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CC114 Grain is Food -- Keep it Clean

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GRAIN

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FOOD

*Keep it
Clean!*



EXTENSION SERVICE
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COOPERATING
W.V. LAMBERT, DIRECTOR

KEEP OUT and Birds...



Control of pests has always been profitable. A new development in the supervision of grain marketing makes it more important than ever for farmers to protect their grain from damage or contamination by rats, mice, insects, birds, poultry, or filth.

The Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act requires that foods - including food grains - be clean. It is designed to protect the consumer. Among other things, it prohibits the shipment in interstate commerce of impure or adulterated foodstuffs.

Wheat - and to a lesser extent oats, barley, and corn - is used for food. Farmers who grow these crops will benefit financially by marketing only clean, sound grain.

This circular is to assist farmers in meeting the new grain sanitation requirements.

Rats, Mice



1 POISON AND TRAP to eliminate all rodents present. Fortified red squill and warfarin are the most desirable poisons to use in rodent baits. Prepare the bait according to directions and place around the buildings wherever there are signs of rat burrows or feeding. As far as possible, remove other sources of food.



2 RAT-PROOF BUILDINGS AND BINS. The more that can be done to rat-proof stored grain bins, granaries, and other farm buildings, the greater the success in rodent control. This includes keeping doors or other openings to grain bins closed tightly when not in use. Heavy wire screening of the lower portions will help to keep rats out. Solid sheet metal works better.



3 REMOVE SHELTER AND HIDING PLACES. Clean up rodent shelters such as grain refuse piles, trash dumps, garbage, lumber or wood piles, and old machinery dumps which may serve as sources of new rodent population.



4 KEEP THE BIRDS OUT! If windows in the storage bins must be open for ventilation, cover them with screen or hardware cloth to keep out the birds. Bird contamination is just as repulsive as insect or rodent contamination.

Clean Grain brings Better Prices!

MORE ABOUT RODENTS AND BAIT MATERIALS

SUCCESS IN RODENT CONTROL comes from keeping everlastingly at it. Inspect premises regularly for signs of reinfestation. Follow up promptly on control measures.

WARFARIN is a relatively slow acting poison, but it is very effective when properly used. *TO BE EFFECTIVE THE BAIT MUST BE PLACED WHERE RATS AND MICE CAN GET TO IT READILY AND FEED DAILY OVER A PERIOD OF AT LEAST 5 TO 14 DAYS. THE BAIT MUST BE AVAILABLE CONTINUOUSLY. ANY BREAK IN DAILY FEEDING WILL DELAY ITS EFFECTIVENESS.* Warfarin baits should be kept in protected bait stations.

RED SQUILL is a fast acting poison which gives a quick kill. If this poison is to be used, obtain a **FORTIFIED RED SQUILL** product. The label will state the strength in terms of how much it takes to kill a rat. For best results this figure should be not less than 500 to 600 mg. (milligrams). Bait containing red squill is usually placed in small, wax paper packets which are distributed at strategic places around the buildings.

CAUTION: Red squill and warfarin are the two safest rat poisons now on the market. However, they are poisons and care should be exercised in using them. It is safest to follow all precautions on the package.

GRAIN SANITATION TIPS:

Do not contaminate clean food grain by adding contaminated grain to it. Grain that is unfit for human food cannot be made fit by diluting it with clean grain.

Trucks used for hauling both livestock and grain should be thoroughly cleaned when they are to be used for hauling grain.

For more information on rodent control see these publications:

"Rat Control on Farms," E. C. 1562 -- from your County Extension Agent

"Rat-proofing Buildings and Premises," Conservation Bul. 19 -- from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service