



Queensland Cattle Tick

Practical Guidance for Agricultural Shows

Cattle tick continues to present a significant biosecurity challenge for agricultural shows and livestock events across northern NSW. While the issue is particularly relevant to the North Coast and areas adjoining Queensland, livestock movements mean all show societies hosting cattle or other cattle tick carriers should understand their responsibilities.

Where are we at?

The NSW Government has committed an additional \$7 million to rebuild the NSW Cattle Tick Program, following a review by Independent Biosecurity Commissioner Dr Katherine Clift. The Government has accepted all 14 recommendations from the review and committed to eradication as the objective of the program. A new Cattle Tick Eradication Action Plan is due by 30 September 2026.

The scale of the challenge remains significant. DPIRD figures for July 2025 to 1 March 2026 recorded 613 active cattle tick cases, including 436 infested and 177 re-infested properties. During the same period, more than 122,000 cattle were inspected through saleyard surveillance.

Border compliance has also increased, including border cameras and Operation Victa. DPIRD advises that movement requirements are an important part of preventing cattle tick entering and spreading within NSW.

What does this mean for Agricultural Shows?

Northern show societies have been managing cattle tick for many years. Although most of the former tick crossings are no longer operating, the need to manage cattle tick risk has not disappeared.

Traditional show cattle generally present a relatively low risk because animals are usually well prepared, groomed and closely inspected. However, events bringing larger numbers of livestock from multiple properties onto showgrounds can present additional challenges. These may include:

- campdrafts;
- rodeos and other cattle events;
- working dog trials involving cattle; and
- other activities involving substantial livestock movements.

The risk is not limited to cattle. Horses, sheep, goats and camelids can also act as cattle tick carriers, making awareness particularly important where animals are travelling from

cattle tick infested areas or restricted properties. DPIRD specifically advises that horses entering NSW from cattle tick infested zones are subject to strict controls, usually including treatment before entering NSW.

The practical challenge for Shows

Some northern show societies and event committees have elected to treat livestock attending higher-risk events as an additional risk-control measure. This can create significant costs and administrative requirements for volunteer committees.

The experience at Kyogle provides a practical example. For its annual campdraft, the committee purchased more than \$5,000 of cattle tick control product. When wet weather forced cancellation the day before the event, the cost became a significant loss to the committee.

This highlights the importance of considering cattle tick requirements early when planning livestock events, rather than immediately before animals arrive.

Before your event

Show societies should discuss cattle tick risk with the relevant DPIRD Cattle Tick Program or Local Land Services staff, particularly where animals may be coming from known cattle tick areas or restricted properties.

Importantly, committees should not develop their own treatment requirements without obtaining appropriate technical advice. Treatment products, timing, inspection and movement requirements can vary according to where livestock originate and their destination.

Cattle tick carriers moving into NSW from an infested area or restricted property can be subject to specific inspection, treatment, certification and movement requirements. Where a property is under cattle tick restrictions, animals cannot simply be moved because they have been treated. DPIRD requirements governing restricted holdings may include inspection, treatment, movement documentation and a Carrier Biosecurity Certificate depending upon the circumstances.

Show societies should therefore encourage exhibitors to confirm their individual requirements well before travelling to the Show.

Don't forget livestock movement records

Normal livestock identification and traceability requirements continue to apply.

All cattle leaving a property must be appropriately identified with an NLIS device, including cattle being moved to a show. NSW DPI also advises that movements of cattle to and from shows are recorded through the NLIS system by show organisers.

Committees should ensure their livestock entry and movement processes are in place before Show Day.

Useful resources

The following NSW Government resources provide current information for committees and exhibitors:

NSW Government – Ticks and livestock

General information about ticks, prevention, treatment and livestock management.

[Ticks and livestock – NSW Government](#)

NSW DPI – Moving cattle into and within NSW

Guidance on cattle movements, NLIS requirements and additional controls applying to cattle entering NSW from cattle tick areas.

[Moving cattle into and within NSW](#)

NSW DPI – Cattle tick: NSW entry requirements

Detailed information about inspection, treatment, certification and movement requirements for cattle tick carriers entering NSW.

[Cattle tick – NSW entry requirements](#)

NSW DPI – Moving animals off restricted holdings

Guidance for livestock owners where a property is subject to cattle tick restrictions.

[Cattle tick – moving animals off restricted holdings](#)

NSW DPI – Moving and selling cattle

Practical guidance covering PICs, NVDs, NLIS identification and recording cattle movements.

[8-step guide to moving and selling cattle](#)

NSW DPI – Transporting and moving horses

Includes information for horse owners about cattle tick risks and movements into NSW.

[Transporting and moving horses](#)

For local advice, Member Societies can also contact **Local Land Services on 1300 795 299**. Recent LLS information sessions in northern NSW have specifically covered cattle tick notification and eradication requirements, tick fever outbreaks, and prevention and control options.

Plan early and seek advice

The key message for Member Societies is **plan early, communicate with exhibitors and seek advice**.

Cattle tick requirements can vary considerably depending on where livestock are coming from, the status of the property and the type of animal being moved. Early engagement with DPIRD/LLS can help committees establish appropriate entry requirements and avoid unnecessary costs or last-minute difficulties.

AgShows NSW will continue to monitor developments, including the release of the NSW Government's Cattle Tick Eradication Action Plan by 30 September 2026, and provide further information to Member Societies as it becomes available.