

Mobile Phone Technology can now be used in the fight against rodent pests - high-tech radio monitoring of low-tech mouse and rat traps.

Getting rid of rats and mice – particularly around factories and farms is of paramount importance. Second Generation Anti-coagulant Rodenticides are commonly used but these poisons can persist in the environment, move up the food chain and recent research has detected traces of them in our owls and birds of prey. Rats are thought to be resistant to them in some places leading to the emergence of anticoagulant resistant rodents in some areas. Considering the need to follow an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach, and the need to use rodenticides as a last resort, there will be an increased requirement for the use of traps.

The catching of rodents in traps means that no poisonous substances that can spread into other levels of the food chain are ingested by the rodents. However a large premises may need placement of quite a number of traps and daily monitoring of these traps, to ensure that catches are promptly and humanely dealt with - a time consuming exercise. The cost to businesses could become prohibitive.

So, imagine a trap that can send an SMS message when something sets it off and thus can be attended to promptly – a radio monitored rodent trap. Such a trap has now been designed and tested by Traptec. Called the ‘Wedge’, it works with most professionally used mouse and rat traps turning them into Smartraps™.

The Smartrap works in conjunction with a remote monitoring unit. When a Smartrap activates, the ‘Wedge’ sends a coded radio signal to the monitoring unit. Once a signal has been received by the monitoring unit, a text message is sent to the Traptec website. This message contains information about the time, date and location of the trap activation. An alert is then forwarded by email to the pest control company concerned.

The Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use in Ireland – CRRU Ireland – welcomes this initiative. Established in September 2013 to promote the responsible and safe use of rodenticides, CRRU has been working to raise awareness of the environmental impact of the misuse of rodenticides, whether by professional pest controllers, farmers or others in the food, pharmaceutical, IT and other sectors. To this end CRRU Ireland in association with IASIS (Irish Agricultural Supply Industry Standards Ltd) runs one-day Wildlife Aware Training Courses for pest management technicians, quality assurance managers, auditors and inspectors. Individuals that complete the course and pass the examination, on application made are accredited by IASIS as ‘CRRU-IASIS Wildlife Aware technicians. Three Wildlife Aware courses were run in 2014 and seven are proposed for 2015 as follows.

26th February Maldron Hotel, Belfast To book a place interested parties should call [+44 \(0\)1924 268 445](tel:+441924268445) or email training@killgerm.com.

9th April in DAFM, Backweston Campus, Celbridge Co. Kildare

14th April in Teagasc, Moorpark, Fermoy Co. Cork

16th April in Mellows Campus Athenry Co. Galway

1st October in DAFM Laboratories, Backweston Campus, Co Kildare

6th October 2015, Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy

8th October 2015, Teagasc, Mellows Campus, Athenry, Co Galway

Registration for these courses should be made using either the CRRU <http://www.thinkwildlife.org>
or IASIS www.iasis.ie websites.

ENDS

For further Information please call Eanna Ni Lamhna, Communications Officer with CRRU Irl.

Tel 087 6147506

Or for further information on the workings of the trap and how to acquire one contact Trevor
Hayden Tel 087 2058594

Ends