Internship at Colorado Mosquito Control
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This summer I was able to have an internship at Colorado Mosquito Control (CMC) performing surveillance for Northern Colorado, mainly in the Loveland area. CMC conducts services for Fort Collins, Loveland, Longmont, Timnath, Windsor, Berthoud, Johnstown, several HOAs, as well as private homeowners and other cities to control the mosquito population throughout Colorado. The majority of efforts put forth by the company are surrounding larval control using targeted larvicides, this helps prevent adults from even emerging.

In my internship, I focused on collecting adult mosquito data for the Loveland area. My daily responsibilities included setting traps, picking up traps, identifying and counting adult mosquitoes and recording the data. Then the Culex mosquitoes were collected and CSU tested them for West Nile Virus. I enjoyed this internship, learned a lot about public health and about data collection and worked with some great people!

In addition to these surveillance practices, I was able to perform backyard inspections in Fort Collins and Loveland. On these inspections I would check residential ponds, storm drains, artificial containers, and overwatered or flooded yards for mosquito larvae and then treat appropriately when larvae was found.

I had several opportunities to interact with the public during the season as well. I was involved in public outreach events that the City of Fort Collins held, and educated residents while on my trapping route and while inspecting backyards.

I had a great experience working for CMC and even though it made the summer fly by, I learned a lot and had opportunities to dip my toes in a few different programs during the season.

This internship would be best suited for students that are happy with having responsibility for the trapping data, don’t mind getting dirty and being outdoors!