

West Nile found in 26 Kansas counties, but none here

So far, Thomas County has not had a case of the West Nile Virus, according to information the Kansas Department of Health and Environment released late last week. However, the state did say that an additional probable human case of West Nile Virus did occur in Johnson County with a 19-year old hospitalized with probable neuroinvasive disease, said Dr. Gail Hansen, acting state epidemiologist.

A probable West Nile Virus case is one in which the symptoms are consistent with the virus, but not all of the relevant tests are performed or available, Hansen said.

In addition to this newest case, Hansen said previous released information on human cases included Sedgwick County with one confirmed case involving a 46-year old hospitalized with West Nile Virus neuroinvasive disease; Wyandotte County involving a probable case of a 68 year-old hospitalized with probable neuroinvasive West Nile Virus; Morris County with a 64-

year old (not hospitalized) but probable case; Barton County with a 43-year old with probable West Nile Virus fever (non-neuroinvasive).

With cases being reported, the state's health department is reminding physicians to report West Nile Virus cases to the state by calling (877) 427-7317.

The state has confirmed West Nile Virus activity in 26 counties, Hansen said. Those previously confirmed in birds were located in the following counties: Barton, Butler, Chase, Douglas, Edwards, Harper, Harvey, Franklin, Johnson, Kearny, Kingman, Labette, Lincoln, Lyon, Marshall, Osborne, Pratt, Reno, Saline, Sedgwick, Shawnee and Wilson counties, Wyandotte, and a mosquito pool in Riley and Wallace counties.

In counties where two reports of the virus have been confirmed, no additional bird testing will be conducted and telephone reports are not needed.

"Birds are no longer being tested from Barton, Butler, Douglas,

Kansans who find dead birds should call the West Nile Virus Information Line."

Edwards, Franklin, Harper, Harvey, Johnson, Kingman, Lyon, Morris, Pratt, Reno, Saline, Sedgwick, Shawnee and Wyandotte counties," Hansen said.

"With West Nile Virus found in many Kansas counties, everyone should be taking precautions including using insect repellent with DEET and draining standing water where possible to reduce the breeding grounds of mosquitoes," Hansen said. "These actions will help us reduce our chances of becoming infected."

To be prepared against the virus, take personal precautions including use of an insect repellent with DEET, and reducing mosquito breeding grounds.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment also recommends the following to reduce the risk of the West Nile Virus.

- Use insect repellent with DEET and wear protective clothing when practical;
- Remove standing water - where mosquitoes breed (i.e. clogged gutters or unused tires);
- Use larvicide in water that cannot be drained or removed;
- Change water every three days in bird baths, pet bowls, and wading pools;
- Limit outdoor activities at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.

West Nile Virus fever (non-neuroinvasive) cases involve

milder symptoms of the illness that may include: fever, headache, rash, general muscle aches and weakness, gastrointestinal signs and inflammation of the lymph nodes with no other likely explanation for the symptoms. Since the symptoms are not specific, only special laboratory tests can confirm a diagnosis of WNV.

Neuroinvasive cases (West Nile Virus meningitis, West Nile Virus encephalitis, and West Nile Virus acute flaccid paralysis) involve more extreme symptoms including severe headache, high fever, difficulty walking and/or talking, coma and even death.

Most healthy people infected with West Nile Virus show either no symptoms of illness or only mild symptoms. About 20 percent of those infected show any symptoms, typically seen 3-15 days after the mosquito bite.

West Nile Virus is carried by birds and transmitted by mosquitoes that bite the infected birds, which then transmit it to horses and

people. The virus is not transmitted by contact with infected people or by direct contact with infected birds or infected horses.

The state is asking Kansans who find dead birds to call the West Nile Virus Information Line at (877)-228-2287 and learn how to submit the bird to Kansas State University for testing. In counties where two reports of West Nile Virus have been confirmed, no additional bird testing will be conducted and telephone reports are not needed.

