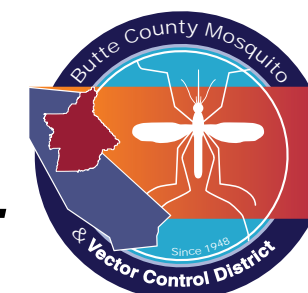




BUTTE COUNTY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

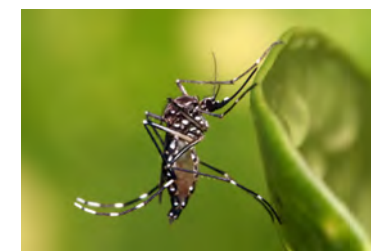


1st Quarter, 2021

Newsletter

2021 SURVEILLANCE

The 2021 mosquito season has started and the District's surveillance program is now underway. The District's 54 sentinel chickens will arrive on April 15th and 42 of the chickens will be evenly distributed to one of the seven flocks located throughout the District. Blood samples are taken from the chickens bi-weekly and tested for mosquito-borne viruses. The District's 31 gravid traps and 28 New Jersey light traps will be in place on April 12th and 13th respectively. The District utilizes the trap counts from these traps to focus the efforts of the Mosquito and Vector Control Specialists throughout the County. Along with the surveillance program, mosquito control has once again commenced. Urban and residential areas are areas of concern for spring hatch mosquitoes, for these are the mosquito species that can carry and transmit such diseases as West Nile virus (WNV). Larval inspections and larval control are currently underway in municipal and private sources such as storm drains, catch basins, retention ponds, detention ponds, and other man made mosquito-breeding sources. Floodwater sources are also being monitored and treated as needed. Identifying mosquito sources early in the spring and eliminating the mosquitoes in their larval state is essential to the overall success of lowering the adult populations that will threaten communities in the summer.



2020/2021 TICK SURVEILLANCE

The District remains committed to lowering the risk of tick bites and tick-borne disease through public education and outreach. The District routinely conducts tick surveillance in high use public land areas, such as Upper Bidwell Park and the Lake Oroville Recreation area to provide the public with the knowledge of where and when ticks are abundant and key places to avoid while enjoying the outdoors. The tick species of highest concern to the District is the Western black-legged tick (*Ixodes pacificus*), commonly referred to as the deer tick. The heightened concern with this tick is due to its ability to transmit Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses. Residents are reminded that the best way to avoid getting a tick-borne illness, such as Lyme disease, is to ensure that you don't get bitten by a tick. A good precaution to take after visiting an area that possibly had ticks is to thoroughly check yourself, your children, and your pets for ticks. For more information on ticks the District has a brochure and other informational pamphlets which are available to the public at the District office and they are also posted to the District's website at www.ButteMosquito.com. In the future, the District plans on experimenting with new control methods to achieve lower tick populations thus reducing the risk of tick-borne disease to the County's residents.



Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District
5117 Larkin Road
Oroville, CA. 95965

MOSQUITOFISH

With Butte County's current COVID-19 risk level at "Substantial", mosquitofish are currently available only at the District headquarters in Oroville and in Chico at the Chico sub-station. Mosquitofish operations will return to normal once the State mandate has been lifted.

DEAD BIRD HOTLINE

The California Department of Public Health's dead bird hot line is staffed with live operators from April 12th through mid-October. Residents who find dead birds are urged to call the West Nile virus hot line at 1-877-968-BIRD (2473). The hot line is available from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The public can also report dead birds online at www.westnile.ca.gov or by visiting www.BUTTEMOSQUITO.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District is primarily to suppress mosquito-transmitted disease and also to reduce the annoyance levels of mosquitoes and diseases associated with ticks, fleas and other vectors through environmentally compatible control practices and public education.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District
5117 Larkin Road, Oroville, CA. 95965

Phone: (530) 533-6038, (530) 342-7350
Fax: (530) 534-9916

Website: www.BUTTEMOSQUITO.com

"FIGHT THE BITE!"

AERIAL SURVEILLANCE

For the sixteenth year in a row, the District has contracted with an aerial surveillance service to survey un-maintained swimming pools and other possible mosquito breeding sources (target areas) in the District. This year, the District has again contracted with Ron O'Hanlon and Associates. Ron O'Hanlon has an extensive background in geographic imaging having spent many years creating maps for the United States Forest Service. O'Hanlon and Associates can effectively snap photos from a helicopter or a fixed wing aircraft over "suspected un-maintained swimming pools" and record the location using global positioning systems (GPS). A report is then constructed from this data. The report, containing maps, aerial photographs, and GPS fixed positions of possible mosquito breeding sources, is then submitted to the District. The District's Mosquito and Vector Control Specialists can take these reports into the field and investigate all of the targeted areas. "Finding mosquitoes before they become adults is vital and this program gives the specialists the ability to see a lot of mosquito breeding sources that otherwise would not be seen" said Matt Ball, District Manager for Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District, "effectively controlling the mosquitoes in their larval state is the most effective form of mosquito control. Additionally, the District will again commence the "fixed" wing aerial surveillance program. This program focuses on the surveillance of large properties such as duck clubs, artificial wetlands, and periodic flooding of large areas such as wildlife areas. The District's pilot utilizes a Cessna aircraft that can hold up to four individuals (three Mosquito Control Specialists and the pilot). From the air the Mosquito Control Specialists can take aerial photographs and plot the movement of floodwater and fix a location using a GPS unit. This information is then taken to the field and the appropriate action is taken if mosquito larvae are found.



Example of an aerial photograph

2021 PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

With Butte County's COVID-19 risk level currently at "Substantial", there are no current face to face public education events scheduled. The District realizes that some events may be rescheduled for later in the year and the District will remain flexible to meet the public education needs of the District's residents at these events.

All of the events that the District attends have an excellent insect display, as well as a mosquitofish and mosquito larvae display. At these events the District also hands out, free of charge, fly/mosquito swatters, tick identification cards, recyclable shopping bags, and mosquito repellent.

The District also gives classroom presentations at local schools in Butte County. The classroom presentations include "Trouble with Ticks" and "Fight the Bite".

The District will again partner with Stott Advertising on a billboard campaign. This year's slogan is "Fight the Bite!". The six billboards will rotate throughout the county from May through September. The new billboard uses the District's new website address "www.ButteMosquito.com".

The District has also contracted with Action News Now, for a 30 second mosquito awareness animated commercial. Also, the District will continue with its radio advertising, and also it's print advertising.

A billboard graphic for the "Fight The Bite!" campaign. The text "Fight The Bite!" is written in large, bold, orange letters at the top. Below it, three bullet points in orange circles list: "AVOID DAWN AND DUSK", "DRAIN STANDING WATER", and "WEAR REPELLENT". To the right of the text is a detailed illustration of a mosquito. At the bottom left is the Butte County Mosquito & Vector Control District logo, and at the bottom right is the website address "BUTTEMOSQUITO.COM" in large, bold, orange letters.

2021 Billboard Campaign