

Mosquito Control Update October 7, 2009

Rainfall continued to re-flood areas and produce more floodwater mosquitoes. As long as temperatures are moderate and frequent rainfall occurs, larger than average mosquito populations will continue. Lately, the floodwater mosquitoes of primary concern are the woodland breeders. These species include *Aedes vexans*, *Aedes atlanticus*, and *Psorophora ferox*. These mosquitoes are widely distributed throughout the parish, but are most abundant in areas near sloughs, creek beds, and depression areas in woodland locations. To a lesser degree, we have still been dealing with salt marsh mosquitoes, *Aedes sollicitans*, near the coastal areas of the parish.

Within the past week, 71,680 acres have been aerially treated for the control of adult mosquitoes. These areas included Covington, Mandeville, Folsom, lower Slidell and Lacombe, and some areas in the settlement of St. Tammany. Control results have been very good but only short lived in some cases due to re-infestation. Truck spraying of the entire parish has also been accomplished within the past week.

Good news continues to come in regarding West Nile virus activity. Test results obtained from the LSU Veterinary Diagnostic Lab on mosquito pools indicated only 1 positive out of 94 tested. These mosquitoes were collected in gravid traps and CDC light traps from 28 locations throughout the parish. The positive sample was once again in the southern house mosquito, *Culex quinquefasciatus*, and was collected from Covington. Populations of this mosquito still remain at relatively low levels.

Lately, there has been an increase in the permanent water breeding mosquitoes, *Culex nigripalpus* and *Culex salinarius*. These two mosquito species typically breed in permanently standing water in the coastal marshes. However, it will also breed in permanently standing pools in inland locations. It is common in the early fall to see populations of these species increase. Increased numbers have been collected in the New Jersey light traps, however, so far inspectors and biologists have not found breeding in the marsh to the level where an aerial larvicide treatment is needed. We will continue to monitor these mosquitoes in the event a larvicide treatment is necessary.