



# 2026 NEBRASKA TICKBORNE DISEASE REPORT

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES (NDHHS)

VECTOR-BORNE DISEASE PROGRAM

MMWR WEEK 26  
(Week Ending 07/04/2026)

***\*All Data is Provisional\****



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Summary
- [Nebraska Human Tickborne Disease Surveillance](#)
- [Nebraska Tick Bite Data Tracker](#)
- [Nebraska Active Tick Surveillance Program](#)
- [Resources](#)

# Summary

- Tickborne Disease Cases
  - 43 tickborne disease cases have been reported in 2026
  - 12 cases have been hospitalized
  - 0 deaths due to tickborne diseases have been reported
- Tick Bite Tracker
  - Visit rates for tick bites have been above the historical average for the past 3 weeks
- Active Tick Surveillance
  - 3,589 total ticks have been collected in 2026
  - 40 sites have been sampled to date
  - 5 species identified





# NEBRASKA HUMAN TICKBORNE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

Credit: CDC, NCEZID-DVBD

# Human Tickborne Disease Surveillance

**Nebraska Tickborne Disease Cases, 2026 & 2025**

| Condition                         | 2026 | 2025 |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|
| Alpha-Gal Syndrome                | 29   | 33   |
| Anaplasmosis                      | 0    | 0    |
| Babesiosis                        | 0    | 0    |
| Ehrlichiosis                      | 7    | 20   |
| Lyme Disease                      | *    | 7    |
| Spotted Fever Group Rickettsioses | *    | 8    |
| Tularemia                         | *    | 24   |

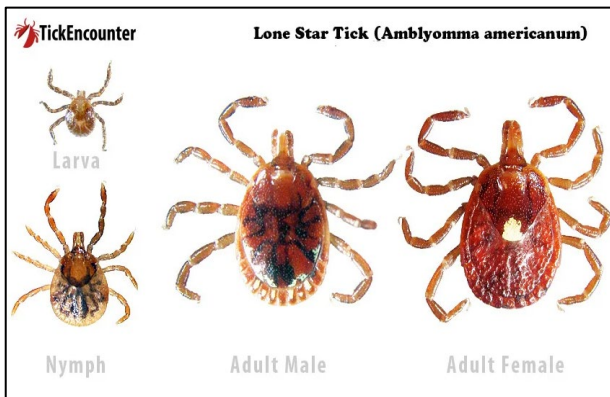
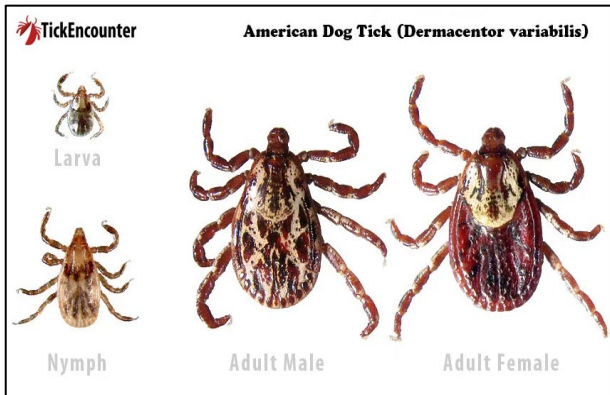
- Statewide number of tickborne disease cases reported to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS)
  - All data is preliminary and subject to change as more information is gathered.
  - Reported cases only include lab confirmed and probable cases meeting [CSTE/CDC case definition](#).
  - Spotted fever group rickettsioses includes Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF).



# NEBRASKA TICK BITE DATA TRACKER

Credit: NDHHS Vector-Borne Disease Program,  
Top Row- male (left) and female (right) Gulf Coast  
ticks (*Amblyomma maculatum*), Bottom Row –  
male (left) and female (right) American dog ticks  
(*Dermacentor variabilis*)

