

Butte County Mosquito & Vector Control District

Since 1948

1st Quarter, 2024

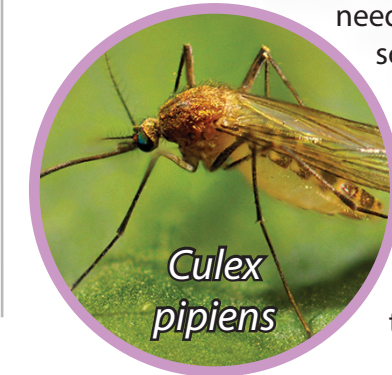
Newsletter

2024 MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE

The 2024 mosquito season has started, and the District's surveillance program is now underway. The District's 54 sentinel chickens will arrive in late April, and 42 of the chickens will be evenly distributed to the 7 chicken coops located throughout the District. Blood samples are taken from the chickens bi-weekly and tested for mosquito-borne diseases. The District's 31 gravid traps and 28 New Jersey light traps will be in place in mid-April. The District analyzes the mosquito abundance 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 regions are areas of concern for spring mosquitoes. These are the mosquito species that can carry and transmit diseases such 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.



2023/2024 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 Upper Bidwell Park and the Lake Oroville Recreation area. 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 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 informational pamphlets at buttemosquito.com or the District's main office and Chico sub-station.



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



MOSQUITOFISH

Mosquitofish are currently available only at the District headquarters in Oroville and in Chico at the Chico sub-station. Mosquitofish may be requested over the phone (530) 533-6038 or through service requests at www.buttemosquito.com. Mosquitofish tanks will be deployed at a number of locations in early summer.



DEAD BIRD HOTLINE

You can submit a dead bird report to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) year-round using



www.buttemosquito.com
www.westnile.ca.gov
1 - 8 7 7 - W N V - B I R D

The hotline is open from April to October, 8:00am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

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 & Vector Control District
5117 Larkin Road, Oroville, CA. 95965
Phone: (530) 533-6038, (530) 342-7350
Fax: (530) 534-9916
www.buttemosquito.com
"FIGHT THE BITE!"

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EARLY MOSQUITO CONTROL MEASURES

In Butte County, grappling with early season mosquito control, managing storm drains and catch basins becomes paramount to curb mosquito breeding grounds. These drainage systems, often overlooked, can become prime breeding sites for mosquitoes due to the accumulation of stagnant water.

Regular inspections and cleanings are conducted to remove any debris or stagnant water from storm drains and catch basins. This not only prevents mosquitoes from laying eggs but also ensures smooth water flow during heavy rainfall, reducing the risk of flooding.



"Finding mosquitoes before they become adults is vital and this program allows the specialists the ability to control early season mosquito breeding in sources that otherwise would not be seen, and effectively controlling the mosquitoes in their larval state is the most effective form of mosquito control!"

**-Matt Ball
District Manager**



In addition to routine maintenance, larvicide treatments are often applied to these areas. Larvicides are chemicals specifically designed to target mosquito larvae, effectively interrupting their life cycle and preventing population growth.

Furthermore, the community's involvement plays a crucial role in mosquito control efforts. Residents are encouraged to eliminate any standing water around their properties and report any drainage issues to the District promptly. By fostering a collaborative approach between local government and residents, the District can effectively mitigate the threat of mosquito-borne diseases while maintaining a clean and safe environment for all inhabitants.

The District's Mosquito and Vector Control Specialists can take these reports from the community into the field and investigate critical areas for early season mosquito breeding.

2024 PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

All of the events that the District attends have an excellent insect display, mosquitofish and mosquito larvae display, fly/mosquito swatters, tick identification cards, recyclable shopping bags, and mosquito repellent. All of which are free of charge.

The District gives classroom presentations at local schools in Butte County and include information about mosquitoes, ticks and other vector-borne public health concerns.

The District will partner with Lamar Advertising on a billboard, bus, and bus stop shelter campaign. This year's slogan is "Fight the Bite: Cover up. Repel. Eliminate". The advertisements will rotate throughout the county, May through September.

The District has contracted with Action News Now, for a 30 second mosquito awareness animated public service announcement. Also, the District will continue with its radio and print public service announcements.

Invasive *Aedes aegypti* brochures, mailers and door hangers will be distributed at public events and in the immediate vicinity of increased detections of invasive mosquitoes.



Chico Spring Home & Garden Show April 6th & 7th, 2024
The largest home and garden show in the North State. Five buildings packed with vendors and outdoor displays at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds



Gold Nugget Craft Faire April 27th & 28th, 2024
Located in Terry Ashe Recreation Center in Paradise, featuring a variety of craft vendors, a parade, and an assortment of food vendors.



Red Suspenders Day May 18th, 2024
A celebration of local police and firefighters held in downtown Gridley. The event includes vendors, a car show, a parade and more.

