Penn State Extension

York County Mosquito Buzz

York County | February 2012

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York County Commissioners Approve Agreement with PA Department of Environmental Protection to Receive Grant Funding for 2012 Mosquito Surveillance and Control Program

In 2011, York County ranked #1 in Pennsylvania for highest confirmed mosquito samples testing positive for West Nile Virus. York County mosquito populations were also at record highs in 2011. A variety of conditions contributed to this: weather extremes brought flooding and drought; new construction; homes in foreclosure; illegal dumping and yard clutter. Residents, businesses and municipalities are asked to take time now to help clean up York County. With warmer than usual winter temperatures, mosquito season will be starting early this year.



Mosquito Fact: Did you know that York County is home to 31 different species of mosquitoes? The most common mosquito species found in residential areas breed in artificial containers such as buckets, tires and tarps.

Local municipalities, school districts, businesses and individuals in York County are struggling in these tough economic times. Now is the time to get involved and promote cleaning up your community in York County. Many do not recognize that issues such as lower tax revenue, foreclosures, unemployment and crime in a community are linked to how trashy and run-down the area looks. Our "Keep York County Beautiful" program is performing cleanup events, organizing educational events, a tire collection program and seeking funding for local beautification projects. York County municipalities and local volunteer organization can support to plan a cleanup event. March 1st through May 31st is the "Great American Cleanup of Pennsylvania" and "Pick It Up PA Days" will occur from April 21st through May 7th. York County Solid Waste Authority is also accepting waste from cleanup events for free if registered ahead of time. If help is needed to organize a cleanup event,



please contact Tom Smith at 717-840-2375 or email at tls35@psu.edu. Keep York County Beautiful can assist with supplies such as gloves, bags and safety vests.

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Do you need an article for your municipal newsletter? Please include the information below.

Every year mosquitoes return to irritate residents that would like to enjoy being outside. What can be done to reduce these pests and the chance of transmitted diseases? Tom Smith, of Penn State Cooperative Extension has some simple suggestions to help. Residents need to inspect their own yards and property for items that can hold water and dump or drain the water. These containers may be something small such as cans, buckets, tires, kiddy toys or tarps to items as large as a covered swimming pool. Taking the time to perform a little yard cleanup will make your summer much more enjoyable.

Many residents have concerns about retention ponds, believing they are a source of mosquitoes. If these areas hold water all the time then predators are present and keep mosquito larvae in check. Trash, litter or yard clutter nearby is usually found to be the source of mosquitoes. Occasionally, ruts created by mowers may collect water and produce mosquitoes.

York County remains an area of concern for the risk of West Nile. Resident's that are over fifty years of age or have a compromised immune system because of an illness such as Lyme Disease are more at risk for West Nile Encephalitis. Anytime you and your family are outside be sure to wear a repellent. Products containing DEET are most effective. Other repellents are also available. Residents need to use the repellent that works best for them. After following the above recommendations, if you still have mosquito problems, try taking a fan outside with you. Mosquitoes are weak fliers and keeping the air moving on your deck or patio will keep the mosquitoes away. If you would like additional information about stormwater, mosquitoes, ticks and repellent use, please contact the York County West Nile Virus Program at 717-840-2375 or email tls35@psu.edu.

Legal Information

- * A Fishing License is required to collect and kill mosquito larvae.
- * New for 2012, Under the Clean Water Act, Pesticides are now considered a pollutant. Most pesticide applications for mosquito control now require a NPDES permit.
- * Municipalities with MS4 requirements. Illegal dumping is an Illicit Discharge of Pollution. For more information visit EPA's website at: http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater and select Municipal MS4s on left side of page. Access Stormwater Phase II Final Rule Fact Sheet Series.
- * Municipalities have an array of tools available to motivate land owners to clean up. This is a good time to review your local zoning ordinances. Last year state lawmakers passed the Neighborhood Blight Reclamation and Revitalization Act (Act 90 of 2010).
- * PA State Board of Education Academic Standards for Environment and Ecology require students to learn about watersheds, environmental health, integrated pest management and environmental laws and regulations. This starts in the forth grade.

Upcoming Pesticide Programs for Your Licensed Applicators

March 15, 2012: afternoon and evening programs providing 2 Core Credits and 2 Category Credits for PC, #11, #16, #18 and #23.

Just Announced, April 25, 2012: Common Pests & Pesticide Safety Program for municipal, school district and parks employees.
Will provide 2 Core Credits and 4 Category

Credits for #11, #16, #18 and #23.

Please contact Tom Smith for details at 717-840-2375 or email tls35@psu.edu





Example of commonly found mosquito breeding sources

An OUTREACH program of the College of Agricultural Sciences

Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences research and extension programs are funded in part by Pennsylvania counties, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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