

pest

The independent UK pest management magazine

Alien alert!



Issue 43
February & March 2016

Competence checks
when you checkout!



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Mouse research lessons
for better baiting



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Get lively! It's time for
the second PPC Live



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Nominations are now
open for 2016 award



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TWO NEW bait formulations

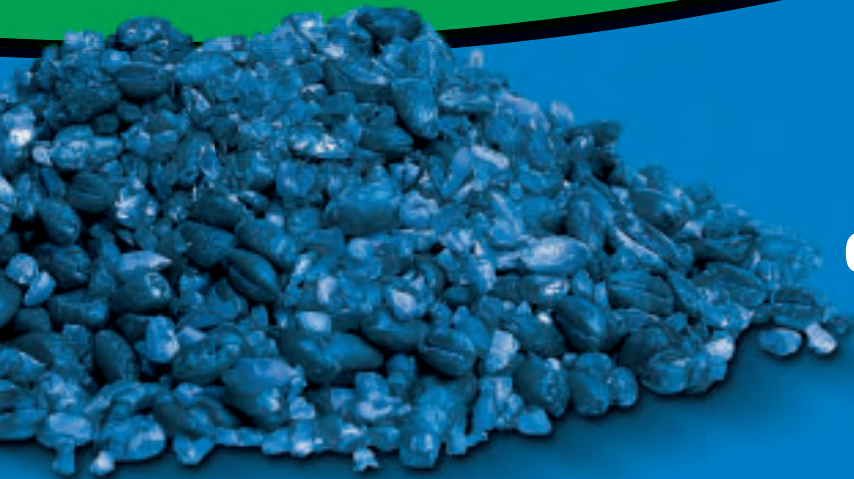


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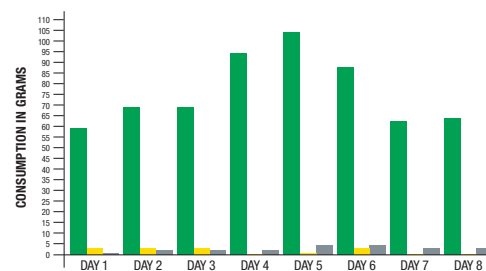
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As the industry's only independent magazine, **Pest** aims to deliver a mix of unbiased news, impartial advice and topical technical features. We are committed to being as inclusive as possible covering every sector of the pest management industry.

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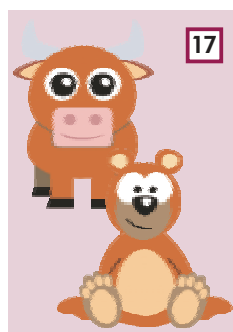
Use pesticides & biocides safely.
Always read the label and product information before use.

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News that goes global!

Like it or not, we all have to face the fact we now live in a world where 24 hour news coverage is the norm and stories posted innocently on social media can go viral worldwide. Take, for example, the charming story of Felix the Huddersfield station cat (page 43). TransPennine Express had to allocate extra staff simply to respond to the deluge of media enquiries they received from across the globe.

Likewise the CEO at Oxitec must have wished Zika wasn't attracting quite so much attention worldwide, as his genetically modified mosquitoes were being hailed as the potential saviour of the day. For pest controllers dangers lurk. The general public loves 'a largest rat' story, but do anything wrong and you run the risk of your story going viral – not all are as heart warming as the tale of Ratty 'lost and found' (page 29) thanks to Facebook.

The days are getting longer and the birds starting to nest – this means just two things. First, not long till the ants and wasps make their reappearance. And second, it must be the start of the exhibition round. At **Pest** we will be emerging from winter hibernation and look forward to reporting on the first two spring events – Pest-Protect in Germany and PPC Live, nearer to home, in Peterborough. See you there!

Frances McKim

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Birds of prey trained to down drones

Drones seem to be the latest craze to hit pest control. They certainly have their uses (see **Pest** issue 41: October & November 2015), but not everyone is quite so enthused. Their use increasingly worries the likes of fire fighters, air traffic controllers and law enforcers.

Dutch police have joined forces with Guard From Above, a raptor-training security firm based in the Hague, to keep wayward drones from causing trouble by training eagles to snatch them out of the sky. Maybe a practice soon to arrive in the UK?

You can see this on YouTube at
<https://youtu.be/kAYVvj6vf3Y>

Man City success

Bucking the trend to cutback on pest control capability within local authorities, Manchester City Council is offering a thriving commercial service.

Pest control services manager for Manchester, Michael Fowler, told us that the service has successfully achieved Which? Trusted Traders Accreditation.

As reported in **Pest** issue 40: August & September 2015, this is no rubber stamping exercise. It involves a detailed application, customer reference checks and an audit by a Which? Trusted Traders assessor. Well done Mike and the Manchester team.

Paul signs-off

Paul Hoyes will be hanging-up his boots at Killgerm at the end of March.

Paul initially joined Killgerm 15 years ago as a bird control specialist. After designing and patenting several products for the company, he became their business and product development manager – a role that took him far and wide across the world. Prior to this he was service manager for Nottingham-based Forward Environmental Services for 16 years.

Paul says: "I will be retiring with mixed feelings. I will be able to spend more time on the golf course, make more shavings in my wood-turning workshop and walk the dogs more often. But I shall miss my colleagues and my involvement in the wider industry, although I will be continuing my involvement with RAMPS as Killgerm's training representative on the RAMPS board."



New CEO at NPMA announced

After a long gestation period, the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) in the USA has finally announced the appointment of Dominique Stumpf as its new chief executive officer. Dominique has been with NPMA for 19 years and latterly held the position of chief operating officer. She replaces Bob Rosenberg who, in 2013, announced his intention to retire at the end of 2015.



New chairman at BASIS PROMPT

Sabra Everett of Killgerm and vice chairman of the National Pest Technicians Association (NPTA) became chairman of BASIS PROMPT early in January. Sabra, pictured with Stephen Jacob of BASIS, is group marketing & public affairs director at Ossett-based distributors, Killgerm. She took over from David Oldbury, who has stepped down after three years in the role. Sabra was the unanimous choice of the BASIS PROMPT committee and has plans to boost the profile of the initiative as part of a push for significant growth.

