



ANIMAL HEALTH

Georgia Ticks – we got ‘em!

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GMCA Conference
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GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

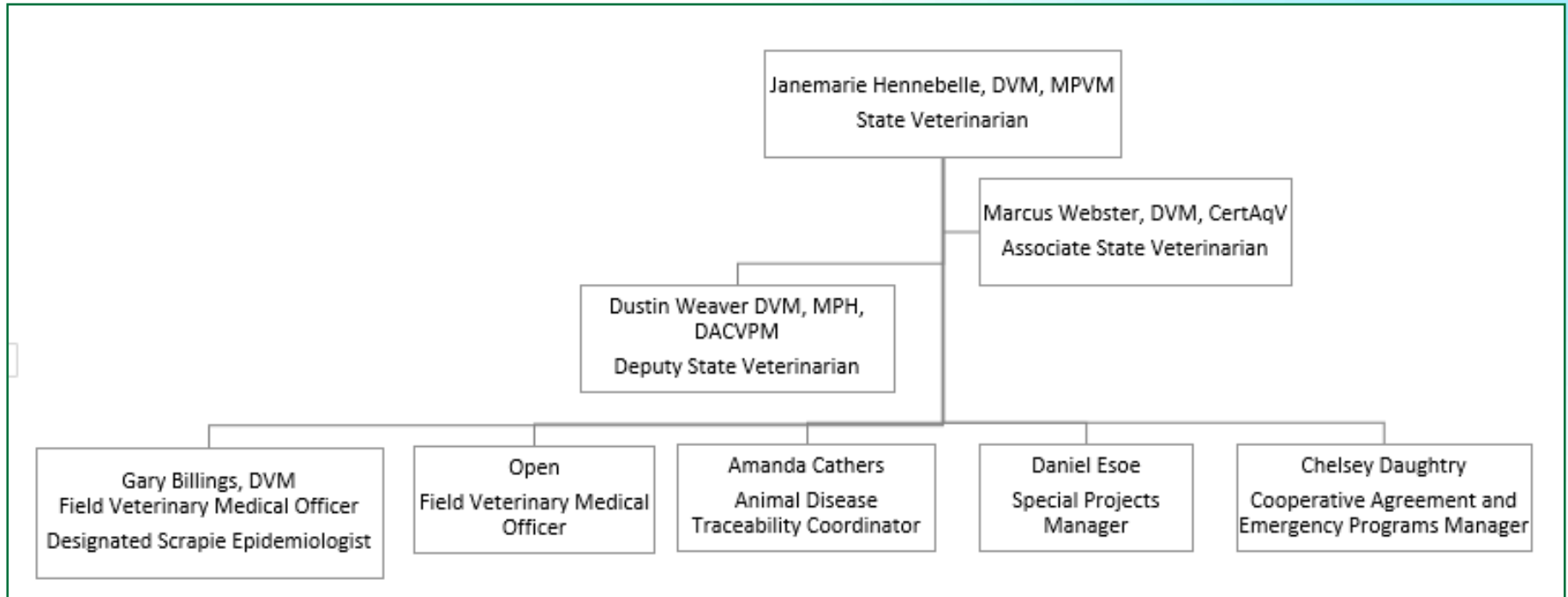
Commissioner Tyler Harper

Chief Operating Officer Dan Duncan

State Veterinarian



ANIMAL HEALTH



The day job....

- Reportable and foreign animal disease investigations occur regularly
 - Asian Longhorned Tick
 - Vesicular/ulcerative/erosive
 - TB suspects
 - Brucellosis
 - RHDV
 - Avian influenza
 - Screwworm

Georgia: Ports and airports



Surveillance



Valuable information for ticks - Distribution



- *Amblyomma americanum* (528)
- Determined to be established in 49 counties.
- Aggressive biter, transmits *Coxiella burnetti* (Q Fever), *Ehrlichia* spp., viruses



- *Amblyomma maculatum* (460)
- Determined to be established in 26 counties.
- *Hepatozoon americanum* and Spotted Fever Group *Rickettsia*

Valuable information for ticks - Distribution



- *Dermacentor albipictus* (3)
 - Determined to be established in 2 counties.
- Severe pest to large ungulate species, transmits *B. caballi* and *A. marginale*



- *Dermacentor variabilis* (342)
 - Determined to be established in 30 counties.
- Transmits *T. equi*, *A. marginale*, Spotted Fever Group *Rickettsia*

