



Fur Harvester Classes Scheduled



The North Dakota Cooperative Fur Harvester Education Program is holding a class Aug. 4, 6, and 8 at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department in Bismarck and a class Oct. 1, 2 and 3 at the Velva Wildlife Club.

Fur harvester education classes are 16 hours in length, free, voluntary, and cover topics associated with trapping and fur hunting. Much of the instruction includes hands-on experience with traps and equipment commonly used for harvesting fur-

bearers and properly caring for the pelts. Successful completion of this training provides certification recognized by other states where mandatory trapper education training is required. Participants can enroll in the August class now on the Game and Fish Department website at gf.nd.gov/education/fur-harvester. Enrollment for the October class will open at a later date.

The North Dakota Cooperative Fur Harvester Education Program is also hosting a training seminar

on using cable devices in North Dakota Oct. 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Velva Wildlife Club.

The seminar is free and available to anyone who would like information and experience using cable devices. All aspects of cable device construction, care, use, ethics, responsibility and legal requirements are covered. Much of the instruction includes hands-on field application and set construction. Preregistration is required by contacting Rick Tischeafer at 701-460-1055.

Tick bites are surging in the US this year. Here’s what to know.

BY AMELIA TWYMAN

WASHINGTON — The prime time for ticks is here in the United States, and after an especially active start to the season, experts are urging the public to stay alert and take preventive measures.

Monthly emergency department visits for tick bites in April spiked to their highest level since 2017 and continued to remain high throughout May and June, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s tick bite tracker.

Though it’s hard to predict what the rest of the season will look like, given that tick activity depends on a number of different factors, there has definitely been a recent geographic expansion of the area ticks inhabit, said Pilar Fernandez, a disease ecologist and assistant professor at Washington State University.

The tiny blood-suckers, which tend to thrive in warmer climates, are spreading to places that used to be too cold for their existence, she said during a July 1 SciLine media briefing, as temperatures rise in the United States and around the world.

With more ticks comes a greater risk of individuals developing tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease, Alpha-gal syndrome and anaplasmosis. That’s why researchers are encouraging people to know their facts and learn how to protect themselves from bites as they venture outdoors.



A lone star tick, which is a very aggressive tick that bites humans. A circular rash sometimes follows the bite. (Photo courtesy Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Most tick cases are recorded in the Northeast and Midwest, but different species of ticks are found in every region of the country. And as the population expands into areas where people are unaware of how to protect themselves and unaccustomed to checking for bites, the threat of contracting a tick-borne infection grows, Fernandez said.

Tick-borne diseases

Ticks carry pathogens that they then pass on to humans by biting into their skin and feeding on their blood. An untreated tick bite can lead to the development of one of nearly 20 different human diseases in the U.S., the most common of which is Lyme disease — about 476,000 patients are treated annually, according to the CDC.

Another tick-borne infection that has been on the rise is Alpha-gal syndrome, which causes people to experience a serious allergic reaction after they eat red meat or other animal products that contain the sugar molecule alpha-gal. It is most commonly associated with the lone star species of tick distributed throughout the Northeastern, Southern and Midwestern United States.

Initial symptoms of tick-borne illnesses are nonspecific and often the same as those that come with regular sickness, such as a fever, headache, muscle aches and joint pain, according to Alvaro Toledo, an associate professor in the Department of Entomology at Rutgers who also spoke at the July 1 media briefing.

“Physicians need to be vigilant and aware if they receive a patient with symptoms that are compatible with a tick-borne disease,” he said.

What if you find a tick?

If one discovers a tick on the skin, Toledo said the proper response is to first quickly remove the tick with tweezers by pinching and pulling it up in a vertical motion, then disinfecting the area and monitoring for signs of sickness.

People should not, on the other hand, deal with a tick by burning it off or applying petroleum jelly to the bite, said University of Wisconsin-Madison Assistant Professor Adela Oliva Chavez, a tick researcher, at the briefing.

