

Sampling mosquito populations for the West Nile and Zika viruses is a new undertaking for the District.



From mid-May through fall, Chelsea Gross, the District's West Nile Virus Program Technician, collects insect samples four days a week from a number of locations throughout the county and sends them to the state Department of Environmental Protection's laboratory for identification, disease testing, and controls if needed.

About five percent of the mosquitos collected during our first year of the program (2017) tested positive for West Nile virus, and one person in Westmoreland County tested positive.

The mosquito species known to carry the Zika virus was not found in Westmoreland County during 2017, and no human cases of this disease were identified in Pennsylvania.

www.westnile.state.pa.us



One tire, hundreds of mosquitoes!

Waste tires are a major form of pollution and a breeding ground for mosquitos.

Help solve both problems by recycling them at a special event on Saturday, April 14.

From 8:30 a.m. until noon, every waste tire you bring to the Westmoreland Cleanways Recycling

Center will be accepted for \$1 off the regular fee (e.g., passenger/lite truck tires off rim will be only \$2 instead of \$3). Cash, checks, and credit cards will be accepted.

Cleanways' Recycling Center is located at 113 Innovative Lane, Latrobe.

The tire recycling event is a collaboration between Westmoreland Cleanways and Recycling and the Westmoreland Conservation District's West Nile Virus Program.

Please note: Groups cleaning up tires from illegal dump sites **must** register with the 2018 Great American Cleanup of PA to receive free tire recycling on April 14. Businesses are not eligible for the recycling discount.

Tax Credits Available for Conservation on Farms

Pennsylvania farmers who plan to implement Best Management Practices or purchase on-farm conservation equipment can apply for tax credits through the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP).



Streambank fencing, waste-storage systems, rotational grazing systems, no-till planting equipment, Conservation Plans, and Nutrient Management/Manure Management Plans are examples of eligible projects.

Applicants can receive 50%-75% of eligible project costs in the form of state tax credits, up to \$150,000 per agricultural operation.

This REAP program is now open and awards are made on a first-come, first-served basis.

The amount of tax credits is limited. A deadline for submission will be set as this amount nears exhaustion.

http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/StateConservationCommission/REAP/Pages/default.aspx

Homeowner's Stormwater Guide BMP Toolkit



YOU CAN MANAGE STORMWATER WITH THESE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Planning a landscape project?

Our stormwater BMP toolkit has easy-to-follow guides that show you how to create a rain garden, install permeable paving, plant trees, and do things to beautify your home and manage stormwater.

<http://wcdpa.com/tech-services/stormwater-management/best-management-practice-bmp-toolkit/>

Westmoreland Conservation District

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Visit our website

