Mosquito Control Update
April 6, 2015

Mosquito control operations have increased over the past few weeks with the arrival of warm temperatures on a consistent basis. Larvicide crews have been busy treating the roadside ditches that breed the southern house mosquito, *Culex quinquefasciatus*. . The latest breeding index for this species is 3.5 larvae per dip, which is still rather low, but is expected to show a gradual rise, based on its historical seasonal distribution. In addition, biologists and mosquito control inspectors have treated numerous domestic floodwater mosquito breeding sites with methoprene briquets, a synthetic insect juvenile hormone. This material keeps the mosquito larvae in an immature stage, thus preventing it from emerging as an adult. The briquets slowly release the methoprene when the site is flooded to provide control, and will last for about 5-6 months of flooding and drying conditions. Control results have been very good. Finally, approximately 200 acres of coastal marshland in the Mandeville area were aerially larvicided with *Bti*, the bacillus bacterial spore that acts specifically on mosquito larvae. Very good results were obtained.

Truck mounted sprayers have been employed over the past three weeks throughout the parish on a regular basis. The primary targeted mosquito species have been the floodwater species of *Aedes vexans* and *Psorophora ferox*, and the permanent water species of the southern house mosquito, *Culex quinquefasciatus*, *Culex salinarius*, and *Anopheles spps.* The same species have been targeted with aerial applications. A total of 102,400 acres have been aerially treated for the control of adult mosquitoes which included the greater areas of Mandeville, Covington, Lacombe, and Slidell.

So far this year, a total of 330 mosquito pools have been tested for the presence of West Nile virus. All have returned negative for West Nile virus. Mosquito samples were collected throughout the parish for the testing.