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CRRU membership rises to 15

Bábolna Bio of Budapest, Hungary, has become the 15th member company of the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) UK. Just as the other CRRU members, Bábolna will contribute financially and provide the resources and expertise of its staff to assist the operation of CRRU and implementation of the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime. Representing Bábolna on the CRRU implementation task force is János Szilagyi, head of development and regulatory. Bábolna holds a number of product authorisations in the UK.

Second SOFHT/Rokill bugging it seminar



Rokill's Brian Duffin was one of the speakers. He summed the day up as good for picking-up knowledge and networking

Approximately 70 people attended the second *Pests – Is it Bugging You?* seminar run by Rokill and the Society of Food Hygiene and Technology (SOFHT). It was held at the Bristol Golf Club on 28 January 2016.

The audience benefitted from several speakers who had spoken at the first of these seminars held on 2 July 2015, near Nottingham. Dee Ward Thompson represented the British Pest Control Association with Deryck Tremble (AIB) and Peter Mather (Sainsbury's) representing the food industry.

Pest issues were obviously discussed and as there was a very strong contingent from auditing bodies and retailers, the discussion provided an insight into non-conformances in the UK and abroad. It also covered the difficulties retailers face when challenged in the courts.

Glue boards increasingly unstuck

Southampton's MX Wholesale, one of the largest cash and carry outfits in the UK, has announced it will stop selling rodent glue boards.

The company's action has been praised by the animal welfare campaigners, Humane Society International/UK, which launched its *Unstuck* campaign in October last year. The campaign aims to see the devices banned in the UK – as they are in Ireland and New Zealand. See *Pest* issue 42: December & January 2015. The BPCA has been undertaking a survey of its members – we look forward to hearing the results.

A new distributor on the scene

After nearly 30 years of designing and manufacturing robust steel and plastic rodent bait boxes, Rat Pak Engineering is branching out. Commencing in March, Rat Pak will also stock and supply a range of other manufacturer's products – including rodenticides, insecticides, proofing items, safety equipment and sprayers.

Products will be distributed from their newly commissioned 6,000 sq ft dedicated distribution warehouse at Thorpe on the Hill, Lincoln, which will be able to accommodate 1,000 pallets of stock. Open seven days a week, customers can also click-and-collect from the warehouse during opening times.

RatPak
Engineering Ltd

New era for Church Farm training

Church Farm, the well-known pest management training centre located near Basingstoke is now to be run with the backing of PelGar International. This will support the future development of the site which, to date, has been managed by Dr Steve Havers.

Steve has developed Church Farm over the last decade – see our *Pest* report in issue 15: May & June 2011. It offers training both practically and in the classroom. It is unique as, not only does Church Farm house brown rats, it also has a colony of black rats, as well as live insect pests. Also on site are a series of 'rooms' set up to mirror commonly encountered pest treatment locations.

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Dr Steve Havers in one of the room sets used for practical pest control training

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Syngenta acquired by ChemChina

In what is surely one of the largest take-overs to affect the industry, on 3 February Syngenta announced that ChemChina had offered to acquire the company in a cash deal of US\$465 per ordinary share. That values the business at US\$43 billion (c £29.5 billion). The Syngenta board unanimously and enthusiastically recommended the offer to shareholders.

This follows a series of hostile bids made during 2015 by USA-based Monsanto. Syngenta's name had also been linked to the Dow DuPont merger (described as a merger of equals) which went ahead in December 2015.

In pest control, Syngenta is known for leading brands such as Advion, Demand CS and Talon.

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Welcome back AgriSense

Having said a farewell to this brand in June 2012, it's back again! And it comes with a new owner and a modern updated logo.



Late last year, Suterra announced that it had reached an agreement to sell AgriSense Industrial Monitoring, which holds the assets, including the AgriSense and Trappit trademarks, to Curtis Gilmour Holding, based in the USA.

Suterra retains, and will continue to develop, its interests in agricultural control technologies, as well as pheromone-based control products for commercial markets. Curtis Gilmour Holding via their better known company, B&G Equipment Company, will manage the AgriSense pest monitoring products for the professional pest control and home and garden markets.



ServicePro™



PestFriend acquired by ServicePro

PestFriend Software, owned and developed by Nicholas Peek, has been acquired by ServicePro, the US-based, enterprise pest control and service industry software company.

Launched in 1992 by Nicholas and Susan Peek, PestFriend offered its customers a full data reporting package. ServicePro, with their ServSuite software, offer a web-based paperless office designed to automate everyday tasks and make managing a business easier and more structured.

ServicePro says they look forward to continuing to support PestFriend software customers, while growing their solutions portfolio to serve the industry and UK market more thoroughly.

And a final farewell to SX Environmental...

As of 4 January 2016 the rebranding of the SX Environmental business to Edialux was completed. SX was sold to the Pelsis Group in spring 2012, who later acquired the Edialux distributor business covering France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. Early this year Pelsis expanded their business in Scandinavia with the acquisition of Tanaco A/S of Esbjerg.

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Bill Gates visits IVCC to review progress

On 27 January 2016, Liverpool-based IVCC welcomed Microsoft founder, Bill Gates, for a private meeting to discuss the achievements of the past ten years and the challenges that lie ahead, especially those associated with insecticide resistance.

Mr Gates said: "IVCC's achievement in bringing three novel insecticide active ingredients to pre-development is a crucial part of malaria eradication, which I hope I will see in my lifetime."

After the meeting, he was joined by UK Chancellor George Osborne for a lively meeting in the foyer of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine where they discussed the new Ross Fund. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is a very significant sponsor of IVCC as well as the Ross Fund, launched last year with £1 billion to boost the fight against malaria. This funding is in addition to the \$65 million Next Generation Indoor Residual Spray project (NgenIRS) announced on 1 February 2016.