Valuable information for ticks - Distribution

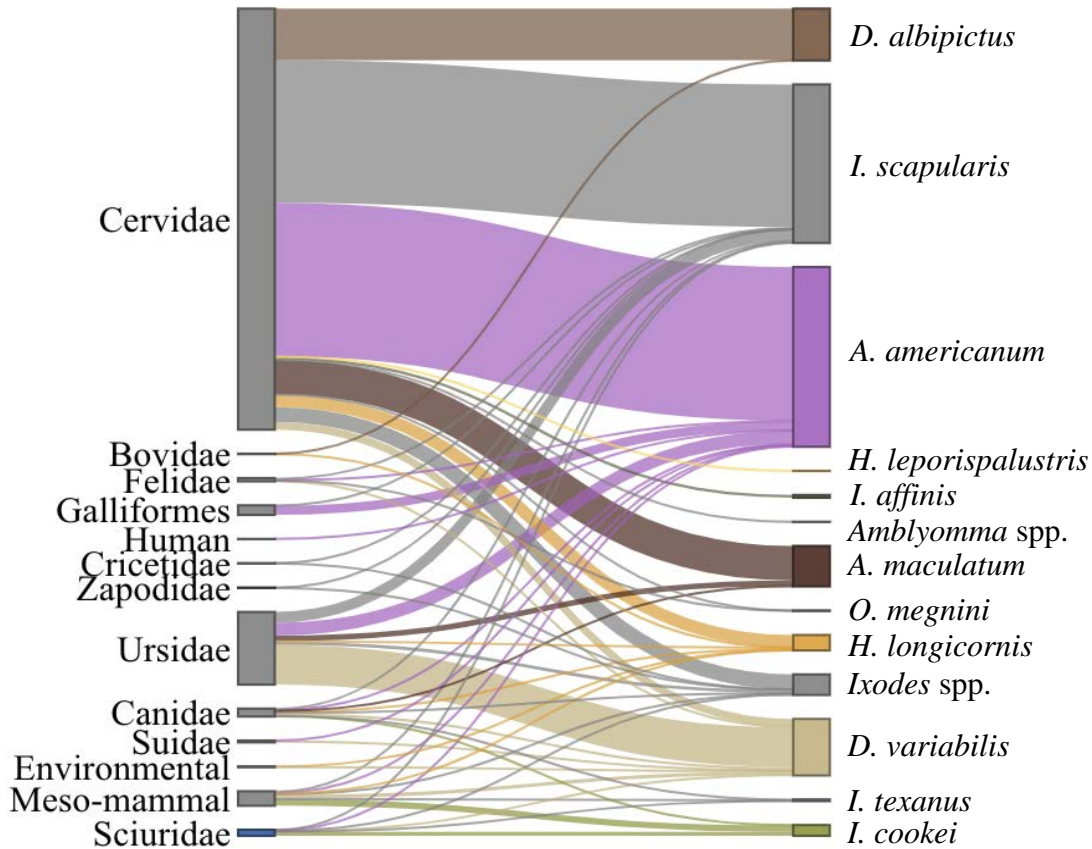


- *Ixodes scapularis* (639)
- Determined to be established in 44 counties.
- *B. burgdorferi*, *Anaplasma* sp., *Babesia* sp., viruses



- *Haemaphysalis longicornis*
- *T. orientalis*, *R. rickettsii*, Heartland virus

Valuable information for ticks - Hosts



- Able to detect more “wildlife” specific ticks.
- Tick-Host associations could help to determine species responsible from range expansions.
- Other than *H. longicornis*, no new hosts were detected during surveillance.

*Slide courtesy of SCWDS



Haemaphysalis longicornis, the Asian Longhorned Tick

- In 2017, USDA confirmed the presence of the Asian Longhorned tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*)
- Native to Southeastern Asian
- Reproduction by parthenogenesis
 - Single female can produce 1,000 – 2,000 eggs at a time

Asian Longhorned Tick (ALHT)

- Probably arrived in the United States in or before 2010, potentially on domestic pets, horses, livestock or people.
 - Exact mode of entry unknown
 - *Haemaphysalis leporispalustris*
- ALHT is a competent vector
 - Parasites, Bacteria, Viruses

