

## Managing rodenticides in Ireland

**T**he Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use Ireland (CRRU Ireland) was formed in September 2013 at the behest of the regulatory authorities, to champion the protection of wildlife while promoting responsible and effective rodent pest management.

It is a registered company limited by guarantee and formed by companies that manufacture and distribute rodenticides in Ireland.

The launch of CRRU Ireland was prompted by the finding of traces of anticoagulant rodenticides used to kill rats and mice in many of the top wildlife predator species in the country.

Recent Irish research has shown that they are present in over 80% of the barn owls that feed mainly on mice and rats. Other rodent-eating species such as kestrels, long eared owls, kites and buzzards, as well as pine martens, stoats and foxes, are also vulnerable.

Owls and birds of prey play a role in keeping down rodent numbers around farms and food manufacturing plants. It is vital to ensure that rodents that are dead or dying after ingesting rodenticides are disposed of correctly and are not available to wildlife higher up the food chain.

CRRU advocates the responsible use of rodenticides to control rodent pest species in the interest of protecting human and animal health and avoiding contamination of food. Its prime objective is to avoid harming wildlife.

The CRRU Code, designed to facilitate responsible use of rodenticides, is promoted by means of the CRRU Ireland Supporters' Club for rodent pest management companies and organizations that commit to abide by the CRRU code. Application for membership can be made via the CRRU website ([www.thinkwildlife.org](http://www.thinkwildlife.org)).

Membership is free but applicants are required to abide by a licence agreement to facilitate their use of the 'Think Wildlife' logo. Member companies and organisations are listed on the CRRU website.

In the interest of promoting the responsible use of rodenticides by professional pest control officers, a 'Wildlife Aware' Training Course has been prepared by CRRU-IASIS and is offered twice yearly at each of three locations by accredited 'Wildlife Aware' course providers. Three courses were held in 2014 and there is now a nucleus of accred-

ited CRRU-IASIS Wildlife Aware Technicians who are entitled to use the CRRU/IASIS Wildlife Aware logo. Further courses are planned for 2015 as follows:

- 9th April in DAFM, Backweston Campus, Celbridge Co. Kildare
- 14th April in Teagasc, Moorpark, Fermoy Co. Cork
- 16th April in Mellows Campus Athenry Co. Galway
- 1st October in DAFM Laboratories, Backweston Campus, Co Kildare
- 6th October 2015, Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy
- 8th October 2015, Teagasc, Mellows Campus, Athenry, Co Galway

Registration for these courses should be made using either website for the CRRU <http://www.thinkwildlife.org> or IASIS [www.iasis.ie](http://www.iasis.ie).

■ For further information contact Dr Mark Lynch, CRRU Ireland Chairman, [mark@lynchconsulting.ie](mailto:mark@lynchconsulting.ie)