Bill Gates meets IVCC staff. Left to right: Mathias Mondy, David Malone, Dr Sarah Rees, Dr Nick Hamon, Bill Gates and Dr Tom McLean

More council job losses predicted

Figures released by the public services union, the GMB, on 1 February revealed that a total of 25,165 council job losses are in the pipeline. Across England, Wales and Scotland 52 councils are affected and, clearly, the remaining local authority pest control units are amongst the jobs at risk.

The biggest job losses are in Scotland with Glasgow expecting 3,000 jobs to go, Edinburgh 2,000, North Lanarkshire 1,000 and Fife 900. Cumbria, Birmingham and Kirklees top the table in England.

Councils have tough decisions to make when faced with the need to cut costs. We know many local authorities have chosen to come out of pest control altogether and we've heard reports of sub-contracts that have gone sour, largely because those commissioning the work have no experience or understanding, of pest management. Cutting pest control is a short term gain for hard pressed councils, but long term pain is likely to result.

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Environment Secretary opens new warehouse

STV International rolled-out the proverbial red carpet on 29 January when the company's local MP, Lizz Truss, who also happens to be the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, arrived to officially open an extension to their warehouse.

Based in Little Cressingham, near Thetford, STV is a leading supplier of pest control products for home and garden use – the Big Cheese brand being probably their most well-known and sold in such stores as Wilkinson's and B&Q.

Managing director, Edwin Allingham, who started the business in 1993 said: "Ms Truss was very positive about the products we offered. She is a strong advocate of the badger cull, so was particularly interested when she spotted our large cage trap suitable for capturing badgers."



Lizz Truss cuts the ribbon. She is joined by STV staff. Front row left to right: Edwin Allingham, Catherine Edwards, Tricia Nicolson and Trevor Scott. Back row, left to right: Ed Deane, Claire McDermid and Sam Scott



Zack Ali proudly shows-off his awards

A proud moment

Slough-based Pesky Critters beat over 400 rival businesses to win the best new business start-up in the Slough business awards 2015. Having only been in business for three years, proud owner, Zack Ali said: "I'm simply over the moon. I can't believe that we beat so many people to win the award, the competition was very tough."

The company was started by Zack after he left the police force. He explains: "I simply love what I do, pest management is very complex at times and I have found my detective work comes in handy!" As well as running Pesky Critters, Zack is also training to be a paramedic and is a qualified emergency medical technician.

EN16636 Conquered!

Conquer Pest Control, based near Nottingham, has become the first company to be successfully audited against the recently introduced European Standard for Pest Management Services EN16636.

The British Pest Control Association plans to measure all of its 450-plus servicing members against this standard, which is independently assessed by Bureau Veritas.

Henry Mott, managing director of Conquer, is vice president of the Confederation of European Pest Management Associations (CEPA) and a board member of the BPCA.

He said: "I was very pleased we were the first to be audited under the new procedure for BPCA members as I wanted to lead by example."

"I believe this standard will help separate expert companies from the rest and act as the definition of a true professional to government."



Martin Harvey, president of BPCA (left), presents the certificate to Henry Mott Conquer Pest Control



A family team. Left to right: Vicki, husband Colin and daughter Kasey with their award

Rising stars

A highly commended award in the Rising Star category of the Bromley business awards was presented late last year to Penge-based K&O Pest Control. Getting there was no easy task, as entrants were shortlisted to seven finalists from written applications and panel interviews. K&O is a family-owned and run company and as co-owner Vicki Sims explained: "We're really proud of what we've achieved in our four years of business. So it was very rewarding to have our efforts recognised by the judges. It was our first time entering for an award, so we're full of enthusiasm and aiming to win next year!"



Point of sale checks: the key to stewardship success

New labels may be a rare sight

Stewardship product labels are scheduled to start making an appearance from 1 April 2016. These will be phased in, so 'old' stocks of the same products will continue to be sold by distributors.

We hear that, even at this late stage, the Health & Safety Executive has not finally decided the precise wording that pest professionals need to look out for on the new labels. So whether any products will appear sporting new labels on 1 April is a moot point.

Talk is that there will be two stewardship phrases, one covering users and one suppliers. As what's on the label is a legal requirement, this will add some legal clout to what is essentially a voluntary regime.

Good uptake across all sectors

It is pleasing to be able to report that there has already been a positive uptake in training and certification across all sectors. Candidates, trainers and Awarding Organisations (BASIS, Lantra, City & Guilds and RSPH) have all been extremely busy in their efforts to support stewardship. All sectors, farming included, are on board with the stewardship certification requirements and have been working very hard to meet them in time.

It could be argued that the most important activity for the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime is finding a way to control the supply of professional rodenticides. Control the supply and we keep professional products out of unqualified hands. And that's a massive step in the right direction.

So far much of the talk and the majority of the column inches about stewardship, have focused on what end-users have to do to make sure they comply. This is understandable as, clearly, it is essential that all pest professionals intending to use 'stewardship regime' rodenticides need to know what qualifications they must hold and what training they need to complete to be ready for stewardship.

Upstream from the end users however are supplier businesses – professional pest control distributors such as Barrettine, Killgerm, Edialux (SX), Tenv Solutions, PestFix and Rat Pak; farm supply companies; internet traders and, of course, the manufacturers who hold the product authorisations.

Key announcement

Just before Christmas a key announcement was made by the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) Point of Sale work group. The group had produced three 'point of sale declarations':

- One for companies in the supply chain;
- One for certificated users;
- One for farm assurance scheme users. (Readers will recall that, as an interim measure, farmers can use their membership of a farm assurance scheme approved by the CRRU Best Practice work group as proof of competence, hence this third document.)

The work group is led by Killgerm Group's managing director, Rupert Broome: "Over many months, a huge amount of work and thought has gone into the creation of these very important guidance documents," he



Rupert Broome CRRU stewardship Point of Sale work group leader

explained. "The challenge was to make a complex situation simple and to ensure the resulting declaration templates are distinct and practical to use by all companies within the supply chain."

The declarations themselves are pretty straightforward. Each declaration is just one side of A4 and not that much detail is required so, for most people, these will be easy to complete. The declarations can be used as stand-alone documents, or their contents can be incorporated into company supply contracts.

