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control rats and mice



with
Anticoagulants

TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
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Control of Rats and Mice with Anticoagulants

Texas Agricultural Extension Service
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Control Rats and Mice with Anticoagulants

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
Texas Agricultural Extension Service
and
Rodent and Predatory Animal Control Service
cooperating

This leaflet gives information on using anticoagulants for rat and mouse control, and exposing and handling the baits for best results.

It is impossible to recognize the anticoagulants by trade names alone. In the table of active ingredients on the label there is a chemical name followed in parentheses by such words as Chlorophacinone, Diphacin, Fumarin, Pival, PMP, Prolin or Warfarin. If others are developed, their names and characteristics will be available through county Extension agents and Rodent Control Service personnel. All are available in ready-to-use forms and usually are packaged in cardboard boxes or paper sacks.

Anticoagulants prevent blood from clotting and cause death from internal hemorrhages. Rats and mice must eat some of the bait every day for about 5 or 6 days, or every other day for 12 or more days before the hemorrhages are fatal. No effect is apparent for the first few days, but by the third or fourth day you will see some blood stains near the baits. Expose bait at least 10 days for rats and 15 days for mice, or until all signs of rodent activity have stopped.

Since no pain is connected with this action and there is no warning of danger, rats and mice apparently continue returning to feed if the bait is attractive.

EXPOSING THE BAIT

For Rat Control. Dry cereal anticoagulant bait should be exposed to rats in ½-pound sacks or packages. Place baits where rats feed along walls, inside and outside buildings, in dark corners, under floors, in attics and under stairways, but not more than 25 feet apart. To hasten feeding, slit paper sacks at the side so that some of the bait will spill out.

There is no hard and fast rule for the number of baits to distribute. For small buildings with a few rats, 2 pounds should be enough. If there are many rats, you may need 3 or 4 pounds. The average for a Texas farm is about 5 pounds. Two pounds is usually enough for a residence.

If rats are eating the bait in certain places and not in others, move the bait to the location where they prefer to eat. Do not run out of bait. Keep replenishing the bait until the rats stop eating. Where there is a source of reinfestation from other areas, such as dump grounds or nearby infested buildings, keep baits out at all times for new rats as they come in. Some anticoagulant baits may become weevily or rancid with age. Replace these with fresh bait. Bait placed outside buildings by burrows under foundations should be covered by heavy boxes with one or more small openings large enough only for rat entry.

In addition to the dry form, a water soluble material is available for use in water bait. This is particularly effective in dry surroundings. Use one packet per quart of water in baby chick water fountains or similar containers. Where freezing occurs, glass containers may break. A plastic container will not break if the liquid freezes. Freezing, however, does not seem to alter the effect of the anticoagulant. Water soluble bait and cereal bait placed together can greatly help the control program.

For Mouse Control. Mice are effectively controlled with anticoagulant baits. Smaller amounts of bait for mice are needed than for rats. Tablespoon amounts ($\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce) of bait should be placed at 8 to 12 foot intervals. Place baits in locations where mice feed, water or travel along walls, in corners and concealed places. Cigar boxes with small entrances for mice have been used successfully. The boxes should be cleaned and replenished with fresh bait every 2 or 3 days, especially if mice are feeding heavily.

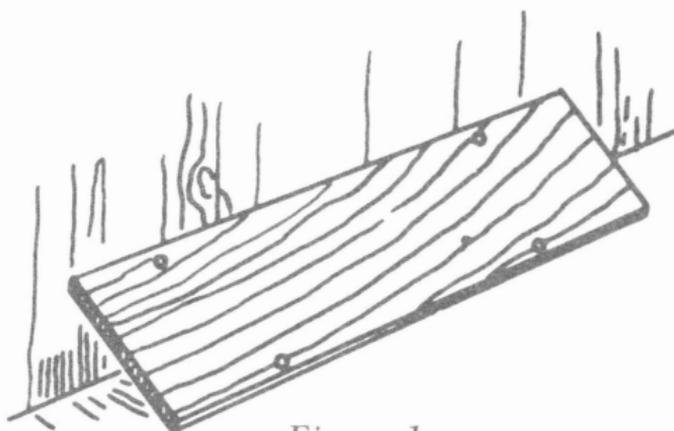


Figure 1.

Water-soluble bait is not as important in mouse control as in rat control, since mice require very little water other than that derived from food.

MEASURING RESULTS

You cannot always measure results by counting dead rats and mice. When baits are no longer being eaten, when there are no fresh droppings and when no live rats or mice are seen, results are as good as you can expect from any type bait.

BAIT BOXES

Place bait only where rats and mice can feed on it. Figure 1 shows a simple method of protecting bait.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Read the label carefully. Do not purchase bait that does not have full instructions on the label. Look for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registration number.

Anticoagulant bait can harm any animal or human eating it every day or so for several days. In some cases, one feeding may cause death, but the amount would have to be large before this would happen. The larger the animal, the greater the amount it would have to eat.

But take no chances. Keep pets, livestock and people out of buildings where you place the bait, or use a bait box similar to the one illustrated.

When a human consumes an anticoagulant bait, force the person to vomit by administering a tablespoon of salt in a glass of warm water. Call a physician immediately. All anticoagulant labels or instruction leaflets give further instructions for physicians.

Destroy unused bait and containers by burning or deep burial. Store any bait or poison out of the reach of children, domestic animals or pets.

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service is implied.

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