# Tick Bite Data Tracker

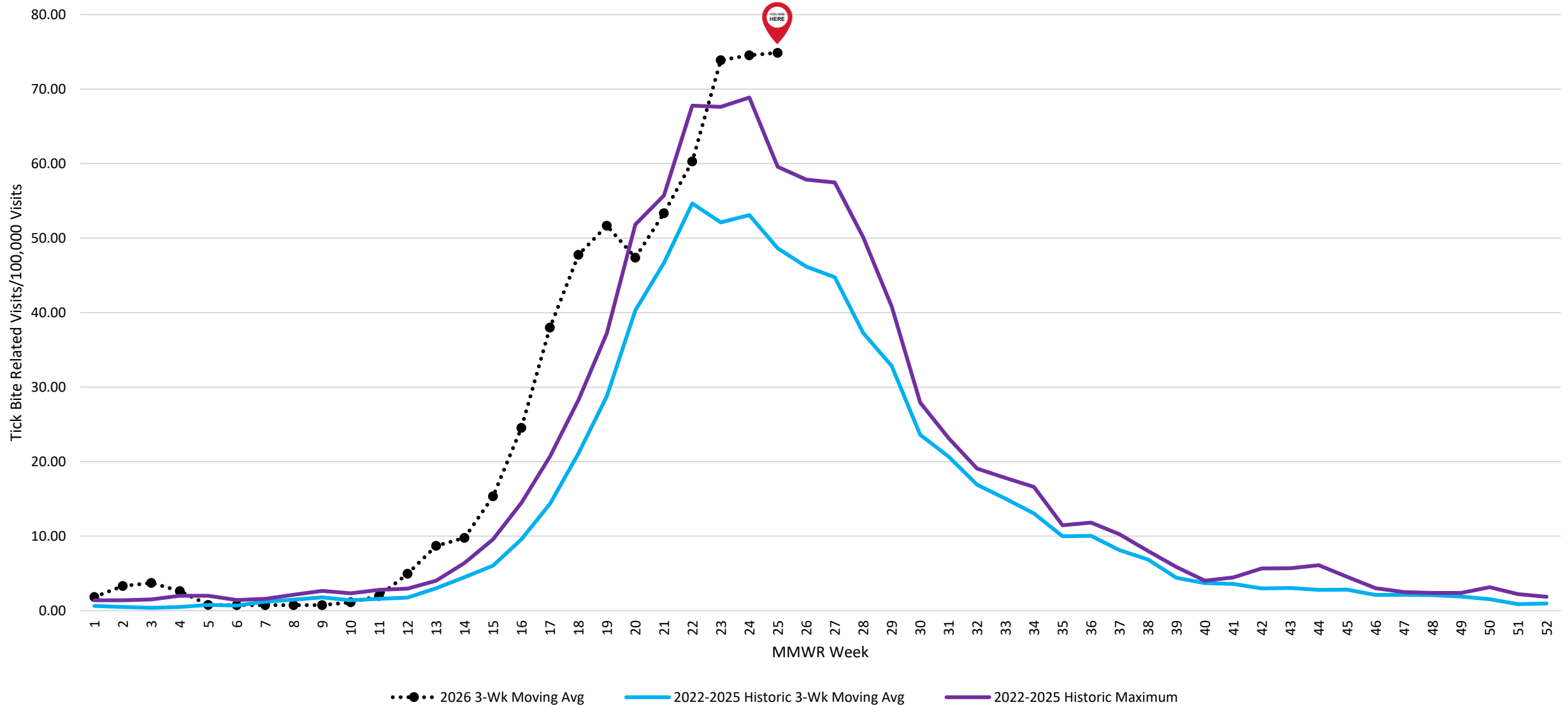


- NDHHS utilizes syndromic surveillance data (ESSENCE) as an indicator for tick activity and tick bite risk.
  - Data comes from emergency departments and outpatient clinic visits.
  - Visits related to tick bites are detected via a query containing various spellings of the word “tick” or combination of “tick” and “bite”.
  - Not all emergency departments and outpatient clinics report data to the NDHHS ESSENCE system and therefore results might not be generalizable to facilities not contributing data.
- The statewide 3-week average tick bite visit rate during MMWR week 25 was **above** both the historic average and the historic maximum for this time of year.
- The 2026 MMWR week 25 tick bite visit rate was **much higher** (73.65 tick bite visits/100,000) than this time last year (53.86 tick bite visits/100,000)

Images: Tick Encounter,  
<https://web.uri.edu/tickencounter/>

# Tick Bite Data Tracker

Emergency Department (ED) & Outpatient Clinic Visits for Tick Bites by Week, Nebraska 2026





