



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
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CHICKENS TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS IN MARTINEZ, OAKLEY, AND HOLLAND TRACT

*-Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District Continues Extended Control Efforts -
Will Conduct Aerial Spraying in Waterfront Areas Tonight-*

CONCORD, CALIFORNIA - - Twenty four sentinel chickens in three flocks located in Martinez, Holland Tract, and Oakley have tested positive for West Nile virus, the first indication of sentinel chicken infections in Contra Costa County this year. Sentinel chickens are just one tool of many the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District uses to assess virus activity in the county in their efforts to control mosquitoes which carry mosquito-borne viruses, such as West Nile virus.

District technicians continue to work extended hours to provide additional surveillance and control. In addition, the District will conduct aerial spraying for adult mosquitoes tonight from Martinez to Pittsburg along the waterfront. Treatment will be made by helicopter using Pyrenone 25-5, a botanical pesticide, applied at a rate of 0.75 ounces per acre. Spraying will take place at approximately 7:30 p.m., weather permitting.

“Our surveillance indicates large numbers of mosquitoes in this area,” said Deborah Bass, public affairs manager for the Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District. “Spraying by helicopter is an efficient and effective way to kill adult mosquitoes.”

Last year in Contra Costa County there were 11 human cases, 94 dead birds, 18 chickens, four mosquito samples*, ten horses, and 25 squirrels that tested positive for West Nile virus.

In California this year, there have been 84 human cases, 586 dead birds, 233 chickens, 495 mosquito samples, and 16 horses that have tested positive for the virus.

To learn if the District is fogging or spraying for adult mosquitoes in your neighborhood or for media opportunities, please visit the district’s website at www.ccmvcd.dst.ca.us or call (925) 685-9301 for a recorded message.

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Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District is located at 155 Mason Circle in Concord. Call the District to report mosquito problems at (925) 685-9301, or visit their office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to get FREE mosquitofish for ornamental ponds or horse troughs.

To report dead birds or to learn of your local mosquito control district, call the California Department of Health Services at 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or visit www.westnile.ca.gov. THIS SITE ALSO LISTS WEST NILE VIRUS CASE COUNTS BY COUNTY.

For information concerning West Nile virus symptoms, prevention, or testing, please call the Contra Costa Health Services department at (888) 959-9911 or visit their website at www.ccpublichealth.org

For information concerning West Nile virus and horses, please visit the California Department of Food and Agriculture Animal Health Branch at www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/wnv_info.htm or call them at (916) 654-1447.

* Mosquito samples: Mosquitoes are trapped, collected from the field, and then the females are pooled together by species. Each pool contains one to 50 mosquitoes. Each sample is tested for the presence of St. Louis encephalitis, Western Equine encephalomyelitis and West Nile viruses.

Media Opportunity

WHAT: Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District will be conducting aerial spraying by helicopter from Martinez to Pittsburg along the waterfront to control adult mosquitoes.

WHO: General Manager Craig Downs and Public Affairs Manager Deborah Bass will be available for interviews prior to the spraying.

WHEN: Thursday, August 23, 2006
Interviews at 6:30 p.m. Spraying begins at 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Interviews:
Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District
155 Mason Circle
Concord, CA 94520
Note: Some spraying locations are fairly close to District

Maps will be available with spray locations (also available on our website). Not all areas along the waterfront are open to the public.