Challenges of mosquito control in flood irrigated habitat

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The District

- Size of District: 310 Square Miles
- Types of Habitats:
 - Flood irrigated pastures: Primary type of habitat in district
 - Permanent water sources: Ponds, sloughs, etc.
 - Storm drains
 - Other



Flood Irrigated Habitat







Can lead to this...





Types of Mosquitoes

- Floodwater Mosquitoes
 - Aedes nigromaculis
 - Aedes dorsalis
 - Aedes vexans
- Permanent Water Mosquitoes
 - Culex tarsalis
 - Culex pipiens
 - Culiseta inornata
 - Anopheles freeborni



Challenges





• TIMING!

- $\circ \qquad {\sf Timing of applications} \\$
- \circ Irrigation timing
- Access to habitat
- Weather
- Cost
- Public Opinion





How we Control Floodwater Mosquitoes

- Follow IPM principles
 - Surveillance
 - Larviciding
 - Adulticiding

Products we Use

- Larvicides
 - BTi
 - Methoprene
 - Bs
 - Combo products (BTi+Bs, BTi+S methoprene, etc.)
 - Surface oils

- Adulticides
 - Pyrethroid products
 - Permethrin
 - Deltamethrin
 - Sumithrin
 - Organophosphates
 - Dibrom concentrate

Application Methods

- Larviciding
 - $\circ \qquad \text{From the ground} \qquad$
 - Backpack applications
 - ATV applications
 - $\circ \qquad \text{From the air} \qquad$
 - Fixed wing aircraft
- Adulticiding
 - \circ From the ground
 - Truck mounted ULV
 - ATV mounted ULV
 - Barrier Spraying
 - $\circ \qquad \text{From the air} \qquad$
 - Fixed wing aircraft



Ground Applications

- Larviciding
 - \circ ~800-1200 acres/year
 - Mostly use a BTi & Methoprene combo product for our floodwater habitat the last couple years
- Adulticiding
 - ~15,000-20,000 acres/year
 - Mostly use Pyrethroid products

• Pros:

- Can be more flexible on when we make an application
- Can respond rapidly to surveillance triggers
- Cost effective
- Cons:
 - Can be hard to keep up with treatments at times
 - Access is very difficult in some areas

Aerial Operations

N21852

- Larviciding
 - 8-10 applications per year
 - ~5000-6000 acres per year
 - BTi applications

Adulticiding

- 4-6 applications per year
- ~40,000-60,000 acres per year
- Dibrom applications

Pros

- Can cover a lot of acreage at once
- Less intrusive than ground applications
- Cons
 - Costly
 - More planning involved, can't respond as quickly
 - More dependent on weather

Mosquito Control Patterns

- Broken down into 3 categories
 - "The Big Flood"
 - Seasonal Flooding
 - Variable Irrigation Cycles

Mosquito Control Cycles

• "The Big Flood"

- Happens 2 times throughout summer
- High peak mosquito numbers
- Lots of area to cover
- Aerial applications highly effective
- $\circ \qquad \text{Application timing very important} \\$



Weeks



- Majority of aerial larvicide applications take place in this area
 - Area flooded in ~2 week span around the end of May, then again beginning of August
 - Too much area for Field Techs to cover in such a short span of time
 - One of the worst areas in the district for mosquitoes
 - Easier than some areas to control mosquitoes due to cyclical nature of irrigation cycle

Mosquito Control Cycles

• Seasonal Flooding

- Typically the first areas to flood
- Irrigation cycles more dependant on snowpacks
- <u>Usually</u> starts to dry out by august
- Will make 1 aerial adulticide app if necessary



Mosquito Control Cycles

• Variable Irrigation Cycles

- Irrigation patterns often erratic, making control more difficult
- Varies depending on water year, type of water rights, etc
- Some years are much worse than others
- Will make aerial adulticide applications if aedes numbers are high enough, or if WNV is present in areas



Why do we use a BTi & Methoprene combo formulation?

- Sometimes it takes so long for a site to flood, there is a wide variety of instars found
- Allows us to to have more control over 1st-4th instars
- Can treat a site all at once instead of multiple trips to treat different areas of the site
 - Time saving
 - Less intrusive

Field Trials

2017 ground application field trial of VectoPrime FG

- Acres Treated: ~40
- Application Rate: 3.5 lbs/acre
- Target: Aedes larvae, 2nd-4th instar
- Application Method: Fimco spreader on atv
- Results: <90% larval reduction at 48 hours post treatment

Potential trials this year:

- Aerial Application of VectoPrime FG
- Similar rate as the previous trial
- Will target Aedes Larvae

Thanks for listening!

Questions?