

Edwardsville Intelligencer

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1995

EDWARDSVILLE, ILLINOIS 62025

14 PAGES

More mosquito relief swarms into Madison County

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Of the Intelligencer

Mosquitoes may soon stop bugging the residents in areas hit by flash flooding this past May.

Residents of the Edwardsville Estates Trailer Park and other residential areas in Chouteau, Nameoki, Edwardsville and Collinsville Townships will be the benefactors of mosquito spraying and weed control.

The relief will bring the flood relief process full circle.

The task of eliminating the pesky mosquitoes is part of the flood relief effort. The Monsanto Co., a Madison County Labor Association and funds from the Madison County community development office have been brought together to help purchase mosquito sprays.

Federal disaster relief funds were not available to help thwart the mosquito population, sending local officials hunting for money from other areas.

Mosquitoes breed their larvae in wet, grassy areas, and flooding that left water was standing for several weeks only aggravated the cycle.

"The problems are a result of the flash floods that hit the area this spring and now many of the in-land waterways are holding excess water," said Jack Quigley, director of the Madison County Emergency Management



Bug off!

■ Monsanto Co., a Madison County Labor Association and the Madison County community development office teamed up to fight mosquitoes.

■ Edwardsville Township will begin spraying in the bottomlands next week.

Agency. "Right now it is a real problem for the people who live there."

Quigley said Madison County received \$12,004 in relief funds, and the money went toward mosquito sprays.

"The chemical was ordered last Wednesday and arrived last Thursday," Quigley said. "Most of it has been distributed and probably some of it has been applied already."

The chemicals were sent out to individual townships.

"The townships will work together to get equipment and help from people certified to do the spraying," Quigley said.

He said there will be no private contractors involved in the relief, and the partnerships

formed during the relief effort will help establish a foundation for a lasting pest control service throughout the area.

Bob Stille, Edwardsville Township supervisor, said residents of Edwardsville Estates Trailer Park should be seeing action in their neighborhood next week.

"Members of the Glen Carbon street department will be providing the spraying services, and the township will be throwing pellets into the water to help kill the larvae," Stille said.

The donations to help rid mosquitoes from flood stricken area goes beyond sprays to kill the new larvae. Monsanto also donated 30 gallons of its Rodeo herbicide to ensure the mosquitoes do not continue to breed.

"Rodeo herbicide is a lot like Round-up, (a weed killing chemical used by farmers) but is used to control weeds in aquatic regions," said Bryan Hurley, public affairs representative for Monsanto.

Hurley said sprays used to kill mosquitoes must land directly on the insects in order to kill them. If they do not, the mosquitoes will continue to breed. By using the Rodeo herbicide, the weedy areas where the mosquitoes breed will be eliminated.

Hurley said this is the first time Monsanto has made this type of chemical donation to help in flood relief.

"The community recognized the need for help and they came to us," Hurley said.

Russ Sackett, plant manager of the Krummrich plant in Sauget, recommended the project for funding because of the number of Monsanto employees who live in the flooded areas and as a way to alleviate the problem.

Quigley said he appreciates all the help the County Emergency Management has received during all the processes of flood relief.

"We have been working with the Community Development and other agencies throughout the entire relief process," Quigley said.

"From the beginning we said we would get through the situation by begging, borrowing or stealing. We didn't have to steal anything, though," he said jokingly.