



# TIPS FOR RODENT CONTROL

Rodents are often carriers of disease and parasites. They are naturally attracted to barns and farm facilities because of the readily available supply of food and shelter. Even if there is no livestock or plant material present, it's important to maintain rodent control as they may act as a bridge for disease from one production cycle to the next. Rodents can also cause substantial monetary and property loss if populations go unchecked.

Below are some tips to consider following for rodent control.

## PREVENT ACCESS TO SHELTER

- **Examine building at least once a year for potential entry points**
- **Ensure barn doors fit snugly when closed, keep them closed when possible**
- **Use screens on open doors or windows**
- **Keep buildings in good repair to eliminate entry points**
  - » course steel wool, hardware cloth, sheet metal, etc. may be used to fill/cover any entry points
- **Have designated garbage areas, utilize cans with tight fitting lids**
  - » Eliminate loosely piled building materials, old feed bags, trash or anything else that rodents can hide under
- **Keep vegetation around buildings cut short**
- **Use gravel, sand, shale, etc. to create a rodent barrier around the perimeter of buildings**

## PREVENT ACCESS TO FOOD

- **Clean out equipment well after use (i.e. excess seed in planters, manure in spreaders, etc.)**
- **Store mortalities in sealed containers until removal**
- **Place manure and compost storage areas away from buildings**
- **Clean up spilled feed immediately**
- **Clean up spilled manure immediately**
- **Try to eliminate water sources such as leaky taps, open water troughs, sweating pipes and open drains**
- **Store feed and plant material in rodent proof bins**
- **Keep laneway and yard clean and graded to prevent water accumulation**

## PREVENT POPULATION SURVIVAL/ EXPANSION

- **Monitor and take note of rodent activity to determine problematic areas**
- **Poisoned bait should only be used with a bait station to limit access by pets and non-target animals**
  - » Always read product labels and follow directions and safety precautions closely
  - » Commercial class products must be purchased and applied by a certified individual
  - » Bait stations may be placed around the exterior of buildings (where livestock and pets will not encounter them)
  - » Bait stations may be placed in the interior of buildings where animals, feed, and bedding are not present
- **Use mechanical traps where contact with animals or product is possible**
  - » Mechanical traps should be placed along walls and by exterior doors

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