

Mosquito Management and Technical Field Skills

By Carson P. Alge

Background:

- For my summer internship I worked as a Daytime Field Technician for Clarke Mosquito Management under contract for Franklin County Public Health. We worked in Franklin County, we didn't work in the city of Columbus, Ohio but the areas outside and surrounding it.
- Clarke Mosquito Management works to manage mosquito populations, allowing for the general public to enjoy the outdoors and help stop diseases carried by mosquitos from impacting the health of the residents. Larvicide treatment on breeding sites, and nighttime fogging. Clarke has four core values that are used to lead the work they do, which are Caring for the Planet, Caring for People, Being Passionate about what We do, and Doing the Right thing, Even when its Hard.
- I found this job through a friend that was working there, The summer of 2020 I worked as a Daytime technician which had different responsibilities.



This standing water I discovered was formed due to unkept tire ruts in the ground.

My work truck that I loaded up with tires I found in a field close to a residential area.



On The Job:

Main Duties:

- Travel to sites that have been historically found to hold breeding in water at the location. If eggs or larvicide were found I would apply a certified green larvicide to the area.
- I would also be assigned service requests from the residents of Franklin County for an inspection of their property. I would arrive at the property and look for any standing water that may be a haven for breeding.
- One day of the week we would come in to collect traps that were set over the weekend in our treatment areas. The number of mosquitos were counted, and some were taken out and were tested for West Nile Virus and other harmful mosquito born diseases.
- After receiving a grant through the EPA we also looked out and collected for spare, rimless tires that were on people's property or illegally dumped. These tires provide a great breeding spot if water is collected in them. A species known as an Asian Tiger Mosquito is notorious for breeding in tires.

Achievements:

- I collected the most scrap tires for the season and was awarded for this accomplishment. During the season I collected over 100 tires.
- Through my duty of travelling to known historically sites I discovered a handful of new breeding sites that will help to lower population counts in the area surrounding these sites.
- I received employee of the month for my dedication and hard work at the company.

Reflection:

- This internship was similar to what I want to do in my career because I saw how the management of mosquito aided in the overall health of the public. It is important to manage natural resources to help the health of our environment and communities.
- In my future career path, I could see myself staying in a similar field of work. I would like to focus more on a natural resource such as timber as a commodity or helping to manage an area that is used by the public to receive pleasure and enjoyment.
- For someone that would be interested in working in this sector I would recommend that you should be prepared and equipped for the struggles of working the field. Such as thick overgrowth and harsh walks. Communication skills are also important because of the many face to face interactions with the residents of the area that you are directly working. Being able to communicate professionally is important because you may encounter interactions with upset or angry residents.



This a Gravid Trap. These are set on the weekends and picked up on Monday to collect data on population counts and possible disease test positives.