



Advances in Integrated Tick Management for Area-wide Mitigation of Tick-borne Disease Burden

Dr. Adalberto Pérez de León

**Third FAO/IAEA International Conference on Area-wide
Management of Insect Pests: Integrating the Sterile Insect
Technique and Related Nuclear and other Techniques
Vienna, Austria
22 May 2017**

KNIPLING - BUSHLAND

U.S. Livestock Insects Research Laboratory

Dedicated to
DR. EDWARD F. KNIPLING AND DR. RAYMOND C. BUSHLAND
in recognition of their scientific developments
as Agriculture Research Service scientists
in the use of their sterile insect technique
leading to the eradication of the screwworm
from the United States which contributed
to the agricultural well being of the U.S.
and her Latin American neighbors.
This demonstrates the first peaceful use
of atomic energy.

Presented by SWAHRF

August 1, 1988



SITE OF

ANIMAL HEALTH DISCOVERY

IN THIS BUILDING (AT MENARD)
DURING LATE 1930s, DR. EDWARD F.
KNIPLING (b. 1909) ADVANCED THEORY
SCREWWORMS MIGHT BE ERADICATED
BY RELEASING STERILE MALE FLIES
TO BREAK CHAIN OF REPRODUCTION
AND SAVE LIVESTOCK FROM ROLE OF
HOST TO PARASITIC LARVAE THAT
DESTROY LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE.

DURING 1950-51, THIS LABORATORY
(REMOVED TO KERRVILLE AREA) WAS
SITE OF STERILIZATION OF MALE
SCREWWORMS WITH IRRADIATION, IN
PROCEDURES BY DR. R. C. BUSHLAND
AND D. E. HOPKINS. THE OUTCOME:
ERADICATION OF THE SCREWWORM AND
SAVING OF DOMESTIC AND WILD
ANIMALS OF THE UNITED STATES.

(1972)



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USDA-ARS Livestock Arthropod Pest Research Unit at the Knippling-Bushland U.S. Livestock Insects Research Laboratory

- Launched 19 Mar 17
- Three research locations
 - Knippling-Bushland U.S. Livestock Insects Research Laboratory in Kerrville, Texas
 - Cattle Fever Tick Research Laboratory, Edinburg, Texas
 - Screwworm Research Laboratory in Pacora, Panama
- Three appropriated research projects
 - Cattle Fever Tick Control & Eradication
 - Genomics of Livestock Pests
 - Management of Flies Associated with Livestock

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MEETING REPORT

Open Access

One Health approach to identify research needs in bovine and human babesioses: workshop report

Adalberto A Pérez de León^{*1}, Daniel A Strickman², Donald P Knowles³, Durland Fish⁴, Eileen Thacker², José de la Fuente^{*5,6}, Peter J Krause⁷, Stephen K Wikel⁸, Ryan S Miller⁹, Gale G Wagner¹⁰, Consuelo Almazán¹¹, Robert Hillman¹², Matthew T Messenger¹³, Paul O Ugstad¹⁴, Roberta A Duhaime¹⁵, Pete D Teel¹⁶, Alfonso Ortega-Santos¹⁷, David G Hewitt¹⁷, Edwin J Bowers¹⁸, Stephen J Bent⁷, Matt H Cochran¹², Terry F McElwain^{19,20}, Glen A Scoles²¹, Carlos E Suarez^{19,20}, Ronald Davey¹, Jeanne M Howell Freeman¹, Kimberly Lohmeyer¹, Andrew Y Li¹, Felix D Guerrero¹, Diane M Kammlah¹, Pamela Phillips¹, Joe M Pound¹ for the Group for Emerging Babesioses and One Health Research and Development in the U.S.

NEWS FEATURE

Feria-Arroyo et al. *Parasites & Vectors* 2014, **7**:199
http://www.parasitesandvectors.com/content/7/1/199



TICK TROUBLE

Scientists have no shortage of ideas about how to stop tick-borne illnesses. What is holding them back?

BY MELINDA WENNER MOYER



RESEARCH

Open Access

Implications of climate change on the distribution of the tick vector *Ixodes scapularis* and risk for Lyme disease in the Texas-Mexico transboundary region

Teresa P Feria-Arroyo^{1†}, Ivan Castro-Arellano^{2†}, Guadalupe Gordillo-Perez^{3†}, Ana L Cavazos¹, Margarita Vargas-Sandoval⁴, Abha Grover⁵, Javier Torres³, Raul F Medina⁶, Adalberto A Pérez de León⁷ and Maria D Esteve-Gassent^{5*}

Pathogenic landscape of transboundary zoonotic diseases in the Mexico-US border along the Rio Grande

Maria Dolores Esteve-Gassent^{1*†}, Adalberto A. Pérez de León^{2†}, Dora Romero-Salas³, Teresa P. Feria-Arroyo⁴, Ramiro Patino⁴, Ivan Castro-Arellano⁵, Guadalupe Gordillo-Pérez⁶, Allan Auclair⁷, John Goolsby⁸, Roger Ivan Rodriguez-Vivas⁹ and Jose Guillermo Estrada-Franco¹⁰

TRANSLATING ECOLOGY, PHYSIOLOGY, BIOCHEMISTRY, AND POPULATION GENETICS RESEARCH TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF TICK AND TICK-BORNE DISEASES IN NORTH AMERICA

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Roger Iván Rodríguez-Vivas
Campus de Ciencias Biológicas y Agropecuarias, Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia, Yucatán, México

Reassessment of the potential economic impact of cattle parasites in Brazil

Reavaliação do potencial impacto econômico de parasitos de bovinos no Brasil

Laerte Grisi^{1*}; Romário Cerqueira Leite²; João Ricardo de Souza Martins³; Antonio Thadeu Medeiros de Barros⁴; Renato Andreotti⁴; Paulo Henrique Duarte Cançado⁴; Adalberto Angel Pérez de León⁵; Jairo Barros Pereira⁶; Humberto Silva Villela⁶

Potential economic impact assessment for cattle parasites in Mexico. Review

Evaluación del impacto económico potencial de los parásitos del ganado bovino en México. Revisión

Roger Iván Rodríguez-Vivas^a, Laerte Grisi^{b†}, Adalberto Angel Pérez de León^c, Humberto Silva Villela^d, Juan Felipe de Jesús Torres-Acosta^a, Hugo Fragoso Sánchez^e, Dora Romero Salas^f, Rodrigo Rosario Cruz^g, Fabián Saldierna^h, Dionisio García Carrasco^h

Strategies to Mitigate Impact of Ticks on Livestock Production Systems

Integrated control programs for ticks on cattle: an examination of some possible components

FAO animal production and health paper

Parameter	Control	Eradication
Tolerance	Economic threshold	Zero
Surveillance	Optional, or reactive	Constant
Quarantine	No	Obligatory & sanctioned by laws
Treatment	Optional	Obligatory
Cost	Variable	High ROI, initial investment high
Duration	Seasonal	Continuous



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ACARICIDE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, RESISTANCE, AND RESISTANCE MONITORING

FELIX D. GUERRERO, ADALBERTO A. PÉREZ DE LEÓN,
ROGER I. RODRIGUEZ-VIVAS, NICK JONSSON, ROBERT J. MILLER,
AND RENATO ANDREOTTI

Experiences in Tick Control by Acaricide in the Traditional Cattle Sector in Zambia and Burkina Faso: Possible Environmental and Public Health Implications

Daniele De Meneghi^{1,2,3}, Frédéric Stachurski^{4,6} and Hassane Adaka^{5,6*}

TABLE 1 | Comparative score attributed to the tick control methods described in case study 1 and case study 2: major advantages and disadvantages.



