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

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

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"FIGHT THE BITE!"

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Butte County Mosquito & Vector Control District

Since 1948

3rd Quarter, 2025 Newsletter

2025 MOSQUITO SEASON IN REVIEW

In 2025, the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District faced one of its most demanding mosquito seasons. Staff and the Board of Trustees dedicated long days, nights, and even holidays to protect public health and respond to community needs. As of September 18th, a total of 2,801 service requests were addressed, along with West Nile virus detections and the continued challenge of the invasive mosquito species *Aedes aegypti*.

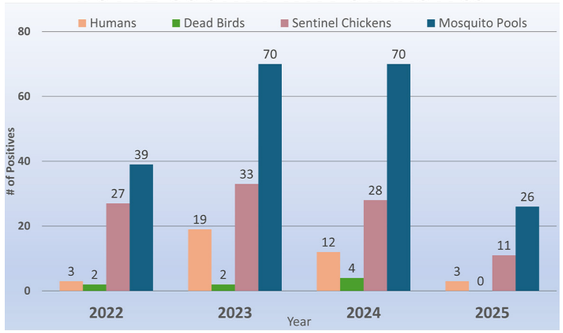
This year also marked a milestone for aerial operations. With the addition of two new pilots and two new aircraft, the District achieved record-breaking acreage treated by air to reduce mosquito populations across Butte County. These advancements strengthened the District's ability to respond quickly and effectively to mosquito threats across the county's diverse landscapes, from rural communities to urban neighborhoods.

The dedication, skill, and teamwork demonstrated by employees and Trustees went above and beyond expectations. Their combined efforts not only safeguarded public health but also set a new standard for service and innovation in mosquito control. 2025 will be remembered as a year of resilience, progress, and achievement—one that reinforced the District's commitment to protecting the health, safety, and quality of life for everyone in Butte County.

WEST NILE VIRUS ACTIVITY

As of September 18th, 26 mosquito pools and 11 sentinel chickens have tested positive for West Nile virus, within the District's service area. There have been 3 human cases reported. West Nile virus can lead to serious illness, particularly in older adults and those with weakened immune systems. Preventing mosquito breeding and limiting exposure to mosquito bites are key steps in keeping our community safe. Ongoing mosquito control efforts play a vital role in protecting public health and supporting the well-being of everyone in our community.

BUTTE COUNTY WNV STATISTICS



AERIAL OPERATIONS

As of September 18th, Aerial Operations has treated 84,026 acres of rice, 10,426 acres of wetlands and 8 Ultra-Low-Volume(ULV) adulticide treatments of 61,440 acres. A total of 155,892 acres have been treated by air. The District received a 2025 Thrush 510P2+ known as "Le Frog" in February and has been treating tens of thousands of acres of rice land to combat *Culex tarsalis* larvae. Joining Le Frog in the battle against mosquitoes and mosquito-borne disease is "Jaws II", a 1979 Gruman AgCat Super B fully restored and rebuilt. These two aircraft will join the District's twin aircraft, Horse and Bat—the District's radial engine Gruman AgCats. When you see orange and white in the sky, you'll know it's us flying by!

AERIAL PROGRAM

Wetland surveillance is a key part of the District's efforts to keep our community protected from mosquitoes. Each year, the District monitors over 50,000 acres of wetlands across state, federal, and private lands. Because these areas are so vast, aerial surveillance is the most effective way to track changes. During mosquito season, the District's pilot captures aerial photographs to monitor when and where wetlands are flooding. These images help guide Mosquito and Vector Control Specialists (MVCS), who visit sites on the ground to check water sources for mosquito larvae.

If larvae are found, specialists use mapping software to chart the locations and provide the air operations team with the information they need. By combining larval counts with environmental factors, the team determines the right level of treatment needed. The pilot then receives detailed maps and GPS coordinates to ensure treatments are applied with precision. Afterward, the information is carefully recorded for accountability and reporting, helping us keep wetlands healthy and our communities safe.

FYI **If an MVCS finds 10 mosquito larvae per dip in a small 10-acre field, there are approximately 3.92 million mosquito larvae! With these numbers in mind, it quickly becomes apparent as to why the District must do aerial wetland surveillance and control.**

AEDES AEGYPTI

Aedes aegypti, commonly referred to as the Yellow Fever mosquito, ranges globally in tropic and subtropic areas. Now firmly established in Southern California, it has expanded its range northward. These mosquitoes are aggressive daytime biters that feed mostly during the day, indoors and outdoors. Eggs are laid on dry surfaces near water and are resistant to drying out. Eggs can remain dry for 8 months. These mosquitoes survive the winter in the egg stage and hatch when covered with water in warm weather. This mosquito has the ability to transmit Zika, Dengue Fever, Chikungunya, Yellow Fever and Mayaro viruses. As of September 18th, *Aedes aegypti* has been identified in 35 sites, 2,856 females total, in the areas of Oroville, Chico, Durham, Paradise, Gridley, Biggs and Hamilton City. It's important for residents to eliminate all types of standing water around their property to prevent the spread of *Aedes aegypti*. Detection maps available at ButteMosquito.com