Ticks and Beef Cattle

Ticks are plentiful in eastern and central Oklahoma. They are usually thought of as a spring and summer pests. Winter ticks and deer ticks can be active on cattle from November through March. The Lone Star Tick and the American Dog Tick will be seen from April through June as will the Gulf Coast Tick and the Spinose Ear Tick.

The Gulf Coast and Spinose ear ticks occur mostly in and around the ear or head of cattle. Most ear tags listed for horn fly control will control or prevent infestation of Gulf Coast or Spinose ear ticks, but pyrethroid tags are the most effective.

Most effective use of these tags is to tag each ear in mid-March to prevent initial infestation. These ear tags do not control lone star or winter ticks that are all over the body. Insecticides that control ticks come in many forms, dusts, pour-on, sprays and even injectables. If you are having tick or other insect problems with your cattle operation, call the OSU Tulsa County Extension Center (918)746-3725 for more information.