

The Beaver County West Nile Virus vector-borne disease management program has started larval surveillance and treatments for the 2025 season. April is the beginning of the season to determine areas of concern and to treat areas to impede early mosquito emergence.

In April, approximately 29 sites have been treated with various means of larvicides (such as Altosid, Cocoabear, etc.) to help prohibit adult mosquitoes from emerging and over 165 larvae/pupae were collected at various sites.

Also in April, we conducted several education events throughout the county and attended the Beaver County Maple Syrup Festival on April 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. We also provided presentations on mosquitoes and ticks with emphasis on personal protection, source reduction, and habitat reduction.

Surveillance for adult mosquitoes will begin in May and continue through October. Springtime is a great time to survey properties for areas that are holding water for longer periods of time and may become mosquito breeding areas. Tarps, buckets, open trash cans, old tires off the rim, and even gutters on homes are potential mosquito breeding areas. Removing, dumping, or treating standing water areas with mosquito products like mosquito dunks will help stop mosquitoes from breeding as the weather warms. The destructive storms we had during the last week of April toppled over many trees. The tree holes formed from uprooted trees can hold water for extended periods of time and can make a great habitat for mosquitoes to breed. Filling in holes left behind, removing the stagnant water, or treating the area for mosquitoes if the hole cannot be filled, is recommended. With the warmer weather we have been having, the mosquitoes will be hatching out and it is important to remember to use personal protection during outdoor activities. Wearing EPA registered repellent can reduce the risk of mosquito bites and reduce the risk of mosquito-borne diseases like West Nile Virus.

Tick surveillance also began in April with 6 tick drags conducted and 7 ticks collected and submitted for testing and identification. Ticks are active all throughout the year, so it is always important to use personal protection. Some good tips to reduce tick bites, wear EPA registered repellents, wear long sleeved shirts and long pants with pants tucked into socks (so ticks are easier to spot and less skin access). Perform tick checks when returning from outdoor activities and don't forget to check your pets too!

Any questions related to mosquito concerns or mosquito disease like West Nile Virus, contact us at the office 724-378-1701 ext. 222.

Happy Spring!