

Mosquito Control Update

July 30, 2014

Mosquito control officials were informed recently by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) of a human case of West Nile virus. The case was reported from the Madisonville area. So far this year, the District has detected virus activity in 14 mosquito pools out of 1244 tested. The positive pools were sampled from 7 locations in the Madisonville and Mandeville areas. These are the only locations in the parish where West Nile virus has been detected in mosquitoes. All of the positive samples were collected from the Southern House Mosquito, *Culex quinquefasciatus*, the primary vector for West Nile virus. Since the spring, much emphasis has been directed toward the control of this mosquito species, which undergoes its larval development in roadside ditches that are high in organic matter. Such conditions are common in areas where residential wastewater treatment is performed by filter beds and septic tanks with the secondarily treated effluent being discharged into the roadside ditch. The District utilizes 7 spray trucks daily to treat the roadside ditches for the control of the Southern House Mosquito. Presently, the larval population levels, of this mosquito is at the lowest level since early spring. Also, the mosquito adult population is very low as evident by gravid trap collections.

Over the past two weeks, 122,880 acres were aerially adulticided primarily for the control of the Southern House Mosquito. The Mandeville, Madisonville, and Covington areas were treated twice while the Slidell area was aerially treated once. Extra emphasis will continue to be directed to the areas where the positive mosquito pools were detected. In addition to the aerial adulticide treatments, truck mounted sprayers were dispatched throughout the parish.

Residents are urged to survey their yards for any containers that may hold water and breed mosquitoes. These containers, such as buckets, vases, pots, wheelbarrows, etc, should be stored in areas where they cannot collect water. The Asia tiger mosquito commonly breeds in artificial containers and is considered a competent vector for West Nile virus.