



Rodent Control

General Protocol

- To maintain a high level of good health in your herd, you must use various biosecurity practices to prevent the introduction or spread of disease. One area of biosecurity you should address is the rodent control methods your farm uses.
- For this protocol, rodent control includes rats, mice, wildlife, birds, and other pests.
- A sterile zone is a 3-foot perimeter surrounding the barn free of weeds, debris, and pools of water. This area acts as a deterrent for pests and rodents.
- Put a routine baiting program into place to help control rodents.
 - » Rodent control methods include bait stations, traps, (see figures 1 and 2) and poison. Stations provide a fixed location where rodents can consume bait without other animals having access to bait packets or cubes.
 - » Keep a map documenting the locations of the bait stations.
 - » Check stations monthly for bait usage.
 - If the bait is completely gone on a monthly basis, check bait stations bi-weekly to make sure that proper rodent control is completed.
- Store all feed in rodent proof bins and feeders.
- Promptly clean up all feed spills.
- Properly maintain the barn, repairing all holes and gaps.



Figure 1. Rodent trap.



Figure 2. Bait trap.





Rodent Control Procedures

Caretakers must:

- Examine drinking and cooling systems for leaks. If leaks are present, fix as soon as possible.
- Check automatic feeders to make sure they are properly adjusted and not creating additional spillage.
- Check any buildings with drop curtains regularly to make sure they have no rips or tears, and they are not harboring rodents. Fix rips and tears as soon as possible.
- Check the exterior of the barn(s) for maintenance needs. Repair all holes and gaps as soon as possible or on a monthly basis.
- Keep a map that locates bait and bait stations, and update it if locations are changed.
- Check stations and locations monthly for bait consumption and replace bait if needed. Document the date and person that was responsible for this task.

Useful Information

- When initiating a bait program, check bait stations or locations on a bi-weekly basis to determine where a rodent population may be present.
- Rodents have advanced cognitive abilities and can quickly learn to avoid poisoned baits. Rotate your bait at least every 6 months as the rodenticide efficacy and avoidance drops within a year.
- Recommended bait rotation includes products containing bromadiolone, diphacinone, brodifacoum, and bromethalin.
- Auditors will request the map of the bait areas to identify the locations of all of bait stations and locations. This information will be used to verify the correctness of the map.

Related documents: “Rodent Bait Location Record Sheet” and “Rodent Station Label”



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