

Campaign for Responsible Rodenticides in Ireland

The Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU), established in the UK in 2005, has launched an autonomous counterpart in the Republic of Ireland.

The Campaign was initiated to improve stewardship standards for rodenticides, ensuring they stay out of the food chain and, particularly, that wildlife is protected from exposure. It is backed by ten manufacturers and suppliers of pest control services, with nearly 400 professional pest controllers in its Supporters Club and 180 individuals trained to the BASIS-accredited Wildlife Aware standard.

CRRU Ireland, chaired by Dr Mark Lynch, a former senior inspector at the Pesticides Control Service, aims to capitalise on developments and experience gained in the UK. It will pursue the same objective of effective and sustainable rural rodent control with no unacceptable impacts on wildlife and the wider environment. The project is supported by all the main manufacturers of second generation anticoagulant rodenticides used in Ireland.

The Irish launch is prompted by the fact that anticoagulant rodenticides used to kill rats and mice have been detected in many of the top wildlife predator species in the country. Recent scientific research has shown that they are present in over 80% of the barn owls that feed mainly on mice and rats. Other rodent-eating species such as kestrels, long eared owls, kites, and buzzards, as well as pine martens, stoats and foxes, are also vulnerable. Owls and birds of prey play a role in keeping down rodent numbers around farms and food manufacturing plants. It is vital to ensure that rodents that are dead or dying after ingesting rodenticides are disposed of correctly and are not available to wildlife higher up the food chain.

More via the www.thinkwildlife.org website.