

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Atlanta 3, Georgia

SOUTHEASTERN REGION

Alabama
Arkansas
Florida
Georgia
Kentucky
Louisiana
Mississippi
No. Carolina
So. Carolina
Tennessee

PRESS RELEASE: - Oct. 3, 1948

RAT CONTROL SAVES FOOD

Two hundred and seventy-six tons of red squill rat bait were used in the southeastern states during the past 12 months in an organized program to save grain and other food materials. Figures compiled by Roy Moore, Supervisor of Mammal Control in the Atlanta Regional Office of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, show that a total of 635,291 premises including farms, business places and homes were treated with the poison in the ten states of the southeastern region. Improved sanitation and cleanup campaigns to remove rat harboring places were also a part of the program. Savings resulting from the work are estimated at more than 18 million dollars, according to Mr. Moore, who further stated that,

"This rat control program which reached into 560 cities, towns and counties, was made possible by cooperation. The Agricultural Extension Services worked with rural groups; the Health Departments in several of the states participated actively, as did State Plant Boards, State Departments of Agriculture, city and county governments, and many local organizations and individuals. The Fish and Wildlife Service furnished technical supervision.

"Many of these agencies had men in their employ who were already experienced in handling rat control programs as a result of previous cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service. The presence of these experienced men in key positions greatly increased the scope and the effectiveness of the work.

"Some of the rat bait was mixed locally under competent supervision,

but much of it was prepared at three central mixing plants operated in the region for the Fish and Wildlife Service and its cooperators. The fresh-mixed bait, packaged and frozen, was sent by express or truck from these plants to any locality in any quantity required. No bait was furnished except in connection with organized programs. Cost of the bait was borne by local agencies or individuals.

"Rat control has been a function of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a number of years and in the southeast cooperative poisoning combined with adequate sanitation has proved to be an effective and economical means of keeping rats under control.

"Rats not only destroy critically needed food supplies but they also are responsible for the spread of certain diseases such as typhus. The several millions of rats killed in the program during the past year represent a value in human lives saved, as well as in food, property and dollars saved. Plans are under way for further work during the coming Fall and Winter."

Following is a breakdown by states.

STATE	LBS. BAIT USED	PREMISES TREATED	TOWNS, COUNTIES OR LOCALITIES
Alabama	85	50	1
Arkansas	7344	5817	19
Florida	13,867	21,214	14
Georgia	11,167	4070	17
Kentucky	34,588	16,573	26
Louisiana	159,342	320,498	119
Mississippi	75,460	104,496	168
No. Carolina	123,584	59,336	56
So. Carolina	75,791	37,742	46
Tennessee	<u>41,480</u>	<u>65,495</u>	<u>94</u>
	552,708	635,291	560



JAMES SILVER
Regional Director