



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1947.

DESTROY RATS TO SAVE GRAIN

To save as much as possible of the 200,000,000 bushels of grain crops annually destroyed by farm rodents, especially rats, the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior has supplied the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture with information on the control of these pests.

The cooperative release of this information will aid in saving much needed grain for the European relief program, and at the same time emphasize the economic need to reduce the annual~~ly~~ waste of several hundred million dollars caused by rats.

Fish and Wildlife recommends a "full house" program for rat control, two don'ts and three do's, do not shelter rats, do not feed rats, do kill rats, do organize community control projects, and do a year-round program.

While a number of poisons are effective in rat control, red-squill which is not dangerously toxic or poisonous to humans and farm animals is recommended for use by the public. More dangerous poisons should be used only by trained operators. As there appears to be some worthless red-squill on the market, purchasers were cautioned to make sure of the strength when buying.

A good clean-up job of trash and other shelters in which the rats live, rat-proofing grain cribs and bins, plus a thorough poison and control program by the whole community are immediate steps to be taken if the grain is to be saved, officials stated.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has instructed its field representatives, qualified in rodent control, to give first priority to requests for assistance from county agricultural agents of the Extension Service. They will aid in organizing community programs for rat control, as well as demonstrate control measures.

While farm control of the rats is highly important, control at points of storage, warehouses and dock terminals, will save much needed supplies.

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