

CRRU (IRL)

Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use Newsletter

September 2015

Important reminder to register in time for CRRU-IASIS Wildlife Aware Courses this Autumn

Rodent control programmes that reflect an integrated pest management approach and that comply with the CRRU Code avoid risk of infringing current legislation on use of rodenticides. Increasingly companies that seek rodent control services are seeking the services of CRRU Ireland Supporters' Club members that employ IASIS accredited Wildlife Aware rodent pest management technicians.

Following successful training courses held earlier in 2015 and during 2014 there are now 103 IASIS accredited Wildlife Aware Pest Management technicians working in Ireland. Wildlife Aware' accredited technicians are licensed to use the 'Wildlife Aware' logo in their businesses as a symbol of their special competence

. The logo serves to inform customers and potential customers that the individual rodent pest control technician has been trained to avoid impact on wildlife while using rodenticides responsibly and effectively.

Three further one-day CRRU-IASIS Wildlife Aware courses to upskill technicians are to take place this autumn:-

- 1 October Backweston Campus Celbridge, Co. Kildare
- 6 October Moorepark Fermoy Co. Cork
- 8 October Mellows Campus Athenry Co. Galway

The course fee is €210 per person, payable in advance. That fee includes the cost of subsequent accreditation by IASIS as a Wildlife Aware rodent pest management technician.

Please note: A minimum number must have enrolled two weeks before the date of the course to allow the course to proceed – if numbers are insufficient for a particular course, it will be cancelled. It is thus ESSENTIAL to book well in advance.

UPCOMING WILDLIFE AWARE COURSES

October

- 1 October Backweston Campus
Celbridge Co. Kildare
- 6 October Moorepark Fermoy
Co. Cork
- 8 October Mellows Campus
Athenry Co. Galway

Booking can be done directly on-line on the 'Courses' page of the website www.thinkwildlife.org

or by contacting ann@iasis.ie



Buzzard Photo Brian Carruthers

Leaflet Promoted in Teagasc Advisory Newsletter July 2015

This Teagasc Advisory newsletter which was distributed to all Irish farmers by Catherine Keena, Teagasc's Countrywide Management Specialist, was entirely dedicated to the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use. The contents of the new leaflet including all the photographs and pictures of the top predatory species that feed on rodents were reproduced in the newsletter which was circulated to all farmers. Together with this dedicated newsletter each farmer also received a copy of the leaflet containing the CRRU code which outlines in detail the seven steps which form the code of good practice.



Photo Breffni Martin

Launch Of CRRU (Ireland) Leaflet

The largest type of land-use in Ireland is farmland, The methods of managing farmland impact on our wildlife and wildlife habitats. Predators play an essential role in maintaining a balance in nature.. Rats and mice form a major part of the diet of Barn owls, Long-eared owls, Buzzards, Red Kites. Kestrels as well as mammals such as Pine Martens and Stoats

Information Leaflet on these species

An information leaflet containing pictures of these predators and an account of the status and current distribution in Ireland was drawn up during the spring of 2015. This leaflet highlighted the decline in the numbers of some of these species such as the Kestrel and the Barn Owl in recent years. It also described the recolonization of much of the eastern part of Ireland by the Buzzard which returned naturally in the 1970's as well as describing the re-introduction to Ireland of the Red Kite between 2007 and 2011 after an absence of several hundred years.

Rodenticides can accumulate in predators that feed on poisoned rodents

Recent scientific research has shown that carcasses of dead barn owls and dead kestrels have tested positive for rodenticides. The leaflet points out that the responsible use of rodenticides requires implementation of an Integrated Pest Management approach to rodent pest control together with adherence to the CRRU code.

This leaflet together with the CRRU leaflet outlining the CRRU code was handed out at all the shows and events throughout the year where CRRU Ireland had a stand.

Up-Coming Shows where CRRU (IRL) will have a presence.

Birr Castle Bird Show

29/30 August

Wildlife Crime Conference Ashbourne Co. Meath

14/15 September

Ploughing Championships Ratheniska Co. Laois

22/24 September

IPCA Conference at end of year



CRRU Display material at Blamoral Show in May 2015

Photo Catherine Fegan

CRRU Stands at Shows during 2015

A very important way of promoting CRRU Ireland is through having a presence at the major relevant shows throughout the country. The attractive CRRU display stands attract attention and interested show attendees can learn about CRRU Ireland from those manning the stand as well as receiving the CRRU leaflets.

So far this year CRRU has had stands at a number of events—both in the republic and in Northern Ireland.

The list includes stands at the Balmoral Agricultural Show, Shanes Castle and the Moira Countryside Festival all in Northern Ireland, the Native Species Weekend and Bloom Festival in Dublin and the Fingal Festival in Tayto Park. There were also stands at the three Teagasc open days in Moorepark, Athenry and Oakpark. The National Pest Technician Association hosted a stand in January as did the Irish Pest Control Association in May.

There are plans for further displays at the upcoming shows between now and the end of the year as shown on the side panel above.

Having CRRU material on display at these popular events is an excellent way of spreading the CRRU message.

Deterring Rats Tory Island Style



Grave of sixth century female saint , the soil from which deters rats wherever it is spread !

There are no rats on Tory Island off the north coast of Donegal. Although this island has always been inhabited and more than 140 people live there at present, there are mice but no rats. Tradition has it that the reason for this is that St. Colmcille ensured this state of affairs in the sixth century. He declared that the soil on the grave of a female saint buried close to the church he founded on the island had the property to deter rats.

The local folklore has it that on two occasions over the centuries since, rats were brought to the island—once by a lighthouse keeper as a test and once accidentally in a box of food. On both occasions the rats died instantly.

Not only is this the situation on Tory but the soil from the grave retains its rat deterring properties if brought to any other place. However the soil must be given to the person seeking it by the oldest male of the Duggan family on the island and a prayer said over the bag of soil when giving it. This prayer must be repeated by the recipient. Then if the recipient really believes that St. Colmcille has given the soil this special power it will keep rats away from any property where it is spread. Rats will not cross this holy clay.

Surely the most environmentally solution of all?

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www.thinkwildlife.org