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Controlling Rats & Mice: Use of Bait Stations

Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service

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controlling Rats & Mice

Developed cooperatively by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service.

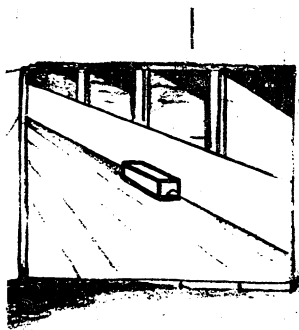
USE OF BAIT STATIONS

No known rodenticide is completely safe to use. Even those considered less hazardous to humans and domestic animals may, under certain conditions, cause death. Placement of all poisons under protective cover will reduce these hazards and will also provide the cover pre-

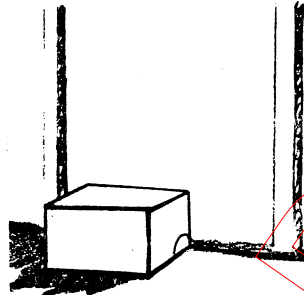
ferred by rats and mice when feeding. In addition, bait stations protect the bait from the weather and simplify the job of placing baits. They are particularly useful in exposing anticoagulant baits which must be made continuously available to rats and mice for extended periods.

Bait Station Construction. Bait stations should be sturdily made of solid material in order to avoid being knocked out of place or crushed by heavy objects being placed or dropped on them. Open bottoms are preferred, as rats are more willing to enter boxes that are set on surfaces to which they are accustomed.

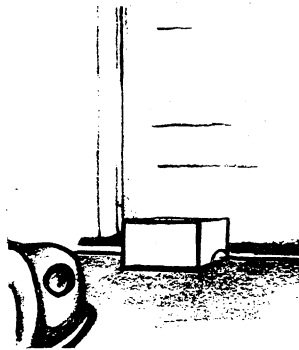
A station such as shown below can be made from a 1" thick board, 6 feet long and either 8", 10", or 12" wide. The board is cut into three pieces 19-3/4" long for the top and two sides, and two 6" pieces for the ends. The openings at the ends of the stations, through which rats and mice enter, should be no larger than 3" in diameter if circular in shape, or 3" high by 2-1/2" wide for rectangular holes.



