

Mosquito Control Update October 20, 2009

Up until the arrival of the cold front this past weekend, mosquito activity was moderate to high in some areas of the parish. As temperatures warm, the activity period of adult mosquitoes will also increase. The southern part of the parish continued to experience influxes of salt marsh mosquitoes while the more northern parts of the parish dealt with the woodland breeding mosquitoes. So far in the month of October, rainfall is 4-6 inches, depending on location. As long as we continue to experience rainfall events and temperatures are moderate, we will have more floodwater mosquitoes produced. Some permanent water breeding mosquitoes, namely *Culex salinarius*, *Culex nigripalpus*, and *Anopheles crucians*, characteristically increase in the fall of the year with the arrival of cooler temperatures. These mosquitoes breed mainly in the coastal marshes in the southern part of the parish. For the past couple of weeks, light trap data has indicated the increase of these mosquito species.

Last week, 40,960 acres were aerially treated for the control of adult mosquitoes. Selected locations in the Sixth and Second Wards were sprayed for the control of woodland mosquitoes. There were some pockets of these mosquitoes where landing rates were as high as 30-40 per minute. Very good control was obtained. Selected areas from Southeast Slidell to Lacombe were also aerially sprayed as well as lower Mandeville. The treatments were to control salt marsh mosquitoes as well as permanent water mosquitoes. Ultra low volume truck spraying was performed throughout the parish.

Larvaciding the roadside ditches for the control of the southern house mosquito, *Culex quinquefasciatus*, continued. All of the ditches identified as breeding this mosquito are treated at least once a week with a microbial larvicide which acts specifically on only the mosquito larvae. Populations remain relatively low with a breeding index of 4.6 larvae per dip. For the second week in a row, results for the testing of mosquito pools for West Nile virus activity were negative. Hopefully this trend will continue. These data indicate that the activity level for West Nile virus is relatively low. As we proceed further into the fall and winter, the potential for West Nile virus activity will continue to be reduced.