Control method	Dip-tank (case study 1)	Footbath (case study 2)	Portable manual sprayer ^a	Pour-on ^a
Initial investment	20 000 US\$	400 US\$	80 US\$	0 US\$
Cost for the whole rainy season (per cattle head)	1.5 US\$	0.2–0.25 US\$	0.15–0.25 US\$	3–5.5 US\$
Usefulness to treat one/few animal(s)	*	*	**	***
Usefulness to treat many animals or more than one herd	***	**	*	**
Environmental implications/hazards 1. volume of product to be used	***	*	**	*
Environmental implications/hazards 2. risk of spilling/pouring/dispersal on fallow land	***	*	***	from * to *** (depending on product used)
Public health implications/hazards 1. risk for the operators	**	*	***	*
Public health implications/hazards 2. residues in foods of animal origin	***	**	*	*

^aOther (most) common tick control methods used under field conditions in the study areas.

Key-legend of the score attributed: * low level; ** medium; *** high level

Rev. Bras. Parasitol. Vet., Jaboticabal, v. 20, n. 2, p. 127-133, abr.-jun. 2011

Acaricide resistance of *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* in State of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil

Resistência do *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* aos acaricidas no Estado de Mato Grosso do Sul, Brasil

Renato Andreotti^{1*}; Felix David Guerrero²; Mariana Aparecida Soares¹; Jacqueline Cavalcante Barros¹; Robert John Miller³; Adalberto Pérez de León²

Environmental Health 2014:8(S2)
Insights

Reduced Efficacy of Commercial Acaricides Against Populations of Resistant Cattle Tick *Rhipicephalus microplus* from Two Municipalities of Antioquia, Colombia

Anderson Lopez-Arias¹, David Villar-Argaiz¹, Jenny J. Chaparro-Gutierrez¹, Robert J. Miller² and Adalberto A. Perez de Leon³

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Veterinary Parasitology

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/vetpar

Acaricide and ivermectin resistance in a field population of *Rhipicephalus microplus* (Acari: Ixodidae) collected from red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) in the Mexican tropics

R.I. Rodríguez-Vivas^{a,*}, R.J. Miller^b, M.M. Ojeda-Chi^a, J.A. Rosado-Aguilar^a, I.C. Trinidad-Martínez^a, A.A. Pérez de León^c

Veterinary Parasitology 233 (2017) 9–13

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Veterinary Parasitology

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/vetpar

First documentation of ivermectin resistance in *Rhipicephalus sanguineus sensu lato* (Acari: Ixodidae)

R.I. Rodríguez-Vivas^{a,*}, M.M. Ojeda-Chi^a, I. Trinidad-Martínez^a, A.A. Pérez de León^b

Preliminary assessment of acaricide resistance in cattle tick (*Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus*) populations from the Caribbean island of Martinique

S. Depraz¹, M. Hamon¹, P. Pelonde², L. Lovis³, L. Felixine⁴, M-C Timir⁵, C. Dalibard⁶, R. Miller⁷, A. Pérez de León⁸, L. Christian⁹, R. Pegram¹⁰, V. Aimey¹¹, B. Bradford¹², P. Dupre-Ryfer¹³, R. Thomas¹⁴, B. Marie¹⁵, E. De Clercq¹⁶, N. Vachieri¹⁷, J. Pradel¹⁸

¹ CIRAD INRA CMAEE, Guadeloupe; ² Groupement de Défense Sanitaire, Martinique; ³ Novartis Centre de Recherche en Santé Animale, Switzerland; ⁴ Direction de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation et de la Forêt, Martinique; ⁵ USDA-ARS Cattle Fever Tick Research Laboratory, Texas, USA; ⁶ USDA-ARS Knippling-Bushland US Livestock Insects Research Laboratory, and Veterinary Pest Genomics Center, Texas, USA; ⁷ Microbiology laboratory, Antigua and Barbuda; ⁸ Retired consultant in acarology, Antigua and Barbuda; ⁹ Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Barbados; ¹⁰ Department of Agriculture, United States Virgin Islands; ¹¹ Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Castries, Saint Lucia; ¹² Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Dominica; ¹³ Direction de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation et de la Forêt, Guadeloupe.

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Cattle Tick (CT) - *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* - prone to develop acaricide resistance

About R(B) microplus

- Endemic in tropical/subtropical areas
- Significant economic impact: production and animals losses, cost of control
- Diseases transmission (Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis)
- Tick control: mostly chemicals (acaricides): Ar, OC, A, OP, SP, ML, Py, GR, Sp *
- Known to develop multiresistance (Fig2)

Ticks in the Caribbean and in Martinique

- 2 species posing major constraints to livestock production: CT & TBT*
- CAP* & POSEIDOM* Programs (1995-2005) for TBT eradication
- Livestock breeds in Martinique: European and crossings are highly susceptible to ticks & TBDs*
- Suspensions of resistance reported in the T&BD WG* of the CaribVET Network*
- Acaricide resistance in the Caribbean: little is known

Fig 2: Acaricide resistance distribution (Lovis, 2012)

Fig 1: one host tick, cattle preference

"Resist" project: a 2-year (2013-2015) project to explore acaricide resistance in ticks in the Caribbean populations/ Pilot study conducted in Martinique

Objectives

- 1/ Evaluate acaricide resistance in cattle farms in Martinique and improve knowledge on tick control practices
- 2/ Develop an integrated tick control strategy in Martinique, considering emergence of resistance
- 3/ Harmonize ticks and tick-borne diseases surveillance and control strategies in the Caribbean

Materials & methods

- 1/ Farms selection and tick collection
 - Exploratory study, voluntary basis, GDSM* member
 - With suspicion of varying level of resistance
 - Tick collection: 10 ticks min on 5 animals / farm
 - Ticks shipment to CIRAD (Guadeloupe)
- 2/ Farm Survey
 - KoboCollect®: online database & georeferencing
 - Cattle farming practices
 - Tick control practices
 - Farmers perception on CT
- 3/ In vitro assessment: Larval Tarsal Test (LTT), protocol according to Lovis et al, 2012
 - Acaricides tested: Synthetic Pyrethroids (Deltamethrin/Flumethrin), Amidines (Amitraz) and Organophosphates (Phoxim) (commonly used in Martinique)
 - Reference susceptible tick strain: Deutch- F54 (susceptible to A/SP/O), maintained at the USDA-ARS CFTLR in Texas, and tested in Guadeloupe
 - Data Analysis: R software, "drc" package → regression curve & resistance ratio (RR)

Fig 3: LTT protocol

Fig 4: LTT results: Regression curve and RRSO

Fig 5: Study farms distribution

Fig 6: Resistance status of tick populations on farms where LTT results were available

Resistance status (Fig 6):

- simple resistance = resistance to one compound (2/20 farms)
- multiple resistance = resistance to at least 2 compounds (14/20)
- total resistance = resistance to all compound tested (2/20)
- susceptible = no resistance to any of the 4 compounds tested (2/20)

18/20 farms with resistance to at least one compound

Supplementary data provide by LTT: Tool for recommendation on acaricide usage

Pronostic: emergence of resistance/ Crossed resistance phenomenon in SP* family (same status for D* et F*)

Acaricide usage strategy to anticipate/ slow down resistance selection

Fig 7: Case of emergence profile

Fig 8: Results/compound/farm in 3 municipalities

LTT results & farm survey: correlation between field observation & in vitro diagnostic?

