



Alabama Vector Management Society

www.alabamavms.org

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NEWSLETTER

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Thank you for making the 16th Annual meeting a success.

The sixteenth annual meeting of the Alabama Vector Management Society was held March 15th through 17th at the Radisson Hotel in Birmingham. About 130 individuals enjoyed a variety of topics from "Bye Bye Blackbirds, Public Health Implications of Large Roosts and Management Techniques" to "West Nile Virus and Arbovirus Surveillance Program in Alabama 2004." At this year's meeting, time was set aside for a round table discussion called "Snapshots from around the State." In this session, individuals who are involved in vector control from different parts of the state gave an update on vector control challenges they faced during the past year. A highlight of the meeting was the barbecue dinner at Vulcan Park. Thanks to the exhibitors who sponsored the dinner. What a great view from the top of the statue!

Meet your new AVMS Officers and Directors!



Front Row: Rachel Jennings, Chris Slatsky, Ashley Lovell, Leigh Salter, Kelly Micher, **Back Row:** Jeff Beck, Drew Lockhart, Dr. Gary Mullen, Paula Pratt, Jim Austin

Ivan is History, But the Mosquitoes Remain

In Baldwin County, the fall and winter season following Ivan proved to be relatively mild. With cold days few and far between, mosquito populations were not reduced significantly by the cold. By January, temperatures were regularly reaching into the upper 60's and 70's. As temperatures climbed, complaints about mosquito activity, especially in the south part of the county, began increasing. Traps, which are regularly set during the summer months to track mosquito populations, were set in the areas where high numbers of complaints were received. During the summer months, trap counts in these areas would be 500 to 1,000 mosquitoes in a trap over a 12 – 18 hour period. Traps set in January and February, trapped between 6,000 and 10,000 mosquitoes in a night.

The mosquitoes were definitely there and they were present in large numbers. The question is; why did we have so many mosquitoes in the middle of the winter and what could we do to reduce their numbers? The obvious difference between this year and other years is the damage that remains from Ivan. In the south part of Baldwin County, many things are back to normal, but many reminders of Ivan remain. Some of these reminders, such as debris that was left on abandoned or vacant property, downed trees that are holding water, and drainage features that were changed or blocked, are allowing mosquitoes to breed. Some of these areas are being treated to prevent the mosquitoes from developing into adults. Some of these areas can not be treated because they are inaccessible or on private property.

by Rachel Jennings
BCHD



We want to hear from you! Send us an e-mail with an article pertaining to what your City, County or agency has been doing or problems you have been facing and we'll publish it in our next news letter.

Be sure to check out the web page for pictures of our last meeting in Birmingham. You may find a picture of yourself.
www.alabamavms.org

2005 Pesticide Applicator Exam Schedule

Custom pesticide applicator examination are given on the Third Tuesday in February, May, August and November at the Richard Beard Building-Auditorium located at 1445 Federal Dr., Montgomery Alabama.
For more information call (334) 240-7243

February 15

May 17

August 16

November 15

Remember, each exam category is \$75

Miami Herald, March 2005

MIAMI-DADE

Baby may be first case of West Nile this year

Doctors at Baptist Hospital are investigating what may be the first case of West Nile virus in the country this year.

Preliminary tests suggest a 14-month-old baby may have fallen ill with the mosquito-borne disease, which usually does not appear here until early summer. The infant is still hospitalized at Baptist.

County public health officials said no cases of West Nile have been confirmed in the state this year. Blood samples must be processed in the state's Jacksonville laboratory before officials confirm cases of West Nile.

The best way to avoid West Nile is to avoid mosquitoes by staying indoors at dawn and dusk, wearing long clothing, using insect repellent with DEET, and clearing standing water from around residences.

James H Burgess
Supervisor of Arbo-Borne Disease Surveillance
Lee County Mosquito Control Dist.

