Fall 2026

MOSQUITO NEWSLETTER

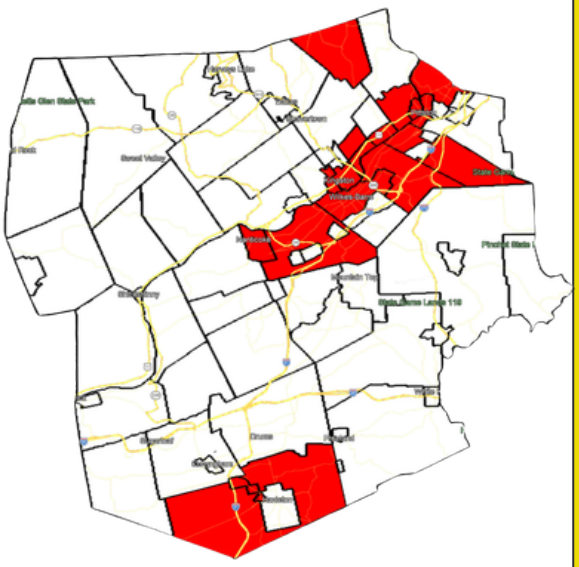
Issue 5

Luzerne Conservation District

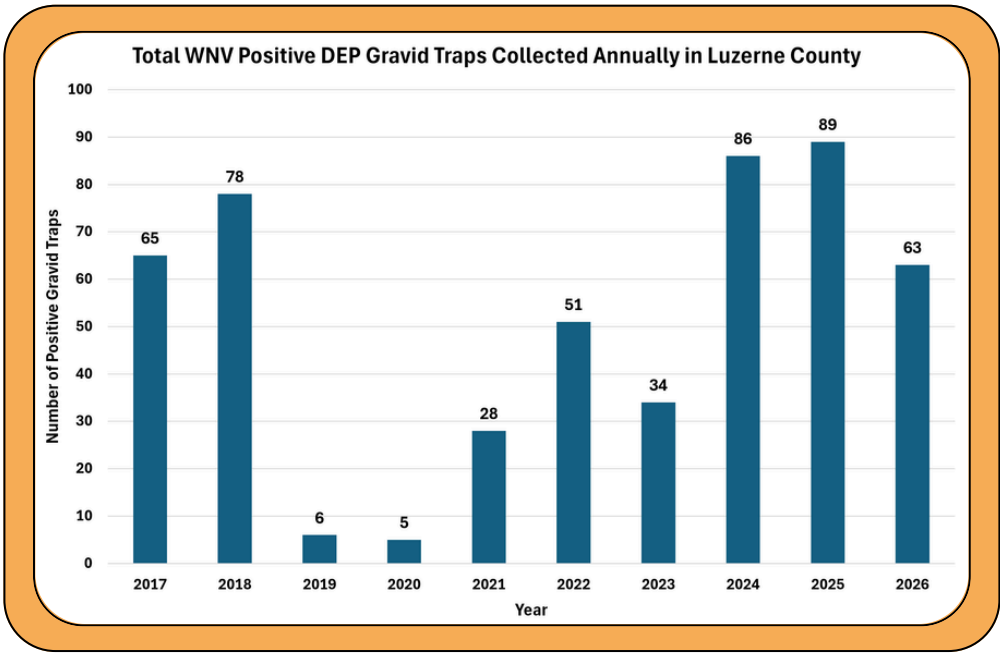


2026 SEASON SUMMARY

- The 2026 season saw a lower instance of West Nile Virus than the previous two years with 63 positive traps
- **In 2026 Jamestown Canyon Virus wasn't detected in the county for the first time since testing began in 2023**
- A lower Susquehanna River level this season led to fewer overall mosquitoes this season
- The chart below shows WNV prevalence in Luzerne County over the past decade



MUNICIPALITIES WITH WNV DETECTED IN 2026



MUNICIPALITIES WITH WEST NILE VIRUS DETECTIONS IN 2026

Duryea Borough	Nanticoke City
Edwardsville Borough	Pittston City
Exeter Borough	Plains Township
Forty Fort Borough	Swoyersville Borough
Franklin Township	West Hazleton Borough
Hanover Township	West Pittston Borough
Hazle Township	Wilkes-Barre City
Jenkins Township	Wyoming Borough
Kingston Borough	

LUZERNE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

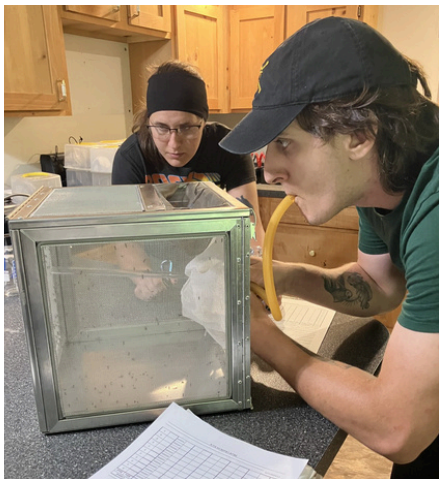
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Pesticide Resistance Testing



Every season the District conducts pesticide resistance testing with the active ingredient of the adulticide utilized during truck sprays. This ensures that we are effectively controlling mosquito populations and lowering the risk of disease transmission in Luzerne County by confirming that mosquitoes have not developed a resistance to the insecticides utilized.