Compounds tested	% of resistance	Farmers using the acaricide (%)		Farmers reporting a lack of efficacy		Correlation
		Now	Since 10 years	total	On farmers using the compound	
Flumethrin [F]	82,6	33 (45%)	19 (58%)	7 (9,6%)	4 (12%)	Low Correlation: crossed resistance? High Correlation
Deltamethrin [D]	90	33 (45%)	24 (73%)	38 (52%)	23 (70%)	
Phoxim [P]	12,5	31 (42%)	13 (42%)	4 (5,6%)	4 (13%)	
Amitraz [A]	52,6	66 (90%)	49 (74%)	14 (19%)	8 (12%)	

Fig 9: LTT results/compound

Fig 10: Results extracted from the farmer survey

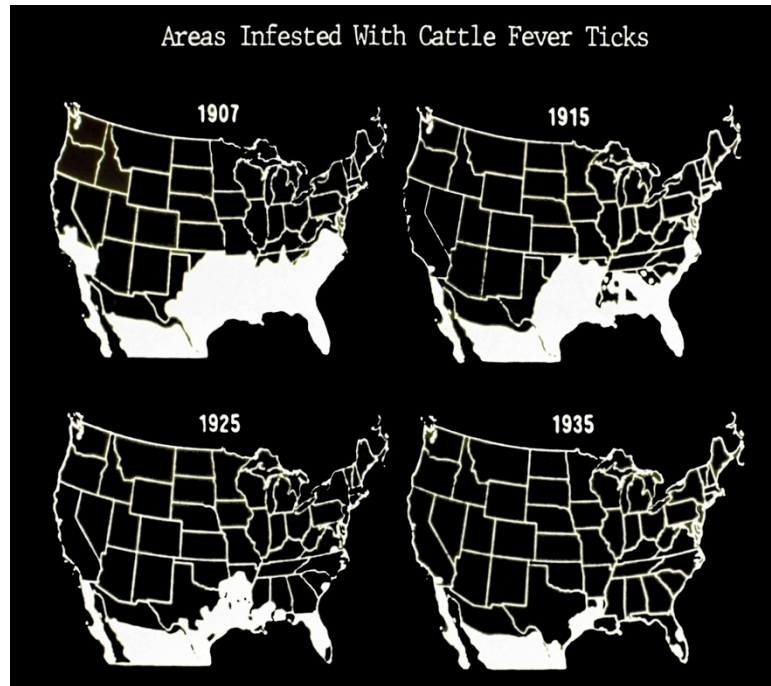
Discussion/perspectives

Martinique:

- Strong resistance highlighted in Cattle tick in Martinique.
- Recommendations to farmers about acaricide usage (GDSM follow-up)
- Combine results with a global control strategy (chemical + genetic + agronomic control)

Caribbean region:

- Resistance diagnostic available (LTT)
- Development of tools/materials for detection of resistance
- To develop research project / collaborations to improve T&BD surveillance and control.



Graham and Hourigan 1977



Distribution of *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* and *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) annulatus* (Acari: Ixodidae) Infestations Detected in the United States Along the Texas/Mexico Border

