

# Stable fly warning

By **JESSICA WILLOUGHBY**

STABLE fly could become a problem in some areas this summer following mild winter conditions, according to the Department of Agriculture and Food.

Department researcher Bob Paulin said decaying organic matter associated with vegetable harvesting would be the major source of stable fly.

"Stable fly breeds mainly in vegetable crop residues and raw manure,"

he said. "To complete its lifecycle, stable fly needs to feed on fresh blood, mainly from cattle and horses.

"The fly is hard to swat and keeps on biting, so is very annoying for humans.

"But horses and cattle are the real victims as they have little skin protection and cannot keep the pest at bay."

He said that in high-risk situations, landholders were urged to spray vegetable residues with registered insecticides before mulching and incorpo-

rating into the soil. The use of raw poultry manure was banned in local government areas affected by stable fly from Gingin to Bunbury.

After September 2011, it will be banned throughout the year by those councils.

Mr Paulin said people should contact their local government environmental health officer if they were unsure whether their area was affected.