



DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY SERVICES

# Dipping of livestock for control of external parasites



## Why dipping?

To control external parasites such as ticks and tsetse-fly

Tick borne diseases account for 75% of cattle losses in Zimbabwe



Tick infestation in cattle

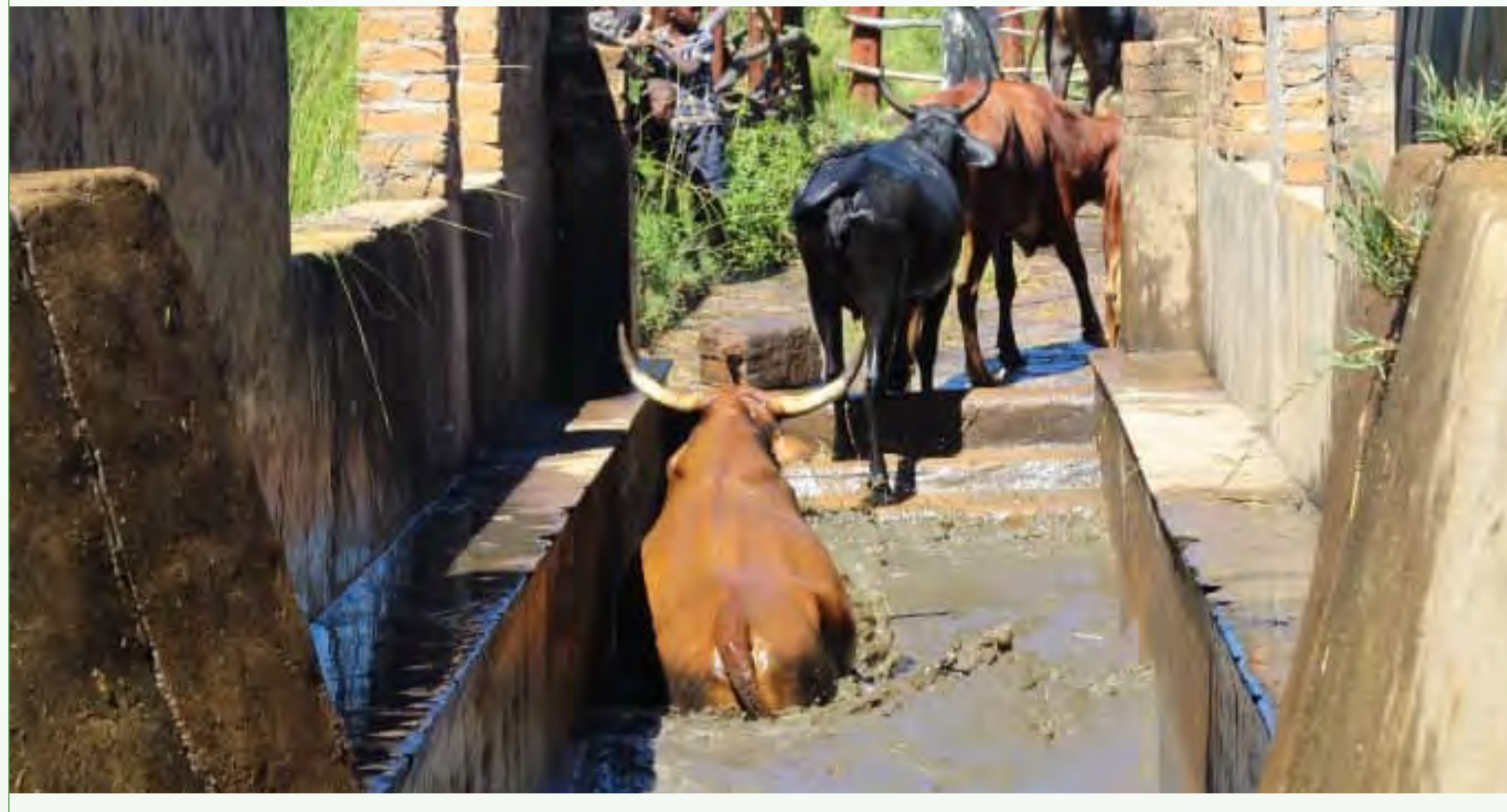


Death from tick-borne disease

## Methods of dipping

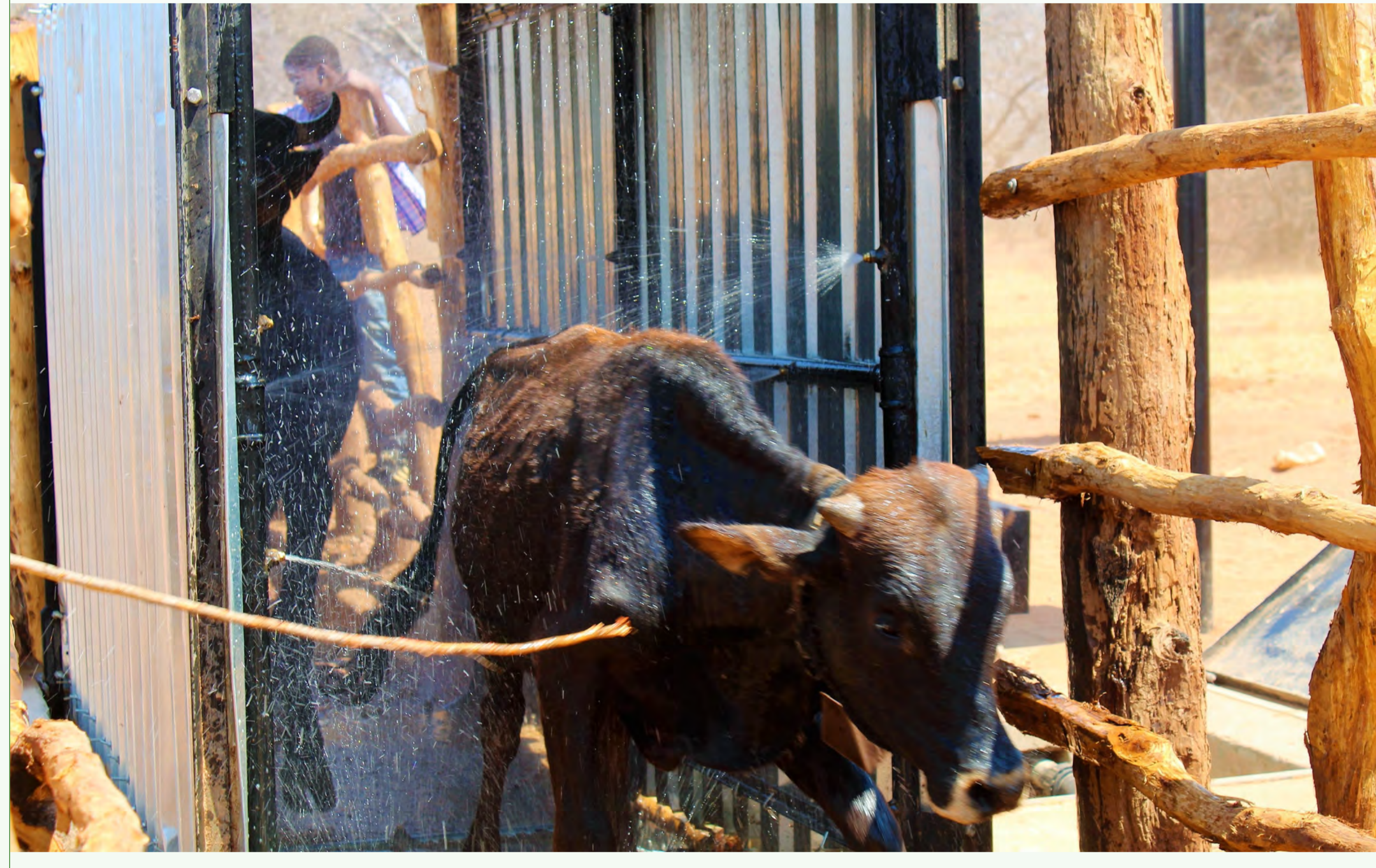
### 1 Plunge Dipping

- A plunge dip is a construction that allows complete immersion of livestock in a liquid that contains a parasiticide. This ensures complete wetting of the animals in important areas such as inside the ears and under the tail where ticks are found.
- Plunge dips provides the most effective and efficient method for controlling ticks in animals against ticks, flies, mites, lice and other external parasites.



### 2 Spray Race

- The cattle spray race is a gentler method of dipping and more suitable for dairy cows, as there is less chance of injury.
- Dip is changed at every dip-day, unlike the plunge dip, so it is always at strength.
- Correct maintenance and procedures must be followed to ensure adequate cover and effective tick control.



### 3 Hand spraying

- Hand spraying is an effective method of tick control for a few animals who do not justify the expense of a spray race or plunge dip.
- An effective knapsack sprayer must be used and the pressure set that the animal is wet thoroughly without the spray forming a mist.
- Spraying should be against the grain of the hair to ensure wetting of the skin.



### 4 Hand dressing

- Hand dressing is the topical application of tick greases or oils to parts of the animal where ticks gather, eg in the ears, under the tail-head.
