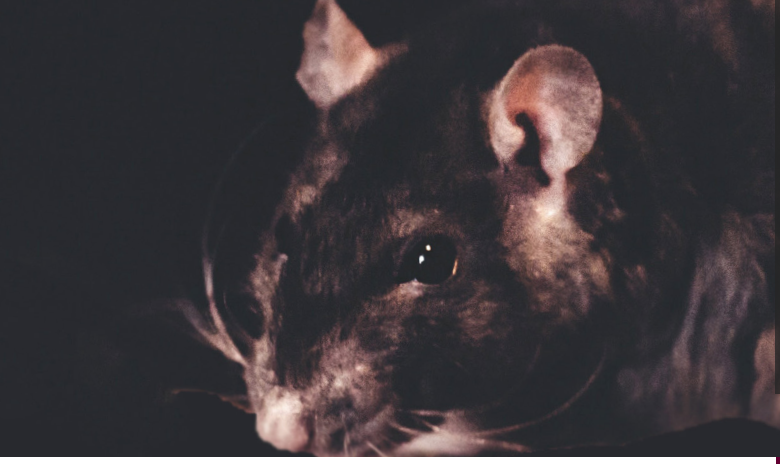

F7 | RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

REASONS TO CONTROL RODENTS

- Rodents are major disease carriers, including diseases that are harmful to pigs and/or humans, such as salmonellosis, leptospirosis, swine dysentery, trichinosis, toxoplasmosis and rabies.
- Rodents can cause significant damage to buildings, including walls, wiring and insulation.
- Rodents can eat or spoil a lot of feed. A single rat can eat 10 kilograms of feed in a year and spoil many more times that with their urine and feces.
- Rodents are prolific breeders. Female rats, which are old enough to breed at three months of age, can give birth to about 22 babies per year.

SIGNS OF RODENT INFESTATION

- There is evidence of rat and mice movements, gnawing or droppings.
- Indicators can include trails, gnawing marks or holes in buildings or equipment, smudging on holes or equipment, evidence of digging/ burrowing, scratching sounds and odours. Refer to figures 1 & 2.
- Rule of thumb: for every rodent you see, there are 25 others.

FIGURE 1

FIGURE 2

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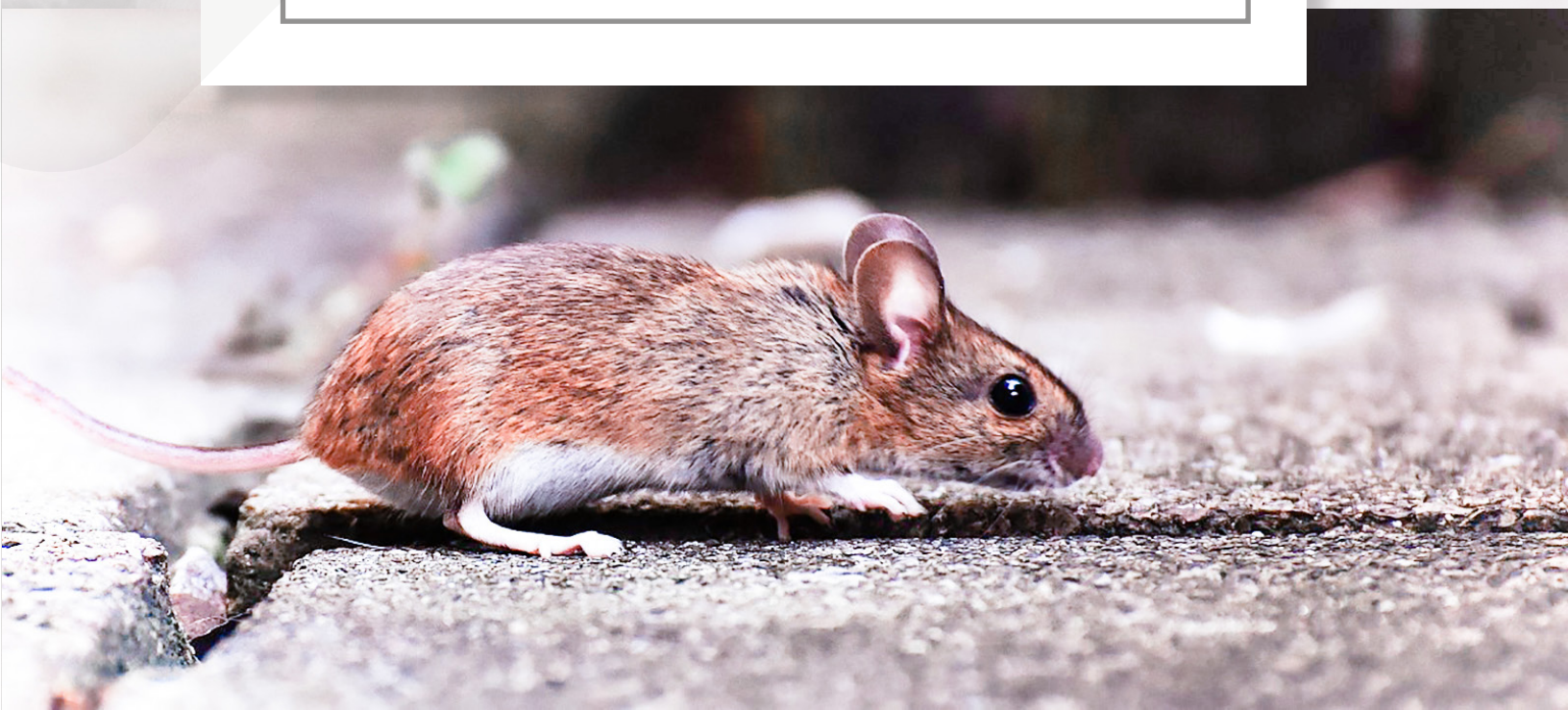
RODENT HABITS

