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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FIRST DEMONSTRATION RAT CONTROL CITY NAMED

Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug today announced that Corpus Christi, Texas had been named as the first of some 25 medium-sized cities to demonstrate effective rat control in cooperation with the National Urban Rat Control Campaign. Cities yet to be named will be scattered throughout the country in areas where food or food processing plants are located.

The anti-rat program, a vital part of the Emergency Food Conservation drive, is aimed at saving as much as possible of the 200,000,000 bushels of grains, as well as other foods, annually destroyed or contaminated in the United States by rats.

Private citizens will be asked to clean up garbage and refuse, to rat-proof buildings and to kill rats on their own property, while city governments will carry out a similar program on public property. The cities are asked to organize effective inspections and to enforce anti-rat ordinances.

The National Committee for Rat Control, headed by Hamilton M. Warren of New York, vice-president of the National Carbon Company is giving effective national and local aid in publicity and organizational activities of local citizen-committees.

For the Corpus Christi demonstration, under the direction of Mayor Wesley E. Seale, Interior's Fish and Wildlife rat-control specialists, led by District Agent C. R. London of San Antonio, will furnish technical service in cooperation with the city's well organized and active health unit.

Corpus Christi was selected because of its position as a grain concentration point for south Texas. The need for an all-out campaign on rats was recognized by members of the city council and the Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce is on record in support of the anti-rat program. An effective rural program is already operating in surrounding Nueces County in cooperation with County Extension Agent Henry Alsmeyer.

Corpus Christi, Texas, has been named as the first demonstration city in the National Urban Rat-Control Campaign. Secretary of Interior Krug, in making the announcement, stated that 25 other medium-sized cities scattered throughout the country will soon be designated to join Corpus Christi in demonstrations of anti-rat campaigns.

In connection with the Emergency Food Conservation Program, the model rat-control campaign aims at saving the four percent of the grain crop annually destroyed by rats. Citizens will be asked to clean up garbage and refuse, to rat-proof buildings, and to kill rats by poisoning, trapping and gassing on their own properties. The city government will do similar work on public property, as well as organize effective city inspections and enforce anti-rat ordinances.

Effective national aid in publicity and organizing a local citizens committee has been offered by the National Committee for Rat Control, headed by Hamilton M. Warren, vice-president of the National Carbon Company. Expert technical assistance has been offered by the Texas district rat-control specialist of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Corpus Christi's position as a grain concentration point for South Texas contributed to its choice as a demonstration rat-control center. Under the direction of Mayor Wesley E. Seale, the city has an able health director and an active health unit. The need for rat-control is recognized and members of City Council and the Chamber of Commerce are on record favoring a strong rat-control program. An effective rural program is already operating in surrounding Nueces County.

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