

It's October, time for falling leaves and the end of mosquito season for the Beaver County West Nile program and 2024 was a busy year for mosquitoes.

It was an especially viral year for West Nile virus in the United States and in the county this year. Beaver County reported a total of 91 West Nile virus positive mosquito samples from gravid trapping.

Beaver County reported 0 human cases in 2024 but there were 48 human cases in Pennsylvania of 976 human cases throughout the United States (including 46 states).

Beaver County surveillance collected over 42,200 mosquitoes in gravid traps, over 2,500 in BG Sentinel traps, and over 1,600 larvae/pupae in samples.

To reduce the risk of disease to the public, 342 larval control events were conducted throughout the county and 42 adult events. Of the adult events, 9 thermal fogs were conducted, 24 barrier treatments, and 9 ULV truck sprays.

7 calls of concern from residents and 2 dead bird calls were investigated and tested for mosquito viruses.

Beaver County also participated in tick surveillance in 2024. 48 tick drags were conducted throughout the county from April-August. 1,007 larval ticks, 99 nymphal ticks, and 27 adult ticks were collected via tick drag. 14 samples tested positive for pathogens. 13.1% for *Borrelia burgdorferi* (Lyme Disease) and 11.1% for *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* (Anaplasmosis).

As the temperatures decrease, mosquito activity starts to decrease, but mosquitoes are still active until the first killing frost. Using personal protection during outdoor activities, such as using EPA registered insect repellent and wearing long sleeved shirts and long pants, help reduce exposure to mosquitoes and ticks (ticks remain active in the fall and winter).

Beaver County Conservation District will resume mosquito and tick surveillance in the spring of 2025.

We wish everyone a Happy Fall!