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1982 VOLE SYMPOSIUM
WEST VIRGINIA ORCHARD TOUR

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Warm Springs Orchard - Robert W. Butler

The orchard was planted in 1963 in an old orchard site where voles were present. The toxicant endrin as a spray has been applied on a yearly basis for vole control through 1976. During 1977-1978 broadcast baiting failed to control the vole population. Under tree cultivation was started in 1979. A spring cultivation was followed by herbicide treatments. Fall cultivations were followed by baiting of runs and breather holes. Two complete hand placement baiting were made during the November-December period and again during the February-March period. The toxicant used during these baiting periods has been rotated between diphacinone (Ramik-brown), chlorophacinone (Rozol) and more recently zinc phosphide pelleted bait (ZP pellet from Bell Lab.). The vole management system employed since 1979 has appeared to be giving satisfactory control at this time. A high vole population seems to still be present in some locations.

Swan Pond Orchard - William Kilmer

Started in 1953 with an orchard past its prime age of production and with a high vole population. Endrin sprays and hand baid placement was practiced. Renovation of the orchard was started with new plantings having better cultural-management practices. More frequent mowings and the use of herbicides were practiced. A year around complete weed free 8-10 ft. band has been practiced since the late 1960's. Up to 1970, yearly application of endrin was applied to the entire orchard. From 1970 to 1973 only the perimeters, fence rows and rock breaks were treated since vole populations had been considerably reduced. Since 1973, no toxicants have been used for vole control. Very effective year around weed control under the trees, frequent mowings to keep the vegetation less than 10 inches in height and other good sanitation practices are attributed to the lack of voles present in this completely replanted orchard location.

Lewis Brother Orchard - Charles and Otho Lewis

Toxicant endrin sprays have been applied from the mid-1950's to 1975 on a yearly basis for vole control. Endrin was not holding down vole activity. In 1976, liquid chlorophacinone (Rozol) gave very

excellent control, but the 1977 application was a complete failure, possibly due to heavy rainfall following the application.

Endrin was again used in 1978 through 1980, but vole activity was not effectively reduced.

In 1981, chlorophacinone at 12 lb. /A was hand baited on the basis of 2 oz. /tree at two locations for tree spacings of 18 feet and 4 oz. /tree for 36-40 foot tree spacings. This system has given excellent vole control. Chlorophacinone and ZP pellets were applied broadcast at 10 and 20 lbs. /acre rates but have not given very good results. Mouseterrias have been used and are most effective for meadow vole control but poor for pine vole control.