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West Nile found in mosquito sample

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The state Department of Environmental Protection and the Greene County Conservation District continue to monitor for West Nile Virus in the county after reporting a positive test last month for a virus-carrying mosquito.

Lisa Snider, conservation district manager, said Friday the West Nile Virus was detected in the beds of the sewage treatment plant in Rogersville. "We trapped some mosquitos on July 3 and had a false positive," she said. "BTI granules (a pesticide) were spread, and we went back July 24 and that's when we had a positive reading," she said.

Snider did point out the pesticide reduced the number of mosquitoes significantly at the site.

The conservation district conducts the monitoring and turns over its samples to DEP for testing.

In the past, the conservation district received a state grant each year to pay for the program. In 2010, however, no state money was provided, and the conservation district decided to conduct the monitoring program on its own, Snider said.

Adult Mosquito



The last presence of West Nile in Greene County was in 2008 in a mosquito sample taken at Reesman's sewage plant.

Spraying was done that year at Reesman's as well as at the Waynesburg sewage plant, which had a high mosquito population but no positive tests. The last positive test for the virus prior to that was in 2004.

West Nile Virus is a mosquito-borne disease that can cause encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain. Mosquitoes acquire the virus from birds and pass it on to other birds, animals and people.

Most people bitten by an infected mosquito never develop symptoms, and only one in 150 with symptoms develop the more serious West Nile encephalitis.

Residents are warned to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites and are asked to dispose of any water-holding containers around their homes where mosquitos can breed.