K. H. LOHMEYER,^{1,2} J. M. POUND,¹ M. A. MAY,¹ D. M. KAMMLAH,¹ AND R. B. DAVEY³

J. Med. Entomol. 48(4): 770-774 (2011); DOI: 10.1603/ME10209

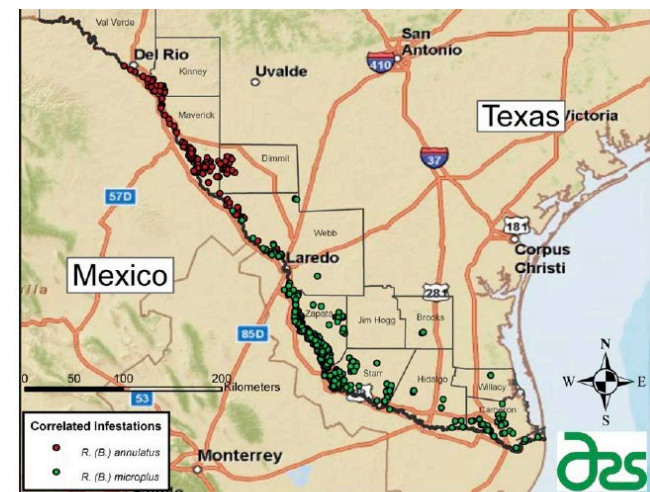
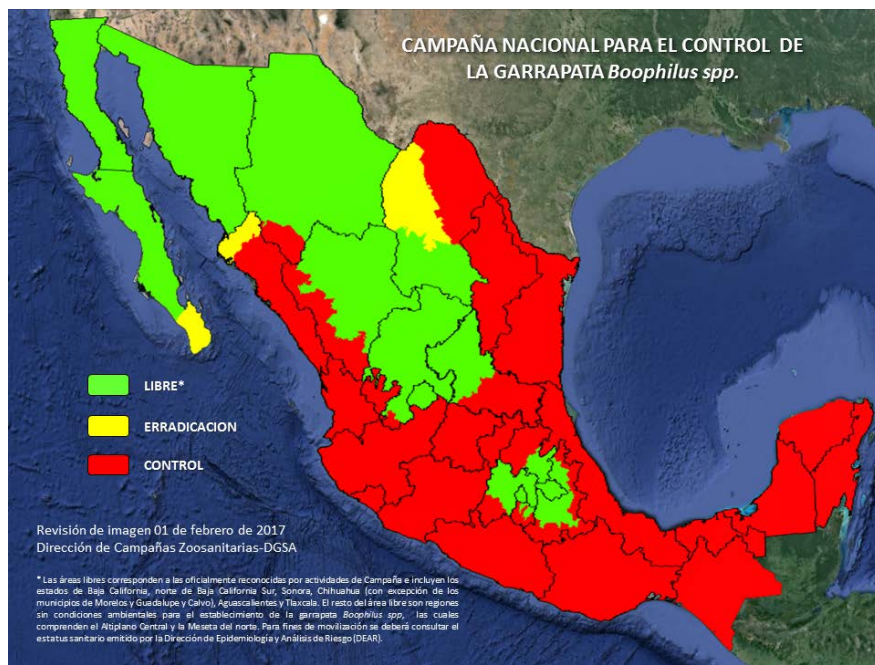
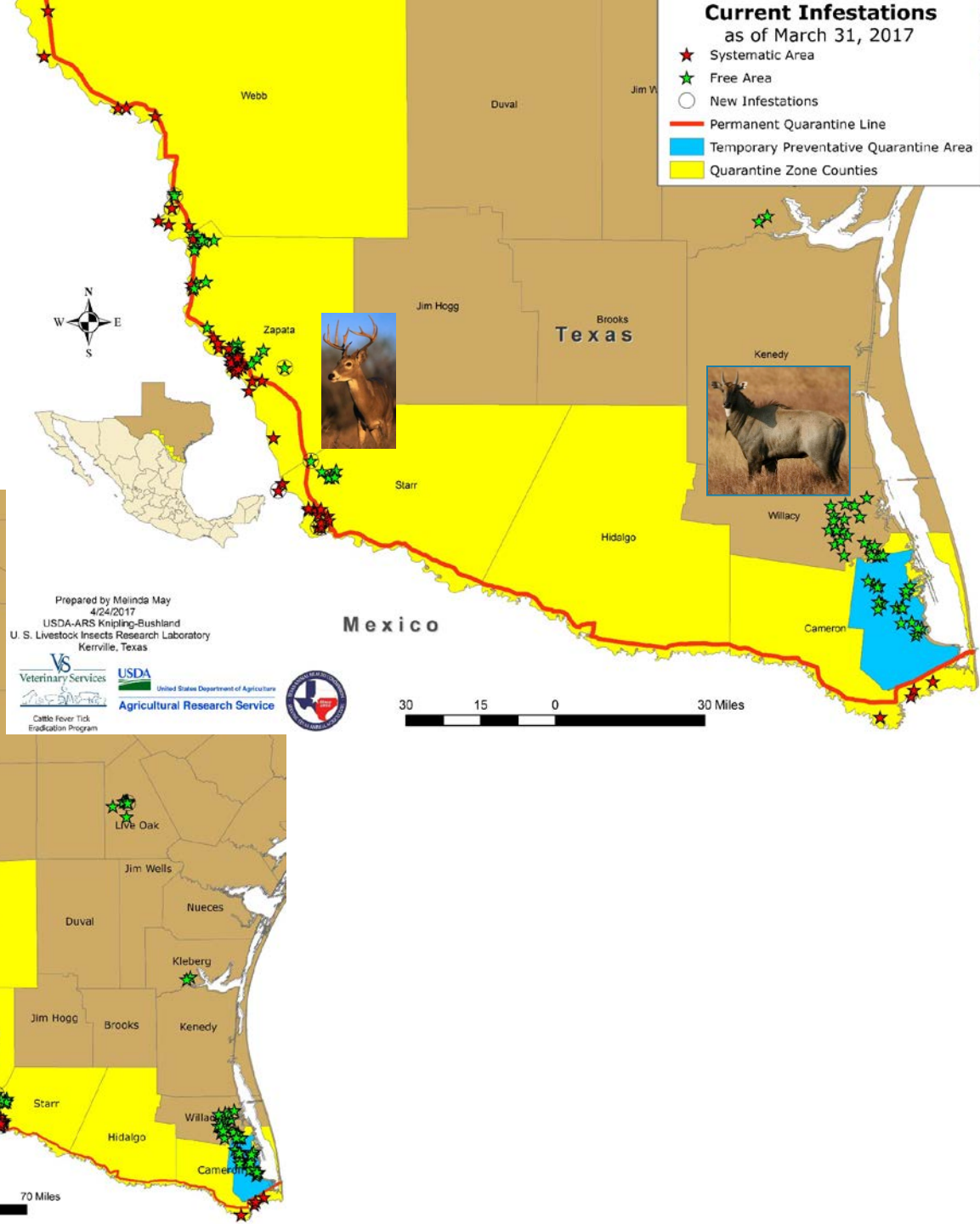
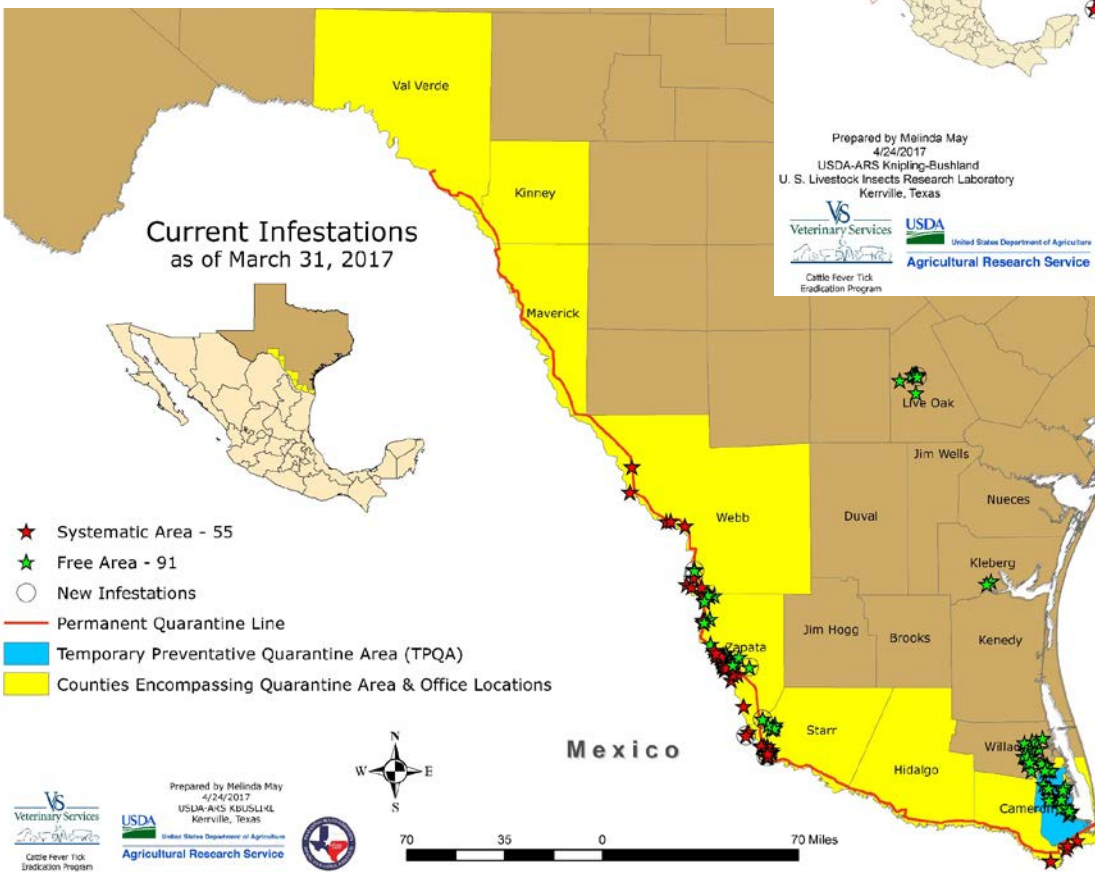
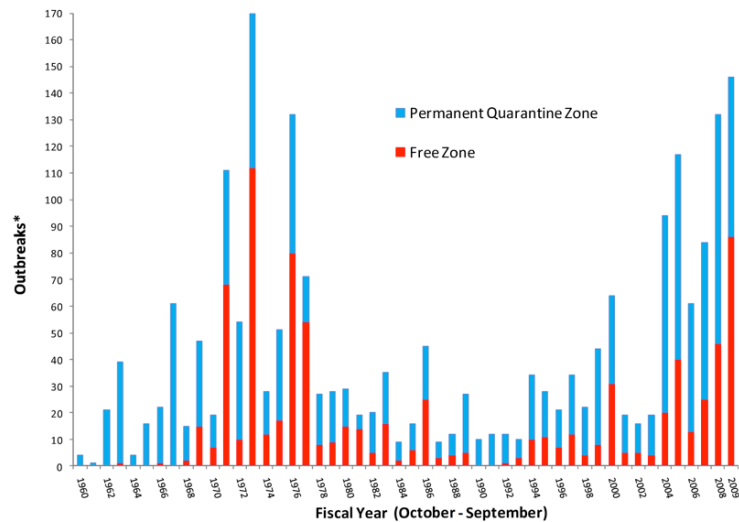


Fig. 1. Verified infestations of *R. (B.) annulatus* and *R. (B.) microplus* in south Texas from 1 October 1999 to 30 September 2010. (Online figure in color.)



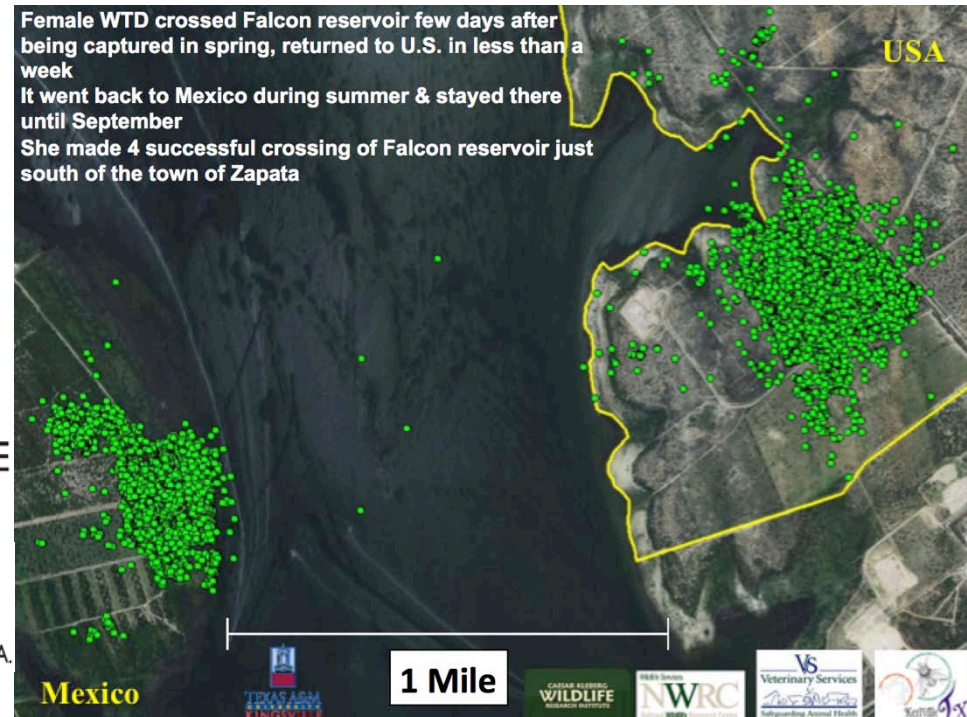
Historical Record of Cattle Fever Tick Outbreaks in the United States





