HHM-040

FIELD EXPERIENCE OF AN IMPROVED RODENT CONTROL PROGRAM IN CENTRAL EUROPE

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Introduction

The objective of this field study was to evaluate the placement of bait station and the application of rodenticides at a swine farm facility that has dealt with uncontrolled, high populations of rats and mice. The facility faces the challenge of having a feed mill plant in near proximity.

Material & Methods

Two problem barns were chosen for evaluation of a new protocol (Barn 30 and Barn 31). The rest of the farm would continue using its typical methodology and products. The barns tracked their methodologies on a weekly basis for six weeks to evaluate bait station attack percentages, bait feeding, and replacement rates. There were 20 existing stations between the two barns, and 20 more were added, for a total of 40 stations between the two buildings.

Better-performing bait stations were placed, including the classic bait flat style and the T-shaped stations. All stations had rods or spikes onto which bait can be attached to prevent water from washing them away, and to prevent rats from pulling bait out while feeding. As for the types of bait, whole wheat pellets and Pasta Bait were tested in the trial. The bait stations were properly filled (100 grams), and bait was scheduled to be replaced on a weekly basis.

Results

1. The percent of attack in Barns 30 and 31 was 75% with Pasta Bait placed in stations during the first six weeks of evaluation, compared to just 25% with the rest of the farms regular program, even though the percent of attack at the farm did see a slight increase (from 18% in the prior months to 25% during the trial period), especially by mice.
2. Using the Pasta Bait for bait feeding yielded higher consumption, demonstrating a better attraction/palatability that competes with the regular pig feed.