Alabama Mosquito-Borne Virus Activity Maps



EPA: Better Labels for Mosquito Control Products

EPA is issuing seven new recommendations to pesticide registrants and others to improve label statements for pesticide products used to control adult mosquitoes. The recommendations pertain to pesticide products applied by ultra-low volume aerial or ground application methods. The recommendations promote consistency and clarify labeling statements that may have been unclear to users. The improvements will help public health mosquito control officials use the most effective techniques while ensuring that use of these products will not pose unreasonable risks to public health or the environment. The recommendations are:

- (1) adult mosquito control applications should be limited to trained personnel;
- (2) mosquito control directions and precautions should be clearly distinguished from any other use directions allowed on the label, such as agricultural crops;
- (3) label precautions and directions should be revised as needed to make hazards to aquatic life as clear as possible, and also to allow the application of these products over or near a body of water allowable under some circumstances;
- (4) users should consult with the state or tribal agency for pesticide regulation to determine if permits or other regulatory requirements exist;
- (5) labels should specify a spectrum of spray/fog droplet sizes, and indicate that droplet size should be determined according to directions from equipment manufacturers or other appropriate sources;
- (6) precautionary language to protect bees should have a provision to allow mosquito control applications in order to respond to threats to public health which are identified by health or vector control agencies on the basis of evidence of disease organisms or diseases cases in animals or humans; and
- (7) labels for adult mosquitoes should include limits on timing and number of applications to the same location.

EPA worked with state agencies to develop initial recommendations and presented them at two public meetings of the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee, an advisory committee to EPA representing a full spectrum of interests, including pesticide manufacturers, public health agencies, academia, user groups and public interest groups. In April 2004, EPA issued draft recommendations for public comment. To view the seven new recommendations, go to:

http://www.epa.gov/PR_Notices/

Cockroach Allergens Have Greatest Impact on Childhood Asthma in Many U.S. Cities

New results from a nationwide study on factors that affect asthma in inner-city children show that cockroach allergen appears to worsen asthma symptoms more than either dust mite or pet allergens. This research, funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, is the first large-scale study to show marked geographic differences in allergen exposure and sensitivity in inner-city children. Most homes in northeastern cities had high levels of cockroach allergens, while those in the south and northwest had dust mite allergen levels in ranges known to exacerbate asthma symptoms.

The study results are published in the March issue of the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*.

"These data confirm that cockroach allergen is the primary contributor to childhood asthma in inner-city home environments," said NIEHS Director Kenneth Olden, Ph.D. "However, general cleaning practices, proven extermination techniques and consistent maintenance methods can bring these allergen levels under control."

Cockroach allergens come from several sources such as saliva, fecal material, secretions, cast skins, and dead bodies. People can reduce their exposure to cockroach allergen by eating only in the kitchen and dining room, putting non-refrigerated items in plastic containers or sealable bags, and taking out the garbage on a daily basis. Other measures include repairing leaky faucets, frequent vacuuming of carpeted areas and damp-mopping of hard floors, and regular cleaning of counter tops and other surfaces.

NIH provided \$7.5 million to researchers at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas and seven other research institutions, including the Data Coordinating Center at Rho, Inc., for the three-year study.

"We found that a majority of homes in Chicago, New York City and the Bronx had cockroach allergen levels high enough to trigger asthma symptoms, while a majority of homes in Dallas and Seattle had dust mite allergen levels above the asthma symptom threshold," said Dr. Rebecca Gruchalla, associate professor of internal medicine and pediatrics at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and lead author of the study.

"We also discovered that the levels of both of these allergens were influenced by housing type," noted Gruchalla. "Cockroach allergen levels were highest in high-rise apartments, while dust mite concentrations were greatest in detached homes."

While cockroach allergen exposure did produce an increase in asthma symptoms, researchers did not find an increase in asthma symptoms as a result of exposure to dust mite and pet dander. "Children who tested positive for, and were exposed to, cockroach allergen experienced a significant increase in the number of days with cough, wheezing and chest tightness, number of nights with interrupted sleep, number of missed school days, and number of times they had to slow down or discontinue their play activity," said Gruchalla.

