

Control RATS - MICE



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no. 31

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CONTROL RATS AND MICE

1. REMOVE EXISTING INFESTATION

A. BAITING

Anti-coagulant type rodenticides such as Warfarin, Pival, Fumarin or Diphacinone are effective, available and relatively safe to use. These rodenticides are available in two forms, one to be used in cereal type bait and one to be used in liquid bait. Anti-coagulants are slow acting and require multiple daily feedings to take effect. To maintain a continuous supply of bait in feeders, keep a good supply of bait on hand.

Anti-coagulant type rodenticides are available in prepared baits ready to use or in concentrate form to use in preparing your own bait. If you wish to prepare your own bait the following formulation is recommended.

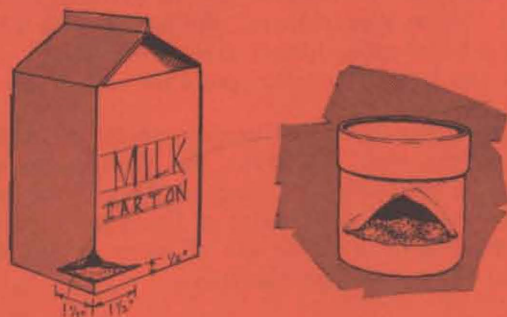
CEREAL BAIT	RATS MICE	MICE ONLY
Fresh ground yellow corn	13 lbs.	6 lbs.
Rolled oats	4 lbs.	2 lbs.
Powdered sugar	1 lb.	½ lb.
Vegetable oil	1 lb.	½ lb.
Anti-coagulant Concentrate*	1 lb.	1 lb.
Total	20 lbs.	10 lbs.
LIQUID BAIT		
Water	1 qt.	1 pt.
Water soluble Anti-coagulant Concentrate*	1 pkg.	1 pkg.

*Quantities and concentrations may vary so use the proportion recommended on manufacturer's label.

B. FEEDERS

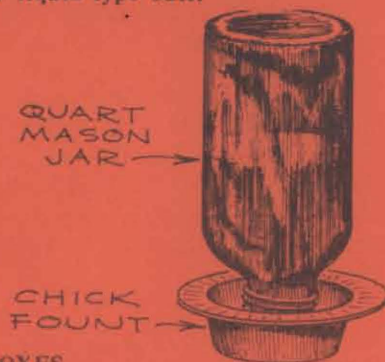
Self feeders keep cereal bait fresh and clean, and minimize waste. Such a feeder can be made from a clean, dry milk carton. To prepare make a horizontal cut 1½ inches each direction from one corner about ½ inch above the bottom. Push in the portion immediately

above the cut to complete the feeder. A round carton such as a pint or quart size ice cream carton also makes a good feeder. To prepare, make a 3 inch horizontal cut ½ inch above the bottom of the container. To complete, push in the portion immediately above the cut.



C. WATERERS

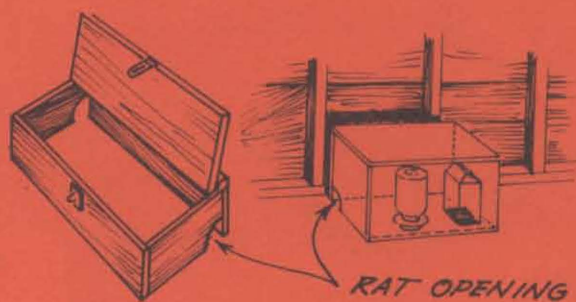
Water or liquid bait increases the effectiveness of your baiting program in non-freezing conditions. Chick founts used on pint or quart size jars are desirable for exposing water or liquid type bait.



D. BAIT BOXES

To protect the bait from dust, moisture, pets, poultry and livestock use bait boxes. Place a feeder and a waterer in each bait box. Rats like bait boxes because they offer concealment.

A bait box can be made from cardboard or lumber to fit the need. Cardboard is adequate to keep out dust and to provide concealment. For outside use or where larger animals have access, use wood for the needed strength and to guard against moisture. Recommended dimensions are 20 inches long, 10 inches wide and 10 inches high with entrance holes 3 inches in diameter.



