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EEE and WNV Risk May Increase in Flooded Areas

Recent flooding events in NYS may contribute to increased risk of mosquito-borne diseases if wet conditions persist without killing frosts. In particular, West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) disease has already been detected in horses, dogs and some wildlife in NYS. Increased mosquito activity may increase the risks in areas already struggling with flood recovery.

EEE and WNV vaccines are available for horses. Many horses in NYS are routinely vaccinated every year to protect them against these diseases. Foals born in the spring or summer of 2011 may be fully susceptible to these viruses now if they have not yet been adequately vaccinated. Horse owners should consult their veterinarians to review the vaccination needs of their horses for EEE and WNV.

Mosquito control efforts should be used whenever possible to reduce the risks to animals and people. Dump or drain standing water whenever possible. Empty, rinse and refill water buckets, troughs and tanks every 4-7 days. Use mosquito repellants. If possible, screen windows and doors and keep animals indoors during peak mosquito-activity times (dusk to dawn). Avoid leaving barn lights on between dusk and dawn.

For more information, go to:

Eastern Equine Encephalitis

http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/eastern_equine_encephalitis/fact_sheet.htm

West Nile virus

http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/west_nile_virus/fact_sheet.htm

Mosquito Control

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/Urban/mosquito.htm>