

Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use Newsletter April 2017

New Legal Requirements for the use of anti-vitamin K rodenticides.

The implementation of EU legislation over the next 12 months will have a significant impact on the Anti-Vitamin K (AVK) rodenticides in the EU Member States, including Ireland. The implementation of this EU legislation will result in the introduction of new classification and labelling criteria for the AVKs, and additional Risk Mitigation Measures (RMMs) not previously in place.

As a result of the above processes, there are practical consequences for the use of AVK rodenticides in Ireland.

There will be a clear designation of product user groups. There are now three categories of user groups – the General Public, Professional Users, and Trained Professional Users. Professional Users are all those who use rodenticides in the course of their work. Trained Professional Users are a subset of professional users, who have received approved training and certification in the use of rodenticides.

From 01 March 2018, all products on the Irish market for General Public Use will have a maximum active substance content of 30mg/kg. However, products containing ≥ 30 mg/kg will still be allowed to be marketed for professional and trained professional use after this date.

There will be no legal AVK product on the Irish market for General Public use, containing active substance content > 30 mg/kg, after 01/03/18. However, products containing > 30 mg/kg will still be allowed to be marketed for professionals and trained professionals use after this date.

Rodenticides should only be used as part of an integrated pest management (IPM) system, including, amongst other measures, hygiene measures and, where possible, physical methods of control.

All users remain legally obliged to use rodenticides in accordance with the instructions on the product label. Up-to-date labels of rodenticides in Ireland will shortly contain a phrase “use according to an accepted code of best practice such as the *CRRU Ireland Best Practice Requirements for Rodent Control and Safe Use of Rodenticides*”. So, compliance with such a code of practice will effectively be a legal requirement.

It should be noted that permanent baiting is restricted to Trained Professional Users only. Permanent baiting is only permitted for products containing difenacoum and bromadiolone and then **only at sites with a high potential for reinvasion when other methods of control have proven insufficient**. Justification for use of such techniques must be documented and reflect best practice requirements, including wildlife awareness, rodent monitoring, assessments of the treatment and the collection of dead rodents and unused bait.

In practical terms, the new legal requirements detailed above will come into force as products are authorised for the first time or are re-authorised with new product labels. New product labels will come into force during the next twelve months.

Upcoming Wildlife Aware Courses 2017

• **3 OCTOBER**
DAFM LABORATORIES
BACKWESTON CAMPUS

• **BOOKING CAN BE DONE DIRECTLY ON LINE ON THE COURSES PAGE OF THE WEBSITE**

www.crru.ie

Date and Location of next Task Force Meeting

The next CRRU Ireland TaskForce meeting will take place in the Agriculture Laboratory Building on Backweston Campus, Celbridge Co. Kildare on Thursday 6 July, starting at 10.30 am.



European Standard for the Pest Management Industry - EN:16636

The Confederation of European Pest Management Associations (CEPA) and its members have sponsored the development of a European standard (EN:16636) for the pest management industry in collaboration with the European Standards Institute (CEN). This European standard specifies the requirements, recommendations and basic competences under which pest management service companies must operate to meet the needs of their customers, be they private companies, public authorities or the general public. As sponsors of the CEN project, CEPA and its members wish to ensure that the industry is recognized for a responsible approach to pest management in all countries of the European Union and EFTA.

The standard will:

Create awareness for the value to society that the pest management industry represents through the maintenance of health and hygiene.

Contribute to controlling unprofessional services and thus provide important support for products that are indispensable to protect the public, buildings and businesses but which are nevertheless under pressure from restriction or deregistration measures.

CEPA Certified® Accreditation - What it means to Pest Control companies and their customers.

- A unique and independent benchmark of a company's professionalism.
- Confirmation that pest control operations are compliant with current legislation and best practice requirements for pest management services.
- CEPA Certified® Status means an improved image with clients.
- Better service quality: the standard is designed to help Pest Control businesses to continuously improve their services.

Raises awareness among customers that the industry plays a major role in public health.

Implementation

In collaboration with local pest management associations, **CEPA** is creating a network of professional pest management companies across Europe that can demonstrate their competence to clients. It will also be targeting clients to encourage them to only specify CEPA Certified® companies. This will provide competitive advantage over those companies who do not operate to the standard.

CEPA has developed a self-evaluation tool to help companies to achieve the standard. This can be used before they start the certification process at no cost, allowing Pest Control companies to see if anything needs to be done before they proceed. This is found on the CEPA website

www.cepa-europe.org

When a company is ready for audit they contact Bureau Veritas Certification body who will arrange an audit against the standard. The cost works out at about €400 per year to maintain the certification.

Several Irish Pest Control Companies have successfully become registered to the standard. For further Information on becoming a registered company, please contact:

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How Barn Owls fared in 2016- John Lusby



Photo John Lusby

As a predator, which specialises on small mammals, Barn Owls are susceptible to secondary poisoning by rodenticides. It is essential therefore to monitor exposure in Barn Owls, in order to assess changes over time and also to assess the effectiveness of efforts to reduce exposure to SGAR's in non-target wildlife, which is the priority of CRRU. It is also equally important to monitor trends and breeding success which allow us to assess the health of the population.