Integrated strategy for sustainable cattle fever tick eradication in USA is required to mitigate the impact of global change

Adalberto A. Pérez de León^{1*}, Pete D. Teel^{2†}, Allan N. Auclair³, Matthew T. Messenger⁴, Felix D. Guerrero¹, Greta Schuster⁵ and Robert J. Miller⁶



ADVANCING INTEGRATED TICK MANAGEMENT TO MITIGATE BURDEN OF TICK-BORNE DISEASES*

Adalberto A. Pérez de León¹, USDA-ARS Knipling-Bushland U.S. Livestock Insects Research Laboratory, USA;
Pete D. Teel, Entomology Department, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, USA; Andrew Li, USDA-ARS Invasive Insect Biocontrol and Behavior Laboratory, USA; Loganathan Ponnusamy, Entomology Department, North Carolina State University, USA; R. Michael Roe, Entomology Department, North Carolina State University, USA.



Fever Tick Vaccine Fact Sheet



About the Fever Tick Vaccine

Bm86 immunomodulator by Zoetis is a new vaccine that is being used in the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program. The vaccine targets and kills both species of cattle fever ticks: *Rhipicephalus* (formerly *Boophilus*) *annulatus* and *R. microplus*.

How the Vaccine Works

After cattle have been vaccinated, their immune system will produce antibodies in the blood that will fight against a protein found in the lining of the tick's gut. The tick will take in the antibodies when it consumes the blood of vaccinated cattle.

The antibodies bind to the lining of the intestines in the tick, which prevent the tick from absorbing nutrients. The vaccine will kill or weaken ticks as they feed on vaccinated cattle and weak surviving ticks will not be able to reproduce.

Vaccine Use

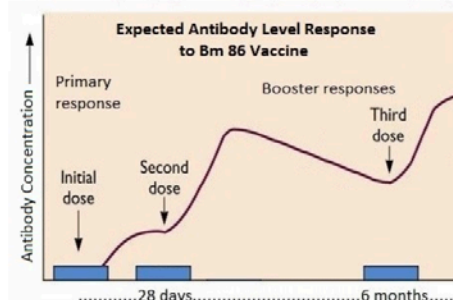
The vaccine will be used in addition to eradication practices already in place for the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program. **It will not replace systematic treatments.** Vaccines will only be administered by USDA/APHIS/Veterinary Services, Texas Animal Health Commission employees or authorized agents.

Cattle That Should be Vaccinated

- **Cattle in Permanent Quarantine:** Beef cattle over two months of age are required to be vaccinated at least once a year.
- **Cattle in Temporary Preventative and Control Quarantine Areas:** Beef cattle over two months of age may be required to be vaccinated if there is an elevated risk determined by USDA/TAHC epidemiologists.
- **Cattle in the Free Area:** Cattle should not be vaccinated at this time.

Vaccination Schedule

Cattle should receive an initial dose, a booster four weeks later, followed by additional boosters every six months. This schedule is important because one dose will not produce enough antibodies to be effective. Vaccination every six months after the initial dose and booster is needed to keep the concentration of antibodies in the blood high enough to be effective.



Exploring the use of an anti-tick vaccine as a tool for the integrated eradication of the cattle fever tick, *Rhipicephalus* (*Boophilus*) *annulatus*

Robert Miller^{a,*}, Agustín Estrada-Peña^b, Consuelo Almazán^c, Andrew Allen^d, Lauren Jory^d, Kathleen Yeater^e, Matthew Messenger^f, Dee Ellis^g, Adalberto A. Pérez de León^h

Guerrero et al. *Parasites & Vectors* 2014, 7:475
<http://www.parasitesandvectors.com/content/7/1/475>



Parasites
& Vectors

RESEARCH

Open Access

Rhipicephalus (*Boophilus*) *microplus* aquaporin as an effective vaccine antigen to protect against cattle tick infestations

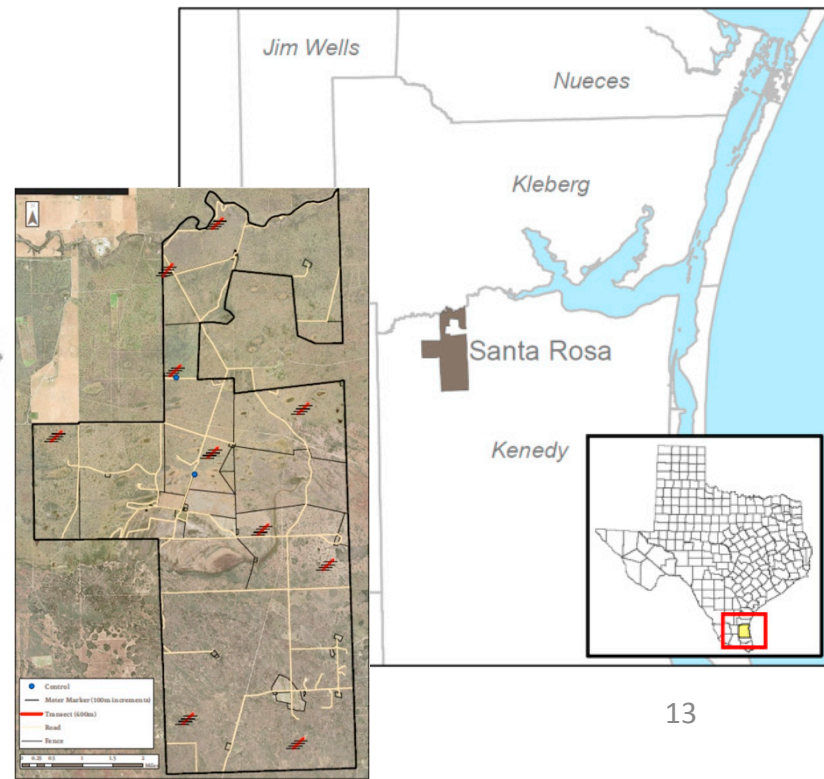
Felix D Guerrero^{1*}, Renato Andreotti², Kylie G Bendele¹, Rodrigo C Cunha², Robert J Miller³, Kathleen Yeater⁴ and Adalberto A Pérez de León¹

Comparison of natural and artificial odor lures for nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) and white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) in South Texas: Developing treatment for cattle fever tick eradication

John A. Goolsby, Nirbhay K. Singh, Alfonso Ortega-S Jr., David G. Hewitt, Tyler A. Campbell, David Wester, Adalberto A. Pérez de León

International Journal for Parasitology: Parasites and Wildlife, 2017

Attract Nilgai & Treat Ticks



Goolsby et al. 2017. International Journal for Parasitology: Parasites & Wildlife, in press.