Supplier companies, whether they are manufacturers, distributors, farm supply

responsible for checking the credentials of the supply businesses or end-users that they sell products to. So, the responsibility for getting the correct declaration signed, keeping the documentation on file and checking that customers comply, cascades down the supply chain.

Proof of competence certificates

For sales to end-users the supply company must have a copy of all proof of competence certificates (or Farm Assurance membership) on file with the declaration document. Internet sellers cannot rely on self-certification by end-users. Just like all other suppliers of professional use rodenticides with stewardship conditions, they will have to hold copies of CRRU approved certificates, or farm assurance scheme membership, prior to making any sale to end-users.

Well thought through

The document for end-users has been well thought through. A senior person within the end-user business must list named certificated users at every delivery address. There is also provision to nominate individuals as having permission to purchase/collect on behalf of a certificated

user. These individuals do not have to hold any special certificate.

End-users must keep suppliers up-to-date with any changes to certificated users and nominated purchasers/collectors.

Clearly for some companies there is going to be a lot of extra paperwork to get the system up and running. To smooth things through, if a customer is already known to a supplier they will not need to provide any photo ID. However, for new accounts or cash accounts, photo ID will be needed along with the evidence of correct certification.

Whilst stewardship is voluntary, it's worth remembering that all 14 authorisation holders have signed-up to it so, failure to follow the requirements of these declarations is likely to result in the withdrawal of supply.

Users should also remember that product labels are legal documents and failure to follow them risks prosecution.

The Point of Sale work group has also published a useful set of questions and answers. It's available in the **Pest** library at www.pestmagazine.co.uk/en/library. It's called *Stewardship Proof of Competence Q&As*.

Not alone

It is important to remember that it is not just public health pest professionals who are being asked to step up to the plate and deliver rodenticide stewardship.

In gamekeeping, five organisations have worked together to get the sector 'stewardship-ready'. As well as regular updates in 'in-house' publications, these organisations were instrumental in creating the *Rodent Control for Gamekeepers* training course. This has gained approval as a recognised certificate of competence for the purchase of stewardship labelled rodenticides.

A similar pathway has been opened up in the farming sector, where the five farmers' unions and the pan-industry Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) have taken joint responsibility for informing the farmers and growers. A *Rodent Control on Farms* online training hub has also been established by AHDB.

Rodenticide users reminded of dangers of 'permanent' baiting

Permanent baiting around rural buildings has been singled out by the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) stewardship team as a tactic which should rarely be employed. That message has gone far and wide in a press release targeting gamekeepers, farmers and pest professionals.

It's certainly true that 'rural' permanent baiting carries a greater risk than 'urban' permanent baiting but it doesn't mean that toxic bait should continue to be used routinely in urban situations. Business models wherein a contract is sold and its cost determined by the number of permanent bait points and frequency of visits should be outmoded.

As chairman of CRRU, Dr Alan Buckle explains: "There are many places that are not strictly 'rural' where small mammals are very commonly found. I am sure we can all easily think of lots of them – road, rail and canal embankments deep inside cities are a case in point. So are industrial estates and retail parks now so common on the outskirts of towns and cities."

Except as a justifiable last resort against clear long-term threats to human or animal health, there is no need for permanent baiting around buildings, whatever their location. Why does this have to change? The fact is that widespread use of permanent baiting has contributed significantly to the rodenticide contamination now found in UK wildlife. This is because many non-target species such as field mice and voles will feed from permanent bait stations.

Dr Buckle continues: "Some of the most highly contaminated birds of prey – barn owls and kestrels, for example – feed almost exclusively on wild small mammals, not rats. The availability of tamper-resistant bait boxes can give a false impression that it is acceptable rodenticide baits to be put out permanently.

"The bait stations themselves, of course, are not the problem so much as what they contain. Indeed, a good reason for having established baiting points is to overcome the natural aversion in rats to new objects in their home territory," adds Dr Buckle.

A planned control strategy based on the Stewardship Regime's Code of Best Practice does allow non-toxic material in permanent bait boxes as an early warning system for new rat activity. To be effective, Dr Buckle points out that this demands sufficiently regular inspection, not necessarily possible under some economy pest control contracts. If non-toxic bait is being taken and an inspection for droppings rules out mice, voles or other non-targets, it can be replaced temporarily with rodenticide bait, in conjunction with chemical-free methods such as trapping and nocturnal shooting depending on the severity of infestation.



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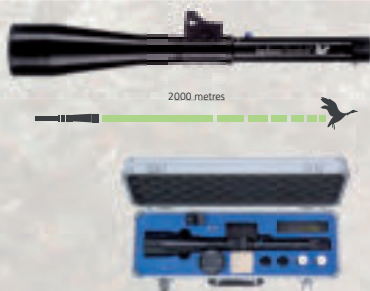
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Toxic to reproduction rodenticides to be reclassified

All nine of the active substances in the anticoagulant rodenticide products available in the EU are to be re-classified as 'Toxic to Reproduction' – a move which will have far reaching consequences for rodent control. Associate editor, Helen Riby reports.

As **Pest** went to press, a vote by EU Member States to accept a recommended reclassification of all anticoagulant rodenticides as 'Toxic to Reproduction' was imminent. The proposal to add this hazard phrase reflects the opinion of the European Chemicals Agency's (ECHA) independent Risk Assessment Committee, so it is unlikely Member States will vote against it.

More specifically, ECHA has recommended the establishment of a 'specific concentration limit' of 30 ppm (parts per million) of rodenticide active substance. Products with concentrations above this limit will be classified as 'Toxic to Reproduction'. Those with lower concentrations will not have to carry the hazard phrase.

Currently, the concentration of active substances in most first generation anticoagulants ranges from 250 ppm to 500 ppm. In second generation anticoagulants it is 50 ppm, with the exception of difethialone products, which have a concentration of 25 ppm.

HSE announcement

Announcing the imminent changes in its *Biocides Bulletin* on 8 February, the UK competent authority, the Health & Safety Executive (HSE), sought to play down the impact:

"The proposals were the subject of public consultation in March/April 2013.... These changes are not therefore unexpected and the process being followed is quite routine for classification purposes...."

