

CRRU (IRL)



Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use Newsletter July 2016

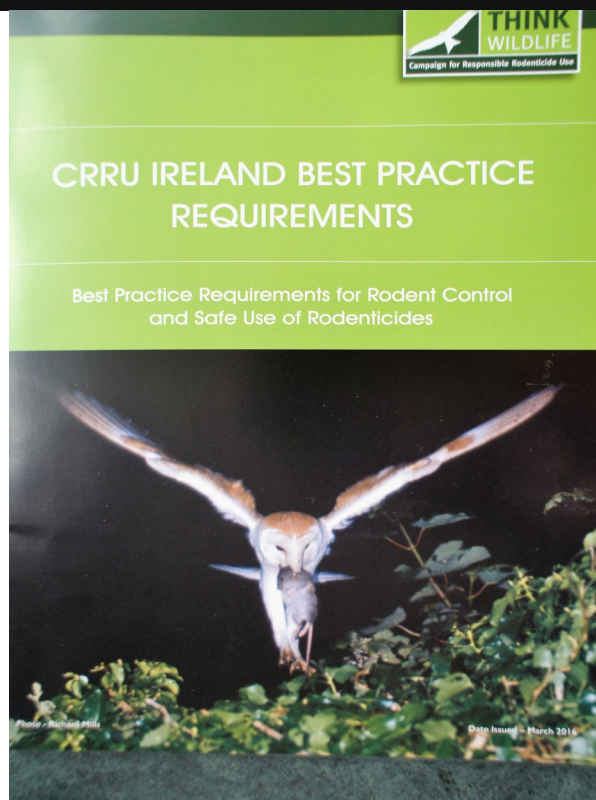
CRRU IRELAND BEST PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS DOCUMENT PUBLISHED IN MARCH

The **CRRU Ireland Best Practice Requirements for Rodent Control and Safe Use of Rodenticides** were produced and circulated towards the end of March. Compliance with the Best Practice Requirements is being made an integral part of product authorisation conditions in order to ensure that products are used responsibly in an environmentally sustainable manner. This was highlighted in a report on the sustainable use of biocides published by the European Commission in early March. The CRRU Ireland Best Practice Requirements are a very important element in defining appropriate risk mitigation measures for rodenticide products and in supporting responsible use of these products.

The document will be an essential handbook for all rodent pest management technicians and indeed Quality Assurance auditors/inspectors in the country. It is anticipated that it will become the key information resource for the training of future rodent pest management technicians. It is particularly needed because anticoagulant rodenticides used to kill rats and mice have been detected in many of our top predator wildlife species. Recent scientific research has shown that these poisons now occur in 80% of our barn owls who feed mainly on mice and rats and because other rodent-eating species such as kestrels, long eared owls, kites, buzzards as well as pine martens, stoats and foxes are all vulnerable too.

The document details how rodenticides are to be used correctly and in ways that minimise the exposure of wildlife to them. It introduces the concept of risk hierarchy which means that when deciding upon a rodent control strategy the least severe methods which will provide a solution, must always be used.

The CRRU Ireland Best Practice Requirements document has been distributed to all rodent pest management technicians and other relevant parties. It can be downloaded from the website www.crru.ie



Upcoming Wildlife Aware Courses 2016

- **6 OCTOBER**
DAFM LABORATORIES, BACKWESTON CAMPUS
- **10 OCTOBER**
TEAGASC, MELLOWS CAMPUS
ATHENRY
- **13 OCTOBER**
TEAGASC MOOREPARK FERMOY
- **BOOKING CAN BE DONE DIRECTLY ON LINE ON THE COURSES PAGE OF THE WEBSITE www.crru.ie**

Survey on Resistance to anti-coagulant rodenticides – Request for Information from Pest Control Practitioners

Resistance to anticoagulant rodenticides has been suspected in some rodent populations in Ireland for some time, however there is no scientific data to support the available anecdotal information. Resistance involves a genetic change within an individual rodent that renders it no longer susceptible to a particular rodenticide or toxin. This genetic change can then be passed on to its offspring so over time the whole population becomes resistant.

Research conducted in other countries, including the UK, has shown that Norway rats can become resistant to the first generation anti coagulants warfarin, chlorophacinone and coumatetralyl and in some areas to the second generation anticoagulants including bromadiolone and difenacoum.

CRRU Ireland in association with the Molecular Virology Laboratory of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and with the co-operation of a number of pest control companies, is carrying out a survey to ascertain if such resistance exists, to which anti-coagulants resistance may have developed and where in the country such resistance occurs.

Resistance may be suspected if all bait has been cleared and no rodent bodies found. If this is the case, the amount of bait placed at each location should be doubled or tripled and be followed up within a week. If there is resistance present, then after a week all bait will again be cleared and there will still be no bodies.

If it is suspected that an infestation may involve a resistant population of either mice or rats then CRRU Ireland should be informed (office@thinkwildlife.org) Such information could identify areas of anti-coagulant resistance and will complement information being compiled about the distribution of resistant rats and mice in Ireland.



Risk Mitigation Measures for Anti-coagulant Substances

Work to draw up and adopt new risk mitigation measures for all eight anti-coagulant rodenticide substances, has been on-going at European level for some time.

