

External Parasites

External parasites are a significant problem in the Australian cattle industry. Different types of external parasites may affect cattle at different times of the year in different locations around Australia. The table below shows some of the more common forms of external parasites. There may be other external parasites which are relevant to your location.

External parasite	Effect(s) on cattle	Possible cause(s)	Preventive treatment
Cattle tick <i>(Boophilus microplus)</i>	Heavy infestation causes anaemia, slow growth, loss of condition, death. Destroy red blood cells, causing severe anaemia	Ticks suck blood and can also infect cattle with a microscopic parasite.	Spray, pour-on, dip or inject cattle to kill ticks on animals. Vaccinate to prevent tick infestation. Control movement. Establish tick- free quarantine areas.
Scrub tick <i>(Ixodes holocyclus)</i>	Paralysis and death by respiratory failure of young calves.	Toxins in the tick saliva.	Sprays, dips, etc which are registered for treatment of scrub tick.
Lice (various species)	Constant rubbing, slower growth rates, poor coat appearance.	Infestation of lice from one beast to another.	Pour-on or spray with lousicide.
Buffalo fly <i>(Haematobia exigua)</i>	Skin lesions and possible reduced growth rate.	Fly bites.	Pour-ons, sprays, dips, back-rubbers.