

Nevada Department of Agriculture NEWS RELEASE



**For Immediate Release
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Nevada's First Positive West Nile Virus Samples of 2008

Reno, 07/22/2008 – The Nevada Department of Agriculture's Animal Disease and Food Safety Laboratory detected two positive mosquito pool samples that had been submitted from Lovelock, Pershing County. These are the first positive samples collected in Nevada this year.

931 samples from 16 counties have been submitted to the laboratory at the Nevada Department of Agriculture's Reno Office since February of this year. 912 mosquito pools, 16 bird and three horse samples have all been negative.

Yesterday's detection came later than previous years in Nevada. Positive samples in the past have shown up towards the end of May, middle of June. The **State of California**, as of 7/18, has tested 774 positive WNV samples this year, including six human cases and three squirrels.

"Nevada has West Nile Virus," said Ed Foster, spokesperson for Nevada Department of Agriculture. "Historically July is when we start seeing the positive samples ramp up," he added.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the use of products containing active ingredients which have been registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use as repellents applied to skin and clothing. EPA registration of repellent active ingredients indicates the materials have been reviewed and approved for efficacy and human safety when applied according to the instructions on the label. Products containing these active ingredients typically provide longer-lasting protection than others:

DEET and Picardin

Oil of lemon eucalyptus, a plant-based repellent, is also registered with EPA. In two recent scientific publications, when oil of lemon eucalyptus was tested against mosquitoes found in the U.S., it provided protection similar to repellents with low concentrations of DEET. Oil of lemon eucalyptus has **not** been tested against mosquitoes that spread malaria and some other diseases which occur internationally. See the [CDC Travelers' Health website](#) for specific recommendations concerning protection from insects when traveling outside the U.S.

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