- Both rats and mice are most active at night.
- They like to be close to walls and avoid open areas.
- Rats are very shy about new objects and food sources, such as poisons, and will take days to become used to them. Mice are more curious and will take bait more quickly.
- Both rats and mice can squeeze through small openings; small rats can get through openings as small as 1 cm (1/2”) and mice through openings of 0.6 cm (1/4”) or less.
- Mice tend to stay in the same farm, while rats tend to move from farm to farm. Talking to your neighbours about their rodent control protocols is an important step in developing protocols on your own farm.



RODENT PROOFING

- Regularly clean up any spilled feed inside or outside the barn. Refer to figures 3 & 4.
- Do not leave old equipment or piles of straw or wood near the barn.
- Keep grass around the barn cut shorter than 20 cm. Add a one-metre-wide perimeter of gravel or crushed rock around the outside of the barn. Refer to figure 5.
- Be sure doors are tight-fitting and closed after use.
- Evaluate the farm's buildings to identify any sources of entry and food for rodents. Check outside walls, doors and windows for space that rodents might use to enter the barn. It is highly recommended that the record R-E Inspection Checklist is used to complete the evaluation of the farm's buildings.
- Use mortar, masonry, sheet metal, metal screening or coarse steel wool to plug or cover any openings at possible entry points (e.g., augers, inlet piping and wires) where rodents can squeeze into the barn. Refer to figure 6.
- Buildings should be designed so as to limit rodent entry and movement within walls and ceilings.

ABOVE - FIGURES 3 AND 4

FIGURE 5

FIGURE 6

RODENT CONTROL

- Traps have several advantages over poison: they make it easy to find and remove dead rodents, easy to monitor the rodent population, and remove any risk of accidental poisoning by pigs. Refer to figure 7.

FIGURE 7

- Both snap and live traps work well for mice, but are of limited use for rats. Baiting with the right food, according to the type of rodent, is important for snap traps. In order to reduce the chance of creating "trap-shy" rodents, hold off on setting the traps until the bait has been taken at least once.

- Rodenticides work well for both rats and mice. Use only products registered by Health Canada for use in agricultural settings and follow label directions.

- All rodenticides are poisonous to other animals, so bait stations must be properly designed, secure and not accessible to pigs or other animals. Refer to figure 8.

FIGURE 8

- Check bait stations regularly to add fresh rodenticide. A map of bait station locations is highly recommended.

