

Mosquito Activity Update

August 10, 2009

Test results from the LSU Veterinary Diagnostic Lab indicated there was only one positive mosquito pool for West Nile virus out of 74 submitted. These samples were collected from 37 sites throughout the parish. The positive mosquito pool was collected from the Lacombe area near the marsh. These results are a considerable decrease in the number of positive mosquito pools, as compared to two weeks ago when there were 19 out of 61 pools positive for West Nile virus. These results are a good sign that the viral infection levels in the mosquitoes may be decreasing. We will have to see if that trend continues. It is not a time, however to let our guard down. Also, there have been no more confirmed human cases reported for the past two weeks.

The District continues increased control measures to help to reduce the potential threat of human exposure to West Nile virus. Last week the District aerially treated 51,200 acres to control adult mosquitoes. Control was primarily directed in the western part of the parish and included all of the Covington and Mandeville areas. In addition, the entire parish was sprayed for adult mosquito control by truck. All of the roadside ditches that breed the southern house mosquito were also treated last week. Extra measures were also directed to control the larva and adult stage of the Asian tiger mosquito. The Asian tiger mosquito continues to be one of the predominate mosquitoes in the parish. Biologists and inspectors found many places throughout the parish that were breeding these mosquitoes. This species breeds exclusively in artificial containers such as old tires, cans, vases, pots, buckets and any other type container that can catch rainwater. The Asian tiger mosquito is one of the species that have returned positive for West Nile virus in the Parish and is a capable vector for the disease. Homeowners and businesses are urged to survey their property and empty containers that are holding water and store them in such a way that they will not collect water.