

# Control Rats

By

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ONE RAT CAN COST YOU THE PRICE  
OF TWO BUSHELS OF GRAIN A YEAR

Case

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## EXTENSION SERVICE

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# Control Rats

Rats eat almost anything--grain, fruits, vegetables, dairy products, young chicks and eggs.

Rats damage your buildings. Their burrows weaken building foundations. They gnaw through partitions and around door and windows, making a need for continuous repair work.

Rats carry diseases and cause food poisoning. Bubonic plague, rabies, typhus fever, tularemia and trichinosis are some of the important diseases they spread.

Rats are common in all parts of North Dakota. You probably have some on your farm.

**CONTROL RATS TO SAVE MONEY, STOP DAMAGE AND PREVENT DISEASE.**

Rats work at night. You can find out how many rats you really have by examining their feeding spots after dark with a flashlight. Remember, rats reproduce rapidly.

Rat control is a continuous process. If you let up in your control program, rats will return to your farm.

## TO CONTROL RATS:

*Use poison*

*Clean up the farmstead*

*Rat proof your buildings*

*Make it a community job*



RAT POISON SET OUT ALONG A RAT RUN

## POISON

Poisoning is the first step in controlling rats. Mix different kinds of food with poison. Put the bait out in small bunches--a teaspoonful at a place.

Put your bait where rats feed and so that they can find it easily. Don't put bait in their burrows. Bait your whole farmstead at one time with enough bait for all the rats. Put out the poisoned bait in the afternoon and collect any uneaten baits the next morning.

The kind of bait you use and the place you put it is more important than the kind of poison you use.

Use fresh food for your bait. Moistened rolled oats, fresh bread, corn meal, meat scraps, hamburger, fresh or canned fish, apples, carrots, tomatoes, cheese---these all make good baits. By putting out different kinds of unpoisoned foods a few nights ahead of poisoning, you can find out what food rats like best. Use that for your bait.

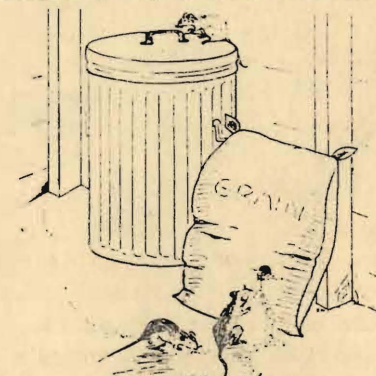
Use RED SQUILL for poisoning. Red Squill is safe to use. It kills rats but will not injure any of the farm animals. Use standard quality Red Squill. Make sure the label says guaranteed minimum toxicity NOT to exceed 500 mg./kg. Use it at the rate of 1 part Red Squill to 9 parts of bait. Mix the poison and bait thoroughly.

You can get ready prepared poisoned bait at cost from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at their regional office, Mitchell, South Dakota. This contains fortified Red Squill mixed with a bread crumbs--oatmeal--fat combination.

You can use other poisons but they take more care in their use. ANTU kills rats but it also kills dogs, pigs and young chicks. Strychnine, arsenicals and various phosphorus poisons are too dangerous for use without expert supervision. Compound "1080" is not sold on the open market because of its highly poisonous nature.

## CLEAN-UP

Clean up after poisoning. Rats won't live where they can't get food and shelter.



A LARGE TIN CAN IS THE BEST CONTAINER FOR FEED. SUCH CANS SOON PAY FOR THEMSELVES IN THE AMOUNT OF FEED SAVED. RATS TEAR OPEN FEED BAGS WITH EASE.

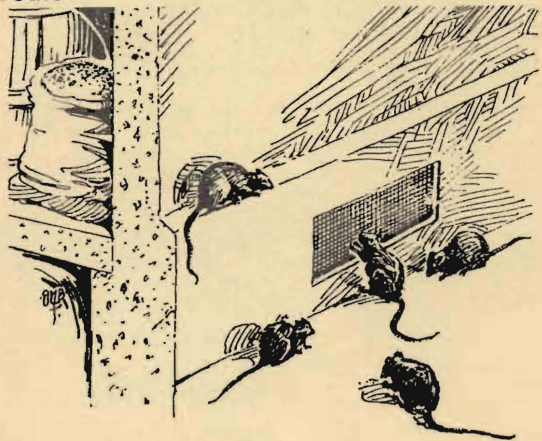
**IT TAKES EVERY FARMER'S HELP TO MAKE RAT CONTROL PAY OUT**

Keep all food and feed supplies out of reach of rats. Keep sacked grain or feed in protected rooms and don't let empty feed sacks lay around the barn or sheds. Use tight covered boxes or barrels for storing mixed feed in hog and poultry houses. Remember, cleanliness around your livestock will pay big dividends.

Do away with dead space between double walls and beneath floors. That's where rats live. Pile lumber and fence posts on platforms 12 to 18 inches off the ground. Clean up trash piles and keep your supplies around the farm shops in a neat manner.

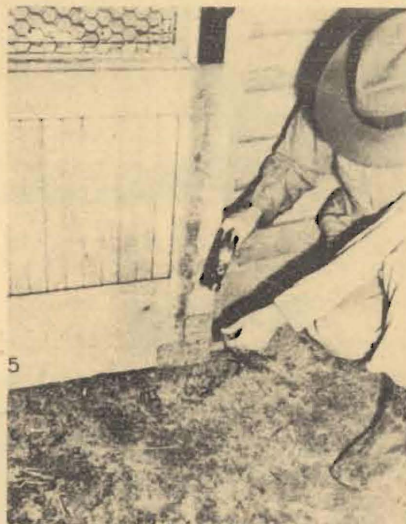
## RAT PROOFING

Rat proofing is permanent rat control. Brick or concrete foundations under buildings keep rats out. Raise buildings without rat-proof foundations at least 18 inches off the ground. Keep the space underneath clear.



CONCRETE FOUNDATIONS AND TIGHT WINDOW SCREENS KEEP RATS OUT

Repair any holes or cracks in your buildings. Seal up plumbing openings through walls with cement mortar. Fit drains with tight covers. Cover basement windows with hardware cloth or steel gratings. Close up any openings in feed rooms and fit them with tight, self-closing doors.



RATS CAN'T GNAW THEIR WAY THROUGH A DOOR PROTECTED BY A METAL STRIP

## COMMUNITY JOB

Rat control is everyone's job. Rats move long distances and a single source of feed and shelter for them can create rat problems on all nearby farms.

You must be always on the watch for ways to make your farm more rat proof. One poisoning can, at best, only reduce the rat numbers. Make poisoning a spring and fall job. Keep your neighbors alert to rat control problems in your community.

# Rat Control is a Constant Job