Rationale for Classical Biological Control of Cattle Fever Ticks and Proposed Methods for Field Collection of Natural Enemies

John A. Goolsby^{1*}, Dennis T. Mays², Greta L. Schuster², Javid Kashefi³, L. Smith³, D. Amalin⁴, M. Cruz-Flores⁴, A. Racelis⁵, and A.A Pérez de León⁶

VOL. 41, NO. 3

SOUTHWESTERN ENTOMOLOGIST

SEP. 2016

Molecular Comparison of Cattle Fever Ticks from Native and Introduced Ranges, with Insights into Optimal Search Areas for Classical Biological Control Agents

J. A. Goolsby¹, F. D. Guerrero², J. Gaskin³, K. G. Bendele², P. Azhahianambi⁴, D. Amalin⁵, M. Flores-Cruz⁵, J. Kashefi⁶, L. Smith⁶, A. Racelis⁷, R. K. Saini⁸, and A. Perez de Leon²

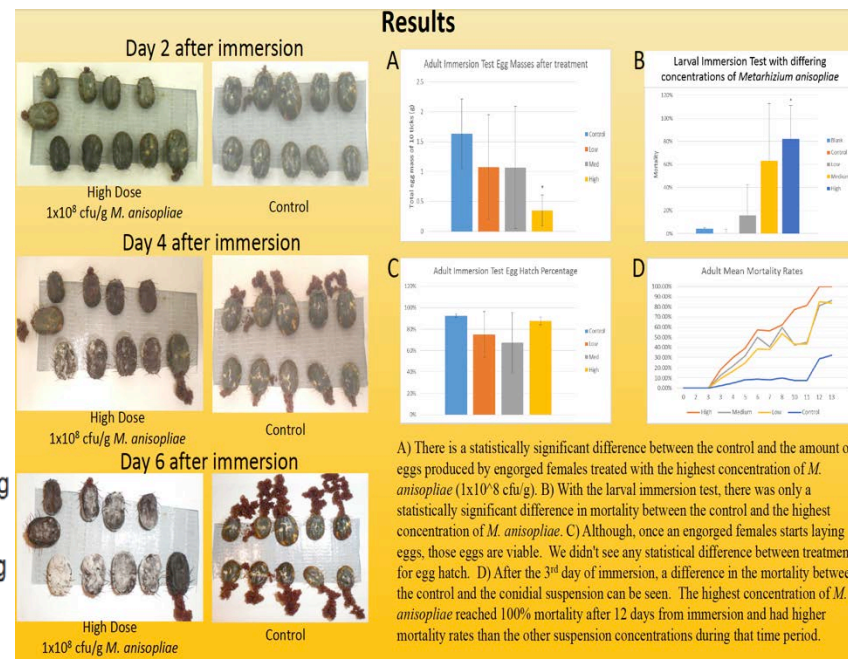
D3439: Commercial formulation of acaropathogenic fungus, *Metarhizium anisopliae*, as a possible biocontrol tool for cattle fever ticks



Introduction: An off the shelf formulation of the insecticidal fungus, *Metarhizium anisopliae* was tested against the southern cattle tick for efficacy in controlled laboratory tests.

Methods: Exposures ranked as low, medium, and high, at 10x serial dilutions were applied based on previously published effective dosages. The methodology was the standard Shaw immersion test.

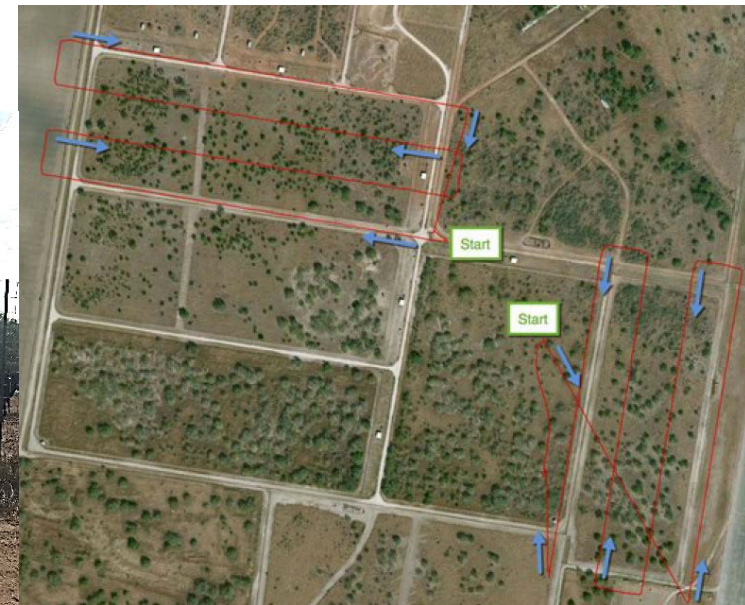
Results/Conclusion: Against the larval stages mortalities ranged from 25-51% at the highest dosages tested. Mortality was much higher against adult stages with nearly all treatments reaching 100% within seven days (opposed to 12% mortality in controls). However, most of the mortality occurred after egg-laying had begun. We therefore measured egg mass production and hatchability of exposed egg masses. Hatchability was not significantly affected with 80-90% hatch in both treatments and controls. However, egg mass weight was significantly reduced in the high dosage treatment groups compared to controls.



Subtropical Agriculture and Environments 67:24-27.2016

Evaluation of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for detection of cattle in the Cattle Fever Tick Permanent Quarantine Zone

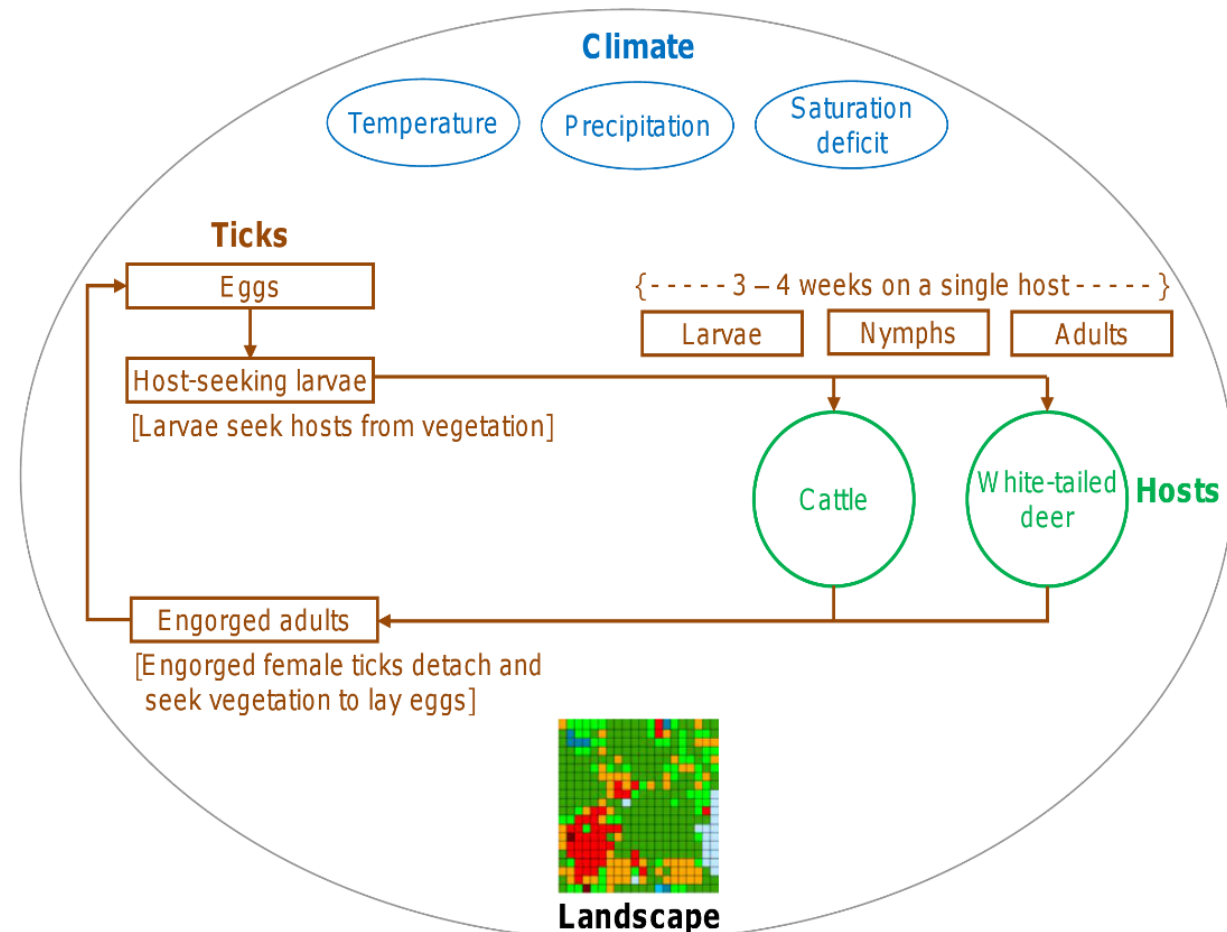
Goolsby¹, J. A., J. Jung², J. Landivar³, W. McCutcheon⁴, R. Lacewell⁴, R. Duhaime⁵, D. Baca⁵, R. Puhger⁵, H. Hasel⁵, K. Varner⁵, B. Miller⁶, A. Schwartz⁶ & A. Perez de Leon⁷



