[DATE] [WP] [TITLE (2-3 WORDS MAX)] [SHOW IT'S FOR] [INITIALS]

04/10 1V Mormon Crickets 2026 ME
DL

Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket season is off to a premature start.

KUER's Devyn Latorre {luh-TOR-ee} has more.

[CLIP]

Utah's unusually warm winter has caused grasshoppers and Mormon crickets to appear a month early.

If not controlled, they can eat crops, chew on houses, and in large swarms, make roads slick and dangerous.

So, the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food is already taking precautionary measures.

Robert Hougaard {HO-guard}is the director of the Division of Plant Industry.

[CLIP]
{IT'S A NATIVE INSECT. WE DON'T WANT TO ERADICATE IT. WE JUST WANT TO SUPPRESS THOSE POPULATIONS DOWN TO A LEVEL THAT MAKES IT SO THAT WE CAN EXIST TOGETHER, RIGHT? WE CAN STILL HAVE OUR CROPS AND DO THOSE THINGS WITHOUT THEM JUST CONSUMING THEM.}

The department so far has found small numbers that are still early in development. According to Hougaard, the chemical they spray is 90 percent effective.

As for this summer, Hougaard says the U-S government is also helping plan ahead to quote, "avoid big problems."

Devyn Latorre, KUER News.

03/18 1V SAVE America ATC
DL

The U-S Senate is debating whether voters should be required to prove their citizenship.

And two Utah Republican leaders do not see eye-to-eye.

KUER's Devyn Latorre {luh-TOR-ee} has more.

[CLIP]

The SAVE America Act would mandate people nationwide to prove their citizenship in order to vote.

That would mean showing a passport or another form of accepted I-D.

But not everyone has easy access to those documents.

According to the Center for American Progress, just 60 percent of citizens in Utah had a valid passport as of 2024. That's one of the higher rates in the country.

Utah Senator Mike Lee sponsored the bill.

He spoke about it at a Senate Republicans press conference.

[CLIP]
{WE HAD TWO PRINCIPLE OBJECTIVES. LET'S MAKE IT EASY TO VOTE AND HARD TO CHEAT. I DON'T KNOW ANY AMERICANS WHO WOULD WANT ANYTHING LESS THAN BOTH OF THOSE TO BE ACHIEVED.}

But Utah Lieutenant Governor Deidre Henderson outlined several reasons she is against the bill on social media. She is also the state's top election official.

She said the bill would be impossible to implement in the middle of an election year.

She also said Lee never asked her how it would affect Utah.

Devyn Latorre, KUER News.