Spraying for Mosquitoes
FAQs related to pets and livestock

Sometimes the state and/or local communities ground or aerial spray pesticide to control mosquitoes in a variety of environments such as outdoor residential and recreational areas, commercial urban areas, and rural areas. Mosquitoes are a nuisance that impact quality of life, and they also can carry diseases, such as Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) or West Nile Virus (WNV).

Will aerial spraying affect my pets – my dogs and cats?

No. The pesticide being applied to control mosquitoes is called Anvil 10+10. It has a long track record of being safe for pets. It has been used by many states for more than a decade to control mosquitoes. The active ingredient is a pyrethroid, which is a class of pesticides that is often used in flea and tick control products that are commonly applied to dogs. The concentration of this pesticide is very low, and dogs and cats exposed to it in this concentration will not be harmed. Also, the fact that the pesticide will be applied during overnight hours should further limit potential exposure.

The pesticide was chosen, in part, because of the wide margin of safety to pets while being effective at very low concentrations to control mosquitoes. Our neighboring state of Massachusetts used this same pesticide supplied by the same company, in the same concentration, and flown by the same planes and there have been no reports of any adverse effects to pets in Massachusetts.

At the same time and to further ease pet owners’ concerns, DEM recommends the common-sense approach that you bring your pets indoors while spraying is occurring and for about 30 minutes after spraying. That time period will greatly reduce the likelihood of your pets breathing pesticide in air.

Will aerial spraying affect livestock?

No. The pesticide being applied to control mosquitoes is called Anvil 10+10. It has a long track record of being safe for livestock. It has been used by many states for more than a decade to control mosquitoes. The active ingredient is a pyrethroid, which is a class of pesticides that is often used in agricultural settings to control flies and other external parasites of livestock. The concentration of this pesticide is very low, and livestock – whether mammals or birds – exposed to this pesticide in this concentration will not be harmed. Also, the fact that the pesticide will be applied during overnight hours should further limit potential exposure.
The pesticide was chosen, in part, because of the wide margin of safety to livestock while being effective at very low concentrations to control mosquitoes. Our neighboring state of Massachusetts used this same pesticide supplied by the same company, in the same concentration, and flown by the same planes, and there have been no reports of any adverse effects in livestock in Massachusetts.

At the same time and to further ease livestock owners’ concerns, DEM recommends the common-sense approach that you bring animals indoors while spraying is occurring and for about 30 minutes after spraying. That time period will greatly reduce the likelihood of your livestock breathing pesticide in air.

For homeowners with outdoor water gardens and ponds that contain fish:

Because of the sensitivity of fish to this pesticide – especially fish that are kept in small bodies of water such as water garden ponds and pools – DEM recommends covering any water garden before aerial spraying begins. Weather permitting and subject to change, aerial spraying is expected to start at dusk/sundown, Sunday, September 8. A second aerial application may be needed with an anticipated start time of dusk/sundown on Monday, September 9. Once aerial spraying is finished, covers may be removed from water gardens, pools, and ponds containing fish.

Will aerial spraying affect bees, beehives, apiaries?

Our neighboring state of Massachusetts used this same pesticide supplied by the same company, in the same concentration and flown by the same planes, and there have been no reports of any adverse effects on apiaries in Massachusetts – including apiaries that failed to cover their hives. The fact that the application to control mosquitoes will occur during overnight hours should minimize the effect on bees and other beneficial insects that do not fly at night.

Although the pesticide has a long track record of being safe for mammals and birds in the treatment area, some non-target beneficial invertebrates, such as bees, may be harmed if no precautions are taken. DEM recommends that bee keepers cover hives at night with a loosely fit dampened sheet or burlap, and that the sheet or burlap is removed before the hive becomes active the next morning. Weather permitting and subject to change, aerial spraying is expected to start at dusk/sundown, Sunday, September 8, and a second aerial application may be needed with an anticipated start time of dusk/sundown on Monday, September 9.

Visit www.dem.ri.gov/mosquito for more information