Simulated interactions of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), climate variation and habitat heterogeneity on southern cattle tick (*Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus*) eradication methods in south Texas, USA

Hsiao-Hsuan Wang^{a,*}, Pete D. Teel^b, William E. Grant^a, Greta Schuster^c, A.A. Pérez de León^d

- Help assess CFT outbreak dynamics & spatial attributes in tick-host-landscape systems involving diverse hosts
- Allow testing treatment efficacy & integration of strategies for sustainable eradication
- Approach adapted for economic decisions on integrated tick control





Research Project for Integrated Control of the Southern Cattle Fever Tick in Puerto Rico

**Collaboration between Puerto Rico Department of
Agriculture and USDA-ARS, in association with USDA-APHIS-
VS, & supported by University of Puerto Rico–Mayagüez
2014-2017**

Objective

Create science-based knowledge to integrate technologies for sustainable control of the southern cattle fever tick (SCFT), *Rhipicephalus microplus*, infesting dairy farms and cattle in Puerto Rico

Phase 1. Epidemiological assessment of CFT infestations

Phase 2. Laboratory and field testing for efficacy against CFT of commercially available technologies with tick control claims in the label that can be used in dairy cattle.

Phase 3. Research and development of anti-CFT vaccine for dairy cattle in Puerto Rico

Phase 4. Pilot field testing of integrated CFT control program.

Phase 5. Partnership with stakeholder groups for deployment of integrated CFT control program in Puerto Rico dairy farms.



Treatment options for integrated cattle fever tick control research in Puerto Rico

Objective: Develop a safer and sustainable tick control management program for the island.

Methods: Epidemiological survey followed by treatment. Main effort against ticks. Fly and internal parasite control needed for holistic strategy.

Alternative Products Available for Field Testing



Newer chemistry uses in ear tags

Tolfenpyrad 15%
Labeled for fly control,
but active against ticks.
Abamectin 8%.
Labeled for fly control
and aids in the control
of *R. microplus*



Essential oils

GRAS product. Killed 100% of
larvae and engorged adult
ticks in laboratory bioassays
when applied at the label
rate.



Diflubenzuron

Labeled for fly
control. Active in
formulations as tick
growth regulator.



Eprinomectin

Pour-on
Killed 95% of ticks in
laboratory stall and field
trials. (Davey et al. 2002;
Aguirre et al. 2005)
Long-acting injectable
For grazing beef cattle only
Novel use vs ticks

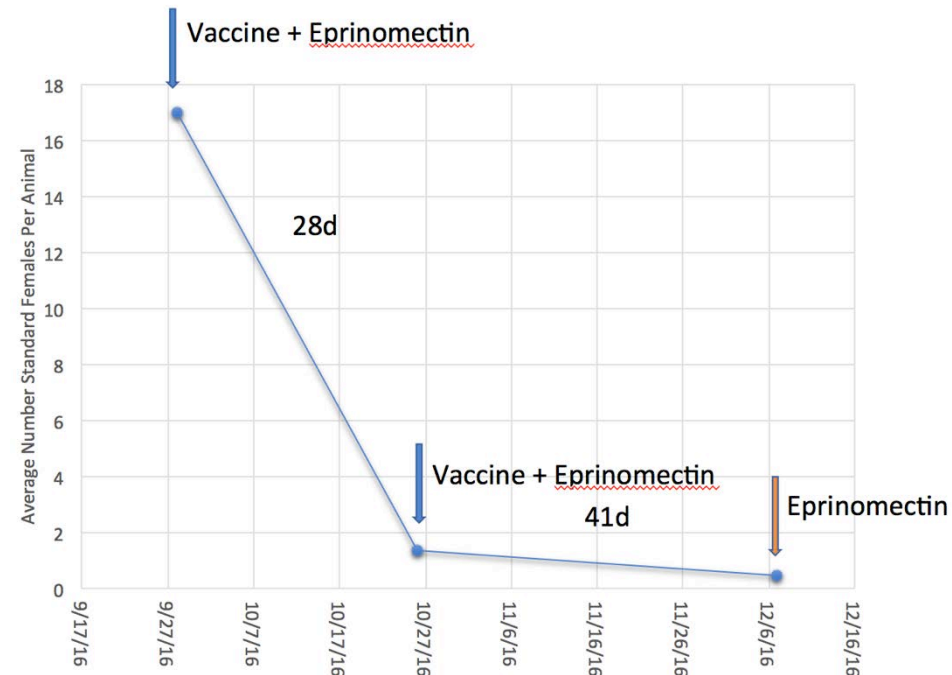
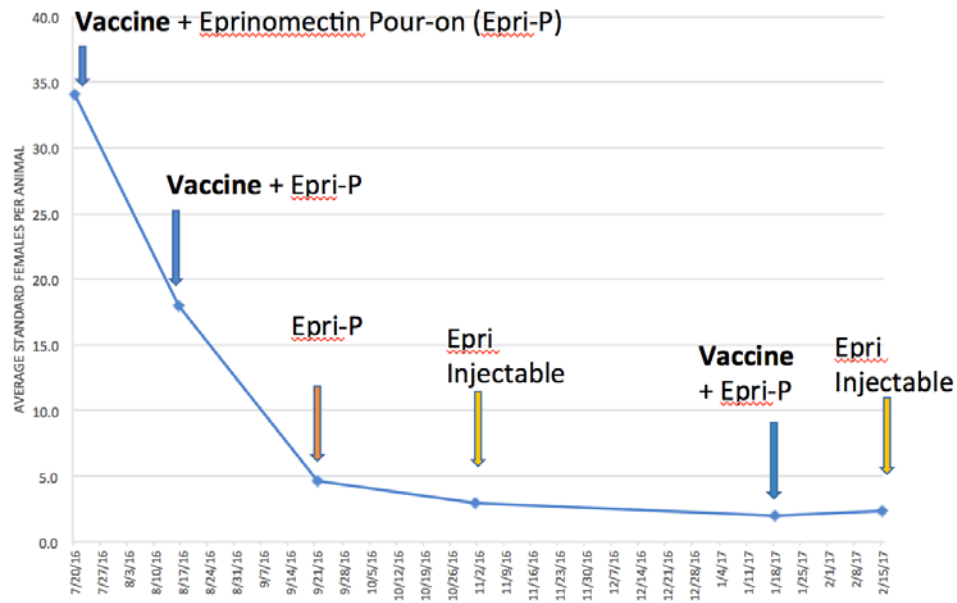


Anti-tick Vaccine

Integrated use of anti-cattle fever tick vaccine + acaricide under field conditions in Puerto Rico

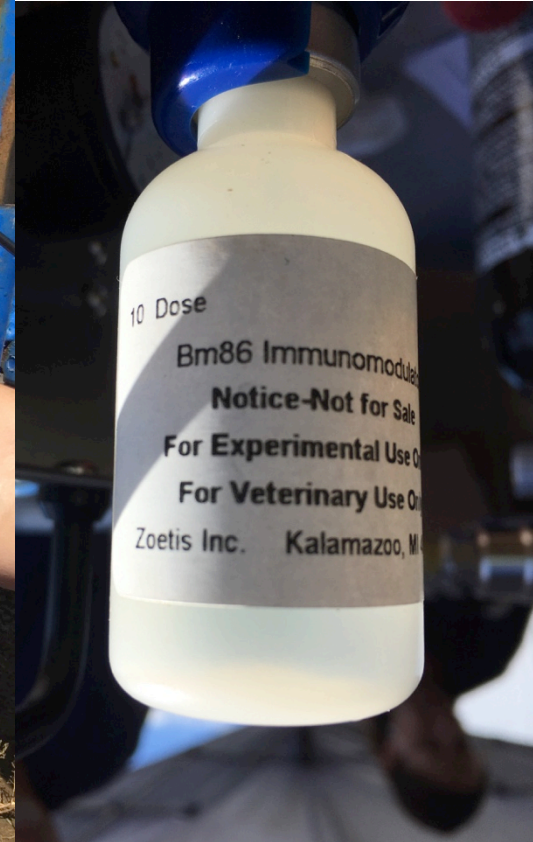
Dairy Farm

Beef Cattle Farm



Integrated Cattle Fever Tick Management Research

Needleless Application of Anti-Tick Vaccine





Featured program: The Veterinary Pest Genomics Center

This program uses big data to evaluate risk from and develop mitigations for invasive and other economically important veterinary pests.

