

Flooding, wet weather most likely to make mosquito season worse

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Brad Asay, Uinta County Mosquito Control Coordinator tests and labels mosquitoes in his lab. Uinta County harbors 30 different species. HERALD PHOTO/Becky Crum

Recent rain and flooding in Uinta County has added water to areas that didn't have water in the past, thus adding to a higher infestation of mosquitoes. This week the county has begun their annual aerial spraying.

"We do two applications every year," said Brad Asay, Uinta County Mosquito Control Coordinator. "We are spraying in the evening so we will have better success and fewer problems with bees and other insects."

Asay said they have a higher mortality with bees if the spray comes in direct contact with the bees. He said there have been studies that the spray affects the bees if they land on the plants, however generally after an evening the spray is degraded and doesn't affect the bees.

"We do everything we can to get around killing the bees," he said.

Asay said there haven't been any cases of West Nile Virus in Uinta County so far this year. He said last year seven human cases were found in Wyoming, but he hasn't heard of any this year.

"In the past we had a juvenile pheasant show up that tested positive for the virus. The only explanation we could come up with was that the pheasant came in with the dog trials that year," Asay said.