“Those are myths,” she warned.

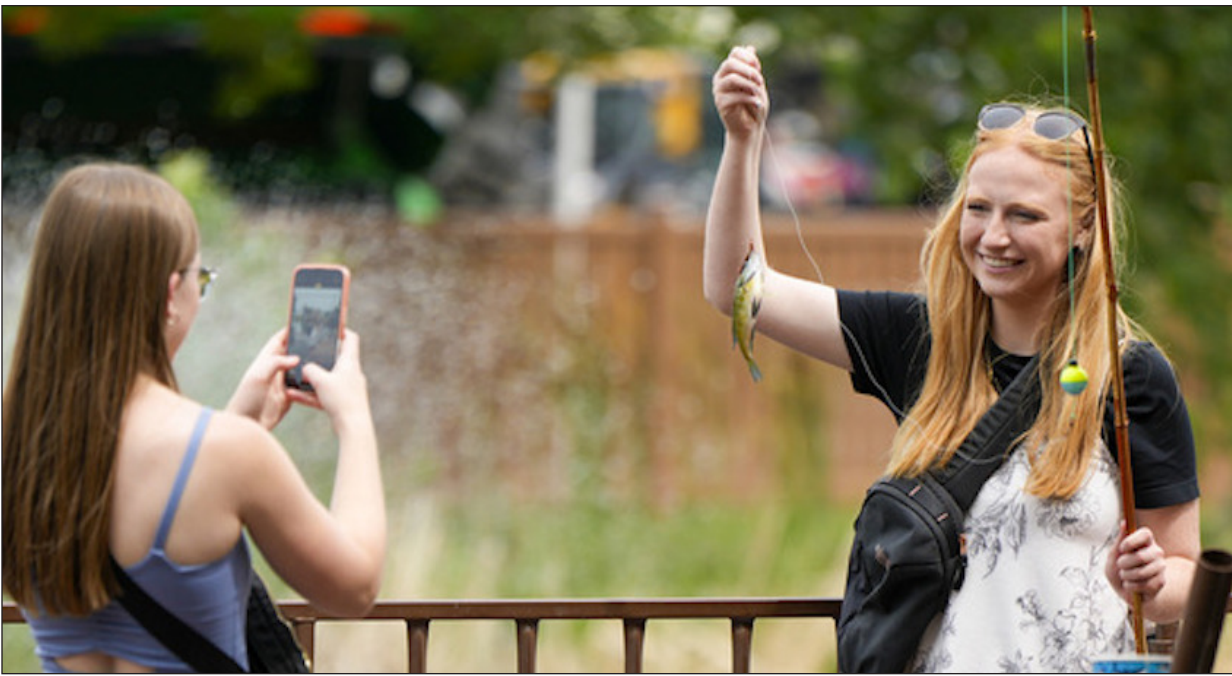
Ticks typically do not transmit infection until after they have been attached to the skin for 24 hours, which is why the CDC recommends people aim to remove the pests as soon as possible within the first day.

However, experts say the most effective way to prevent tick-borne disease in humans is by limiting exposure to ticks in the first place.

Toledo said people should use chemical sprays such as permethrin on their clothing and classic bug repellents on their skin to keep ticks away. It’s also a good idea to wear long, light-colored clothing when spending time in forests and other highly vegetated areas where ticks are abundant.

But, he added as a reminder to the public, there is “no zero-risk zone anywhere when you go out ... even in your backyard, risk is not zero.”

Individuals can further reduce their chance of acquiring a tick bite by checking their pets just as often themselves, according to Oliva Chavez. Dogs and cats can easily bring ticks into the house from outside, and if they aren’t yet attached to the animal’s flesh, they can make their way onto humans, she said.



State Fair Conservation and Outdoor Skills Park

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department will host thousands of visitors to its free Conservation and Outdoors Skills Park July 17-25 at the State Fair in Minot.

