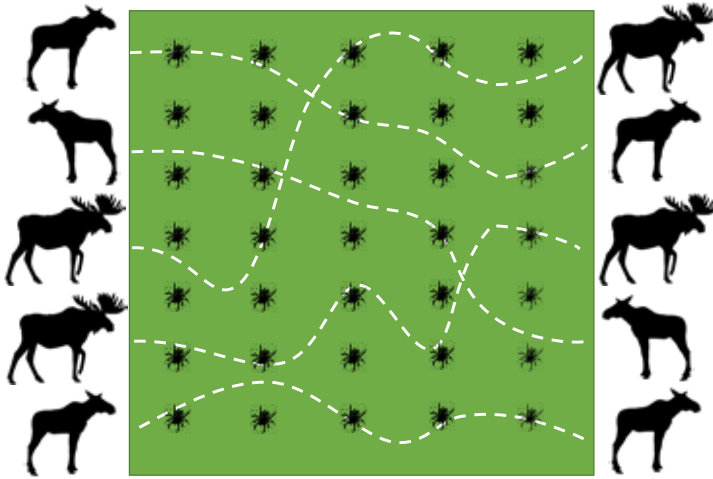


How Moose Density Affects Winter Tick Density

High Moose Density Example

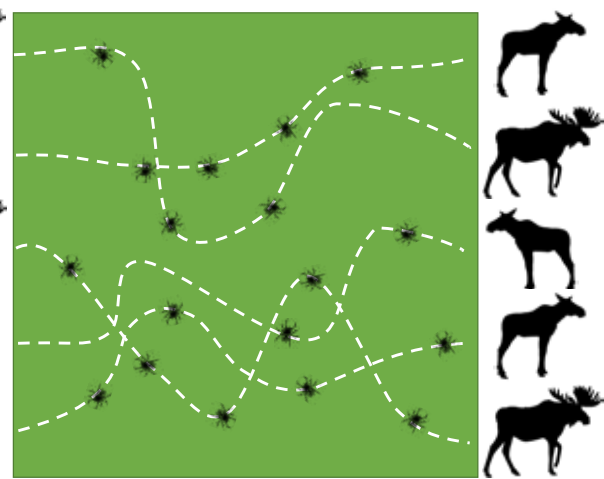
Fall Questing



More moose means questing tick larvae, which are not mobile, have a better chance of a moose walking past them.



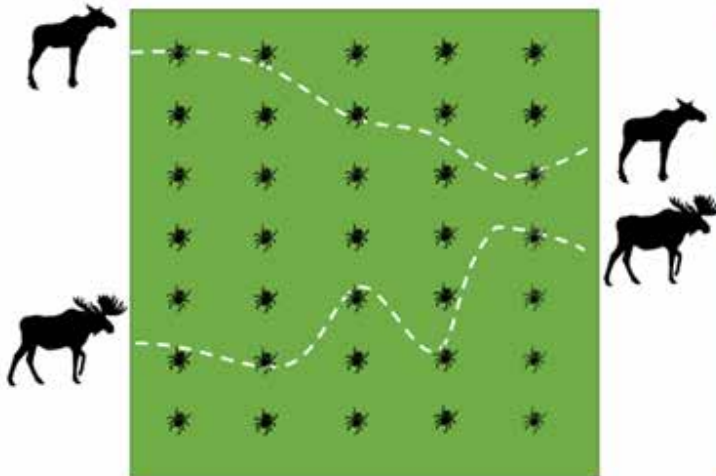
Spring Drop-off



The larger number of moose collectively pick up more ticks, resulting in more ticks dropping off in the spring.

Low Moose Density Example

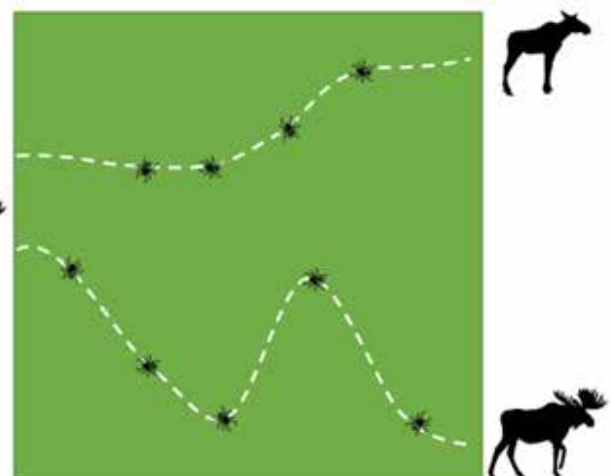
Fall Questing



Fewer moose means questing tick larvae, which are not mobile, have a lower chance of a moose walking past them.



Spring Drop-off



The smaller number of moose collectively pick up fewer ticks, resulting in less ticks dropping off in the spring.

With low moose densities, tick loads on individual moose would initially be similar to high moose densities. However, things would improve in subsequent years. Fewer ticks would be dropped off in the spring, resulting in fewer questing tick larvae the following fall. The chance of a moose encountering questing larvae is reduced, and tick loads on individual moose would be lower.