This summer I had the opportunity to work for Colorado Mosquito Control (CMC) as a public relations and outreach intern. CMC specializes in full service Integrated Mosquito Management programs designed to control nuisance and disease vector mosquitos while protecting the Colorado environment. In Northern Colorado, CMC is contracted by the city of Fort Collins, Loveland, Longmont, Timnath, Windsor, several HOAs, and the general public. While the majority of operations are targeted toward larval control (94%), CMC also has some focus on adult control (4%) and disease surveillance (2%).

During my internship, I mainly focused on public outreach. My main duties focused on CMC’s Backyards Program. I would inspect residential backyards for the presence of mosquito larvae, and treat if necessary. Common breeding habitats that I determined were unused swimming pools, ponds, bird baths, artificial containers, and flooded grasses.

In addition to public outreach, I was able to spend some time in the lab identifying adult mosquitoes. I spent the majority of my time identifying *Culex tarsalis* and *Culex pipiens* species. I essentially identified and counted these them strictly so they could be packed and sent to CSU’s lab for West Nile analysis. I also spent some time identifying other mosquitoes, such as ones found in the genus *Aedes*, and *Culiseta*.

I also took part in many other smaller projects while working here. These included performing storm drain inspections, conducting quality control checks, riding along fogging operations, and even collecting egg rafts for a CDC funded resistance trial.

Overall, I had a great experience. I learned a lot about Integrated Mosquito Management and the many duties it entails. I am now more confident in public speaking and more enthusiastic in general.

A strong candidate for this internship is an action-oriented, self-motivated, hardworking individual who is not afraid to get dirty.