

## Two Papers Released by the CDC Division of Vector-Borne Diseases

The [first paper](#) describes the emergence of *Haemaphysalis longicornis* (HI), also known as the Asian longhorned tick, in 9 states. This is the first exotic tick to be found in the US in 80 years. It's different from other ticks in that a single female tick can reproduce offspring *without mating*. As a result, infestations are often massive (hundreds to thousands of ticks).

While *HI* has not been found infected with any disease agents in the United States, in other parts of the world, it can spread viruses, bacteria, and parasites known to infect people and animals, causing severe disease and death. *HI* is a threat to livestock in other parts of the world. In some regions of New Zealand and Australia, this tick can reduce production in dairy cattle by 25%. So far in the United States, *HI* ticks have been reported on domestic and wild animals, and people.

The [second paper](#) is a Perspective in *the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* and call to action for vector-borne disease prevention and control. In it, authors reference the emergence of *HI* as the latest public health threat that exemplifies the need to activate a national VBD prevention and control network operating under a common strategy. Next week will mark the first meeting of federal agencies to initiate the process to develop that national strategy.

Please promote these papers on social media by customizing this messaging:

- Disease cases from #mosquitoes and #ticks have more than tripled in the US from 2004-2016. A new tick has arrived in the US. A national strategy is needed. Learn more: [link]
- The US is vulnerable to diseases from mosquito and tick bites. To protect people from costly and sometimes deadly diseases, like West Nile virus and Lyme disease, a national strategy is needed to reverse increasing vector-borne disease incidence. Discovery of an invasive tick now in 9 states highlights the need. [link]

Linking to this one-pager on HI might also be an attractive option: <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/pdfs/AsianLonghornedTick-P.pdf>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be releasing a full press release and doing targeted Hill alerts.

We are concerned about the emergence of this tick and the onward march forward of ticks and the diseases that they carry. It's going to take all of us working together to stop these dangerous vector-borne disease trends.

Thanks for all that you do to help with vector-borne disease prevention and control!