Following a meeting of the Biocidal Products Committee (BPC) in Helsinki on 14-16 June, the BPC Opinions on each of the eight anti-coagulant substances were discussed and agreed. These Opinions will be forwarded to the European Commission to serve as a basis for drafting Proposals for Regulations required to renew the approval of the anti-coagulant substances concerned. The BPC Opinions will be published on the website of the European Chemical Agency in mid-July. The opinion of the Member States on the draft Regulations is expected to be provided at the Standing Committee for Biocidal Products (SCBP) towards the end of 2016.

The BPC Opinions list the risk mitigation measures that were agreed for the renewal of the approval of anticoagulant active substances. These risk mitigation measures include those that are to be applied directly to products containing the anticoagulant substances, as well as those measures that must be considered by Regulatory Authorities during the process of authorisation of products and be applied where relevant. The implementation of these measures is critical both for the renewal of the active substance approvals and for the re-authorisation of rodenticide products containing them.

On renewal of the approval of these anticoagulant substances by the Commission, the renewal of the product authorisations containing them will be considered by the Regulatory Authorities of each Member State when the relevant risk mitigation measures to be required for each product re-authorised will be applied. In Ireland, this will include compliance with the CRRU Ireland Best Practice Requirements.

Date and Location of next Task Force Meeting

The next CRRU Ireland TaskForce meeting will take place in the Agriculture Laboratory Building on Backweston Campus, Celbridge Co. Kildare on Thursday 24 November, starting at 10.30 am.

The meeting proposed for Thursday 21 July will not now take place

Effective Control of Rodent Pests on Farms

A booklet entitled Effective Control of Rodent Pests on Farms has recently been produced by the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU Ireland) in association with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and with Teagasc. It is being distributed to all farming households in the country by the Department over coming weeks.

This booklet outlines in detail how rodent control should be carried out on farms in an effective, responsible and environmentally friendly manner. Best Practice Rodent Control as specified in this booklet – and in the CRRU code – is a condition of the GLAS scheme and is an important element of GLAS training.

A rodent Integrated pest management plan is part of Best Practice rodent control. The key points of such a plan are detailed in this booklet. In brief they involve –

Proofing buildings,

Restricting the availability of food and water for rodents,

Surveying and Mapping the farm,

Controlling existing rodent populations,

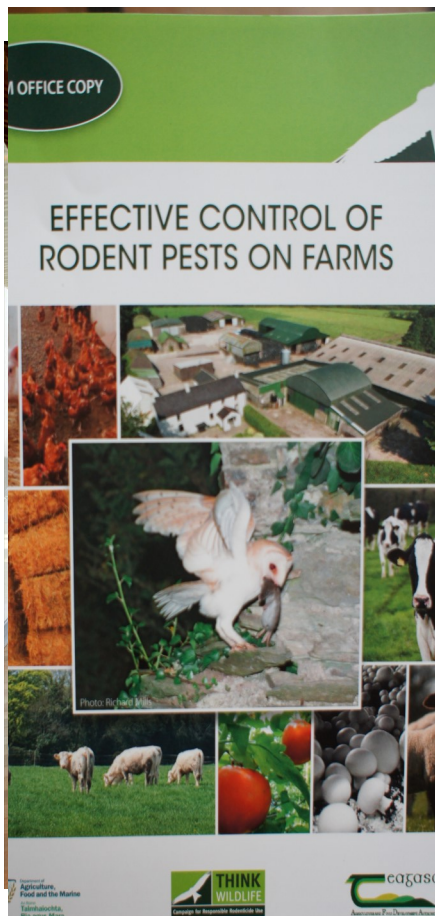
Reducing the likelihood of re -infestation and

On-going Monitoring of the situation.

Many farmers and other rodent control practitioners may consider rodenticides as their primary and only means of control. However, all available control options – as detailed in this booklet – must be considered before the use of rodenticides can be justified, since they can have harmful effects on non-target species.

The booklet contains images and information on some of the birds and animals that are at risk of secondary poisoning with rodenticides.

GLAS training for trainers has been carried out and plans to train farmers who have been accepted on to Tranche 1 are well advanced. Such training courses will commence before the end of 2016. A copy of the booklet is to be provided to all GLAS trainees.



Rodent Control and Management of Game Birds

Rats are a deadly predator of ground nesting game birds. They can consume the eggs of partridge, grouse, pheasant and duck destroying nests overnight and can also take very young birds. They are also blamed, among other predators such as fox and mink for the virtual eradication of the curlew as a breeding Irish species.

Rats also impinge on the breeding of game birds by taking feed in large amounts from the barrel feeders left out to provide grain for the birds. Rodent control is thus a very important part of game bird management.

The use of bait boxes – baited with second generation rodenticides - in the vicinity of the feeders and of the breeding pens is the method employed to clear the area of an infestation. The boxes are kept supplied with bait and inspected regularly. Dead rodents must be properly disposed of in the site's domestic waste, the site's non-hazardous waste or by burial (50 cm deep) away from sensitive areas.

Traps, where used, can be taken up after a week unless there is evidence of fresh rodent tracks.

Since much game bird breeding takes place outdoors it can be extremely difficult to rid an area of an infestation. Warmer winters means that rats continue to breed all year round now whereas formerly numbers would naturally decline over the colder winter months. Tunnel baiting is practiced in areas where tunnels can be found, but this is not always possible. The bait boxes used should be such that small birds never enter them but the possibility of visits from slugs and snails remains.

Game food crops such as linseed, kale ,rape and chicory, grown around the breeding areas can provide cover as well as food for game birds thus lessening dependence on feeding stations at certain times of the year.

Game bird breeders would welcome the development of further guidance on game bird management and rodent pest control.

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