

July has been in the thick of hot, humid, wet weather and mosquitoes love this kind of weather! We encourage everyone to be vigilant in removing any stagnant standing water that can breed mosquitoes and check areas around your property that can hold water like gutters, downspouts, tarps, outdoor toys, buckets, and unused tires.

Beaver County has seen an increase in West Nile virus in July in mosquito samples from mosquito surveillance. We had 18 positive West Nile virus mosquito samples from across the county. There were no human cases reported for Beaver County in July.

A total of 75 gravid traps were set and collected over 5,500 adult mosquitoes, 14 BG Sentinel traps were set and collected 266 adult mosquitoes, and 33 dipping samples collected approximately 75 larvae and pupae throughout the county. A total of 43 larval control events were conducted and 9 adult control events by thermal fogging, barrier treatments, and truck mounted ULV sprays were conducted to reduce adult mosquito populations.

Tick surveillance included 12 tick drags in July throughout the county and collected 4 nymphal ticks, 99 larval ticks, and 1 adult tick. One sample tested positive for Anaplasmosis.

Mosquitoes and ticks can bug us but the best way to reduce risks of being bitten and reduce the risk of mosquito-borne and tick diseases is by using personal protection while enjoying outdoor activities.

Mosquitoes are attracted to humans by many ways including the Carbon dioxide (CO₂) we emit from breathing, our perspiration, to the color clothing we wear. It is important to remember to wear insect repellent while enjoying the outdoors. There are many repellents on the market for consumers, and we recommend using EPA registered repellents. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers an online tool to choose the correct repellent for you and your family. Please visit www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-repellent-right-you for more information and to find the correct insect repellent that works for you.

Also, wearing light-colored clothing and long-sleeved shirts and long pants while enjoying the outdoors reduces the areas where mosquitoes can get a good bite of you. The light-colored clothing also helps to see if there are any ticks trying to catch a ride! Using insect repellent not only helps repel mosquitoes but helps repel ticks as well and reduces the risk of tick-borne diseases like Lyme disease. For more information on mosquitoes and ticks please visit www.beavercountyconservationdistrict.org or the PA DEP Vector Management Program at www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/programs-and-services/integration/vector-management/mosquitoes Keep yourself and your family safe this summer by using personal protection and enjoy the rest of summer!