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My View of our Pine Vole
Control Problem

Steve Clark
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In a recent survey of pine mouse infestation, it was determined that approximately 37% of the orchard land had serious enough damage to warrant control measures. Some growers are using chlorophacinone as a ground spray. We are also putting out tarpaper bait stations and baiting with either Ramik Brown or Rozol pellets. There has been mixed results with both methods and our growers are still looking for a better control method.

The Chlorophacinone Spray is too expensive for a permanent control measure with an annual cost of \$40-\$45/A.

The hard baiting method is adequate if the sites are active, but requires a good deal of hand labor.

We are trying to have the state grant a temporary special use label for Endrin and establish a research program to find a permanent solution to the problem.

I think there may be some potential to using a trail maker and baiting with Ramik.

There are several questions I would like to challenge our researchers with and hope their answers would give us an economical control program.

Why did pine mice start infesting the orchards of southern New York about 10 years ago?

What changes took place in the eco-system that encouraged the pine mouse population explosion?

Have we growers changed the flora in our orchard cover by increasing pH and mowing more frequently?

Is it because we are using less residual chemicals in our spray programs?

Has the vole population increased because of milder winters and wetter summers?

If it is a change in the orchard habitat that has resulted in the population explosion, perhaps an adjustment can be made in our cultural practices to eliminate the pine mouse.