The Biocides Regulation (BPR) and the Classification, Labelling and

Packaging (CLP) Regulation
Competent Authorities at EU level are, however, aware of the impact of the decision to classify these nine active substances as 'Toxic to Reproduction', especially with respect to products containing them and approved for amateur use. The 'Toxic to Reproduction' classification means approval for the amateur use of such products will be withdrawn.

Within the EU, to allow sufficient time for manufacturers/suppliers to make any changes to their products, both Competent Authorities have agreed to delay the mandatory compliance date for the harmonised classifications for the nine active substances listed and to permit products containing them to remain on the market until 30 June 2018."

Reasons to be cheerful? Maybe not

Reading this you might think that only amateur products are affected. Indeed I can hear some pest controllers beginning to celebrate and even starting to plan for additional domestic work. But those celebrations will be short lived on two counts.

First of all, as the HSE bulletin says, these changes are not unexpected so, manufacturers have all been working to re-formulate amateur use products. Whilst the 30 ppm limit will rule out first generation anticoagulants, it seems likely that a range of second generation anticoagulant products, with concentrations up to 29 ppm, will appear on the likes of B&Q's shelves after June 2018. What impact these reduced concentration products will have on the development of resistance remains to be seen but it is unlikely to be a positive one.



H360D May damage the unborn child

Which rodenticides?

The nine active substances affected are:

- brodifacoum;
- bromadiolone;
- chlorophacinone;
- coumatetralyl;
- difenacoum;
- difethialone;
- flocoumafen;
- warfarin;
- warfarin sodium.

Secondly, it is not just amateur use products which will be affected. By law, professional use products will have to carry that emotive phrase: 'Toxic to Reproduction'. Yes, we know that it is simply a statement of an intrinsic hazard and therefore has nothing to do with the risk of any harm occurring. There are loads of everyday products that display the flammable hazard phrase for example, but that doesn't mean that they will burst into flames spontaneously.

However, realistically, how many of your big commercial customers will be happy to allow the use of a product labelled in this way on their site? And, just think what might happen if social media gets hold of the story that you've used something that is 'Toxic to Reproduction' in Mr & Mrs A N Other's home. The consequences of this simple reclassification are far from good news.

It's the law

The use of the harmonised classification and labelling of a substance (where one exists) is mandatory. It has to be applied by all suppliers of the same substance, i.e. by manufacturers of substances, importers of substances or mixtures, downstream users including formulators (producing mixtures) and distributors.

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Zika the latest disease to emerge

The media is full of stories about a new tropical disease very few of us had heard about before – Zika. All the publicity has highlighted to the general public the threats posed by insect-borne diseases. But is Zika significant? Is it a disease pest professionals need to worry about? Pest editor, Frances McKim investigates.



© James Gathany

The vector for Zika, *Aedes aegypti*

There can hardly be a more distressing sight than a mother clutching her infant baby born with a reduced sized head (microcephaly.) It is heaven sent for filming on TV and beaming all around the world.

Distressing certainly – but let's get this into perspective. In Brazil there have been 1.5 million cases of the Zika virus and nearly 4,000 cases of suspected microcephaly. But this is a mere drop in the ocean when you consider that there are 214 million cases of malaria each year and 438,000 deaths.

And, what about dengue, the fastest

growing mosquito-borne disease? It is transmitted by the very same mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) as Zika. Some 390 million people are affected, with 25,000 fatalities at an estimated cost to the global economy of over £3.5 billion a year. Where are the headlines on these diseases? They are just statistics that we have all learnt to live with.

So why all the fuss?

The cynics amongst us will probably put all the fuss down to the fact that the forthcoming Olympic Games are to be held in Rio de Janeiro – a hot spot for Zika. Rio will be worried that their Games get dubbed the Zika Games – just as London was concerned its Games ran the risk of being 'the bed bug Games'.

Also, the World Health Organisation (WHO) is particularly sensitive following the bashing it took over the Ebola outbreak exactly a year ago. That outbreak killed more than 10,000 people. The WHO was criticised for doing too little, too late. Not to be caught out this time, on 1 February 2016 they declared the Zika outbreak was a public health emergency of international concern.

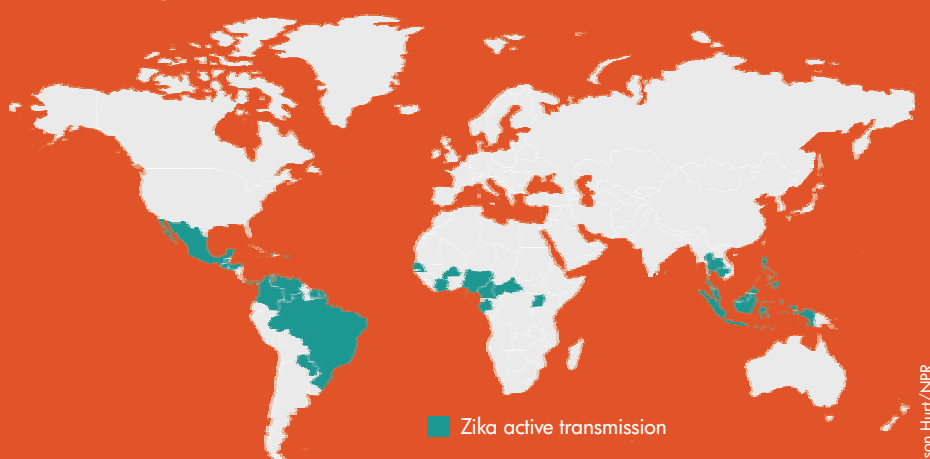
So what is Zika?

Zika is an emerging mosquito-borne virus that was first identified by researchers studying jungle yellow fever in rhesus monkeys in the Zika Forest in Uganda, so giving it its name.

It was subsequently identified in humans in 1952, again in Uganda and also in the United Republic of Tanzania. In 1966 the first case was confirmed in

Countries where the Zika virus is spreading

(at 16 January 2016)



■ Zika active transmission

Source: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Pan American Health Organization

© Alyson Hurt/NPR

South East Asia, followed in the 1970s with cases in Pakistan, India, Malaysia and Indonesia.