Birds being tested include: crows, blue jays, magpies, or birds of prey (hawks, owls, eagles), and must meet the following criteria for testing:

- Bird should not have been dead longer than 24 hours;
- Bird should be intact and should be placed in double plastic bags in freezer

Callers must leave their name and number and will receive a call back with further information on what to do with the dead bird.

K-State Extension agents will ship the specimens to a designated testing lab. Test results will not be released to individuals submitting birds, but birds testing positive will be reported on the West Nile Virus website.

For information on West Nile Virus, go to www.westnileks.com

Thomas County Free Fair dog show results announced

Results from this year's Thomas County Open Pre-Agility Show during the fair included the following divisions, owners, and placement.

In the pre-agility 1 — (on leash) for small dogs 15" or less: Quinnlyn Woofter, red; Brady Rundel, blue, grand champion; Colton Rundel, blue, reserve champion, Tatym Rundel, red.

In the pre-agility 1 — (on leash)

for medium dogs 15"-20": Kortney Bredemeier, purple, grand champion, Case Rundel; purple, Reserve Champion.

In pre-agility 1 — (on leash) for large dogs 20" or more: Dustin Splattstoesser, blue; Joseph Huftles, purple, grand champion; Quade Woofter, blue; Andy Huelsman, blue, reserve champion.

In pre-agility (off leash) for small dogs 15" or less: Seth Bredemeier,

purple, grand champion.

In the 4-H pre-agility show during the Thomas County fair, the following divisions, owners and placements are:

In pre-agility 1 — (on leash) small dogs 15" or less: Quinnlyn Woofter, red; Brady Rundel, blue; Colton Rundel, blue; tatym Rundel, red;

In pre-agility 1 — (on leash) medium dogs 15"-20": Kortney

Bredemeier, purple, grand champion; Case Rundel, purple, reserve champion.

In pre-agility 1 — (on leash) large dogs 20" or more: Dustin Splattstoesser, blue; Joseph Huftles, purple, grand champion; Quade Woofter, blue; Andy Huelsman, blue, reserve champion.

In pre-agility 1 — (off leash) small dogs 15" or less: Seth Bredemeier, purple, grand cham-

pion.

Overall grand champion agility dog was earned by Joseph Huftles and overall reserve grand champion agility dog was awarded to Kortney Bredemeier.

Two Colby students to Masonic band camp

Jasmine Brown and April McAdams, students from Colby High School, were selected to participate in the 21st Annual Kansas Masonic All-State High School Marching Band Camp at Emporia State University from July 27th through 31st.

The two students from Colby attended the five day 225-member

Band Camp in Emporia with musicians from across the state of Kansas.

Marching and musical instructions were under the direction of Prof. Tracy Freeze and his E-State band staff. The week-long band camp ended with a parade in the morning and a pre-game and half time performance at the Kansas

East-West Shrine Bowl football game on Saturday, July 31.

Brown and McAdams are two of over 3,200 young people who have performed in the Kansas Masonic All-State High School Marching Band since 1984.

The marching band is a project of the Kansas Masonic Foundation. Sponsorship for each student is paid

by local lodges and other affiliated bodies in their communities. Monies left from band camp after expenses are donated to the Kansas Masonic Cancer Research Institute located at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City. Net proceeds from the East-West Shrine Bowl Game are donated to the Shriner's Hospitals for Children.

The Colby clinic has services of K. U. preceptor

A medical student from the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Kansas City is studying in Colby for four weeks. Heather Male is participating in a rural family practice experience with Victor H.

Hildyard, MD. She began the rotation on Aug. 2.

Dr. Hildyard, of Colby Medical and Surgical Center, is a volunteer mentor for preceptors with the School's Kansas Rural Preceptor

Program. The program places all fourth-year medical students in communities across Kansas to expose them to the practice of pri-

mary care in non-urban areas and to increase their awareness of professional opportunities in rural areas.

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