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Subject: mosquito control
Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2010 1:44:11 PM

16 March 2010

Johathan

A couple of points:

Mosquitos carry diseases other than west nile virus and even aggressive spraying results in larval hatching. We need to spray hard for the adult mosquitos as well as the larvae.

Spraying for mosquitos only when they test positive for west nile virus is a joke. A parallel would be not spraying for coddling moth until there is an infestation. Unfortunately for the growers, if you wait to spray until you have your trees covered with bugs, it's too late to save their crop. The key word here is prevention.

The pesticides in question, have been proven safe for adjacent wildlife (not mosquitos however) when used in the concentrations recommended. This whole scenario reminds me of the great orchard pesticide scare and subsequent testing of thousands of orchard workers for pesticide exposure because of the imagined "risk of pesticide related illness." Very few workers had any decrease in their cholinesterase levels and fewer yet had any signs of illness. Aren't these pesticides toxic? The answer is yes, to the bugs that are being sprayed, but not to the workers that are applying them, because of the low concentrations of pesticides being applied and the protection of the appliers with personal protective gear.

I believe this proposed regulation has little or nothing to do with mosquitos, west nile virus or toxicity to fish or other local wildlife and everything to do with an anti-pesticide belief and also a misguided "back to nature" philosophy that mistakenly puts the value of a mosquito that may be carrying any one of several disease causing organisms, above the value of people and potential illness. Think about it. The argument against spraying because of harm to adjacent wildlife is hollow and applications research and practical experience, have shown that the products are effective and safe when used as advised.

It is true that about one in five people who are infected (west nile virus) develop more serious illness. It may not seem important when you look at the numbers but how about making it personal, like one of your family members? It becomes serious all of a sudden. What about the long term effects of contracting a less virulent form of this illness. Might it lead to any number of neurological or other illnesses? It's also tough on horses, where it presents as a serious neurological illness that often results in death. So, let's drop the bogus environmental concerns and deal with a real public health issue in a real and science based manner.

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