



Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District

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Matthew C. Ball
Manager

For Immediate Release

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Subject: Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District Participates in the National AMCA Mosquito Awareness week June 21st – June 27th, 2009.

Contact: District Manager, Matt Ball or Public Information Officer, Doug Weseman at (530) 533-6038 or (530) 342-7350.

The American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) has declared the week of June 21 to June 27, 2009 the thirteenth annual “National Mosquito Control Awareness Week”. The AMCA, an international organization of nearly 2,000 public health professionals, has been dedicated to preserving the public’s health and well-being through safe; environmentally sound mosquito control programs since the early 1900’s.

During “Mosquito Week” the AMCA’s goal is to educate the general public about the significance of mosquitoes in their daily lives, the viruses that mosquitoes may carry and the important service provided by mosquito control workers throughout the United States and worldwide.

The Butte County Mosquito Abatement District was formed in June of 1948 to fight the outbreak of malaria in Butte County. In April of 1994 “Vector Control” was added to the District name to reflect the additional disease surveillance and information now provided. The Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) serves over 1,600 square miles, and includes all of Butte County, except the small areas served by the Durham and Oroville Mosquito Abatement Districts. The District also serves the Hamilton City area of Glenn County.

The District provides many valuable services to the county’s residents. Along with controlling mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases and other public nuisances such as yellow jackets, the District has an extensive surveillance program that acts like the county’s eyes and ears to vector populations and virus outbreaks. Additionally, the full time staffed lab is always available to identify different insect and arthropod pests to help county residents battle different bug infestations through education. The Districts public education department provides presentations to local civic and community groups, an education outreach program to elementary schools, education and outreach to all county residents, and is busy staffing public events such as fairs and other community events with the goal of teaching the public how to safeguard themselves and their properties from mosquitoes. The public education department provides many outreach and educational programs including, but not limited to, mosquito biology, mosquito-transmitted diseases, tick and tick-borne diseases, mosquito habitat reduction and best management practices, yellow jacket awareness and safety, and much more.

In recognition of the American Mosquito Control Associations "National Mosquito Control Awareness Week" the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District will be hosting an Open House from June 23rd to June 26th with hours from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Districts headquarters located at 5117 Larkin Road, Oroville, California. Public Information Officer Doug Weseman will be guiding the Open House tours of the District facilities. The tours will include the visual explanation of the Districts mosquitofish, integrated pest management (IPM), and control programs. Additionally, attendees will be able to tour the lab to see first hand how the surveillance program works. The Open House will give the public a chance to see how the District operates and what they can do to help the District fight mosquitoes on and around their property. Attendees will be provided a soft drink and fly swatter containing the Districts contact information.

Residents are urged to protect themselves from mosquitoes by avoiding peak mosquito activity times, wearing repellent, wearing long pants and long sleeves, and preventing mosquito breeding on their property. Residents should inspect their properties for any standing water and do what is necessary to remove the water and safeguard their property to ensure water won't stand in the future where applicable. Residents are encouraged to report any suspected mosquito breeding sites and mosquito problems to the District at 530-533-6038, 530-342-7350, or www.BCMVCD.com.

For more information please call District Manager, Matt Ball or Public Information Officer, Doug Weseman at 530-533-6038 or 530-342-7350 to schedule a tour.