# NEBRASKA ACTIVE TICK SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

Credit: NDHHS Vector-Borne Disease Program, active tick surveillance using tick flagging method

# Active Tick Surveillance



- NDHHS is partnering with 15 of the 19 local health departments and Nebraska Game & Parks Commission to conduct active tick surveillance across the state in 2026
- NDHHS will conduct active tick surveillance at sites in the other local health jurisdictions
- Goals of active surveillance:
  - Classify county status of different tick species in Nebraska
  - Determine presence and prevalence of tickborne pathogens at the county level
  - Data used to provide evidence-based information to stakeholders on where and when people are at risk for exposure to ticks and tickborne pathogens
  - Help explain epidemiological trends of tickborne diseases

Credit: NDHHS Vector-Borne Disease Program, collecting ticks off the tick flag

# Active Tick Surveillance Results



- 33 counties surveyed
  - 40 total sites, 45 site visits
- 87,037 m<sup>2</sup> surveyed
- 3,589 total ticks collected
  - Collection Methods: Tick Flagging, CO2 Traps
- 5 species have been identified during 2026 surveys:
  - Lone star tick (*Amblyomma americanum*)\*
  - Gulf Coast tick (*Amblyomma maculatum*)\*
  - American dog tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*)\*
  - Blacklegged or deer tick (*Ixodes scapularis*)\*
  - “Other” rabbit tick (*Ixodes dentatus*)

\*Medically important ticks that can transmit pathogens to people

Credit: NDHHS Vector-Borne Disease Program, female American dog tick collected off tick drag

# 2026 Collected Ticks

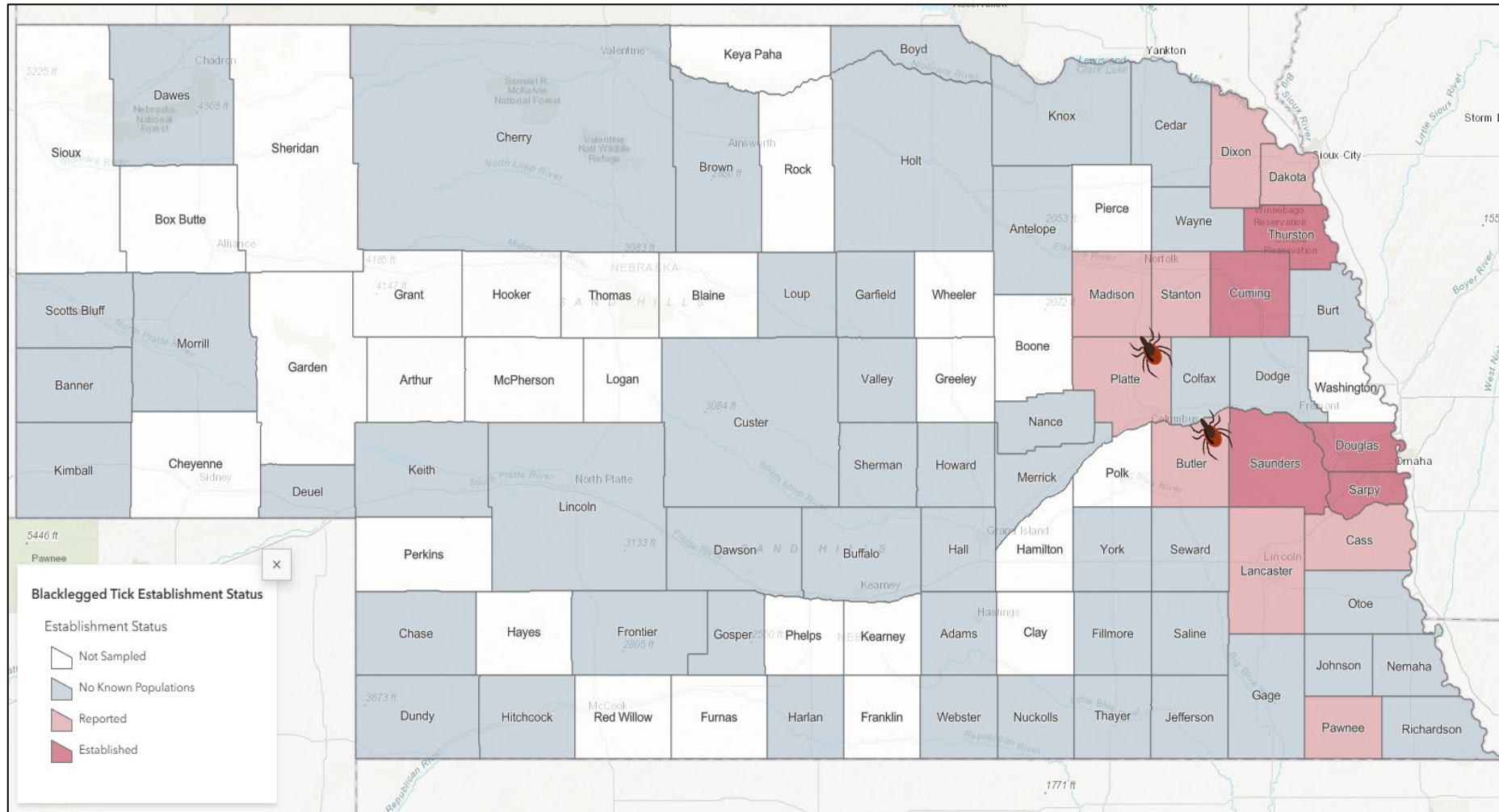
| Collected Ticks by Sex, 2026                             |              |            |               |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| Species                                                  | Female Count | Male Count | Undetermined* |
| Lone star tick<br>( <i>Amblyomma americanum</i> )        | 391          | 414        | 1646          |
| American dog tick<br>( <i>Dermacentor variabilis</i> )   | 571          | 548        | 0             |
| Gulf Coast tick<br>( <i>Amblyomma maculatum</i> )        | 4            | 3          | 0             |
| "Other" rabbit tick<br>( <i>Ixodes dentatus</i> )        | 0            | 0          | 2             |
| Blacklegged or deer tick<br>( <i>Ixodes scapularis</i> ) | 3            | 7          | 1             |
| Total                                                    | 969          | 972        | 1649          |

