

Control of *Salmonella* in laying flocks

No 5 - Rodent control

Background

- Rodents can pick up traces of *Salmonella* from around the farm environment or from feed that may be too low a dose to infect birds.
- *Salmonella* multiplies in the rodent so that it can then infect birds, even if they are vaccinated.
- Rodents are the most important *Salmonella* risk on most laying farms.

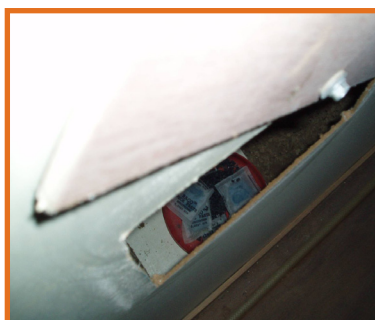
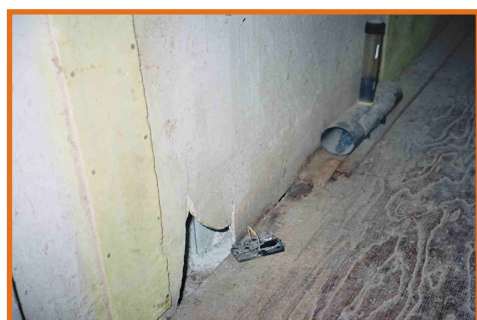


Action

- Check all houses and entry points for evidence of rodent activity such as droppings, tracks, disturbed bait, chewing damage, grease marks and urine pillars.
- Place different types of bait (blocks, seed/grain, sachets) where there are signs of rodents and monitor the uptake of different baits at least weekly.



- Place ten live or snap traps per house (cage house) and two in each service area to monitor the progress of mouse control.
- Where rodents have colonised wall or roof spaces, create baiting 'ports' in these areas.



- Where rodents are breeding in mini pits, create baiting stations that can be filled from outside the pits.
- Where rat holes are seen inside or outside houses, bait and cover the holes.

Ensuring traps and baiting stations are regularly monitored is key to successful rodent control.