

Mosquito Management

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INTRODUCTION

For my internship this summer, I worked as a Field Technician for Clarke Industries. This is a public health organization in charge of ensuring the community of a West Nile Virus free area. My day to day duties included service requests for residents throughout Franklin County and collecting as well as setting traps.



Finding the Job

As far as finding the job, it was relatively straightforward. I found the job through the indeed website and found an exciting amount of similarities to my major through the internship.

On the Job

During my time with Clarke, I was responsible of doing routine service inspections for residents. This means that I went to residential properties and consulted them on how they should manage their properties better to alleviate the presence of mosquitos. Not only was I trained to find adult mosquito breeding, I was also trained to identify the breeding that occurs in water at a larvae state. Below is an image of the technique of someone examining a potentially abundant mosquito larvae site.



Essentially when you dip the cup in certain still water areas. After dipping the cup, you then examine the cup for a specific type of movement larvae makes. The image below shows how team members set up the mosquito traps. These are wired with a 6-volt battery and left overnight. The next day the crew starts the day by collecting the traps in a cooler with dry ice to kill the mosquitos before returning them to lab to be tested.



Reflection

Throughout the summer, I learned so much from Clarke than I can use to apply to any career field. Some of the stuff I learned had to come from just being organized. The internship I had required a lot of organization before going out to the field.