Visitors of all ages can try their hand at the fishing pond, air rifle

shooting gallery and archery range.

In addition to these hands-on outdoor activities, the area offers a live fish display, boat and water safety station, furbearer exhibit and native prairie plantings. An information center staffed by

Game and Fish Department personnel is located in the Conservation and Outdoors Skills Park, on the north end of the fairgrounds near the State Fair Center.

The park is open daily during the fair from 1-7 p.m

Guide and Outfitter Exam Scheduled

The next guide and outfitter written examination is Aug. 15 at 1 p.m. at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department office in Bismarck. Preregistration is required no later than Aug. 7 by calling the Department’s enforcement office at 701-328-6604.

In addition to passing a written

exam, qualifications for becoming a guide include a background check for criminal and game and fish violations; certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and standard first aid; and employment by or contract with a licensed hunting outfitter.

Hunting outfitter eligibility re-

quirements include the guide qualifications, as well as an individual must have held a hunting guide license for two years; and must have proof of liability insurance.

The test is given periodically to anyone interested in becoming a guide or outfitter in the state.

REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Department of Natural Resources is requesting sealed bids for the purchase of one (1) new forestry crawler dozer. The machine will be used for wildfire suppression, firebreak construction, hazardous fuel reduction, heavy brush clearing, trail construction, habitat restoration, park development, and general land management activities.

The machine offered shall be new, unused, current production, and meet or exceed the following minimum specifications.

One (1) New Forestry Crawler Dozer:

Minimum Machine Specifications

- Engine
- Diesel engine
- Minimum 110 net horsepower
- EPA Final Tier 4 compliant
- Automatic engine idle and shutdown features
- Heavy-duty cooling system suitable for high dust and debris environments
- Reversible cooling fan

Operating Weight

- Approximately 22,000–25,000 pounds

Transmission

- Hydrostatic drive
- Infinitely variable speed control
- Counter-rotation capability

Blade

- Six-way Power Angle Tilt (PAT) blade
- Heavy-duty cutting edge
- Heavy-duty push arms

Undercarriage

- XL or equivalent wide-track configuration
- Sealed and lubricated track (SALT) undercarriage
- Heavy-duty track rollers
- Full-length track guards
- Segmented drive sprockets

Forestry Protection Package (Required)

Machine shall be factory-installed or dealer-installed and designed specifically for forestry and heavy brush applications.

Package shall include:

- Heavy-duty front brush guard
- Heavy-duty cab cage
- ROPS/FOPS certified forestry cab protection
- Front windshield guard
- Rear window guard
- Side window guards
- Front and rear forestry sweeps
- Heavy-duty limb risers
- Heavy-duty belly pans
- Engine compartment guarding
- Hydraulic hose protection
- Cylinder rod guards
- Fuel tank protection
- Cooling package protection
- Radiator debris screen
- Protection for work lights and mirrors
- Heavy-duty rear screening
- Debris sealing around engine compartment
- Heavy-duty guarding designed to protect machine while clearing brush and constructing firebreaks.

ADDITIONAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE WINCH, CAB, HYDRAULICS, TECHNOLOGY, LIGHTING, SAFETY EQUIPMENT, WARRANTY REQUIREMENTS, TRAINING REQUIREMENTS AND BID SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE TM NATURAL RESOURCES DIRECTOR, JEFF DESJARLAIS AT 701 477-2640.

Bidder is required to include 3% TERO Fee to bid of \$10,000.00 or more. Must specify 3% TERO Fee.

All sealed bids must be addressed and mailed to:

Allan Malaterre, TM Property Director
PO Box 900
4180 Highway 281
Belcourt, ND 58316-0900
Contact No: 701 477-2635

Faxed bids will not be accepted.

All Tribal and TERO Regulations will be applicable, and must be concurred with.

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Closing Date: All bids must be received on or before the close of business at 4:30 p.m., July 17, 2026.