\*Sex was not determined for nymphal or larval ticks

# 2026 Collected Ticks

| Tick Species Counts by Life Stage, 2026                  |       |       |                   |                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Life Stage                                               |       |       |                   |                            |
| Species                                                  | Adult | Nymph | Larvae            | Total                      |
| Lone star tick<br>( <i>Amblyomma americanum</i> )        | 805   | 1645  | too many to count | 2450<br>(excluding larvae) |
| American dog tick<br>( <i>Dermacentor variabilis</i> )   | 1119  | 0     | 0                 | 1119                       |
| Gulf Coast tick<br>( <i>Amblyomma maculatum</i> )        | 7     | 0     | 0                 | 7                          |
| Rabbit tick<br>( <i>Haemaphysalis leporispalustris</i> ) | 0     | 0     | 0                 | 0                          |
| "Other" rabbit tick<br>( <i>Ixodes dentatus</i> )        | 0     | 2     | 0                 | 2                          |
| Blacklegged or deer tick<br>( <i>Ixodes scapularis</i> ) | 10    | 1     | 0                 | 11                         |
| Total                                                    | 1941  | 1648  | too many to count | 3589                       |

# Detections of Blacklegged Tick (*Ix. scapularis*) by County, 2026



New 2026 county records for DHHS active tick surveillance program:

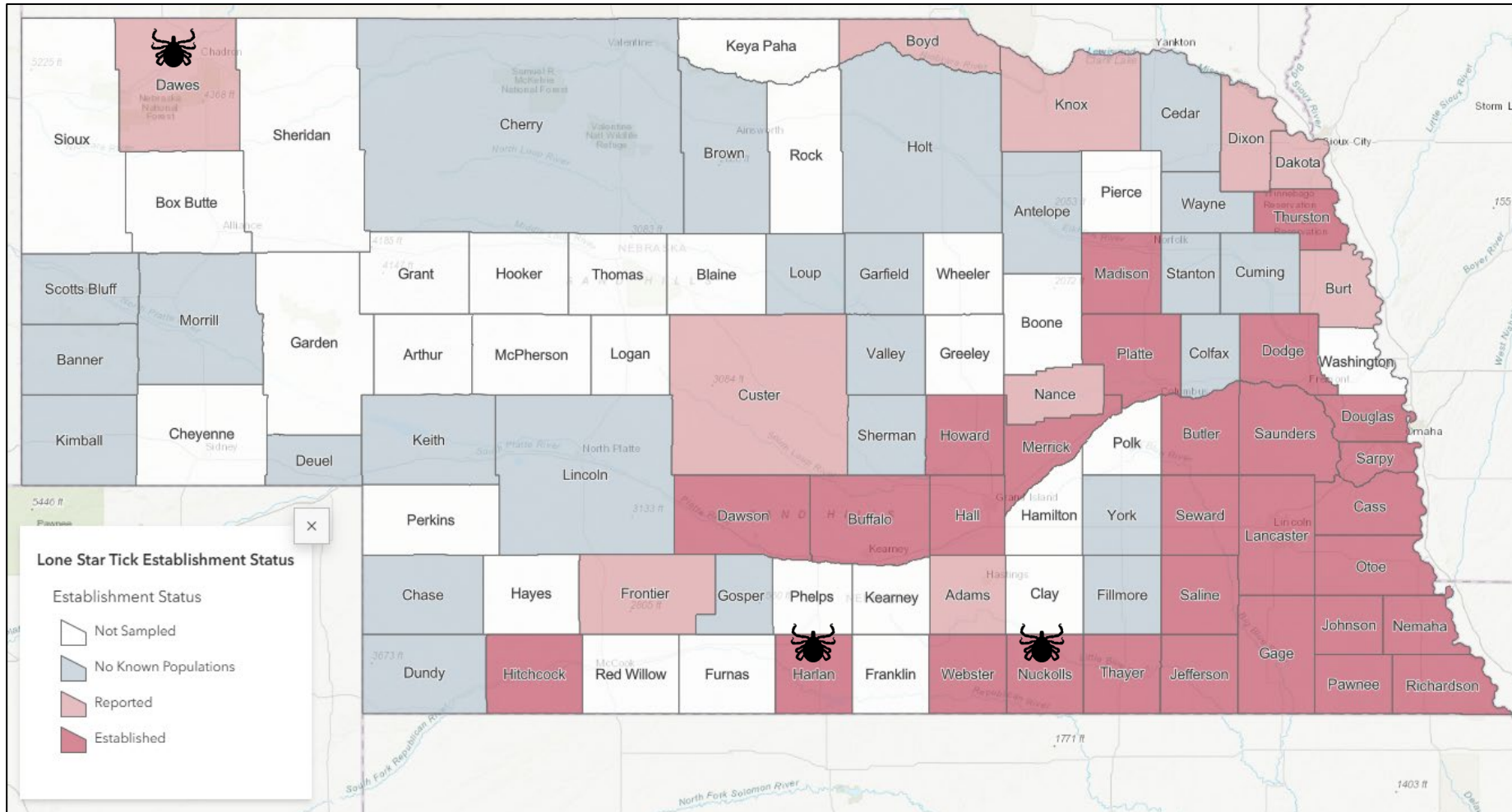
**Platte County: Reported**  
**Butler County: Reported**

View the interactive tick surveillance maps:  
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/tickmaps>

**Reported** - Less than six blacklegged ticks of a single life stage collected in a 12-month period.

**Established** - Six or more blacklegged ticks of a single life stage or more than one life stage (larvae, nymphs, adults) collected in a 12-month period.

