

### **REDUCE THE MOSQUITO POPULATION AND DISEASE WITH THESE SIMPLE TIPS**

Every year mosquitoes return to irritate residents that would like to enjoy being outside. What can be done to reduce these pests and the chance of transmitted diseases? Tom Smith, of Penn State Cooperative Extension has some simple suggestions to help. Residents need to inspect their own yards and property for items that can hold water and dump or drain the water. These containers may be something small such as cans, buckets, tires, kiddy toys or tarps to items as large as a covered swimming pool. Taking the time to perform a little yard cleanup will make your summer much more enjoyable.

Many residents have concerns about retention ponds, believing they are a source of mosquitoes. If these areas hold water all the time then predators are present and keep mosquito larvae in check. Trash, litter or yard clutter nearby is usually found to be the source of mosquitoes. Occasionally, ruts created by mowers may collect water and produce mosquitoes.

York County remains an area of concern for the risk of West Nile. Resident's that are over fifty years of age or have a compromised immune system because of an illness such as Lyme disease are more at risk for West Nile Encephalitis. Anytime you and your family are outside be sure to wear a repellent. Products containing DEET are most effective. Other repellents are also available. Residents need to use the repellent that works best for them. After following the above recommendations, if you still have mosquito problems, try taking a fan outside with you. Mosquitoes are weak fliers and keeping the air moving on your deck or patio will keep the mosquitoes away. If you would like additional information about storm water, mosquitoes, ticks and repellent use, please contact the York County West Nile Virus Program at 717-840-2375 or email [tls35\(a\),psu.edu](mailto:tls35(a),psu.edu)