



Canyon County Mosquito Abatement District

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www.2cmad.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 16, 2024

Canyon County Horse Tests Positive for West Nile Virus

The Equine Disease Communication Center has reported Canyon County's first equine case of West Nile virus (WNV) this season. "Despite cooler temperatures it is still important for the public to protect themselves and their animals from mosquitoes and the diseases they carry" said Jim Lunders, Director of Canyon County Mosquito Abatement District (CCMAD).

Lunders explained that the CCMAD routinely sets gravid traps and dry ice baited EVS Traps at over 100 locations throughout Canyon County to monitor for adult mosquito populations and the presence of vector borne diseases. To date, the District has tested over 2600 mosquito pools this season for WNV, 28 of which have tested positive. A human case of WNV was reported in Canyon County by Southwest District Health on August 30th.

"WNV is present annually in Southwest Idaho and it is important for residents to protect themselves and their horses from vector borne diseases," said Lunders, "now is a good time to talk to your veterinarian about a vaccination schedule to properly protect your horse for next season". He offered the following suggestions to reduce the risk of exposure to West Nile virus:

- Eliminate or treat all sources of standing water that can be a breeding ground for biting mosquitoes, such as:
 - flooded fields
 - birdbaths
 - wading & swimming pools not in use
 - clogged gutters
 - old tires

If it holds water for 7 days, it can produce mosquitoes.

- Wear repellents while outdoors at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when in mosquito-infested areas.
- Use mosquito repellents containing DEET, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, Picaridin or 2-undecanone, making sure to follow the directions on the container.

- Make sure all screen doors and windows are in good repair and fit tightly.
- Vaccinate horses for WNV, WEEV, and other diseases.
- Use EPA registered residual insect sprays on horses, making sure to follow the directions on the container.
- Have your livestock watering troughs stocked with mosquitofish for free by submitting a service request to CCMAD.
- Notify the District at 208-461-8633 if you have a site that is too large to be eliminated so it can be properly treated.

Additional information on mosquitoes and the diseases they carry can be found at:

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

<https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/health-wellness/diseases-conditions/west-nile-virus>

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/westnile/index.html>

Equine Disease Communication Center

<https://equinediseasecc.org/west-nile-virus>

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