

August was a busy mosquito month in Beaver County. Increased numbers of nuisance and vector carrying mosquitoes were reported throughout the county. 3 calls of concern were investigated across the county in August.

Beaver county reported 12 West Nile Virus mosquito traps in August with positive traps found throughout the county. A total of 46 counties in Pennsylvania have reported West Nile Virus in 2023, so far.

We conducted 47 larval samplings and collected over 209 larvae in August.

We set 76 gravid traps throughout the county and collected over 8,694 adult mosquitoes. We also set 13 BG Sentinel traps to determine nuisance mosquitoes throughout the county and collected over 1,000 adult mosquitoes.

We conducted 67 larval control events throughout the county and 10 adult control events, 3 ULV truck mounted spray events and 7 events by means of backpack spraying at various locations.

In August, there were 10 tick drags conducted throughout the county. Approximately 175 ticks were collected in various growth stages from larvae to adult. No drags tested positive for disease in August.

West Nile Virus viral activity will stay prevalent throughout approximately the next month or so. Keeping that in mind, we would like to remind everyone to stay vigilant in removing any mosquito breeding habitats from properties and dumping any containers that may hold stagnant water for longer periods of time. Clean out birdbaths, dog bowls, kiddie swimming pools and other outside containers on a regular basis and keep ornamental fishponds aerated to reduce stagnant water where mosquitoes can breed.

To reduce the risk of mosquito bites while enjoying outdoor activities, wear insect repellent and take precautions while enjoying the outdoors. Attached is a guide to Insect Repellent Essentials which is offered by the Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases and is a helpful guide in explaining insect repellents and includes resources for additional information.

There are also ways to reduce adult mosquitoes from personal properties. Homeowners can conduct treatments in their own yards. There are products offered at home and hardware stores that can help reduce adult mosquitoes. These products should be used with careful attention, as they may affect bees and other beneficial insects. Always read the label before using any product to ensure you are using it correctly and as intended to offer the best results.

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