

Mosquito Activity Update September 15, 2010

Mosquito activity has been less than normal for this time of the year. The primary concern continues to be the control of *Culex quinquefasciatus*, the southern house mosquito and primary vector of West Nile virus (WNV). Population numbers of this species remained low, with a breeding density of 2.6 mosquito larvae per dip sampled, down from 4.1 in July. As populations were reduced, WNV infection levels in the southern house mosquito climbed in August as compared with July. Infection levels in the southern house mosquito were 2.70 positive per 1000 at the end of July and 3.70 positive mosquitoes per 1,000 at the end of August. By the end of the first week of September the infection levels were 0, which was good news. We are hopeful that this trend continues. We will continue to collect and test mosquitoes on a weekly basis for WNV activity. The District collects mosquito samples for testing from 130 locations throughout St. Tammany Parish. So far this year there have been no human cases of WNV.

In spite of some heavy rainfalls earlier in the month, only moderate levels of floodwater mosquitoes were produced. The most productive area for floodwater mosquitoes was around the Folsom area. In addition there have been isolated pockets of salt marsh mosquitoes in the extreme southeast part of the parish.

Over the past 2 weeks, aerial adulticide was employed on several occasions and covered 102,400 acres. Applications were made in Covington, Lacombe, Mandeville, Pearl River, Slidell, and Folsom. Most of the applications were for the control of the southern house mosquito to reduce the threat of WNV. Aerial treatments conducted in Folsom was for the control of woodland breeding mosquitoes. In addition, truck spraying for adult mosquito control was conducted throughout the parish over the past 2 weeks. Roadside septic ditches were treated for the control of the southern house mosquito once every 5-7 days.