

Tuesday – May 26, 2020

BILL: And good morning and welcome into our Tuesday edition of Ag Talk. Trust you had a nice Memorial Day weekend. This is Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. Ed, good morning to you and today we're talking about a group of some hungry fellows here, namely ticks.

ED: Every year, about this time, Bill, we have calls starting to coming in and people start moving more into the woods and the nature area around their homes, they run into our fun fellow we call the ticks. Of course, they're going to be hungrier this year, they're going to be hatching a little later. So we had this delayed spring so like other type of insects they're going to react to that temperature. As people start going out as we get warmer days they're going to particularly run into the marginal areas they're gonna run into ticks. And I guess I should correct myself, ticks are not insects actually, because they got eight legs, insects all have six, they're arachnids, kind of in the same grouping as spiders and other things that have eight legs. That's kind of more for the academic on there because far as I'm concerned they're bugs and critters. The problem we have though that some of them do carry disease and so we really do not want to get attached and have that disease transfer from the tick to us as they are feeding on the blood from us. But there really isn't a real good repellent out there that you can use. You can use the DEETS and Permethrins. Permethrin is going to be more effective and it really is going to be a pesticide, where DEET is truly a repellent. So you got to be careful with your clothing with Permethrin and also keep it out of your eyes and other things. So that's one thing you can do. The other thing we always say to do is wear clothing so you can easily see them because they're not a problem if you see him crawling on you it's when they become attached to you that the concern comes in there. Generally speaking, the white clothing is the easiest to see them on you. To keep them from getting underneath clothing we say have your shirts tucked in, your pants tucked into your socks basically preventing an area where they can get directly to your skin so try to keep on the clothes. And then when the kids or you come back in the house from being in an area that may have ticks, we say do body checks to see if you got any on you. Check each other out on the clothing and so forth and ideally, we would say take a shower to wash any ticks off of you. The areas we normally see ticks is gonna be in brush, tall grass, weeds. They like to be along the fields and trails, yards and streams because that's where the animals are and they can just kind of basically attach to you should you brush up against some of those plants. So recognize the territory you're in and do tick checks when you come back and wear the right clothing. If possible use DEET or Permethrin.

BILL: Be smart, be careful, and you should be OK. Thank you Ed. For Ag Talk this is Bill Rice with Ed Lentz. Good morning to you.

Ed: Good morning.