

West Nile Virus



In the past two years, there have been 292 equine cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) in Wyoming. Statistics show that one out of three infected horses will not survive the disease. But there are steps you can take to protect your horse.

Vaccinate. There are two over-the-counter vaccines licensed for the prevention of WNV in horses. If you are vaccinating your horse for the first time, two doses should be given three weeks apart. The second dose should be given at least two weeks before mosquitoes are likely to bite your horse. After the initial inoculation, horses should be given an annual booster. Some veterinarians recommend more frequent boosters, so talk to your vet.

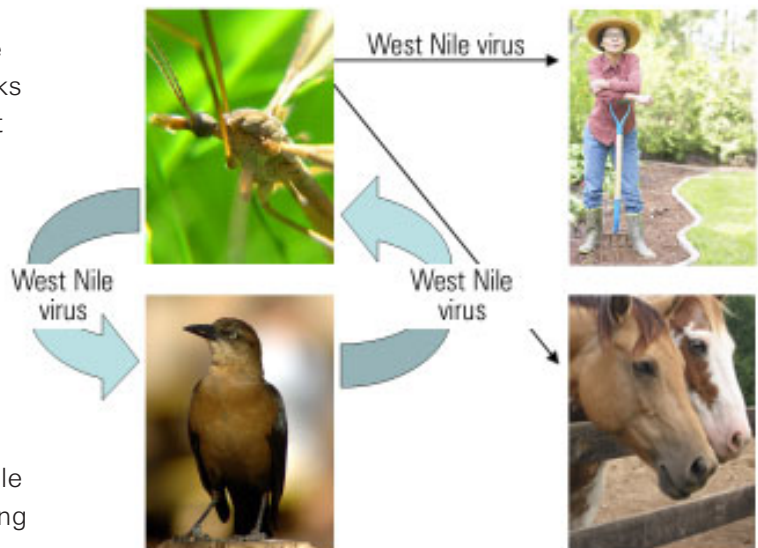
Drain. Since horses are infected with WNV through mosquito bites, you can reduce the chance of infection by reducing mosquito populations. Mosquitoes can breed in any puddle that lasts more than four days. Drain any standing water on your property. Clean watering troughs

every few days. Eliminate items on your property that catch and hold water. If they can't be removed, store them inside or upside down or drill holes in the bottom to let water drain.

Repel. Consider using an insect repellent containing a synthetic pyrethroid compound, but don't rely on it as your horse's sole source of protection. Keeping horses stalled at night, especially in screened housing can reduce the risk of infection.

More information can be found at the Wyoming Department of Health's West Nile Virus website at <http://www.badskeeter.org>

West Nile Virus Transmission Cycle



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