

Butte County Mosquito & Vector Control District

Since 1948

1st Quarter, 2026

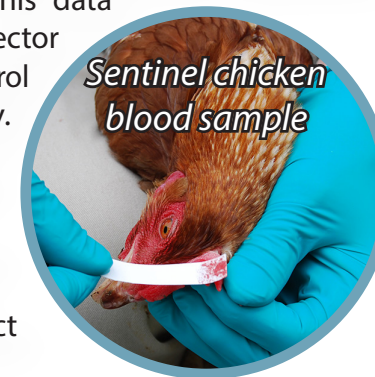
Newsletter

MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE

The 2026 mosquito season has begun, and the District's surveillance program is in high gear! Arriving in late April, 54 sentinel chickens will be deployed, with 42 distributed among seven coops, to help monitor mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus through bi-weekly blood testing.

By mid-April, the District will also deploy 31 gravid traps, 28 New Jersey light traps, and 48 CO₂-baited traps to monitor mosquito populations and test for viruses. This data helps Mosquito and Vector Control Specialists control mosquitoes effectively.

With surveillance and control operations underway, the District is ready to take on the season and protect public health!



Urban and residential areas are key focus points for spring mosquito control, as these species can transmit diseases like West Nile Virus.

To mitigate mosquito threats, mosquito larvae inspections and control measures are actively underway in municipal and private sources, including storm drains, catch basins, retention and detention ponds, and other man-made breeding sites. Floodwater areas are also being monitored and treated as needed.



Addressing mosquito larvae early in the season is crucial to reducing adult populations, protecting communities through the summer. Residents are urged to report any mosquito concerns to the District to help support ongoing control efforts.

TICK SURVEILLANCE

The District is dedicated to reducing the risk of tick bites and tick-borne diseases through public education and outreach. Routine tick surveillance is conducted in Upper Bidwell Park and the Lake Oroville Recreation Area, with a focus on the western black-legged tick (*Ixodes pacificus*), also known as the Deer Tick. This species is of particular concern due to its ability to transmit Lyme disease and other illnesses. The best way to prevent tick-borne diseases is to avoid bites altogether. After visiting tick-prone areas, be sure to thoroughly check yourself, your children, and pets. For more information, visit buttemosquito.com or stop by the District's main office or Chico sub-station for informational pamphlets.



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 at the Chico sub-station. Mosquitofish may be requested for pickup by calling (530) 533-6038 or visiting buttemosquito.com. Mosquitofish tanks will be deployed at a number of locations in early summer. Location information is available on the District's website or by calling the office.



DEAD BIRD HOTLINE

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



www.westnile.ca.gov
1-877-WNV-BIRD

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 to protect public health by preventing and reducing mosquito-borne disease, minimizing nuisance mosquito populations, and combating the spread of diseases associated with ticks, fleas, and other vectors. The District accomplishes this through science-based, environmentally responsible control strategies, proactive surveillance, and community education and engagement.

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

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EARLY SEASON MOSQUITO CONTROL

In Butte County, addressing early-season mosquito control is not just about responding to immediate concerns, it's about laying the groundwork for a healthier, safer community throughout the year. One of the key areas of focus is managing storm drains and catch basins, often overlooked but critical in preventing mosquito breeding grounds. These drainage systems, when left unchecked, can easily become stagnant pools of water, creating ideal conditions for mosquitoes to breed.

"Finding mosquitoes before they become adults is vital and this program helps the specialists locate and manage early season mosquito breeding in sources that otherwise would not be seen; Effectively controlling the mosquitoes in their larval state is the most effective form of mosquito control."

-Matthew C. Ball, District Manager



To tackle this challenge, regular inspections and cleanings are performed to remove debris and stagnant water, ensuring both mosquito control and the smooth flow of water during heavy rainfall. This proactive approach not only reduces mosquito populations but also helps prevent flooding, safeguarding the infrastructure and communities across the county.

In addition to these efforts, the application of larvicides, chemicals that target mosquito larvae, interrupts the insect life cycle at its earliest stages, further preventing population growth. This multi-pronged strategy is essential for managing the early season surge and minimizing the threat of disease transmission later in the year.

But perhaps the most powerful tool in this fight is community involvement. By eliminating standing water around homes and promptly reporting drainage issues to the District, residents play a crucial role in the collective effort. This partnership between the District and the community enhances the effectiveness of mosquito control while ensuring a cleaner, safer environment for all.

Together, with the help of the District's Mosquito and Vector Control Specialists, who respond to community reports with targeted field investigations, we can build a unified, sustainable approach to tackling mosquito-borne diseases and ensuring a healthier future for Butte County.



2026 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 which 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:

"Don't Let Small Bugs Become Big Problems".

The public service announcements will rotate throughout the county, May through September.

The District has contracted with Action News Now, radio and print services to post public service announcements, as well.

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.