The first official epidemic was on an island in Micronesia in 2007, followed by a large outbreak of 35,000 cases in French Polynesia. The first case in Brazil was reported in 2014, at the same time as the football World Cup. It was speculated that the virus had been brought over by competitors taking part in the Rio World Canoeing Championships, as several canoeists came from the Pacific Islands. Hardly surprising then that Thomas Bach, head of the International Olympic Committee, said steps were being taken to protect athletes and competitors at the Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Zika spread to neighbouring Colombia in October 2015, followed rapidly by cases throughout South and Central America. A handful of cases have been reported in the USA, UK, Denmark, Germany and also Australia. These are all attributed to travellers returning home from an infected area and therefore unlikely to cause an outbreak in those countries. The spread of the virus has prompted governments across the globe to issue warnings to travellers going to affected areas, in particular pregnant women.

Symptoms of Zika

According to the WHO website:

"The incubation period (the time from exposure to symptoms) of Zika virus disease is not clear, but is likely to be a few days. The symptoms are similar to other arbovirus infections such as dengue. They include fever, skin rashes, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise and headache. These symptoms are usually mild and last for two to seven days.

"During large outbreaks in French Polynesia and Brazil in 2013 and 2015, respectively, national health authorities reported potential neurological and auto-immune complications of Zika virus disease. Recently



© Stephen Daggett

Aedes albopictus is closely related to *Aedes aegypti* so might transmit Zika

in Brazil, local health authorities have observed an increase in Zika virus infections in the general public, as well as the increase in babies born with microcephaly in north east Brazil.

"Agencies investigating the Zika outbreaks are finding an increasing body of evidence on the link between the Zika virus and microcephaly. However, more investigation is needed before we can fully understand the relationship between microcephaly in babies and the Zika virus. Other potential causes are also being investigated."

How is Zika spread?

The virus spreading mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*, thrives in built-up areas, so is a target pest for public health professionals – just as cockroaches, ants and pigeons are. These mosquitoes prefer to breed in areas of standing water around the home such as buckets, bowls, animal dishes, flower pots and vases. They need only about half an inch (2.5 cm) of water to breed, so the use of larvicides is one control option.

Both the male and female mosquitoes feed off plant nectar. However, the females need a blood meal in order to produce eggs. Surprisingly, these mosquitoes don't fly very

far – on average about 400 metres during their adult lifespan – and they feed almost exclusively on humans. They prefer to live both indoors or outdoors close to human contact, so a meal is never far away. Although they can bite at night, they are aggressive daytime biters. So bed nets, the tried and tested means of malaria control, are a good deal less effective.

An infected female *Aedes aegypti* passes on the virus after biting an infected person and then biting another, uninfected person. Rather than gorge their entire meal from one person and thereby run the risk of being swatted, they graze from multiple people making disease spread much more likely. There have also been reports of the virus being spread through blood transfusion and sexual contact.

Is Zika a threat to Europe?

It is unlikely, due to our climatic conditions, that *Aedes aegypti* will establish itself in Europe, particularly northern Europe. However, *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes, also known as the Asian tiger mosquito, might also transmit the virus and are already established in continental Europe.

Commenting on this threat, Jimmy

Diseases spread by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito

- Dengue Fever infects an estimated 390 million people every year with about 40% of the world's population perpetually at risk.
- Chikungunya swept into Central America and the Caribbean in 2013 with an epidemic spiking to over a million cases within only a year.
- Zika virus is rapidly spreading into new countries and is now present on all continents except Antarctica
- Yellow Fever. There are an estimated 200,000 cases of yellow fever, causing 30,000 deaths worldwide each year, with 90% of these occurring in Africa.

Travel advice published

Public Health England, Health Protection Scotland, NHS Scotland and Travel Health Pro have produced a useful two-page travellers guide on mosquitoes. Visit https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/499463/Mosquito_advice_sheet.pdf

Or go to the **Pest** Library www.pestmagazine.co.uk/en/library

Whitworth, Professor of International Public Health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, explained: "While *Aedes aegypti* is not present in western Europe, a related mosquito, *Aedes albopictus* does occur in southern parts of western Europe. This mosquito is a competent vector for Zika virus, as well as for chikungunya and dengue.

"*Aedes albopictus* is already found in Spain and in southern France during the summer and seems to be steadily increasing its spread northwards. Outbreaks of chikungunya occurred in Spain and France (in the Carmargue) last summer. It is possible that Zika virus could be introduced into European *Aedes albopictus* and cause similar outbreaks in the future.

"It is therefore important that Spain and France establish effective anti-mosquito measures to control *Aedes albopictus* and so prevent outbreaks of Zika, chikungunya and dengue. Although *Aedes albopictus* is currently not found in the UK, contingency plans should be established in case the mosquito extends its range further north in future years," Professor Whitworth concluded.

Kill or cure?

Currently, there is neither a vaccine, nor a known cure, nor a diagnostic test for Zika. The best way for individuals to prevent infection is to avoid being bitten by covering-up exposed skin and wearing repellent. Mosquito abatement programmes are already in place, using thermal fog generators or ULV aerosol generators (cold

foggers) for the rapid control of adult mosquitos in urban areas.

One of the most promising options for controlling the spread of the virus in the medium term is by curtailing the *Aedes* mosquito itself. Although exquisitely adapted to urban living and notoriously difficult to control, there are innovative approaches in development that will have an impact.

One such innovative approach comes from Oxitec, a UK-based company, originally spun-out from Oxford University and based on a science park close to the city. The company has developed a genetically modified strain of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito that has a lethal gene in the male. When it mates with a female mosquito the resulting progeny acquires the lethal gene and dies. This means that the genetic modification does not remain in the environment more than a single generation and cannot be passed through the mosquito population.

Oxitec has been running trials with these mosquitoes worldwide for many years and indeed they have been on what is called 'open release' in defined areas of north east Brazil and in other countries for some time. This means that the Brazilian Government has permitted their general release in areas known to be 'hot spots' for dengue fever.

