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## March/April Update

Winter snow and April rain wasn't enough to lift us out of the moderate drought that we'd been in since last year. Not one week has gone by without multiple rain events. Even the weekends are rainy. Yet brush fires have occurred in many communities. There's plenty of stagnant water to keep mosquito larvae thriving in wetlands despite the drought status.

This spring Dragon has:

- Received the State Special Permit to conduct municipal mosquito control
- Distributed our Public Notices
- Sent certified letters to State registered beekeepers
- Updated the No-spray registry for your town
- Received permission from the Dept. of Agriculture to start mosquito control for 2025
- Checked swamps, marshes, woodland pools and ditches for mosquito larvae
- Treated those wetlands when necessary with Bti

Ticks are active again now that the snow is gone. We have to be mindful of more than dog ticks and black legged ticks (previously called deer ticks). Newer species of ticks are found in New England and carry with them new diseases. Lyme disease dominates but lesser known diseases including Babesiosis, Alpha-gal syndrome (AGS) and Powassan disease are on the rise.

In NH, the 2024 season had the most EEE (Eastern Equine Encephalitis) activity in a decade with humans, horses and mosquitoes all testing positive for the disease. Massachusetts, Maine and Vermont also experienced elevated disease activity. New Hampshire had five human cases of EEE, more than any other state. Sadly, one person from Danville and one from Hampstead died as a result. EEE killed five horses, a white-tailed deer and a turkey in New Hampshire.

The occurrence of EEE usually happens in cycles which can last two to three years or longer. It's impossible to know what the 2025 season will bring but we're prepared for more activity. The following pages provide a recap of the disease activity in NH last summer.