

Mosquito Control Update **April 20, 2012**

Mosquito activity continued at above normal activity levels. Once again, timely rainfalls and above normal tides produced from southerly winds stimulated more mosquito production. We are dealing with the same mosquitoes as in the past several weeks, namely the floodwater species of *Aedes vexans*, *Aedes sollicitans*, *Psorophora ferox*, and *Aedes atlanticus*. In addition, above normal populations of the permanent water species, *Culex salinarius*, *Anopheles crucians*, and *Culex quinquefasciatus* are common in some areas of the parish.

Adulticide measures involving both ground and aerial applications have been effective, the control has only been short lived due to re-infestation with the emergence of more mosquitoes. Over the past two weeks, a total of 102,400 acres have been aerielly treated. Areas included Mandeville, Covington, Slidell, Pearl River and a large area in the Sixth Ward. Ground ULV spraying has been employed throughout the parish. In addition, several marshland locations have been aerielly larvacided for the control of the immature stage of mosquito development. Larvaciding of the roadside ditches for the control of *Culex quinquefasciatus*, the southern house mosquito, has been performed twice throughout the parish over the past two weeks.

On Monday and Tuesday, another 2-4 inches of rainfall occurred. Mosquito larval inspections have indicated that another brood of floodwater mosquitoes was produced. These larvae will emerge as adult mosquitoes sometime next week. The most common species involved is *Aedes vexans*.

So far this year, a total of 1,063 mosquito pools have been tested for the presence of West Nile virus. Only one sample has returned positive. These test results indicate that up to now, the incidence of West Nile virus activity in the parish is very low.