

## **Mosquito Control Update July 13, 2015**

Results obtained from the LSU Veterinary Diagnostic Lab indicated that for the week ending July 5, all 88 mosquito pools were negative for West Nile virus. However for the week ending June 28, test results indicated 11 positive mosquito pools for West Nile virus out of 87 pools tested. These results bring the total positive mosquito pools to 16 out of 1,565 tested. A mosquito pool consists of 5-100 adult mosquitoes. The pools are collected each week from locations throughout the Parish. All of the positive pools were collected from areas in southwest Slidell, and were from the southern house mosquito, *Culex quinquefasciatus*. This species breeds in roadside ditches that have a high degree of organic matter, such as is the case with homes that have filter beds and septic tanks for waste water treatment. The primary method for control of the southern house mosquito is to treat the roadside ditches to eliminate the immature stages of mosquito development. Much emphasis has been placed on the control of this species since early February. The latest inspection numbers indicate the larval populations are very low for this time of year. In addition to the larviciding of the roadside ditches, aerial and ground control has been directed to the adult mosquitoes, especially in the areas of the positive mosquito pools.

The southern house mosquito's activity period is at night. It rarely bites during the daytime. It typically will harbor in shrubbery during the day and evening. Residents are urged to wear mosquito repellent that contains DEET when going into mosquito prone areas, and also keep entry doors closed as much as possible to prevent adult mosquitoes from entering the house. Residents are also advised to survey the yard for containers that hold water that can breed mosquitoes, such as the Asian tiger mosquito, *Aedes albopictus*. Although this species has not tested positive this year for West Nile virus, it is capable of transmitting West Nile virus. Containers such as buckets, cans, vases, wheel barrows, etc. should be stored so they cannot collect water.