

Protect your family from Mosquito-borne disease

Submitted by Morgan Runyan, Texas AgriLife Agent

The recent rains have been a huge blessing to Coke County but not everything that comes after is a blessing. The puddles that have formed and the various containers that have filled with water are great breeding grounds for that pesky mosquito. The Aedes aegypti mosquito has been identified as the primary vector for transmission of Zika, dengue, chikungunya, and West Nile. The Zika virus has had a large spotlight in the media recently and for good reason. Zika virus is the cause of the increased cases of microcephaly. Microcephaly is a condition affecting unborn children where the baby's head is much smaller than expected due to the underdevelopment of the baby's brain. So far there have not been any confirmed cases of Zika caused by mosquito populations in the state of Texas. Those that have been infected by the bite of an infected mosquito have either traveled to an area with Zika carrying mosquitos or their partner has. Zika is very serious and experts are unsure what the future holds for the Zika virus in the US. Please consider these tips to help protect yourself and your family from mosquito borne diseases:

shirts

2. Drain any standing water from containers, tires, gutters, etc. around the home.

3. Use mosquito dunks in standing water that cannot be drained. (A mosquito dunk is a small, brown donut-looking object that floats on water and slowly dissolves, releasing a bacterium that kills mosquito larvae.

4. Reduce outdoor activity during dusk and dawn. I understand with long days and lots of summer activities this can be difficult, so if you are going to be outdoors during this time of day be prepared with a bug spray containing DEET approved by the EPA or CDC to protect yourself and all of your family from those pesky mosquitos.

For more information about traveling to areas that are affected by the Zika virus please go to <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-travel-information>.

Addition information on Zika can be found at these websites for the Texas A&M University System: <http://preventingzika.org> and <https://vitalrecord.tamhsc.edu/zika360>.

For more information about mosquito types, biology and control, go to <http://mosquitosafari.tamu.edu/>.

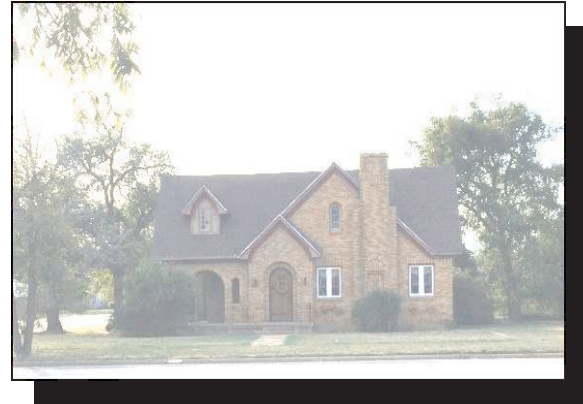
Information provided by Texas Agrilife Extension, Molly Keck, IPM Program Specialist and Sonja Swiger, Assistant Professor & Extension Entomologist.

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GORGEOUS FAMILY HOME! Beautiful updated 4 bedroom home on corner lot in established neighborhood with gorgeous large windows throughout. Privacy fence, lots of storage and extras! Large trees highlight landscaped yard and covered patio is perfect for entertaining! Near park and golf course!

WONDERFUL CRAFTSMANSHIP! Beautiful older home with lots of extras - built-ins, hardwood floors, cedar closet, decorative ceilings, stained glass inserts, antique chandeliers and more! Lovely porches and trees! New tile in kitchen! Updated with modern convenience while keeping old world charm!

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BEAUTIFUL LOCATION ABOVE FILM CREEK IN BALLINGER! Lovely home in excellent neighborhood with tons of trees. **UNDER CONTRACT** Home put on in 2015 and new paint throughout! Large lot on hill above city park! Beautiful views from backyard patio!

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