

Using Rodenticide Field Comparison to Advantage

When a new rodenticide is introduced to the market, rodent control professionals need to know how it compares to the product they're currently using.

The Landscape

It takes several days for anticoagulant rodenticides to kill a rodent; during that time they continue to feed on the rodenticide and travel around their territory. As they travel, they excrete undigested portions of the rodenticide. Evidence in field testing various rodenticides shows a tendency for mice to prefer an excreted rodenticide in bait stations or on runways. Rodents, especially mice, communicate a lot by scent. In testing it's important to note this factor to assure objectivity, e.g., not using a previously deployed bait station.

Ideally a new product will be tested in an account that previously had no rodenticide usage. However, this is not always practical. Here are some suggestions to minimize the bias caused by the previously used product:

- Use new bait stations that do not have scent cues from other rodenticides
- Compare the new product to another product not previously used at the test site
- Place bait stations in locations that did not have bait stations before

Keep it Simple

Avoid introducing too many variables into a test by comparing the new product to a single competitive product in a given bait station.

In heavily infested areas with minimal competing food, you may have to check the bait in only a day or two. Otherwise, the rodents may eat all of the tested products and you won't know which one they preferred and ate first. Here are some additional tips:

- Check test sites at least weekly
- Relocate stations with evident feeding; restock stations with significant feeding
- Record the amount of each product eaten
- Keep track of other product traits such as melting, mold, crumbs and insect feeding



New Rodenticide Evaluation Worksheet Notes

START DATE: _____

END DATE: _____

Product A Name: _____

Product B Name: _____

Test Site: _____

Name of Evaluator: _____

Refer to text in the Technical Bulletin for explanation.

STATION #		ZERO FEEDING	LIGHT FEEDING	MODERATE FEEDING	HEAVY FEEDING	VERY HEAVY FEEDING	FUNGUS OR MOLD	INSECT FEEDING	BAIT CRUMBS	BAIT MELT	COMMENTS
EXAMPLE	A						Y	Y	Y	Y	A <i>Good, but attracted slugs</i>
	B						Y	Y	Y	Y	B <i>Melted in 2 days</i>
	A						Y	Y	Y	Y	A _____
	B						Y	Y	Y	Y	B _____
	A						Y	Y	Y	Y	A _____
	B						Y	Y	Y	Y	B _____
	A						Y	Y	Y	Y	A _____
	B						Y	Y	Y	Y	B _____
	A						Y	Y	Y	Y	A _____
	B						Y	Y	Y	Y	B _____
	A						Y	Y	Y	Y	A _____
	B						Y	Y	Y	Y	B _____
	A						Y	Y	Y	Y	A _____
	B						Y	Y	Y	Y	B _____
	A						Y	Y	Y	Y	A _____
	B						Y	Y	Y	Y	B _____
	A						Y	Y	Y	Y	A _____
	B						Y	Y	Y	Y	B _____