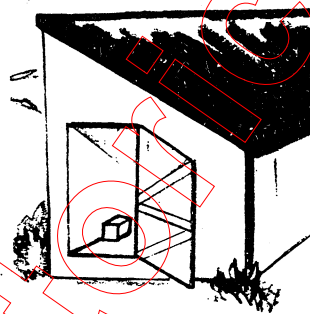
BARN



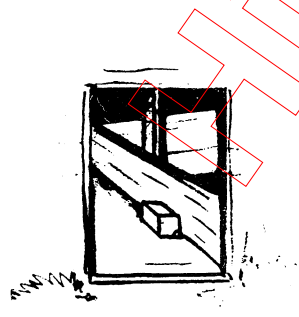
MACHINE SHED



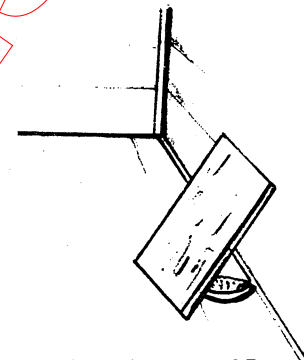
GARAGE



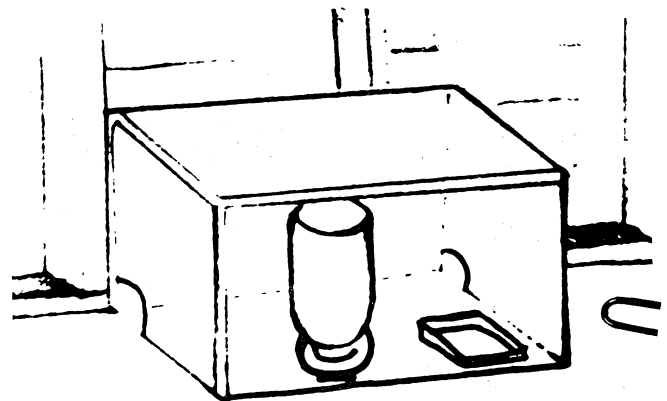
POULTRY HOUSE



HOG HOUSE

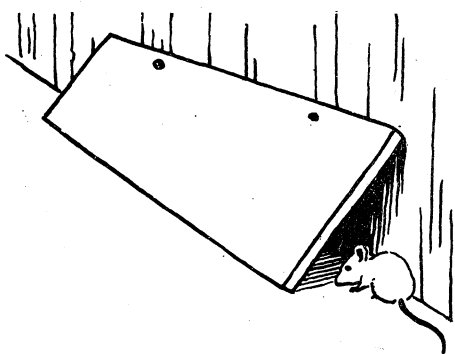


CORN CRIB

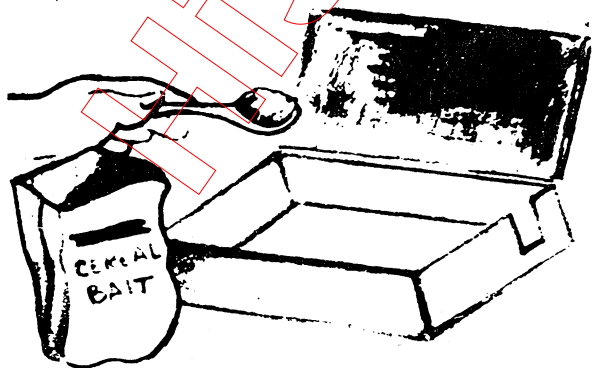


Placement of Stations.

Rats are ever alert to the threat of their enemies, whether they be predatory birds, dogs, cats, or humans. They prefer an environment which provides convenient cover to which they can scurry when danger threatens. When necessary, rats will travel considerable distances to obtain food, but they prefer to dig burrows and otherwise establish themselves near their food supplies. If rats are feeding some distance from their harbors, stations should be located along their routes of travel to provide convenient stopovers for protective cover and feeding.

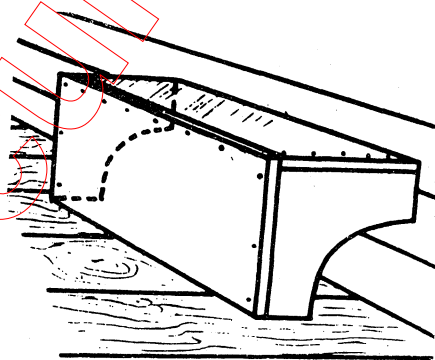


House mice normally maintain their colonies near a source of food and seldom range more than a few feet from their living quarters. Bait stations should, therefore, be placed near mouse colonies and spaced at intervals of not more than 10 or 15 feet. Where mice only are involved, a suitable station can be made by cutting a small opening in the corner of a box as illustrated.



Placement for Perimeter Control: Food establishments will receive protection from rat and mouse invasions by locating bait stations at intervals along fences, waterways, stockpiles, etc. around the plant grounds. Study such areas and place stations along probable travel routes so as to intercept rats and mice before they can enter buildings.

Set the bait stations where there is the least disturbance by humans, farm animals, or severe weather. Place them along rat runways near harboring places



and sources of food. Fresh water placed near the bait is not required, but improves bait acceptance.

Placement in Corn Cribs: Take a few minutes before corn cribs are filled to make some places inside the cribs where poisoned bait can be exposed. Here is a simple and effective way to do it. Use 1" x 4" or 2" x 4" boards about 2 feet long. Slant one or two of the boards on end, about 8 or 10 inches from the wall. Toe-nail the bottom end to the floor and the top end to the wall. This will give a small clear space on the floor where bait can be placed after the crib is filled. A small part of the slat can be cut out to allow room to set a pan of bait on the floor from outside the crib. Best locations for bait spots are usually along driveways of double cribs and in the south corner.