ARS initiative addresses introduction of invasive veterinary pests, which is accelerated by global change, including anomalies related to climate variability

Fosters an innovation ecosystem involving the network of laboratories directly linked to ARS National Program 104 (Veterinary, Medical, and Urban Entomology), and other collaborators

Allows ARS to leverage its scientific talent and other research assets.





CattleTickBase: An integrated Internet-based bioinformatics resource for *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* [☆]

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Stable fly genome sequencing funded by NIH USDA-ARS Lead: Dr. Pia Olafson

Stomoxys calcitrans-1.0.1 Assembly

May 2015, Wes Warren (McDonnell Genome Institute, Washington Univ.)

Stomoxys calcitrans-1.0.1 Gene Prediction Pipeline

July 2015, Terrence Murphy, NCBI

Stomoxys calcitrans OrthoDB8 Analysis

November/December 2015

Evgeny Zdobnov & Panos Ioannidis, Swiss Bioinformatics Institute



Horn fly (*Haematobia irritans*) genome sequencing project

Felix Guerrero, KBUSLIRL (Kerrville)



>Horn fly genome has been sequenced and assembled

>Data from 18 tissue-specific transcriptomes available

>Differential expression studies conducted

>Manuscript in preparation

New World Screwworm Genome Sequencing Project

Steve Skoda, USDA-ARS-LAPRU

Mac Scott, NCSU



Highly inbred line –

10 generations of single pair, sibling matings done in Panama.

Genome –

80X Pacbio and 50X Hiseq. combined assembly, Adam Phillippy (NIH)

Pacbio 20kb and >30kb libraries made, Yale Univ. doing PacBio seq.

Transcriptome:

>Cellular blastoderm -Hiseq, Nextseq and Miseq reads for *de novo* transcriptome assembly.

>All other stages Hiseq reads for mapping back to genome.

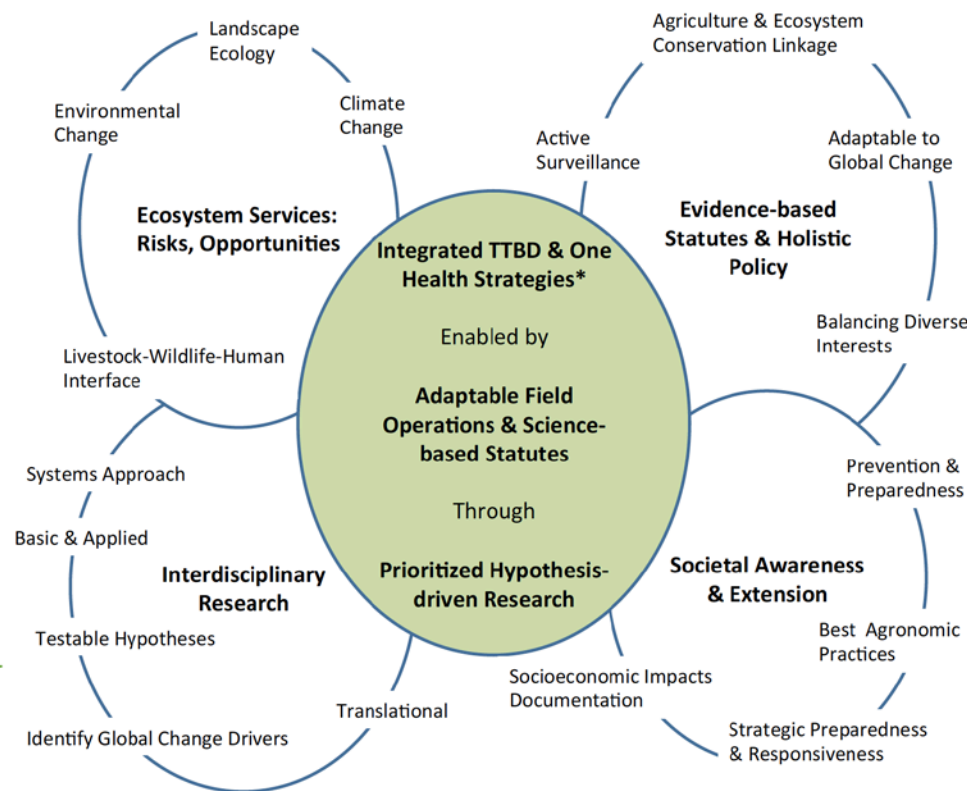
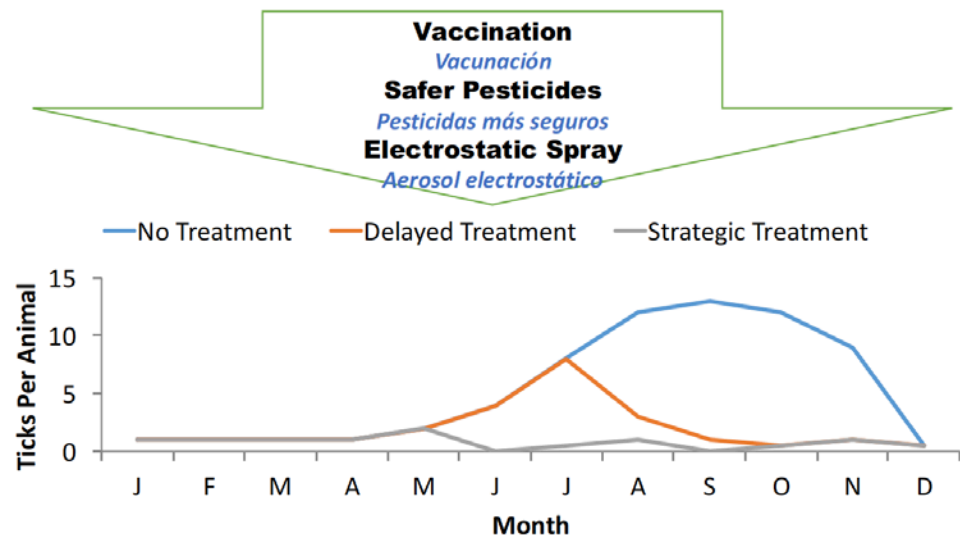


Advancing Integrated Management through Sustainable Approaches to Mitigate Burden of TTBD

Research Opportunity to Address Global Change Challenges for Integrated Cattle Fever Tick Eradication in the U.S.

- **Vaccine + other technologies= synergistic effect**

- **Time & operational cost savings**
- **Enhanced environmental health**
- **Mitigate risk for acaricide resistance**



Acknowledgments



- Thanks to the livestock producers, & other stakeholders for their continued support and cooperation
- Our gratitude to all the ARS colleagues, academic & animal health industry cooperators for the productive translational research efforts
- Private-public partnerships, including the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program, enabled the outcomes on integrated tick management reported here



Thank you!



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