and the tax value changes.
- Commissioner McCarthy asked if there is a list of the tax relief items Ms. Weaver mentioned earlier. She stated there is a flyer from CAAO and she will send that to Ms. Lehman email out.
- Bill Buchanan had no report.
- Brent Nickel stated CRP applications are now open. The deadline for this is June 6. They are continuing to work on the Mill Creek Logjam project.
- Wayne Dellinger stated 4H camp starts next week. Farmers in the southern part of the county have been able to get crops in more quickly than in the northern part. The prevent plant date for corn is Thursday, June 5, and the prevent plant date for soybeans is June 20. It is crunch time for planting crops.

UNION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS JOURNAL 2025


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- Bill Narducci thanked everyone for their cooperation and work on the cyber incident. It has been a huge help. He encouraged everyone who provides communication with the public to attend. Not just elected officials and department heads. There is plenty of room at London Avenue. He will send out information regarding this later today.
 - Commissioner McCarthy stated Commissioner Robinson is working in his fields and getting his crops planted. That is why he is not in attendance today.

* * *

*Commissioner Lawrence adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.


The preceding minutes were read and approved June 18, 2025.

 Digitally signed by David A. Lawrence
DN: cn=David A. Lawrence,
o=Commissioners, ou=Commissioner,
email=mlhman@unioncountyohio.gov,
c=US
Date: 2025.06.18 14:18:23 -04'00'
Adobe Acrobat version: 2020.005.30774

David A. Lawrence
Commissioner

 Digitally signed
by Tom McCarthy
Date: 2025.06.18
14:18:41 -04'00'

Tom McCarthy
Commissioner

 Digitally signed by Mallory Lehman
DN: cn=Mallory Lehman,
o=Commissioners, ou=Assistant Clerk to
the Board,
email=mlhman@unioncountyohio.gov,
c=US
Date: 2025.06.18 14:19:03 -04'00'
Adobe Acrobat version: 2020.005.30774

Mallory Lehman, Clerk to the Board