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News from Your Extension Agent:

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service-Camp County is participating in statewide mosquito species research. You may have seen the containers (Figure 1.) around the Courthouse square, Broach Park or even perhaps at your church! Camp County 4-H is assisting with set up and collection of the containers. Do not be alarmed, the cups are only filled with water and contain a special strip of paper. Please do not tamper with these cups but also know they are harmless to you, your child and your pet's health.

Why are we conducting this research? "The Department of Entomology at Texas A&M is working with several collaborators statewide and internationally to understand the biology of mosquitoes to learn more on how to effectively control and prevent mosquito-borne viruses that are threatening the world today." -Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University and AgriLife Extension.

Why is it important? Mosquitoes carry a variety of diseases that humans are susceptible to, such as, West Nile, Dengue Fever, Chikungunya and Zika. Mosquitoes are also responsible for spreading Malaria, but thankfully Malaria was eradicated in the U.S. many years ago. However, it is still a serious concern around the world.

So what can you do at home to prevent mosquitoes from biting or nesting in and around your home? Remember the 4 D's!

- Drain or dump: all standing water, clean out gutters, empty bird baths and flower pot drains weekly, store buckets, toys and wheelbarrows so they will not hold water.
- Day, Dusk and Dark: mosquitoes can be active at any time of day, the temperature needs only to be over 55 degrees F for them to bite.
- Dress: when outdoors wear long pants and long sleeves, choose fabrics with a tight weave instead of knit or other loosely woven fabric.
- DEET: Use mosquito repellent containing one of these ingredients: DEET, IR3535, Picaridin or Oil of lemon eucalyptus.

Remember, prevention means disrupting the mosquito life cycle. Mosquitoes need three things to survive: food, water, and shelter. If you can eliminate at least one of these, you have a chance at eliminating mosquitoes from your yard. Be sure to repair windows and door screens, mow grass and cut back shrubs and weeds. Sometimes a professional pest control application may be necessary if none of these recommendations are eliminate the mosquitoes. As mentioned above, do not leave "stuff" of any kind where it can hold water- this is the perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes! (This means junk, tires,



toys, flower pots, swings, bird baths, buckets, pools, septic tanks, rain barrels left open, or any other material that may hold water).

For more information on mosquito control, feel free to contact Camp County Extension office at 903-856-5005 or camp-tx@ag.tamu.edu. You may also visit: <https://mosquitosafari.tamu.edu> for a fun and interesting tutorial on mosquitoes!

#AgFact It is estimated that 600,000 people die each year from Malaria.

All data and recommendations are based on Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Resources

Figure 1. Mosquito research containers located in Camp County



Sincerely,

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