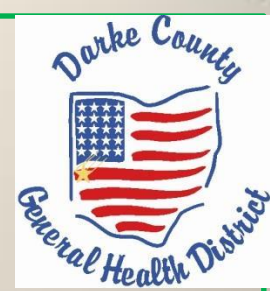


# How to Control Mosquitoes on the Farm



## Why Control Mosquitoes?

- Mosquitoes can spread disease to both people and animals. Heartworm in dogs and cats is spread by mosquitoes, and horses can die of West Nile. People can also get West Nile.
- Large mosquito populations can cause livestock to give less milk, lay less eggs or lose weight, if the problem is severe.

## Sources of Mosquitoes on a Farm

- **Not all water will hold mosquitoes.** Streams and rivers usually do not have mosquito larva. Reservoirs with steep sides and few weeds rarely have mosquitoes. Instead mosquitoes usually breed in small puddles or temporary pools.
- **Tire ruts** from heavy equipment can hold water which mosquitoes breed in.
- Leaky or dripping **water hydrants** can provide habitat for mosquitoes.
- **Hoof prints** can hold water which mosquitoes can breed in.
- **Water troughs**, which are not emptied weekly, can provide a good breeding ground for mosquitoes.
- **Cesspools which are not properly maintained** can house mosquitoes.
- Weedy **ditches** can hold water and **low areas of a field** can be good breeding areas for mosquitoes.

## How to Control Mosquitoes on a Farm

- Properly **maintain water hydrants** and outdoor spigots to prevent leaks and water accumulation.
- **Empty water troughs weekly** if possible. If not, treat the water with mosquito dunks. These contain a specific bacteria which kills mosquitoes but is harmless to livestock, people, pets and wildlife.
- **Tile or drain low lying areas** if possible. If not, then try to treat these areas with mosquito dunks.
- **Fill in tire ruts** if possible, and try to avoid driving on soft soils after a rain.
- **Eliminate or trim vegetation** in ditches, pond edges, or overflow areas.
- **Install working fans** in livestock barns, because mosquitoes cannot fly well if there is a breeze.
- Make sure the **spouting's to outbuildings are working**, and draining properly.

Mosquitoes can breed in tire ruts, or any other water source that lasts for more than 4 days.