BirdWatch Ireland coordinate a long-term Barn Owl monitoring scheme which aims to gather data on breeding parameters for a representative proportion of

the population each nesting season, with 2016 being the most active year to date, and with generally positive findings. There was a high occupancy rate recorded with 117 (96%) of 122 sites which were active in 2015 remaining active into the breeding season of 2016.

A total of 113 Barn Owl breeding attempts were monitored throughout the Republic of Ireland across 11 counties, of which the majority were in Munster (86%), particularly Counties Kerry (27%), Tipperary (26%) and Cork (18%). The most common nest site type recorded for confirmed breeding pairs were nest boxes which were used by 35 pairs (31%), which shows the success of this conservation effort in recent years. The majority of nest boxes were located in or in proximity to farmyards, and farm houses (20%) were the second most common nesting site highlighting the importance of best practice rodent control on farms. A wide range of other sites were used including ruined mansions, castles, trees, churches, farm buildings, quarries, gate lodges, and a single pair confirmed in a rectory and a mill – it should be noted that in the majority of sites Barn Owls can be difficult to detect and often go unnoticed by the owners.



Photo Richard Mills

Of 113 confirmed breeding attempts, 92 pairs (81.4%) successfully fledged young in 2016, 16 (14.2%) breeding attempts failed and it was not possible to accurately determine the outcome for five (4.4%) breeding attempts. The productivity of all breeding attempts monitored in 2016 was 2.1 young per breeding attempt (n = 91, range = 0 - 5).

To view some video clips of Barn Owl hunting behaviour generated from the GPS-data visit;

<http://irishraptors.blogspot.ie/2016/08/gps-data-shows-barn-owl-successfully.html> or

<http://irishraptors.blogspot.ie/2016/08/seeking-out-hedgerows.html>

For further information on BirdWatch Ireland's work on Barn Owls visit www.birdwatchireland.ie

In 2016 Barn Owl monitoring work was funded by Dublin Zoo and Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

The Red Kite – a good news story

Marc Ruddock

The Red Kite was brought back to Ireland by the Golden Eagle Trust over a five-year period from 2007- 2011. Young birds from Wales were re-introduced to Wicklow, 30 in 2007, 26 in 2008 – some each year until 2011. In all 120 birds were released. The scheme culminated in 2011 with the re-introduction of 39 Kites into Fingal.

The Wicklow birds began to breed and the first nestling was successfully fledged in 2010. By 2014 there were 34 territorial pairs with 22 successfully fledged young. One of the successful pairs that year was an Irish wild-bred pair - the first recorded breeding of Irish Kites in Wicklow in over 200 years. Success has continued. By 2015 over 50 Red Kite pairs were recorded and 150 young have successfully fledged since that first one in 2010. There have been sightings of paired birds in Co Wexford over the past two years as the successful establishment and spread of the Wicklow population continues.

Wing Tagged Red Kite Chicks in Fingal in 2016.

In 2014 the local community in Avoca supported by the Golden Eagle Trust was involved in creating a Red Kite loop walk in Kilmagig Wood in Avoca in Co Wicklow and it was launched by the Minister for Tourism that May. It has been a resounding success attracting bird watchers to the area and is a testament to the engagement of the local community. Also in 2014 a study on nest sites in Co. Wicklow carried out by two M.Sc. students under the supervision of Marc Ruddock and Stephen Waldren, revealed the prey items taken by Kites. These are rook (16%) rabbit (15%), woodpigeon (8%), magpie (7%) brown rat (7%) and feral pigeon (5%). In Fingal Kites forage over agricultural land rather than woodland so their diet may be somewhat different.

The population in Fingal has grown only slowly, set back by initial losses. Nine died during that first year 2011, at least 4 had levels of rodenticide present. By 2013 there were five territorial pairs in Fingal but none bred. In late 2013 one of these birds was found dead due to rodenticide poisoning thus leaving only four territorial pairs in 2014. No successful breeding was recorded from any of these that year. But in 2015 the same four territorial pairs were sighted. One pair succeeded in building a nest but they failed to breed. A second pair were found with a single fledged chick in late June although they had all moved away from the nest area by that time.

By 2016 however breeding was confirmed. There were six established pairs, two successful nests and three fledglings were successfully reared. The support of local farmers, the community and many organisations are all helping to stabilise this sub-population. In Ireland in 2016 including the Northern Ireland population of 21 pairs, there were 100 pairs in total.

Just as the death of the Red Kites in 2011 and the work of the Golden Eagle trust played no small role in the establishment of CRRU Ireland in 2013, the breeding success of these Fingal Kites in particular and Irish Kites in general is proof that the message of CRRU is beginning to have the desired positive effects.

The RAPTOR Protocol is a Government initiative to address non-habitat related threats and pressures that face Ireland's birds of prey. If you find an injured or dead bird of prey, or encounter any suspicious activity, here are some tips to help:

Immediately contact NPWS (01-8883255 or RAPTOR@ahg.gov.ie). If NPWS not available, contact nearest Garda Station. Record details of the scene. Record the species and any relevant details (e.g. condition/age of bird/tags). Take photographs showing context of scene and a close up of bird/ring/tags/bait, etc. Record time and date as well as the exact location (e.g. Grid Reference, Google Maps screen shot or dropped pin) including specific directions to the scene.