

Mosquito Control Update

September 1, 2009

The LSU Veterinary Diagnostic Lab reported 4 more positive mosquito pools for West Nile virus out of 56 submitted. The 56 mosquito pools were collected August 18 – 24. Two of the positive pools were collected from Covington, one from Mandeville, and one from Pearl River. All of the positives were in *Culex quinquefasciatus*, the southern house mosquito, which is the primary vector for West Nile virus. Population numbers of this species seem to have declined last week, since considerably fewer adults were collected in the gravid traps. Approximately 51,200 acres were aerially sprayed for the control of the southern house mosquito in Covington and Mandeville. All of the positive mosquito pool locations in Covington and Mandeville were included in the aerial treatments and were also treated by truck spraying to reduce the potential for human transmission of West Nile virus. The positive site in Pearl River received truck spraying during the week. All of these sites were inspected for larval breeding and were treated where breeding was found.

The salt marsh mosquito, *Aedes sollicitans*, invaded coastal communities in the central and western end of the parish. High adult counts of this species were detected in areas near Bayou Liberty, the Big Branch National Wildlife Refuge, Lacombe, and Fountainbleu State Park. These areas, (approximately 25,600 acres), were all aerially treated to reduce the population numbers. Excellent control was achieved with the aerial treatments. There are a few isolated pockets with moderate levels of salt marsh mosquitoes in the southeast part of the parish, but these can be handled with truck spraying. When the marsh receives additional rainfall or high tides, more salt marsh mosquitoes will be produced.