For links to additional information on Health Canada approved rodenticides, refer to the electronic fact sheet available on the Canadian Pork Council website.

BIRD CONTROL

- Certain birds have been identified to be carriers of some swine diseases, such as TGE and swine dysentery.
- Clean up spilled feed immediately to avoid attracting birds to your production site.
- Reduce birds' access to water. Where standing water is maintained in a trough, make sure it is too deep for birds to stand in.
- Prevent birds' access to the production area and feed storage areas using materials such as wire screens, plastic or nylon netting. Refer to figure 9. Ensure these materials do not have holes larger than 2 cm.
- Cover open feeders, feed bins and feed carts when bird's access cannot be prevented.
- Eliminate potential roosting and nesting areas, or make them less appealing, by placing a wooden, plastic or plexiglass cover over ledges at a 45-degree angle, or by using bird deterrent products (e.g., wires, staples, nails).
- Avoid the use of noise-making devices, as these may disturb your livestock.

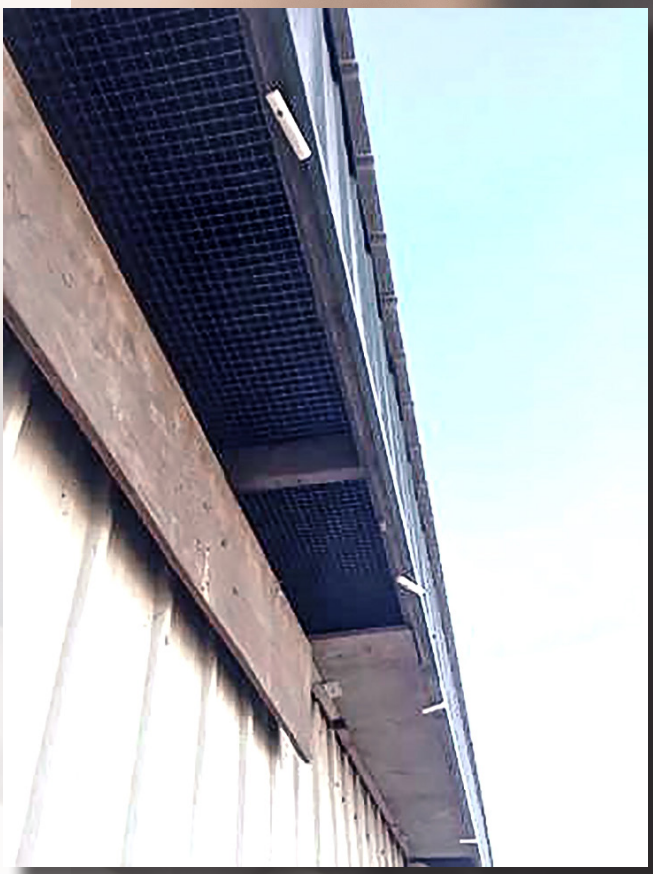


FIGURE 9

INSECT CONTROL

- Flies have been identified to be physical carriers of swine viruses, bacteria and other pathogens.
- To avoid attracting flies, quickly clean up waste and accumulations of feed and manure, and dispose of carcasses and other organic material, such as afterbirth.
- Implement proper sanitation procedures and regularly eliminate potential insect breeding areas. Places that can be used for fly reproduction include manure, old bedding, wet areas, and areas where feed has been spilled and not cleaned up. Old bales that have been stacked may be wet at the bottom and may provide a breeding ground for flies. If manure lagoons are not agitated, a crust will form and flies may breed in that crust.
- Set fly traps, such as fly paper, around the production area. Refer to figure 10. You can create a more contained trap by placing fly paper in old bleach-style bottles that have a hole cut in the side.
- Dispose of fly traps in a garbage bin. Female flies may still contain viable eggs after death; if these flies are swept into the manure pit, these eggs may still hatch.
- Talk to a pest control company or entomologist for more information.
- Always read pesticide labels carefully and use only as directed. If you use insecticides, keep them away from areas accessed by pigs. If accidental exposure does occur, ask a veterinarian or other qualified professional to address withdrawal times and any potential health concerns.

FIGURE 10