# Detections of Lone Star Tick (*Am. americanum*) by County, 2026



New 2026 county records for DHHS active tick surveillance program:

**Dawes County: Reported**

**Harlan County: Established**

**Nuckolls County: Established**

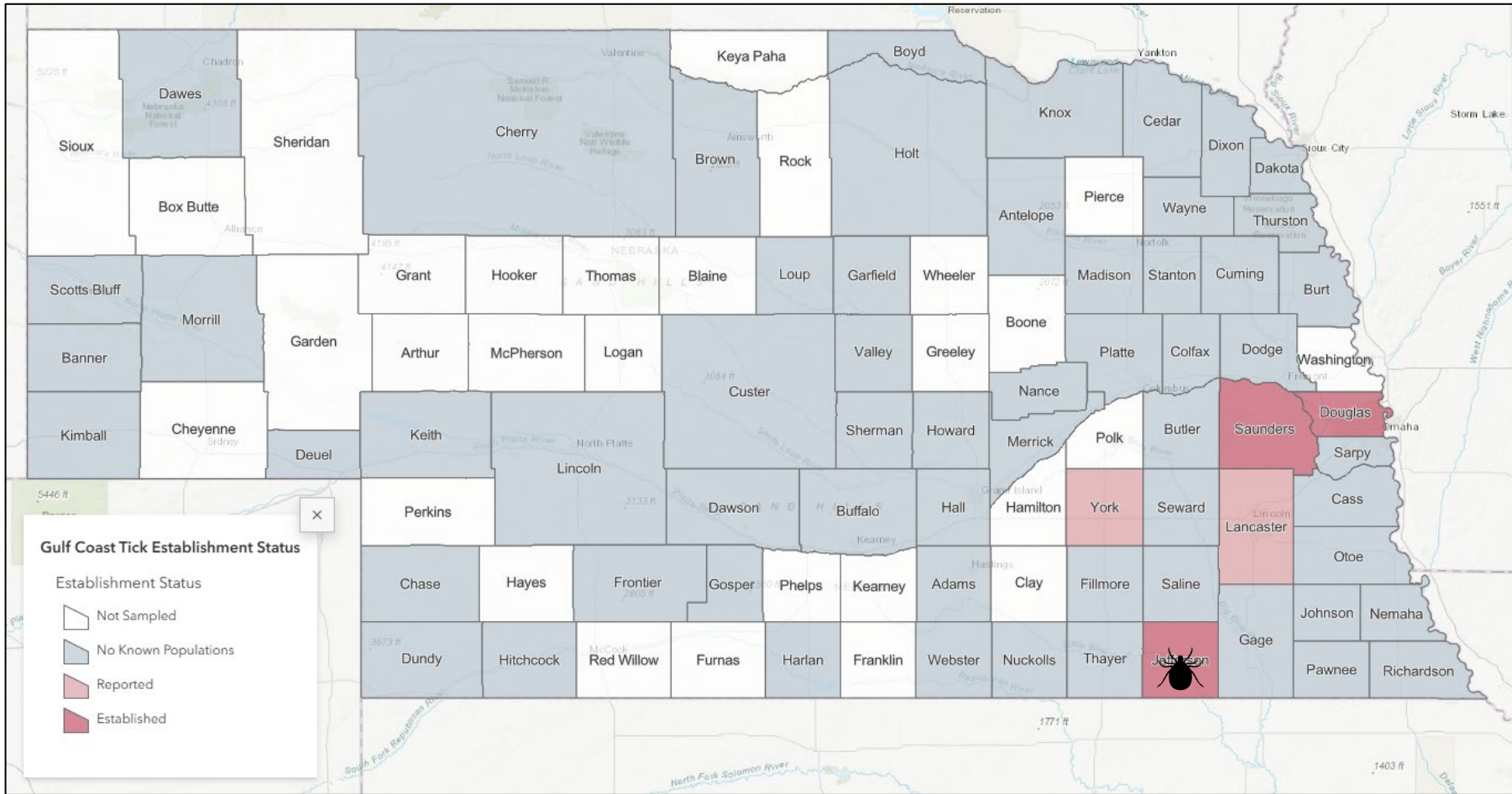
View the interactive tick surveillance maps:

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/tickmaps>

**Reported** - Less than six lone star ticks of a single life stage collected in a 12-month period.

**Established** - Six or more lone star ticks of a single life stage or more than one life stage (larvae, nymphs, adults) collected in a 12-month period.