The recent Zika epidemic has brought about a significant interest from governments around the world in the potential benefits that this Oxitec technology can bring.



Fogging can bring numbers of adult mosquitoes down quickly as part of an integrated mosquito management plan which includes larvicides and engaging the local community to get rid of possible larval habitats in and around their properties

A breath of fresh air!

For years, the introduction of genetically modified crops within Europe has been strangled by a mix of negative public opinion combined with an EU regulatory regime that does not take into account the benefits of such technology.

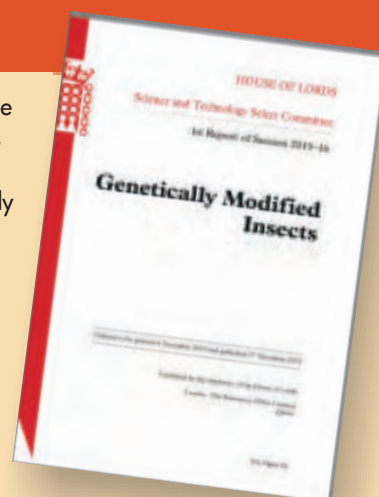
It was therefore a totally refreshing change to read the report prepared by the Science and Technology Select Committee of the House of Lords published on 17 December 2015. A copy of the report can be found in the **Pest** library.

The report clearly identified the problems faced by humankind in its future quest to feed itself and the risks posed by insect-borne diseases. The opportunities offered by genetically modified insects were clearly identified – as was the sole company able to offer such insects – Oxitec.

At the time of publication the report attracted considerable

favourable media interest. Since Zika hit the headlines, Oxitec's chief executive officer, Hadyn Parry's phone has been virtually rung off the wall by the world's press.

It is therefore particularly saddening to report that the anti-GM lobby is now spreading rumours tying Zika to genetically modified mosquitoes and also casting a shadow over the ethics of funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

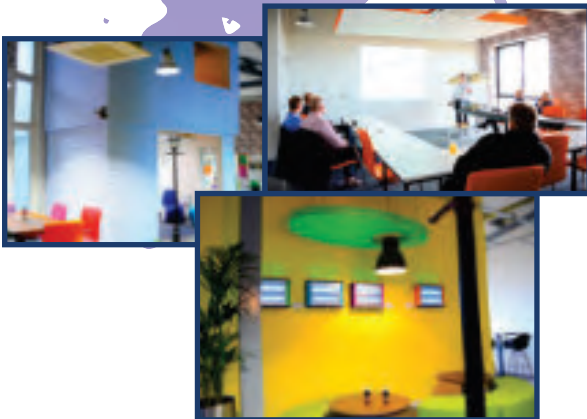




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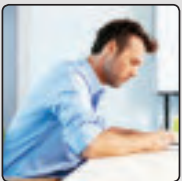
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Visit us at PPC on the 16th March to find out more about our new product launches!

Bear or bull?

How was 2015? What's in store for 2016?

The annual 'state of the nation' survey, organised by BASF Pest Control Solutions and **Pest** magazine has just been launched. Now in it's sixth year it's your chance, as a pest professional at the sharp end, to tell the rest of the industry what you think!

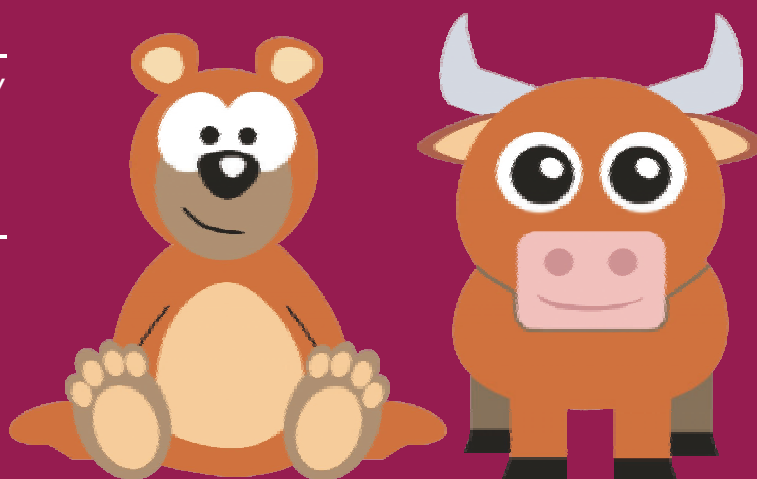
If you work at the sharp-end of UK pest control you are eligible to take part in the National UK Pest Management Survey 2016.

What do we mean by the sharp-end?

- Owners, managers, technicians, surveyors and field biologists in private pest control companies;
- Members of local authority pest control units;
- Self-employed pest controllers.

If that describes your role, then check your inbox for an email from the editor at **Pest** magazine for your personal invitation to take part. However, if that invitation went astray, maybe it ended-up in junk, or has simply got buried in your inbox, don't worry, there's still plenty of time to take part. **The survey does not close until midnight on Thursday 24 March.**

And, if you can't find the invitation, you can still take part at www.pestmagazine.co.uk/en/news/posts/2016/feb/time-to-tell-us-what-you-think. Within the story there's a link to the survey.



The fact is that the more people who take part in the survey, the more complete the picture it provides and the more useful the data is to everyone. The results are made freely available. They allow individuals to benchmark their activities and opinions and to gain a better understanding of the industry as a whole.

This is the only one of its kind in the UK. It records the fortunes of all sectors within UK professional pest management. It measures whether things are getting better or worse and provides a picture of which pests are up and which are down.

All the information is treated as confidential and no comments are ever attributed to individuals.

So what sort of questions can you expect?

Pest associate editor Helen Riby explains: "Completing the online survey is really easy. It comprises a series of tick box questions about your experiences at work. For example we ask about which pests occupied most of your work time and what the split is between any commercial and domestic work you do.

"We're interested in your opinion on which pests are increasing in importance and which look as if they are on the decline and we also ask how confident you feel about your future in the industry. There are also a couple of questions about the barriers to pest control and how important these are to you.

"But, don't worry, if there are questions you **can't or don't want to answer** you can just skip ahead to the next one."

