

## NEWS COLUMN

Mark Rowen, Extension Educator-YD/4-H

June 7, 2007

### **Summer Mosquito Protection**

The South Dakota Health Department has announced the first confirmed case of West Nile Virus (WNV) in South Dakota. I think a review of the personal protection is necessary to reduce the risk of WNV. The most effective product for reducing mosquito bite is DEET. This product was formulated for the armed forces in 1946 and has been available to the general public since 1957. A number of products contain DEET as the active ingredient but at different concentrations.

The maximum concentration recommended is 30%. Higher concentrations of DEET will protect the individual for a longer period of time. Product of 20% DEET will protect an adult for approximately 4 hours with moderate mosquito presence. Children should have only a single application of DEET per day. No product is recommended to be applied to any child under the age of 2 months. It is not recommended to put the product near the hands, eyes, or mouths of the child.

The natural product repellents have been proven to last in the range of 20 minutes to a maximum of 2 hours.

Personal repellents are probably the first defense against WNV. Keep them handy-in the car, boat, etc. for the family.

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOOD PRESERVATION UPDATE

Are you and your pressure canner ready for the green beans this year? Are you using the most recent USDA recommended times for food preservation? When is the last time you have checked the dial gauge on your pressure canner? To make sure everything is ready for the garden harvest, come to either the Lincoln County Extension Office on July 9 or the Alcester City Auditorium on July 11 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sandra Aamlid, Minnehaha County Extension Educator, and Lavonne Meyer, Turner County Extension Educator, will be there to help check the **dial gauges** on your canners and offer you the latest resources on food preservation. You may also drop your canner lid off at the Lincoln or Union County Extension office ahead of time and they will check it for you.