

Mosquito Control Update **December 15, 2010**

Since the arrival of cooler temperatures, mosquito populations have decreased dramatically. As a result, the only control currently being employed is the spraying of the roadside septic ditches for the control of the southern house mosquito. During the fall, populations of this species were moderately high and in some areas of the parish the populations are still higher than normal. In November the breeding index of the southern house mosquito was 4.1, but has dropped to 2.2 the second week of December. No aerial or ground adulticide has been employed during December. Only limited aerial adulticide was required in October and November due to lower than normal mosquito populations. The few aerial treatments that were performed were directed for the control of the southern house mosquito adults.

December is the third consecutive month with no positive mosquito pools reported. The last positive mosquito pool was collected on September 21. For the year, a total of 1954 mosquito pools were tested with 21 having positive results for West Nile virus. November was the last month to utilize gravid traps for mosquito pool collections until late February 2011. The District will continue to test mosquito pools collected from New Jersey light trap collections, especially cold weather mosquitoes such as *Culiseta inornata* and *Culex restuans*.

District personnel are now involved with equipment repairs and preventative maintenance. All vehicles, sprayers, and miscellaneous equipment are brought into the shop for a long list of preventative maintenance items. Field personnel also assist in these repairs. Some field activities continue during the winter such as running light traps, mapping, and conducting some field inspections for mosquito breeding. Also, inspection and control data for 2010 is reviewed and evaluated as a beginning for preparation for the 2011 mosquito season.