

SHELTER ISLAND AND FIRE ISLAND DEER AND TICK CONTROL STUDY

Monthly Update
August - September 2009

Dan Gilrein
Extension Entomologist
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County

Susan Walker
Extension Associate-Wildlife Specialist
Cornell University, Department of Natural Resources

4-Posters and Ticks

All 4-Posters continue to be functioning well. Warm and dry conditions have led to less clogging and lower maintenance needs. Issues with the rollers have been addressed (smaller diameter rollers were supplied in a previous order and noted in Mat Pound's June visit, but current stock is 'correct' as determined by Mat Pound's tests). Corn quality has been consistently high this year, with no detectable dust and almost no foreign material.

Tick sampling data from June were presented at the August Town Board meeting, showing overall decreases in lone star and blacklegged nymph numbers, although decreases were much greater in areas of 4-Poster deployment. Adult lone star numbers are also much decreased from 2008 in the North Study Area on Shelter Island.

Several devices in areas where hunting will occur will be relocated or removed, as was done in 2008. We are now working on adjustments to minimize interference with hunting, while allowing as many devices as possible to continue functioning into fall, when blacklegged adults again become active.

Deer Research

Investigation of Permethrin Residues

We are preparing for the upcoming deer harvest season and subsequent permethrin residue sampling beginning October 1, 2009. Shelter Island's Town Deer Management Program is providing the first deer harvested each month using nuisance permits from 5 designated properties (a total of 15 deer from October – December) for permethrin residue sampling. Their participation will help ensure we obtain an adequate number of sample deer during the 2009 season. The samples submitted for laboratory analysis will primarily be collected from deer we can identify using 4-Poster devices during monthly infrared-triggered camera surveys.

We have prepared information for hunters regarding safe handling of the deer they harvest during the 2009 season. This document is available at the Town Hall and the Shelter Island Police Department. The document can also be obtained on our project webpage (<http://wildlifecontrol.info/TickStudy/Pages/PermethrinResidueInvestigations.aspx>).

We'd like to remind you that the enhanced permethrin residue sampling protocol for 2009 can also be viewed on our project website. The NYSDEC, NYSDOH, and Cornell worked together to finalize the sampling protocol that will be used for the permethrin residue sampling during 2009.

As always, we welcome your questions (631-749-0896). If you are interested in providing samples during October – December, please call us for more information or visit our project website.

Work In Progress

In addition to continued evaluation of non-target wildlife use of 4-Poster devices, the infrared-triggered camera surveys conducted during September on Shelter Island and North Haven provide us with information to estimate deer population status.

We anticipate having some project data summaries available for review by the end of November. We are currently compiling information. As we continue the project, we will update our website.



Questing lone star tick female, June 2008



Deer at Fire Island 4-Poster, 2008



Adult lone star ticks on deer ear, North Haven, May 2008



Low numbers of adult ticks on deer ears, Shelter Island, July 2009



Lone star tick larvae and nymph