This testing involves transferring live, adult mosquitoes into four bottles coated with the adulticide and one bottle that acts as a control. These bottles are then checked at regular time intervals and the knockdown of mosquitoes is recorded.



Educational Event Highlight



For the third year in a row, the District had the pleasure of talking to children at Hoyt Library in Kingston, PA about our program. We talked about what mosquitoes and ticks are, why we catch them, how we catch them, and how they can keep themselves safe from vector-borne disease while spending time outdoors.

Staff caught mosquito larvae beforehand and placed them in coolers so the kids could catch them and place them in bottles, just like we do! This allowed them to learn what mosquito larvae look like so they can be on the lookout around their house and neighborhood for breeding areas.

2026 SEASON TOTALS

Total Adult Mosquitoes Caught	45,603
Municipalities Sampled	45
Total Traps Set	745
Larval Samples Collected	438
Sites surveilled	212
Total Complaints	10
Unique Species Collected	27
Total Control Operations	220
Larval Controls	216
Adult Controls	4
Highest Trap Count	5,016

NO JAMESTOWN CANYON VIRUS WAS DETECTED IN THE COUNTY THIS YEAR

Visit DEP's Vector Management page for more information and season updates!

https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/programs-and-services/integration/vector-management

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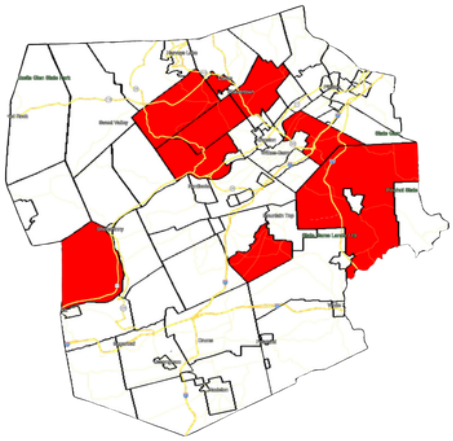
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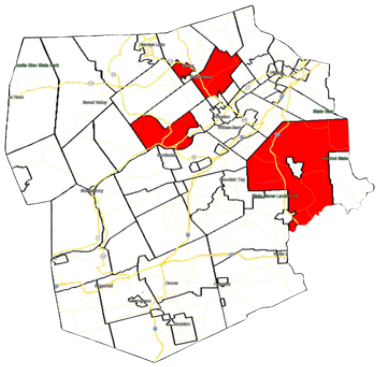
Tick Surveillance Updates

District MDC staff conducts 4 tick drags every two week period on public-use, recreational land, April through September to monitor tick abundance and pathogen presence. The map to the right highlights municipalities where tick surveillance was completed in the 2026 season through September. Staff continues surveillance in a limited capacity through the Fall.



MUNICIPALITIES SURVEILLED FOR TICKS IN 2026

Species Highlight: *Haemaphysalis longicornis* (Asian Longhorned Tick)



MUNICIPALITIES WITH ASIAN LONGHORNED TICK FOUND BY PROGRAM

This season the Asian Longhorned Tick was found in the county by our program for the first time. Multiple lifestages were found in multiple municipalities throughout the county.

Research is still ongoing on their ability to acquire and transmit pathogens to humans. They reproduce asexually and a single adult female can lay up to 3,000 eggs. They can infect cattle with *Theileria orientalis*, a parasite that resides in the animals' blood and can result in sickness or death.

Notes on Protection

Ticks can be active anytime the weather is above freezing and are very active in the Fall. The following steps can provide protection and allow you to enjoy the outdoors safely:

- Wear light colored clothing (easier to see ticks before they attach)
- Utilize EPA approved repellents
- Tuck pants into socks and shirts into pants
- Take a shower when returning home
- Throw clothes into the dryer on high heat for ten minutes to kill any ticks that haven't attached



TICK SURVEILLANCE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2026

Tick Drags Completed	48
Municipalities Sampled	9
Sites Sampled	14
Total Ticks Caught	134
Unique Species Collected	3
Total Ticks Tested	30
Ticks tested with bacterium that causes Lyme Disease	9; 30%
Ticks tested with bacterium that causes Hard Tick Relapsing Fever	1; 3.33%
Ticks tested with bacterium that causes Anaplasmosis	3; 10%
Ticks tested with bacterium that causes Babesiosis	2; 6.67%

An individual tick can carry multiple disease causing bacteria

Contact Us:

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LUZERNE CONSERVATION DISTRICT