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NEWS RELEASE

To: Local Media
From: Lori McMillan, Health Educator
Date: June 13, 2008

June 22 – June 28, 2008 is “National Mosquito Control Awareness Week”

The Rock County Health Department is highlighting National Mosquito Awareness Week. Due to recent flooding, conditions are favorable for an increased mosquito population during the summer of 2008.

Lori McMillan, Health Educator with the health department, advises citizens to protect themselves from mosquito bites by taking the following precautions outlined by the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA).

- Avoid shaded areas where mosquitoes may be resting.
- If possible, schedule your activities to avoid the times when mosquitoes are most active – usually dawn and dusk.
- If you have a deck or patio, light it using General Electric yellow “Bug Lights”. These lights are not repellent, per se, but do not attract mosquitoes like other incandescent lights.
- Mosquitoes are relatively weak fliers, so placing a large fan on your deck or patio can provide an effective low-tech solution.
- Wear protective clothing such as long pants and long sleeve shirts when outdoors.
- Check your door and window screens for holes and tears that mosquitoes can use to enter your home. Put 16 mesh screening or hardware cloth over bathroom and other vent outlets on your roof.
 - Keep pools clean and chlorinated.
- Eliminate all standing water on your property. Don't forget to remind your neighbors, too. Their mosquitoes may also be your mosquitoes.
 - Dispose of any tires. Tires can breed thousands of mosquitoes.
 - Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers.
 - Clear roof gutters of debris.

- Clean pet water dishes regularly.
- Check and empty children's toys.
 - Repair leaky outdoor faucets.
- Change the water in birdbaths and plant pots at least once a week.
 - Canoes, boats, and wading pools should be turned over.
 - Avoid water collecting on pool covers.
 - Plug tree holes and stumps.
 - Fill in or drain puddles and ruts in your yard.
 - Keep shrubbery and weeds trimmed
- Even the smallest of containers that can collect water can breed hundreds to thousands of mosquitoes. They don't need much water to lay their eggs. (bottles, buckets, overturned garbage can lids, etc.)

In addition, McMillan recommends the use of mosquito repellents. Three repellants are approved and recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency:

*DEET

*Pacaridin

*Oil of lemon eucalyptus

“When used properly, repellents are not harmful to humans. Just make sure to read label directions carefully and to wash repellent-treated skin after coming indoors,” she states.

McMillan adds that Rock County residents need to be especially mindful of mosquito control this year. “Everyone needs to work together to make sure breeding areas are eliminated.”

For more information on mosquito control, visit www.mosquito.org.

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