file: Krummrich donations

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Monsanto joins battle against mosquitoes

By Debra A. Robinson
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MADISON — Standing water from May rains is responsible for a mosquito infestation that local communities are finding difficult to fight.

A chemical company on Tuesday said it will help.

Caseyville and four townships in southwest Madison County will share a cash donation of nearly $19,000 and $6,000 worth of chemicals provided through Monsanto Co. to help clear out the mosquitoes that have been bothering residents since the spring floods. The townships also will share equipment and labor to help control the problem.

State Rep. Thomas Holbrook, D-Belleville, said he asked for help from Monsanto, which operates a plant in Sauget, because there was no grant money available at the state or federal level for what he said is potentially a health hazard.

The Greater Madison County Federation of Labor, led by George Machino, also contributed to the Madison County effort to fight mosquitoes.

"The problem we have with mosquitoes breeding like crazy in our area is a result of the May rains, but there is no emergency funding available for this problem," Holbrook said.

Nameoki Township street department employee Steve Isenburg said people in the area have been complaining.

"They are complaining that they can't even sit outside like they used to," Isenburg said. "There are little puddles here and there from the May rains, and there are some ponds that are filled with mosquito larvae. The numbers are enormous."

Isenburg said because of the infestation, he sprays the township for mosquitoes once each week. Last year he sprayed about once every three weeks.

Nameoki Township Supervisor Ken Davis said Tuesday he believes the donations and cooperation will allow the townships to get the insect population under control.

Holbrook said he did not believe the mosquitoes were currently a health hazard, but he said prevention was needed.



News-Democrat/Erik Mahr

DONATION: From left, Isenburg, Monsanto's Russell Sackett, Davis, Machino, Holbrook and FEMA Director John Quigley

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