



Increased risk of core equine diseases accompanies peak pest season.

Horses are threatened with mortality rates up to 90 percent from mosquito-transmitted diseases, which include Eastern equine encephalomyelitis (EEE), Western equine encephalomyelitis (WEE) and West Nile virus.¹



(Editor's Note. Equine health alerts can be found on www.cdffa.ca, under the Equine Health News tab. As of July 16, there were no alerts for the state.)

Horses are at the highest risk for contracting these diseases during mosquito season, occurring summer through fall in the United States.² Risk management is critical for horse owners.

"To help limit a horse's risk of contracting deadly core equine diseases, annual vaccinations are immensely important," said Jaci Boggs, DVM, senior technical services veterinarian at Zoetis.

Prioritizing annual vaccination is the most effective strategy for helping protect horses against mosquito-borne diseases. Vaccinated horses have shown to be 30 times less likely to contract West Nile virus.³ West Nile-Innovator[®] is the veterinarian's first choice for core disease protection against West Nile virus and equine encephalomyelitis due to Eastern, Western and Venezuelan viruses.

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"In conjunction with annual vaccination, proper management of the environment to limit mosquito breeding opportunities is critical," Boggs said.

Five barn-friendly mosquito management tips:

- Remove objects such as unused troughs, wheelbarrows and tarps to eliminate mosquito-breeding habitats.
- Empty and clean any water-holding containers on a weekly basis.
- Fill in any low-lying areas that collect standing water after rainfall.
- Hang fans throughout the barn where horses are stabled, as mosquitoes avoid moving air.
- Apply insect repellent or bring horses inside from dusk to dawn, which are peak mosquito feeding hours.

"It's important for horse owners to remember that West Nile virus cases continue to occur across the United States," Boggs said. "An unvaccinated horse is very much at risk for core

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equine diseases, such as West Nile, EEE and WEE.”

All horses need annual core disease vaccination as the foundation of their wellness program. Contact your veterinarian today to discuss vaccinating amid an emerging mosquito population.

Visit www.CoreEquineDiseases.com to learn more.

Press release provided by Zoetis. For more information, visit www.zoetisUS.com.

- ¹ American Association of Equine Practitioners. Vaccination Guidelines. <https://aaep.org/guidelines/vaccination-guidelines>. Accessed June 1, 2018.
- ² Center for Disease Control and Prevention. West Nile virus. <https://www.cdc.gov/westnile/index.html>. Accessed June 1, 2018.
- ³ Epp T, Waldner C, West K. Efficacy of vaccination for West Nile virus in Saskatchewan horses, in Proceedings. 51st Annual Convention of the American Association of Equine Practitioners 2005;180-182.
- ⁴ Data on file, MDI sales data for WEST NILE-INNOVATOR as of 12/31/16, Zoetis Inc.