

Mosquito Control Update

June 10, 2014

Heavy rainfalls that occurred at the end of May into the first week of June inundated numerous woodland floodwater mosquitoes breeding sites. Many locations in the Parish received eight successive days of rainfall. Some areas received as much as 12 inches of rain during that period. Mosquito larval inspection reports indicated large numbers of larval production throughout the Parish. Most of the breeding was in the 2nd, 5th and 6th Wards; however, considerable breeding was also in the Mandeville and Covington areas. It took a bit longer for the larvae to go through their development cycle; however, the adults began to emerge two days ago. The mosquito brood that we are presently experiencing is the largest one so far this year. Most of the Parish is affected by the large levels of these woodland floodwater mosquitoes. Aerial spraying for the control of the adult mosquitoes began Monday night. A total of 30,720 acres were treated in areas north of Covington and from Talisheek to Bush. Additionally, truck mounted sprayers treated areas in Folsom and North of Madisonville. Ground and aerial treatments will continue throughout the week. Tuesday night another 30,720 acres are scheduled to be aerially treated which will include areas in Hickory, Sun and Covington. Truck mounted sprayers will treat other areas of the Parish. Since the size of the adult mosquito populations are quite large and extensive, it will take several days to treat all of the areas of the Parish. Hopefully weather conditions will be conducive so that we will not have to cancel any scheduled sprayings.

Larval populations of the southern house mosquito have increased considerably over the past couple of weeks. This is the time of year when the population levels usually begin to increase. The control of the southern house mosquito is a top priority, especially as we approach the beginning of West Nile virus season. Much emphasis is directed to the treatment of the roadside ditches where the southern house mosquito breeds. So far this year, a total of 225 mosquito pools have been tested for West Nile virus and all have returned negative. The adult mosquitoes were collected from locations throughout the parish.