

Rush County Health Department
Courthouse, Room 105, Rushville, Indiana 46173-1854
Telephone (765) 932-3103
Fax (765) 938-2604

Helen Steussy, M.D.
Health Officer

Frederick Phillips D.V.M.
Health Board Chairperson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MOSQUITO SEASON

May 16, 2017
Rush County, Indiana

After a strange few months, with temperatures in the 70's in February, the 30's in May, and several inches of rain recently, mosquito season is upon us. The Rush County Health Department encourages each citizen of Rushville and Rush County to take precautions while outdoors during the dusk to dawn hours. The Rush County Health Department also urges each citizen to do their part in eliminating mosquito breeding places. Finally, The Rush County Health Department will begin this year's mosquito surveillance trying to identify any positive pools of Culex Mosquitoes which carry the West Nile Virus. The disease is one of birds, transmitted by mosquitoes, but can also cause illness in humans and horses. **All citizens** are urged to take precautions and check your property for any areas that harbor or provide a breeding site for mosquitoes. The following are ways to protect your family, friends, livestock, and investment:

Protect your family and friends:

Remove tall weeds and grass on your property.

Repair failed or discharging septic systems.

Dispose of, or empty, any water-holding containers on your property, like discarded trash, plastic bags, buckets or flowerpots.

Pay special attention to discarded tires that may have collected on your property and dispose of them.

Drill holes in the bottom of garbage containers that are left outdoors to let water drain out.

Clean clogged roof gutters; remove leaves and debris that may prevent drainage of water.

Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use.

Do not allow water to stagnate in birdbaths. Aerate ornamental ponds or stock them with fish.

Keep your swimming pool clean and properly chlorinated; remove standing water from pool covers.

Protect your livestock and investment:

Clean livestock pens regularly and manage manure storage to avoid standing water.

Dispose of any junk equipment that may be holding water.

Empty stock tanks or other containers used for watering every four days.

Maintain barnyard area to allow rainwater to drain and reduce accumulated manure.

AVOID DRAINAGE TO STREAMS.

Install gutters on buildings, including barns, so water drains and will not stand in low areas in the barnyard.

If you plan to spend time outside between dusk and dawn, be sure to use mosquito repellent that contains DEET and follow the label directions. Also, please visit your Veterinarian and make sure your pets and livestock are up to date on their vaccinations.

For more information about mosquitoes and the viruses they may carry, contact the Rush County Health Department or the Indiana State Department of Health.

Submitted by: Terri Nigh
Environmental Health Specialist