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**Response to Questions**  
**Institute for Environmental Solutions RMWQAA Presentation**  
April 25, 2014

Question 1: Lime disease is a serious life-changing condition. What, if any, compounds work as well as DEET at repelling deer ticks?

Answer: Picaridin (marketed currently as “Cutter Advanced”) has been proven to be just as efficacious as DEET in repelling ticks, mosquitoes, and biting flies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency states that no toxicologically significant effects have been demonstrated in animal studies from picaridin. Lemon eucalyptus oil is another popular alternative; however this is only effective against mosquitos, not ticks.

Source:

Katz, T. M., Miller, J. H., & Hebert, A. A. (2008). Insect repellents: historical perspectives and new developments. *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*, 58(5), 865-871.

Question 2: In reference to Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*, 6 million deaths in Africa have been attributed to the banning of DDT.

Answer: This is false and unfounded by any scientific analysis. Blaming the ban of DDT for such a staggering number of malaria-related deaths in incorrect for two reasons.

- 1) The World Health Organization never considered DDT as part of its plan to combat malaria because the costs associated with a blanket application across Africa would be astronomical. Instead WHO decided to put its funding towards field-based medical clinics.
- 2) DDT is not banned in most African countries and is still produced in India. If it was a desired defense against mosquito-borne disease, governments or NGOs in Africa may use it. Malaria is non-existent in the US and DDT has no place here.

Source:

[http://www.salon.com/2007/06/29/rachel\\_carson/](http://www.salon.com/2007/06/29/rachel_carson/)

(This is not a scientific reference but the individuals quoted here do have some authoritative weight)

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