

Conservation News

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Rosebud Conservation District

Meetings: 4th
Wednesday
Phone: 406-346-7479

Treasure County Conservation District

Meetings: 2nd
Tuesday
Phone: 406-342-5466

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Forsyth Field Office
Phone: 406-346-7333

Hysham Field Office
Phone: 406-342-5466

It's West Nile Season Again!

Taken from information found at www.dphhs.state.mt.us and www.aphis.usda.gov



West Nile Virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne virus that causes encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain. Mosquitos acquire the virus from birds and pass it on to other birds, animals, and people.

In Montana, most cases of WNV occur July to September, when mosquitoes are most active. Although a potentially serious illness, about 80% of those infected notice no symptoms. 20% experience a mild illness known as West Nile Fever. 1 in 150 people develop a serious illness, and 1 in 1,000 cases is fatal. Once someone has been infected with West Nile, they develop an immunity to it. People over the age of 50 are at greatest risk for contracting West Nile.

Symptoms occur 3-14 days after the bite. Signs to watch for include:

- Sudden onset of fever, the primary symptom of infection.
- Mild flu-like symptoms,

- including malaise, nausea, vomiting, eye pain, headache, muscle pain, rash, and swollen lymph nodes.

In some cases, fatigue, head and body aches persist. Symptoms last 3-6 days and most people recover completely.

West Nile Virus can impact horses more severely than humans, but equine vaccines are available and highly recommended.

Symptoms in horses are:

- Ataxia (stumbling or incoordination)
- Depression or apprehension
- Weakness of limbs
- Partial paralysis
- Muscle twitching

There are actions you can take to protect yourself and your animals from West Nile Virus.

- Consider staying inside,

- Wear clothing that contains DEET
 - Eliminate standing water and change birdbaths and stock tanks frequently
 - Repair faucets, drains, and gutters
 - Use screens on windows and doors
 - Vaccinate horses
 - Support local mosquito control efforts
- "Fight the bite 'SWAT Team' Nile Virus!"

Rosebud CD has a Website!

The Rosebud Conservation District has started a website!

Although still under construction, it can be viewed at www.rosebudcd.org. The proposed Land Use Ordinance

links page up. We hope to have a page for the Rosebud Watershed posted soon, with meeting dates, minutes, and general information. We plan on posting Coal Bed Methane information, as well.

little rearranging of the deck attempt to make it more user friendly, so please let us know what you think with us! If you have any comments or suggestions, we would like to hear them. We will post them on the website, we would like to hear your suggestions!

is posted, along with 310
permitting and loan program
information. We also have a

Since our site is a work in
progress, we will be doing a

webmaster@
and let her kn