

September continued to see West Nile Virus within Beaver County.

We had 6 mosquito traps test positive for West Nile Virus in Beaver County. A total of 50 counties in Pennsylvania have reported West Nile Virus in 2023.

There was 1 call of concern for mosquitoes and 1 dead bird submission in September.

We conducted 4 adult control events in September, 4 backpack barrier events at various locations throughout the county.

We conducted 34 larval control events from 34 larval samplings that collected over 94 larvae.

We set 60 gravid traps within the county and collected over 3,290 adult mosquitoes. There were also 7 BG Sentinel traps set and collected 312 adult mosquitoes.

Spring tick surveillance concluded at the end of August. Beaver County conducted 48 tick drags throughout the season. We collected 55 adult ticks, 163 larvae, and 102 nymphs. 20 drags were positive for various diseases including Lyme disease, and Anaplasmosis.

Pennsylvania has also reported finding Jamestown Canyon Virus in the state this year. 8 counties have reported positive mosquito samples for the virus. Beaver County has **NOT** detected any Jamestown Canyon Virus through trapping this year. Jamestown Canyon Virus symptoms may include fever, headache, sore throat, and cough but most people infected show no symptoms. It can cause Encephalitis and Meningitis, but deaths are rare. If you have any concerns or questions about an illness, please consult a healthcare professional.

The PA Dept of Health states:

“JCV is spread to people through the bite of an infected mosquito in an area where Jamestown Canyon virus is known to circulate. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on deer or other animals that have the virus in their blood. Infected mosquitoes can then spread the virus to people and other animals by biting them. People do not develop high enough levels of the virus in their blood to infect mosquitoes and further spread the disease. Jamestown Canyon virus is not spread by coughing, sneezing, touching, or other contact with someone who is infected.”

For more information concerning Jamestown Canyon Virus visit our website or visit the PA DEP WNV website www.dep.pa.gov/Business/ProgramIntegration/Vector-Management/Mosquitoes/

Although summer is coming to an end, we can still experience warmer days and mosquitoes will still be active until a killing frost. We would just like to remind everyone to wear insect repellent while enjoying outdoor activities and to check yards and properties to remove any containers that may hold water for prolonged time periods. Dump any stagnant water that may collect on tarps and in garbage cans and check gutters that can hold water and debris which makes for great mosquito habitat!

We would also like to remind everyone that we have Tick Kits available at the District Office now. It is a small pouch that can be taken on walks and hikes and contains tweezers, repellent wipes, bandages, etc. Stop by and pick one up and enjoy a walk around the grounds.

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