

**CRRU IRELAND**



# 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 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. Some rats are thought to have developed resistance to them, leading to the emergence of anticoagulant resistant rodents in some areas. Considering the need to follow an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach for the control of rodent pests, 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 migrate through food chains are ingested by the rodents. However, larger premises may require 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 an attachment that can send an SMS message when something sets the trap off and thus can be attended to promptly; a radio monitored rodent trap. Such traps have now been designed and tested. They work with most professionally used mouse and rat traps.

These traps are linked to a remote monitoring unit. When a trap activates, a coded signal is sent to a monitoring unit. An alert is then forwarded by email containing information about the time, date and location of the trap activation, to the pest control company concerned.

The Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use 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
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**

**[www.thinkwildlife.org](http://www.thinkwildlife.org) or [www.iasis.ie](http://www.iasis.ie) websites.**



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**PRESS RELEASE ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR RESPONSIBLE RODENTICIDE USE IRELAND**