# Detections of Gulf Coast Tick (*Am. maculatum*) by County, 2026



New 2026 county records for  
DHHS active tick surveillance  
program:

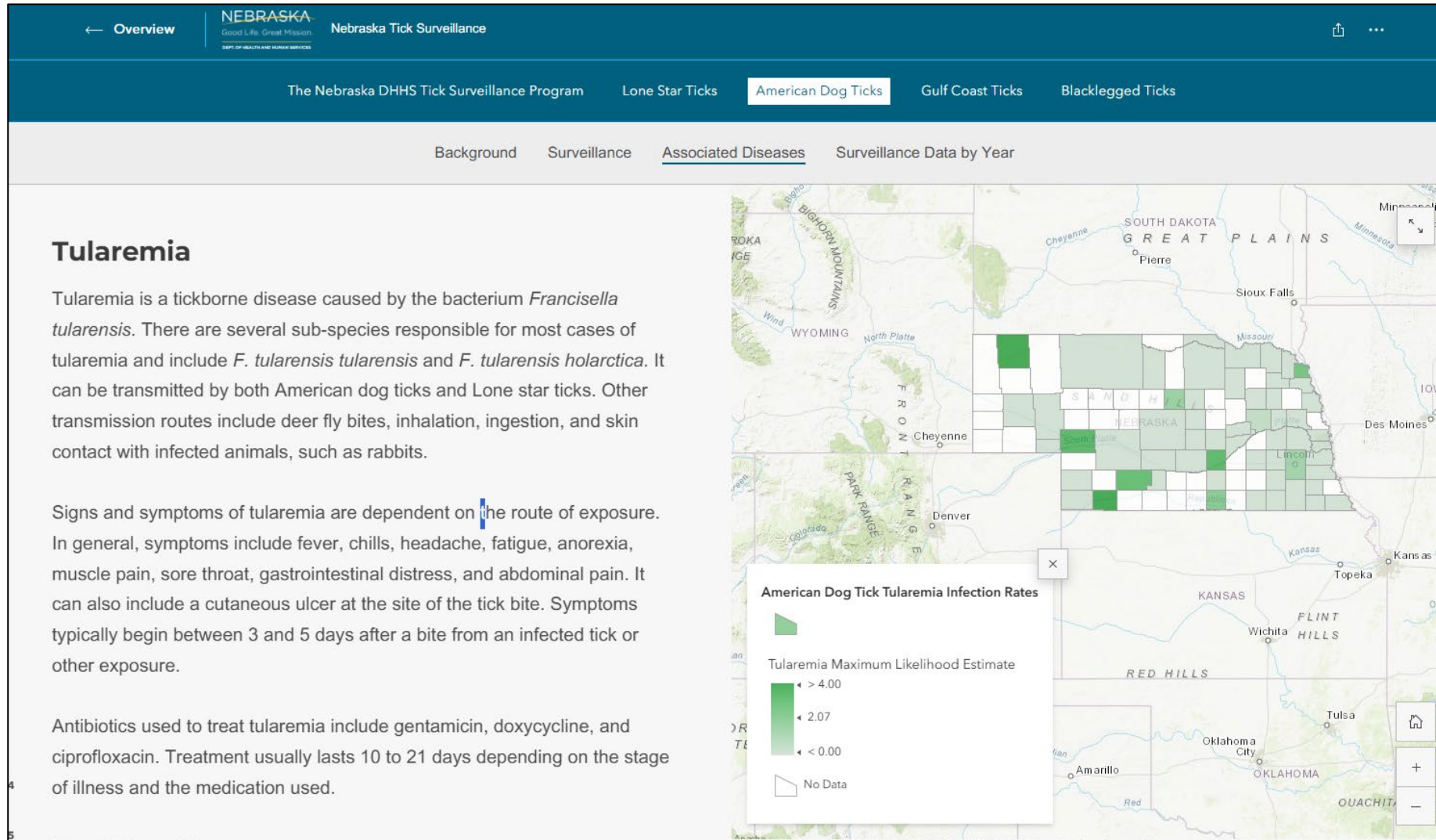
## Jefferson County: Established

View the interactive tick surveillance maps:  
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/tickmaps>

**Reported** - Less than six gulf coast ticks of a single life stage collected in a 12-month period.

**Established** - Six or more gulf coast ticks of a single life stage or more than one life stage (larvae, nymphs, adults) collected in a 12-month period.

# Nebraska Tick Surveillance Maps



Visit the link below to view current and historical tick surveillance data.

Data is updated periodically as it becomes available.

