

Other Animal Surveillance

Other Animal Surveillance Highlights for 2005

- No horses infected with WNV in the Region of Peel
 - 5 confirmed cases in Ontario in 2005 compared to 9 cases in 2004

In addition to mosquito (larval and adult) and bird surveillance, equine cases of WNV are also monitored. While there are many wild and domestic animals that can be infected with WNV, horses, like corvid birds, are particularly susceptible to the WNV disease. The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAFRA), in collaboration with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Health Canada, veterinarians and private laboratories, collects data on WNV-infected horses.

In 2005, there were a total five confirmed cases of WNV in horses in Ontario (Table 23). There were no infected horses in the Region of Peel. In addition, no regions adjacent to the Region of Peel reported WNV infected horses. The only confirmed equine case of WNV in Peel Region was reported in 2003.

Table 23 Equine Cases of WNV by Region - Ontario, 2005

Region	Number of Confirmed Cases	Date of First Case	Date of Last Case
Essex	1	August 25	August 25
Lambton	2	August 26	September 28
Niagara	1	September 8	September 8
Waterloo	1	September 19	September 19

Source: adapted from Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, 2005²²

The number of equine cases continues to steadily decline. In 2004, there were nine cases compared to 41 presumed or confirmed cases in 2003 and 101 in 2002¹¹. This decline is likely due to the availability of an equine vaccine for WNV. This vaccine has been available since 2001 and it is expected that the majority of horses have been vaccinated. This has resulted in a diminished usefulness of equine cases as a surveillance tool to assess the risk to human health. The equine vaccine is not licensed for use on any other species.