- It should not be used as a complete method of tick control but can be used as a spot treatment between dip-days or in addition to any of the other methods of tick control.
- Tick greases and oils stick better to hairless skin and generally have a fairly long residual period.



### 5 Pour-ons and Backliners

- Pour-ons or back-liners are ready-to-use liquid formulations containing one or more parasiticial active ingredients that are applied to cattle, sheep, goats, pigs or horses.



Dipping is done under the provisions of the Animal Health Act Chapter 19:01 as read with Cattle Cleansing Regulations 1993 and Stock Register regulations 1970.

## What is tick resistance

- Ticks have the ability to adapt over time so that they, and their offspring, build up resistance to tick treatments.
- Prolonged or incorrect use of tick chemicals can lead to resistance in ticks.
- Resistance enables the ticks to tolerate and survive chemical applications.
- An increase in chemical resistance in cattle ticks could result in current routine tick treatments becoming ineffective, making tick control in the future much more difficult.
- It is important to preserve the chemicals available by restricting the spread of resistant ticks throughout the country

## Farmer obligations

- To produce all cattle for dipping
- To report all stock changes (births, deaths, slaughters, bought-ins, sold etc) for recording in the register and stock card
- To report any sick animals observed in the herd.
- To produce a stock card on dipping day
- To pay dipping fees as per requirement



## How to avoid tick resistance

Adhering to movement requirements relating to cattle ticks, the correct use of chemicals and good dip management.



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