For the second straight year, mosquito season started later than usual, delayed by a cool and wet spring and below average early summer temperatures. With the return of sustained warm temperatures and longer days, mosquito season has officially begun. Rising populations of mosquitoes have been identified in the valley, foothill, and mountain areas of the service area. The District’s control and surveillance programs are fully staffed and operating at high capacity, utilizing every resource. Mosquito and Vector Control Specialists are focusing larviciding efforts on various mosquito-breeding sources including urban sources (storm drains, catch basins, unmaintained swimming pools, retention/detention ponds, etc.), rural sources (roadside ditches, pastures, sewer ponds, canal leaks, etc.), and agricultural sources (rice, managed wetlands, orchard runoff, etc.). Adult mosquito control has now commenced throughout the District concentrating on areas with higher populations of mosquitoes and large numbers of resident generated requests. The entomology department continues to be the “eyes and ears” of the county searching for WNV and other mosquito-borne viruses through the testing of mosquitoes, birds, and chickens. Entomology staff is continuing to monitor adult and larval mosquito populations throughout the county utilizing New Jersey light traps, gravid traps, carbon dioxide baited traps, and red boxes.

**2011 West Nile Virus Activity**

West Nile virus (WNV) has not yet been identified in Butte County. The statewide dead bird/squirrel program is open and residents noticing a dead bird or squirrel are encouraged to report it by calling 1-877-WNV-BIRD or visiting www.BCMVCD.com. As of June 17, 2010 there have been no human infections of WNV in California (see chart below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Counties</th>
<th>Human cases</th>
<th>Horses</th>
<th>Dead birds</th>
<th>Mosquito samples</th>
<th>Sentinel chickens</th>
<th>Squirrels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2010 YTD - Year to date corresponds to the same time last year.

**Special Event Services Available**

Having a party, wedding, or other large outdoor gathering? The District provides special services for large outdoor gatherings to help safeguard properties and attendees from mosquitoes. For more information please contact the District at (530) 533-6038 or (530) 342-7350. The District can also be found on the web at: [www.BCMVCD.com](http://www.BCMVCD.com)

**Did You Know?** Crane flies, commonly referred to as “mosquito hawks” or “mosquito eaters” do not eat mosquitoes. They feed on plant nectar.
**Public Education and Outreach**

The Districts public education department was very busy this past spring. The District had a public information booth or table at the following events: The Wildflower Festival in Oroville, Gold Nugget Days in Paradise, Feather Fiesta Days in Oroville, Red Suspeders day in Gridley, Silver Dollar Fair in Chico (5 days), and Contractors Day at the Home Depot in Oroville. The District spoke to hundreds of visitors at these events and handed out free bags, tick identification cards, mosquito repellent, temporary mosquito tattoos, and brochures. The District is using some outstanding insect displays, put together by Entomologist Eric Gohre, to draw people into the booth where they can then provide them with information on how to reduce mosquitoes, as well as other vectors, around their homes. The District is now looking forward to attending the Berry Creek Berry Festival, the Butte County Fair, the Salmon Festival, as well as any other events that come up this summer. The District was also busy this past spring doing classroom presentations throughout the County on Mosquitoes and Ticks.

**Billboard Advertising Continues**

For the third year in a row, the District is using billboard advertising as a way to provide the public with the information they need to contact the District if they are experiencing mosquito problems. This year’s slogan is “Got Mosquitoes?” This message is being displayed on six billboards that rotate throughout Butte County.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Look for the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District booth at the following events: Berry Creek Berry Festival, Aug. 13th. Butte County Fair, Aug. 25th-28th. Salmon Festival, Sept. 24th.

**Upcoming Events**

- Berry Creek Berry Festival, Aug. 13th.
- Butte County Fair, Aug. 25th-28th.
- Salmon Festival, Sept. 24th.

**Did You Know?**

- There are over 3,000 mosquito species in the world, more than 50 reside in California, and 25 species are commonly found throughout Butte County.

**Did You Know?**

- Just one neglected swimming pool can produce more than 1 million mosquitoes and affect people up to five miles away.

**Butte County Grand Jury Reviews BCMVCD**

The Butte County Grand Jury elected to review the District due to the opening of the new BCMVCD Chico substation, community concerns about the potential hazards of pesticide use and storage, and previous Grand Jury findings pertaining to problems with moral and website deficiencies. The Butte County Grand Jury 2010/2011 report concluded by stating, “The Grand Jury found the BCMVCD, first and foremost, to be dedicated to its mission of mosquito and vector control. Beyond this if found that BCMVCD operates with careful regard for environment protection, public safety, and governmental requirements, and management displays sensitivity to community concerns. Previously there had been serious problems with staff morale at the BCMVCD, as mentioned in the 2007-2008 Grand Jury report. This was acknowledged by every person interviewed, yet each one also acknowledged that the situation had improved drastically under the current management. Poor employee morale can be expensive, leading to problems ranging from inefficient work behavior to litigation expenses. The Grand Jury commends the current management for its successful efforts improving morale.” The Butte County Grand Jury 2010/2011 Report, the discussion, the findings, and recommendations can be seen at [http://www.buttecounty.net/GrandJuryDocs/BCGJ_Final_Report_FY10-11.pdf](http://www.buttecounty.net/GrandJuryDocs/BCGJ_Final_Report_FY10-11.pdf)

**AMCA Mosquito Control Awareness Week 2011**

The week of June 26th - July 2nd, 2011 has been declared Mosquito Control Awareness Week by the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA). The AMCA, an international organization of nearly 2,000 public health professionals, has been dedicated to preserving the public’s health and well-being through safe, environmentally sound, mosquito control programs since 1935. During “Mosquito Week” the AMCA’s goal is to educate the general public about the significance of mosquitoes in their daily lives and the important service provided by mosquito control workers throughout the United States and worldwide. In recognition of the AMCA’s “Mosquito Control Awareness Week” the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District hosted an Open House from June 27th - July 2nd, 2011. The Open House hours were from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Public Information Officer Doug Weseman guided the tours of the District facilities. The tours included the visual explanation of the Districts mosquito-fish, aerial application and integrated vector management programs (IVM). The Open House gave the public a chance to see how the District operates and what they can do to help the District fight mosquitoes on and around their property. Attendees were provided a soft drink and tote bag containing the Districts contact information.

**Distrect on TV**

The District was featured on Channels KHSL 12, and KNVN 24 during a news segment on ticks and Lyme disease. Reporter Ross Field interviewed District Public Information Officer Doug Weseman on the prevalence of ticks in Butte County, what species of ticks carry Lyme disease (Western black legged or deer tick), how a person can protect themselves from ticks (stay on trails, check yourself and animals for ticks, wear insect repellent), and how to remove a tick if it gets on you or your animal (using tweezers, grab the tick as close to the skin as possible and pull straight out). The interviews that the District does for newspapers, radio, and television are a great tool for reaching the public with ways to help protect themselves from vectors and the diseases that they may carry.