E. PLACEMENT

Place the bait boxes or stations near areas of rodent activity such as runways, burrows, etc.

Rats

In baiting for rats, bait stations should be no more than 50 feet apart. Depending on size, the average farm building requires one to five stations. Every area that shows a concentration of rat activity should have a bait station placed there, whether it is in a building, under a foundation, lumber pile or feed bunk. The bait boxes can be made weather proof for outside use.

It is important that a continuous supply of bait be available to the rats, so check the stations regularly to assure an adequate bait supply. Begin with one pound of bait and one pint of water or liquid bait and maintain according to need. The use of water or liquid bait is limited to non-freezing conditions.

Rats often will avoid a newly placed bait station, but this is only temporary. Feeding will begin as the suspicion wears off.

Mice

Mice differ from rats in that they need little water to survive and their extent of travel is limited.

Bait stations for mice should be placed no farther than 20 feet apart. If mice are the only problem, you can get quicker results by doubling the amount of anti-coagulant concentrate used in the bait formulation as shown in the formulation charts. This concentration will hinder acceptance by rats so do not use it unless mice are your only problem.

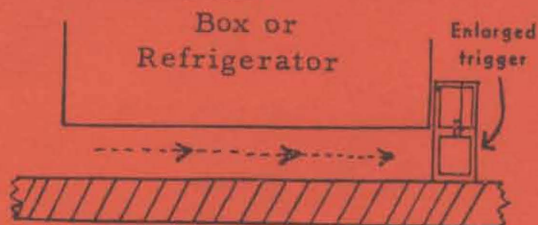
F. TRAPS

Rats and mice can be trapped. The wooden base traps for each species are recommended. Practical application is limited to light infestations and/or where the use of rodenticides is not desired.

Set traps along runways, perpendicular to the route of travel, with the trigger across the runway. Use plenty of traps and check them at least daily.

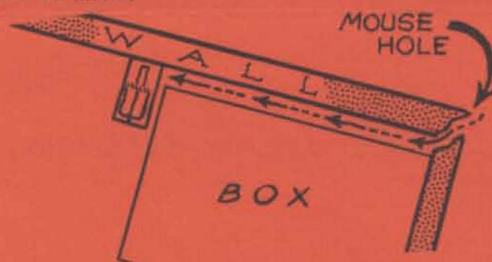
Rats

For rats, enlarge the trigger by attaching a piece of cardboard 2 inches square to the trigger of the rat trap. No bait is needed for rats.



Mice

For mice, bait the trap with peanut butter, partially cooked bacon, gumdrops, chocolate or cheese. A sprinkling of oatmeal over the trigger end of the trap is also attractive to mice.

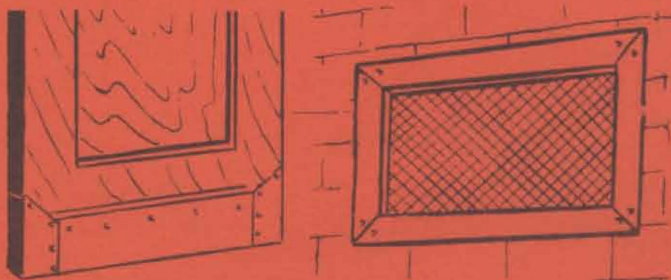


2. GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Clean up the premises to remove food and harborage attractive to rodents. Remove trash piles, cut weeds, pile lumber off the ground and clean up spilled grain and other sources of food. Keep vegetation closely mowed around buildings or use a soil sterilant to prevent growth within 5 feet of each building.

3. RODENT PROOF

Build rodents out of buildings and you can control them more easily. Keep doors and windows closed tight. Seal holes and cracks with tin. Cover all necessary openings such as ventilators with heavy screen or hardware cloth. Use metal sheathing to protect areas subject to gnawing such as the edges of windows and doors.



Solid foundations must be tight and support the building 12 inches or more above the ground. Buildings supported by posts or blocks should be 18 inches or more above the ground.