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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**MARION COUNTY EXPERIENCES POSITIVE CASE OF  
WEST NILE VIRUS IN MARION HORSE**

*– Case is first of 2010 –*

**OCALA** – The Marion County Health Department has confirmed a positive case of West Nile virus (WNV) in Marion County.

The positive case is the first of the year for Marion County and was present in a horse. The case was found in a horse in Reddick.

West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne virus that can be transmitted to humans and horses by the bite of an infected mosquito.

Earlier this week, Marion County experienced its fifth case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) for 2010, also a mosquito-borne virus, in a Marion County horse.

The health department advises the public to remain diligent in their personal mosquito protection efforts against WNV, EEE and all other mosquito-borne viruses. These efforts should include the “5 D’s” for prevention:

- **Dusk and Dawn** – Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are seeking blood. For many species, this is during the dusk and dawn hours.
- **Dress** – Wear clothing that covers most of your skin.
- **DEET** – When the potential exists for exposure to mosquitoes, repellents containing DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide, or N,N-diethyl-3-methylbenzamide) are recommended. Picaridin and oil of lemon eucalyptus are other repellent options.
- **Drainage** – Check around your home to rid the area of standing water, which is where mosquitoes can lay their eggs.

For more information on West Nile virus or other mosquito-borne viruses contact the Marion County Health Department at (352) 629-0137.

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