

Mosquito Control Update **August 25, 2015**

Test results from the 100 mosquito pools submitted to the LSU Veterinary Diagnostic Lab last week indicated only two positives for West Nile virus, which is down from five positives and six positives the previous weeks. Several previously positive locations in Slidell returned negative. These results indicate a decrease in the infection level in the mosquitoes, and that the risk for human infection could be decreasing. The positive samples were both from the southern house mosquito, *Culex quinquefasciatus*, and were collected from the Slidell area. For the year, a total of 2,209 mosquito pools have been collected and tested with 65 pools returning positive. One positive pool was collected from Lacombe, one from Pearl River, two from Covington, three from Mandeville, and the rest from the Slidell area. There were no reports of human cases of West Nile virus aside from the one reported in early August that had an onset in the last week of July.

Adult mosquito populations of the southern house mosquito, as evident from CDC light traps and gravid traps, and larval populations are relatively low. Mosquito control personnel continue to place much emphasis on targeting the southern house mosquito larvae and adults to reduce the numbers even further. Over the past two weeks, a total of 102,707 acres were aerially treated for the control of adult mosquitoes, with most emphasis on the southern house mosquito. Treated locations included areas in Slidell, Mandeville, Covington, and Pearl River. Truck mounted sprayers treated locations throughout the Parish.