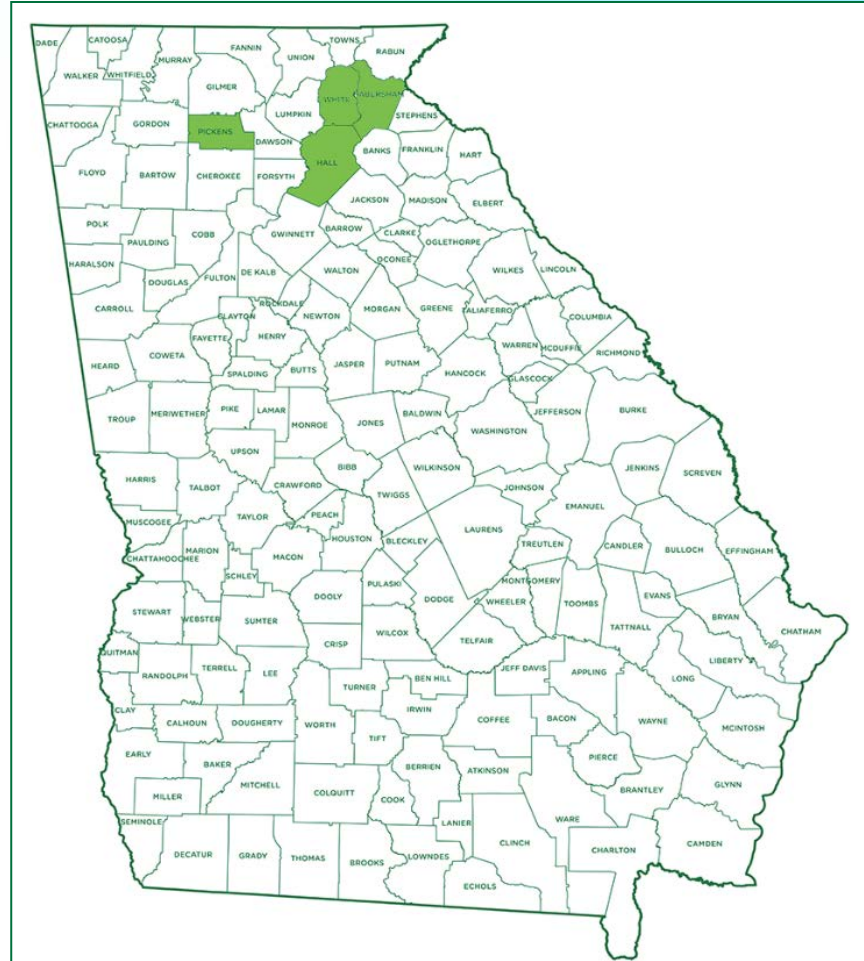


USDA

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/maps/animal-health/asian-longhorned-tick>

GA Distribution

- Cattle
- Opossum
- Cat
- Deer
- Environment





Potential Impacts to Animal Health

- Causes stress
- Affects growth
- Decreased production (i.e. milk)
- Severe anemia and death
- *Theileria orientalis* subtype *ikedai* (identified in other states)



What's next?

- Awareness
- Education
- Submit ticks!
- Surveillance

 agr.georgia.gov/asian-longhorned-tick.aspx 

Invasive Tick Found in Georgia

The Asian Longhorned Tick (ALHT) / Haemaphysalis longicornis

Be on the lookout for ticks! Ticks pose a significant health threat to Georgia's animals and our livestock industry. Tick surveillance protects animal health and is done at no cost to the producer.

Collection

Use clean, fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible. There are also commercially sold tweezers, made specifically for tick removal, with a forked flat edge.

Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick as this can cause the mouthparts to remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouthparts with tweezers if it can be done easily. If not, leave it alone.

After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.






Don't try to pop or crush the tick. This can release infectious agents into the skin and will affect our ability to identify the tick.



Packaging



Put the tick in isopropyl alcohol in a leak-proof container such as a ziploc bag, plastic or glass container. More than one tick from the same animal can be put into the same container. Label the container with the date, location, animal identification, and your name.

Reporting

If you find a large number of ticks on an individual animal, collect a few and call GDA Animal Health at 404-656-3667.

Scaled nymph and adult on dime Nymph and adult underside

Photos from Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Georgia Department of Agriculture | agr.georgia.gov

<https://agr.georgia.gov/asian-longhorned-tick>



GDA

<https://agr.georgia.gov/asian-longhorned-tick.aspx>

USDA

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/maps/animal-health/asian-longhorned-tick>


SCWDS

<https://scwds.shinyapps.io/haemaphysalis/>





Many thanks!

- USDA
 - UGA – SCWDS, Extension
 - DPH
 - GDA staff
 - And others...
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Yellow-Legged Hornet

In August 2023, the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA), in coordination with the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) and the University of Georgia, confirmed the presence of a yellow-legged hornet (YLH; *Vespa velutina*) near Savannah, Ga. This is the first time a live specimen of this species has been detected in the open United States.

The yellow-legged hornet poses a threat to honeybees and other pollinators in our state. These pollinators play a significant role in Georgia's agriculture industry, the state's main economic driver, and it is imperative that these invasive pests are tracked and eradicated. We are working with USDA APHIS and UGA to trap, track, and eradicate these pests and will continue to assess the situation as new information becomes available and allocate additional resources as need.

The public plays an important role, and we are asking Georgians to report sightings of the yellow-legged hornet using this [online reporting form](#). We urge the public to be cautious in the event they come across a suspected yellow-legged hornet. If you can safely take a photo of the suspected yellow-legged hornet, we encourage you to do so to assist us with identification.

REPORT A YELLOW-LEGGED HORNET SIGHTING



About the Yellow-Legged Hornet

This is the first detection of a live specimen of a yellow-legged hornet in the open United States. A native to tropical and subtropical areas of Southeast Asia, the yellow-legged hornet is generally smaller than the Northern Giant Hornet (NGH).

<https://agr.georgia.gov/yellow-legged-hornet>



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404-656-3667

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