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/TickMaps>

# 2026 EPI WEEK CALENDAR

Months shown in **RED** (center column) are potential “Vector” months

| JANUARY    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| EPI Week # | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| 53 (2025)  |     |     |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   |
| 1          | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  |
| 2          | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  |
| 3          | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  |
| 4          | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |

| FEBRUARY   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| EPI Week # | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| 5          | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| 6          | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 7          | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 8          | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |

| MARCH      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| EPI Week # | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| 9          | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| 10         | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 11         | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 12         | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 13         | 29  | 30  | 31  |     |     |     |     |

| APRIL      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| EPI Week # | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| 13         |     |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| 14         | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  |
| 15         | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| 16         | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  |
| 17         | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |     |     |

| MAY        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| EPI Week # | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| 17         |     |     |     |     |     | 1   | 2   |
| 18         | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   |
| 19         | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  |
| 20         | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  |
| 21         | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |
| 22         | 31  |     |     |     |     |     |     |

| JUNE       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| EPI Week # | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| 22         |     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   |
| 23         | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  |
| 24         | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  |
| 25         | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  |
| 26         | 28  | 29  | 30  |     |     |     |     |

| JULY       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| EPI Week # | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| 26         |     |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| 27         | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  |
| 28         | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| 29         | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  |
| 30         | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |     |

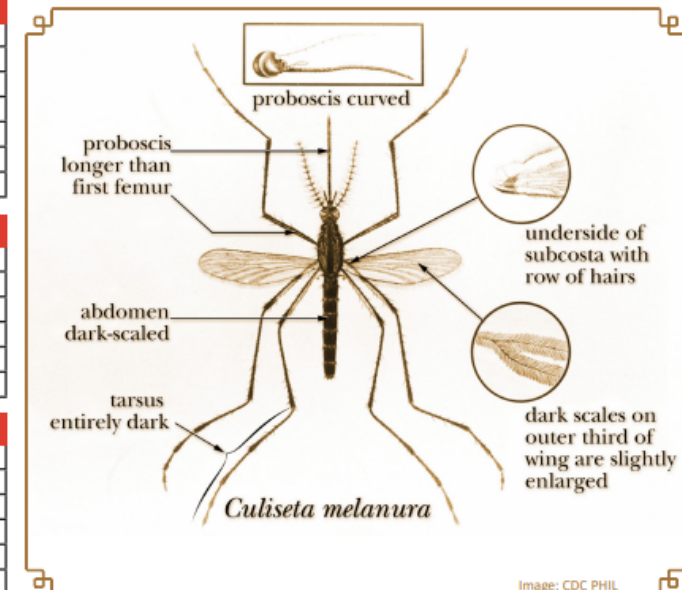
| AUGUST     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| EPI Week # | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| 30         |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |
| 31         | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   |
| 32         | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  |
| 33         | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  |
| 34         | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  |
| 35         | 30  | 31  |     |     |     |     |     |

| SEPTEMBER  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| EPI Week # | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| 35         |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   |
| 36         | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  |
| 37         | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  |
| 38         | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  |
| 39         | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |     |     |     |

| OCTOBER    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| EPI Week # | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| 39         |     |     |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   |
| 40         | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  |
| 41         | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  |
| 42         | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  |
| 43         | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |

| NOVEMBER   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| EPI Week # | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| 44         | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| 45         | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 46         | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 47         | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 48         | 29  | 30  |     |     |     |     |     |

| DECEMBER   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| EPI Week # | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| 48         |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   |
| 49         | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  |
| 50         | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  |
| 51         | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  |
| 52         | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |     |     |



Credit: Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project: <https://www.cmmcp.org/>



**PREVENT  
TICK  
BITES!**

- **WEAR REPELLENT**
- **CHECK FOR TICKS DAILY**
- **SHOWER SOON AFTER  
BEING OUTDOORS**
- **CALL YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU  
GET A FEVER OR RASH**

## Resources

- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Tick-Borne Diseases Page:  
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Tick-Borne-Diseases.aspx>
- University of Nebraska – Lincoln Tick Tag Go:  
<https://ticktaggo.unl.edu/>
- CDC Tick Webpage: <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html>
- CDC Tick Bite Data Tracker:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/tickedvisits/index.html>