

Best Agricultural Practices to Reduce Mosquito Populations

Some agricultural practices, such as excessive crop irrigation, can increase the populations of mosquitoes in that area and can lead to nuisance problems and an increase in species of mosquitoes that commonly carry mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile virus. Species, such as *Culex spp.*, are commonly found to shelter in tall grasses during the day, including crop fields. When a field is subject to over irrigation and water is left standing in the field for five days or more, this provides the perfect breeding grounds for mosquitoes, resulting in the growth of those mosquito populations. By following the below recommendations provided by the Vector Disease Control International, you can help reduce the mosquito populations and decrease the chances for mosquito-borne diseases to be transmitted to you, your livestock, or your pets.

To reduce possible breeding grounds in your irrigated crop fields and livestock pastures, follow the actions below:

- Make an irrigation schedule to reduce overwatering
- Before letting out more water, make sure all of the previously released water has soaked into the soil
- Inspect fields for proper drainage and make sure all ditches and laterals are flowing properly and not clogged by debris
- Make sure all ruts are filled in on field roads to reduce areas of standing water
- If barrels are kept in the fields, empty out any standing water and store them upside down
- Refresh and replace water in livestock water troughs at least once a week or apply a Bti larvicide dunks to the trough, following the application directions on the package

Resources:

For more tips for reducing mosquito populations around agriculture areas, visit the Vector Disease Control's website at: <http://www.vdci.net/agricultural-tips-to-reduce-mosquitoes>

For more mosquito resources and pesticide resources, visit the Ohio Mosquito and Vector Control Association's website at: <http://www.ohiomosquito.org/resources.html>

To learn more about the Ohio Department of Health's *Fight the Bite!* initiative, visit their website at: <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/zoonotic-disease-program/resources/mosquito-borne-diseases>