While cockroaches are primarily attracted to water sources and food debris, house dust mites, microscopic spider-like creatures that feed on flakes of human skin, reside in bedding, carpets, upholstery, draperies and other "dust traps." Dust mite allergens are proteins that come from the digestive tracts of mites and are found in mite feces.

Researchers tested 937 inner-city children with moderate to severe asthma symptoms. The children, ages 5 to 11, were given skin tests for sensitivity to cockroach and dust mite allergens, pet dander, and mold. Bedroom dust samples were analyzed for the presence of each allergen type.

This study was part of the larger Inner-City Asthma Study, a cooperative multi-center project comprised of seven asthma study centers across the country. The goal of the study was to develop and implement a comprehensive, cost-effective intervention program aimed at reducing asthma incidence among children living in low socioeconomic areas.

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences is a federal agency that conducts and funds basic research on the health effects of exposure to environmental agents.

Source: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

CODE OF ETHICS FOR MEMBERS OF THE ALABAMA VECTOR MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

Preamble: The purpose of the Alabama Vector Management Society is to promote the management of public health pests and arthropod vectors of disease, provide for the educational and scientific advancement of members, encourage scientific research in vector management and public health pests, promote an exchange of information among members, and to extend and develop public awareness and interest in the discipline.

Public health pest and vector management provides services that are extremely important to the health, welfare and progress of society. Those employed in the public health pest and vector management profession have the responsibility to render effective and professional service to humanity, in keeping with high standards of ethical conduct. Therefore, in striving to advance and maintain the honor and dignity of the profession, the Alabama Vector Management Society (AVMS) has established the following code to define the conduct and ethics due the profession. This code is binding on the membership of the AVMS.

- AVMS members will use their knowledge and skill for the betterment of human welfare.
- Members will, at all times, strive to maintain the public trust, and advance the standards and principles established by the AVMS.
- Members will cooperate in the exchange of information and technology for the growth and progress of the public health and vector management profession and the AVMS.
- Members will not cause dishonor to the Society through their actions while representing the AVMS.
- Members will comply with all laws and regulations that apply to our science and profession.
- Members will promote solidarity, harmony and support among members and fellow workers. They will not undermine, vilify, berate or otherwise intentionally injure the work, accomplishments, efforts or professional reputation of another.
- Members will not conduct or in any way participate in a fallacious review of the work of a fellow worker or other member.

Test your knowledge

Trivia Questions

1. Which of the following spiders does not kill its prey with venom? Brown Recluse, Tarantula, Black Widow, Trap-door spider
2. Which of the following is an insect? Cricket, spider, earthworm, slug
3. Which mosquito genus is the principal vector of St. Louis encephalitis? Anopheles, Aedes, Culex
4. In 1947, Congress passed the FIFRA law to regulate the marketing of pesticides. What does FIFRA stand for?
5. Under certain circumstances, which type of fly may actually deposit their eggs in animal wounds? Stable flies, Horse Flies, Blow Flies, Deer Flies
6. How many animals of each sex did Moses take on the ark?

Check out our website to find the answer to these questions. You may have to "know the news" to find the answers. www.alabamavms.org

Our mailbox has been EMPTY!
Send us your interesting articles!



Please send comments
or suggested articles
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The AVMS is grateful to have the support and sponsorship from industries. Below is a list of sustaining members.

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ALABAMA VECTOR MANAGEMENT SOCIETY
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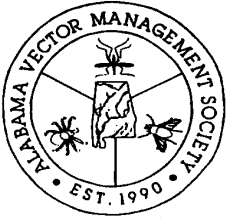
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For more information about AVMS, or to join as a regular or sustaining member, contact:

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I UNDERSTAND THAT, AS A MEMBER OF THE AVMS, I AM EXPECTED TO ADHERE TO THE AVMS
CODE OF ETHICS.

*Registration/Membership dues are for AVMS fiscal year 2005.



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