

No respite seen on fly breeding

By **LUCY RICKARD**

FARMERS are considering selling their livestock and even their properties to escape the stable fly infestation across the Shire of Gingin.

Chairman of the Stable Fly Action Group Bob Wilson described the situation as diabolical, and is calling on the Shire to hire another ranger to inspect more properties for signs of stable fly breeding.

"Farmers and people with animals are being affected quite badly," he said.

"In our case, we have hardly had a respite from the start of November."

The Shire has reported 22 stable

fly breeding cases already this year, compared with 73 last year and 95 in 2008.

Mr Wilson said the shire ranger was working with their action group to inspect properties for signs of breeding, but they were in dire need of more resources to locate sources of the pest.

"This is a problem that is not of our making, but we, the farmers with animals, are the ones who are suffering the consequences," he said.

Wet vegetable waste kept on horticultural properties was identified as the major contributor to the epidemic taking over parts of the shire in past months.

The use of raw chicken manure

has previously been the catalyst for stable fly breeding. A State Government commitment to outlaw the use of the product by September next year is still on track, but this has not been noted as a problem by the Shire.

Shire president George Gifford said the ranger visits properties on an ad hoc basis. People are urged to report any breakouts or suspected breeding grounds immediately so that the larvae can be tested.

He said that once larvae were identified as stable flies, the Shire would prosecute the land owner.

One vegetable grower has been prosecuted

, according to a report from the principal environmental health offi-