

MOSQUITO CONTROL Annual Report for 2008

New Hampshire experienced Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) activity for the fifth year in a row. In 2008, mosquitoes carrying EEE were found in seven communities including Brentwood, Danville, Exeter, Manchester, Newfields, Newmarket and Newton. The State confirmed an emu in Barnstead died from EEE and four other emus died in the same manner at that farm but were not tested. One sample of mosquitoes from Kensington tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). There were no reported human cases of EEE or WNV in New Hampshire, however a man from Newburyport, MA died from EEE last season; he had spent time in Gorham, NH and Maine during his likely exposure period.

In Stratham, four traps were set each week from June into October. Adult mosquitoes were caught, identified to species and sent to the State Lab where they were tested for EEE and WNV. Mosquitoes collected in Stratham showed no sign of disease last summer. We have identified 84 larval mosquito habitats in the Town of Stratham. Crews checked sites 309 times throughout the season. There were 155 larvicide treatments to eliminate mosquito larvae. In addition, 791 catch basins were treated to combat disease carrying mosquitoes. Town-wide spraying to control adult mosquitoes was also conducted last season.

The proposed 2009 Mosquito Control plan for Stratham includes trapping mosquitoes for disease testing, sampling wetlands for larval mosquito activity, larviciding where mosquito larvae are found, and town wide spraying along the roads. The control program begins in April when mosquito larvae are located in stagnant water such as swamps, salt marshes, ditches, and woodland pools. Trapping adult mosquitoes 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 yard 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 birdbaths every two or three days. Your help is vital to the overall success of the plan.

If you're new in town and 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 and acreage, otherwise, your property may be treated. Anyone who sent a written request in 2008 may call the office to reaffirm that request. If we haven't heard from you in a few years, then it's time to contact us in order to remain on the no-spray list. Our phone number is 964-8400. You may call our office for assistance regarding mosquitoes, the insecticides we use, spray plans, or questions about EEE or WNV.

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

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