

Launch of CRRU Ireland *Best Practice Requirements for Rodent Control and Safe Use of Rodenticides.*

Launch of CRRU Ireland *Best Practice Requirements for rodent pest management technicians to facilitate the responsible use of rodenticides and minimise risks arising for wildlife.*

On Backweston Campus today the document **CRRU Ireland *Best Practice Requirements for Rodent Control and Safe Use of Rodenticides*** was launched.

Anticoagulant rodenticides used to kill rats and mice have been detected in many of our top predator wildlife species. Recent scientific research has shown that these poisons now occur in 80% of our barn owls who feed mainly on mice and rats. Other rodent-eating species such as kestrels, long eared owls, kites, buzzards as well as pine martens, stoats and foxes are all vulnerable too.

While pests such as mice and rats which can contaminate food and carry disease must be controlled, the rodenticide industry has recognised the need to protect and enhance wildlife. In order to ensure that rodenticides are used correctly and in ways that minimise the exposure of wildlife, the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) has prepared *Best Practice Requirements for Rodent Control and Safe Use of Rodenticides*. That document will be an essential handbook for all rodent pest management technicians and indeed Quality Assurance auditors/inspectors in the country. It is anticipated that it will become the key information resource for the training of future rodent pest management technicians.

Poor pest control practice has a negative effect on wildlife. CRRU Ireland strives to raise awareness on how to use rodenticides in a responsible manner. It is vital to ensure that rodents dead or dying from anticoagulant rodenticides are disposed of correctly and are not available to wildlife higher up the food chain.

Mark R Lynch is chairman of CRRU Ireland while Eanna Ni Lamhna is the CRRU Ireland Communications Officer.

Speaking at the launch, the Chief Inspector of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Bill Callanan said ...

“... A report on sustainable use of biocides published last week by the European Commission highlights that best practice measures can be an integral part of product authorisation conditions in order to ensure that products are used responsibly in an environmentally sustainable manner. Best practice requirements, such as those developed by CRRU Ireland, are a very important element in ensuring the responsible use of rodenticides.

I look forward and share the anticipation of the members of CRRU Ireland that the Best Practice Requirements will become the key information resource and essential handbook for pest management technicians and users in the country and wish the organisation all the best in their future endeavours.”

ENDS

Embargoed until 12.30 on 24th March 2016

Notes to Editors:

For more information about the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use Ireland log on to www.crru.ie