10-1956

CC142 A Poison Bait Box for Rats and Mice

R. E. Roselle
T. J. Turner
W. F. Wrap Jr.

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist
A Poison Bait Box For Rats And Mice

R. E. Roselle, T. J. Turner, and W. F. Rapp, Jr.

Permanent bait boxes are desirable for several reasons. They provide attractive feeding places for rats and mice, protect bait from rain, and keep the bait dry. They also protect dogs, cats, livestock, poultry, and children from the bait. The boxes assure a more adequate amount of bait and are inexpensive to construct from materials on the farm.

The diagram on the back shows how to construct a simple bait box.

PLACEMENT OF BOXES: Place bait boxes where rats are known to be present, near water; or place water near boxes. Always place them along walls or in corners, near stored grain cribs, chicken houses, machine sheds, feed rooms, barns and other farm buildings. Use several boxes for an average farm.

MAINTENANCE OF BOXES: Boxes should be inspected every day for the first fourteen days. Fill bait-hoppers before they are empty. After two weeks, inspect boxes at least every five days, replenishing when needed. Discard stale or moldy bait. If rats do not take baits, add a teaspoonful of vegetable oil per pound of bait. Treat only one pound at a time to prevent baits from becoming rancid. If mice are a primary problem, use two or three teaspoons of powdered sugar for each pound of bait.

PREPARATION OF BAITS: Commercially prepared baits may be used, or baits may be mixed on the farm using a warfarin, pival or fumarin concentrate. Homemixed baits are much less expensive and are as effective as commercial baits. To prepare baits, use three ounces of 0.5% bait concentrate to three pounds of oatmeal. For larger amounts, use one pound of 0.5% concentrate to nineteen pounds of oatmeal. Corn meal or a mixture of corn meal and oatmeal may also be used for baits.

LABEL BOXES: Bait boxes should be labeled "RAT POISON", and numbered. Boxes used out-of-doors should be painted with a good outside house or barn paint to protect them from weathering.

WHEN TO CONTROL: Fall and winter months are the preferred months for baiting rats and mice, but a satisfactory control program must be in effect the year around. The rats and mice begin migrations into buildings in the fall to find food and shelter so intense bait programs should start in October and November and be continued until the next summer.

IMPORTANCE OF RAT AND MOUSE CONTROL: There are probably as many rats as human beings in Nebraska. Each rat is capable of causing $10.00 to more than $20.00 loss each year. They eat our grain, damage buildings, spread disease, attack poultry and livestock, and contaminate food grains. Food grain with one or more rat or mouse pellets per pint may be diverted into livestock feed channels by Food and Drug Administration inspectors, resulting in important loss of income to farmers and elevator men. IT PAYS TO CONTROL RATS AND MICE.

R. E. Roselle is Extension Entomologist, Nebraska College of Agriculture; T. J. Turner is Assistant District Agent, Predator Control, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Platte, Nebr.; and W. F. Rapp, Jr. is Entomologist, Division of Sanitation, Nebraska Department of Health.
POISON BAIT BOX FOR RATS

IF USED OUT OF DOORS STAKE
TO PREVENT OVERTURNING

PICTORIAL VIEW

BILL OF MATERIALS

4 - 1" x 12" x 24"
2 - 1" x 10" x 12"
1 - 1" x 10" x 22 1/2"
1 - 1" x 1" x 22 1/2"

2 - 2" STRAP HINGE
1 - HASP
1 - PADLOCK

END VIEW
SCALE: 1" = 5"

EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COOPERATING
W. V. LAMBERT, DIRECTOR