Preservers Learn Correct Home Food Preservation Techniques

The Situation
Food safety, particularly accurate information about home food preservation techniques and food safety issues and concerns, continues to be an important topic for clientele in Bingham County and other counties in District IV. After six cases of botulism were found in Idaho, three cases in southeast Idaho, many home canners voiced concern that their canning techniques might not be correct and their families' lives could be in danger.

Our Response
University of Idaho extension educators and the food safety specialist have responded to local clientele in a variety of ways. Educational efforts have reached different audiences through mass media, traditional education programs, direct training by satellite video downlinks, and by one-on-one personal contact.

Achievements
Mass media efforts by District IV county faculty in the area of food safety during 1995 accounted for 43 articles in newspapers, 11 articles in county faculty newsletters and 4 radio programs. The potential reading and listening audience was 200,000.

There were a total of 2,000 recorded direct-client contacts through food safety classes. Another 2,300 clients were reached through direct and indirect contacts either through face-to-face consultations or by the telephone.

A large number of the clientele do home food preservation. Since 1989, food preservers have selected numerous food preservation bulletins. During 1995 alone, over 400 Pacific Northwest (PNW) food preservation bulletins were distributed to clientele in District IV.

Cooperators and Co-sponsors
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