

**Other Animal Surveillance****Other Animal Surveillance Highlights for 2006**

- No horses were infected with WNV in the Region of Peel
  - Three confirmed cases in Ontario in 2006 compared to five cases in 2005

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, collect data on WNV-infected horses.

In 2006, there were a total of three 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, 2006**

Region	Number of Confirmed Cases	Date of First Case	Date of Last Case
District of Nipissing	1	August 29	August 29
Waterloo	1	September 8	September 8
Niagara	1	September 22	September 22

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, 2006<sup>26</sup>

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 2002.<sup>11</sup> 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.