

WEST NILE VIRUS

Once again, New Hampshire led the nation with human Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) activity. In 2007, there were three human cases, one horse, one alpaca and six mosquito pools testing positive for EEE. A fourth human case occurred in a Scottish tourist vacationing in the Bartlett-North Conway area. No one can be certain where he contracted the disease since he traveled to Rhode Island during that time. The confirmed human cases occurred in the Towns of Newton, Newfields and Hampton. Kensington had the horse case while Raymond had an alpaca. The six mosquito pools were found in Newton (2), Brentwood (2), Kingston (1) and Fremont (1).

Due to the ongoing public health threat, Newton chose to continue weekly adult mosquito surveillance in its 2007 program. Adult mosquitoes were monitored at seven locations throughout town. The mosquitoes were collected in light traps, identified, and sent to the State Lab to be tested for diseases. After a positive EEE mosquito pool was found in Town, four high-use sites were sprayed. A Newton resident contracted EEE in early August, and in response, town wide spraying was conducted. A second mosquito pool tested positive for EEE in mid September and the same four high-use sites were sprayed again. No further EEE activity was found in Newton.

The proposed 2008 Mosquito Control plan for Newton includes trapping mosquitoes for disease testing, sampling wetlands for larval mosquito activity, larvicide where mosquito larvae are found, and emergency spraying when a public health threat exists. The control program begins in April when mosquito larvae are located in stagnant water such as swamps, ditches, woodland pools and catch basins. Trapping adult mosquitoes for disease testing begins in June. The mosquito control program ends in late September or early October when temperatures drop and daylight diminishes.

Homeowners can reduce the number of mosquitoes in their yards by emptying any outdoor containers that hold standing water, such as buckets, trash barrels, and boats. Tires collect enough water for mosquitoes to survive. It is also a good idea to change the water in bird baths every two or three days.

If you **do not** want your property treated for mosquitoes, then a **written request is needed**. Please send a letter to Dragon Mosquito Control, P.O. Box 46, Stratham, NH 03885. Be sure to include your name, physical address, phone number, and a description of your property with boundaries. Otherwise, your property may be treated. Our phone number is 964-8400. You may call our office for assistance regarding mosquitoes, the insecticides we use, spray dates, or questions about West Nile Virus or EEE.

For more information on Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus, visit the NH Department of Health and Human Services website online at www.dhhs.state.nh.us or the Centers for Disease Control at www.cdc.gov

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah MacGregor, President
Dragon Mosquito Control, Inc.