Acaricide resistance

— JENNY TURTON —
The chemicals used to treat cattle against ticks are called acaricides.

When cattle are dipped the ticks which are on them drop off or are killed.

Afterwards the cattle emerge free of ticks.
You can suspect that you have a resistance problem if you still find many ticks active on your cattle after dipping.

Some of the acaricides do not work as well as they should because the ticks have developed resistance to them.

This is called acaricide resistance. This occurs if the same acaricide is used too often or for too long.
If you find many ticks on your cattle after dipping this may not always be because of acaricide resistance. Sometimes the dip has not been used at the right strength. You should first check the directions for the dip and make sure that you are using it properly.

If you are using a plunge dip you have to be sure that you mix the right quantity of dip for the size of the diptank. You can get your animal health technician to assist you with measuring the dip strength to ensure this is not the problem.
If you are using the dip correctly and the dip strength is as it should be, then you know that the problem is likely to be acaricide resistance. In this case you can get your animal health technician to assist you with taking some of the ticks from your cattle after dipping and sending them to the laboratory to test for resistance.

The results from the laboratory will then inform you if acaricide resistance is a problem in your area. If it is, they will be able to advise you which types of acaricides you should use.
Ways in which you can avoid ticks becoming resistant to acaricides include:

– Get advice from your animal health technician or veterinarian about which acaricides are best to use in your area and how to use them to avoid resistance developing.

– Use strategic dipping rather than intensive dipping.

– Use dips of the correct dilution.

– Do not use homemade dips.

For further information contact your animal health technician or state veterinarian

or

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