

July was a challenging month for mosquito surveillance and control in Beaver County. With the hit or miss rainfall this month, the ever-changing mosquito breeding areas kept us busy.

July saw an increase in viral activity in Beaver County and an increase in nuisance mosquito species populations.

5 West Nile Virus positive mosquito traps were identified in Beaver County in July, as well as an increase in West Nile virus mosquito positive surveillance across the state of Pennsylvania.

We conducted 37 larval samplings and collected over 198 larvae in July.

We set 62 gravid traps throughout the county and collected over 10,000 adult mosquitoes. We also set 9 BG Sentinel traps to determine nuisance mosquitoes throughout the county and collected approximately 130 adult mosquitoes.

We conducted 56 larval control events throughout the county and 5 adult control events by means of backpack spraying at various locations.

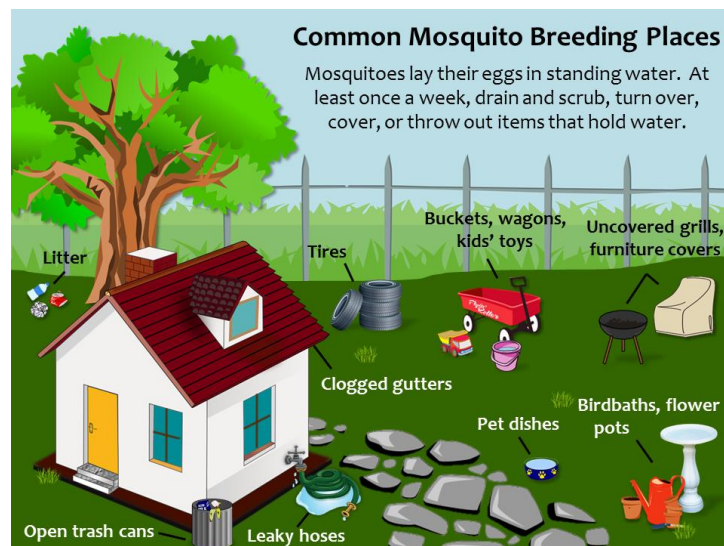
In July, there were 9 tick drags conducted throughout the county. Approximately 35 ticks were collected in various growth stages from larvae to adult. 2 drags tested positive for *Borrelia burgdorferi* (Lyme Disease) and *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* (Anaplasmosis) at locations within the county.

With the presence of West Nile Virus in Beaver County, we would just like to remind everyone to take protective measures while enjoying the outdoors this summer.

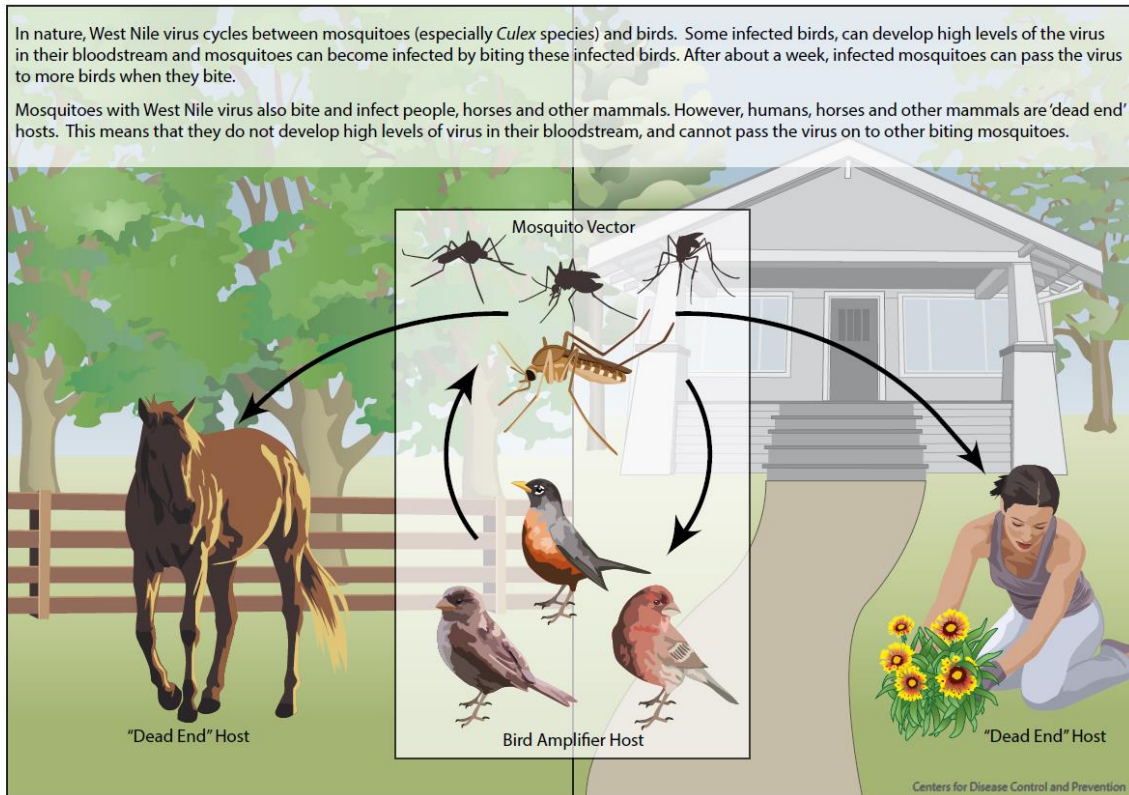
- Remove any areas of standing water on properties that may become areas of mosquito breeding.
- Check screens in doors and windows for rips or tears where mosquitoes could enter homes.
- Wear long sleeved shirts and long pants during outdoor activities to decrease areas of bare skin for insects to bite.
- Use EPA approved registered insect repellent to repel mosquitoes.

We would also like to offer some information on West Nile Virus transmission and symptoms. Please see the attached flyer. If you feel you may have West Nile Virus, seek help from your health care provider.

If you have any questions about mosquitoes and West Nile Virus, give us a call 724-378-1701 ext. 222.



West Nile Virus Transmission Cycle



West Nile Virus is a virus transmitted from infected birds to mosquitoes when a mosquito bites an infected bird. It is then transmitted to humans when the infected female mosquito bites the human and takes a bloodmeal. Female mosquitoes must take a bloodmeal to lay their eggs.

Humans are considered an incidental infection or dead-end host, which means we cannot pass the virus on to other biting mosquitoes and continue the transmission cycle.

Most people infected with West Nile virus will either have no symptoms or mild flu like symptoms with fever, aches, headache, and fatigue with recovery in a few days.

A small percentage, 1 in 150 people, can develop more serious conditions that can lead to encephalitis with symptoms such as tremors, convulsions, paralysis and even death.

There is no treatment or vaccine for humans.

If you have concerns that you may have West Nile virus, consult your health care provider.

For more information on mosquitoes and West Nile virus, visit our website.

www.beavercountyconservationdistrict.org