A special report on the key survey findings will be published in the June & July 2016 edition of **Pest** magazine.

How did you see the prospects for your pest control work over the following 12 months

	Very poor or poor	Neither good nor poor	Good or very good
Pest control companies	1%	13%	86%
Self-employed pest controllers	2%	8%	84%
Local authority pest control units	9%	32%	59%

Source: BASF/Pest National UK Pest Management Survey 2015

In the 2015 survey there was a real mood of optimism about the coming year among all sectors of pest control (see table above). People working in local authority units were not as positive as their counterparts in the private sector, but they recorded their highest level of optimism since the survey began in 2011. But did things turn out as well as predicted?

Please take part in the National UK Pest Management Survey 2016

Don't miss your chance to let your views be known. The more people who participate, the more reliable the findings. Check your inbox for your email invitation to participate or follow the link on our website www.pestmagazine.co.uk/en/news/posts/2016/feb/time-to-tell-us-what-you-think

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Better bait take

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Dr Grzegorz Buczkowski

Mouse facts

- Mice are voracious feeders and feed 15 to 20 times a day;
- They consume 10 to 15% of their body weight every 24 hours and don't require access to water to survive;
- An adult mouse will produce 50 to 100 faecal droppings and approximately 3,000 urine drops within a 24 hour period;
- Mice use excreted droppings and urine for communication. Although mice have very well developed senses (including olfaction, touch, taste, smell), chemical signals in urine play a very important role;
- Urine smears and posts provide cues for orientation and enhance the rapid detection of novel objects, new resources or hazards.

Mice, as we have reported on more than one occasion, don't necessarily enter bait stations and that can make getting a bait take particularly problematic. New research from the USA provides some pointers on how they can be encouraged to go into bait boxes.

Very little research has been done to evaluate the efficacy of mouse bait stations, the theory being that, because mice are extremely curious, they tend to investigate new objects. Position them carefully, in areas of high mouse activity, at entry points and so on and all you have to do is wait for the bait to be taken.

The goal for the research by Dr Grzegorz Buczkowski from the Center for Urban and Industrial Pest Management, part of Purdue University, Indiana, was to test and develop more efficient techniques for attracting and catching mice.

As well as mouse bait stations, the work also looked at multiple catch traps, a popular alternative in the USA, although little used in the UK because of the requirement to check them frequently to comply with animal welfare legislation.

Dr Buczkowski explains: "We know that chemical signals contained within mouse faeces and urine are extremely important in mouse communication, so we wanted to explore whether urine and faeces could be used to 'jump start' traps and bait stations. We also hypothesised that surface texture might affect mouse entry into bait stations, so we set out to test a variety of materials and textures other than those currently available on the market. Finally, we wanted to test the theory that predator odour from rats would be repellent to mice and put them off entering bait stations and traps."

With these three objectives in mind, a study site had to be found and it needed to have plenty of mice. A commercial pig farm in West Lafayette, near the University, was

identified. It had a large and stable house mouse population. The mice were concentrated around feed preparation areas, grain storage silos and manure pits under the pig pens. All of the buildings were in poor condition and provided easy access. The farm also offered the mice an unlimited supply of food and water, ideal nesting conditions and plenty of harbourage.

"The farm was inspected for mouse activity two weeks before the start of the trial," adds Grzegorz. "Visual inspections identified optimal test sites i.e. areas with visible mouse damage, high concentration of droppings and urine stains, sebum trails along walls, mouse nests and actively foraging mice."

Objective 1 'Jump-starting' the bait stations

Method

Forty Bell Protecta mouse bait stations were used across four different buildings. Within each building, half of the devices were provided with 25 mouse faecal pellets freshly collected from within the building the station was to be sited in. These were scattered throughout the bottom of the device, the other half received no faecal pellets. The stations were baited with Bell Laboratories' non-toxic rodent



monitoring bait, Detex Blox. The efficacy of the bait stations was determined by the amount of Detex consumed within a 24-hour period. Tracking was used as a secondary assessment method. This consisted of placing two tracking pads next to the station and checking the pads for signs of rodent tracks after 24 hours.

Results

Adding faecal pellets significantly increased mouse activity inside the bait stations.

Mean bait consumption in stations provided with mouse droppings was 89% and significantly higher than bait consumption in stations not provided with mouse droppings, 78%. Similarly, tracking activity around stations with faecal pellets was 81% versus 65% for those without faecal pellets.

The addition of faecal pellets in multiple catch traps however had no effect. The researchers believe this may be down to the way the two devices are constructed. Bait stations are an open design so mouse droppings are easily detected by other mice. The presence of faecal droppings indicates areas where food may be present and signifies areas that have been visited by other mice and are therefore likely to be secure.



Bell's Protecta mouse bait stations containing Detex non-toxic bait were used with tracking pads as a secondary assessment method

One option for increasing the efficacy of bait stations and traps may be to simply put the devices in places where mouse droppings are already present.

Added droppings might also be more effective placed outside the devices where they can be readily detected by the mice.

Another management option to consider is the pre-conditioning of new devices. Brand new devices that have never been used in the field lack mouse specific odours and might even be repellent if they contain chemicals related to the manufacturing

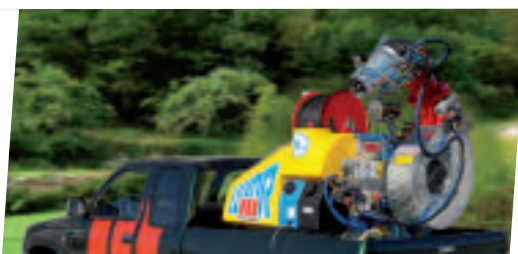
process (e.g. odours of paint, plastics, or glue). Pre-conditioning new devices would help eliminate such odours and would make the devices more attractive by providing mouse specific odours from mouse faeces, mouse urine and other sources such as hair and sebum.

Interesting findings

Rodent expert and **Pest** Technical Advisory Board member John Charlton commented: "These findings are interesting. We have long been aware of the importance of scent in the movement of mice and the benefit of

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The use of faecal pellets had no effect on the efficacy of multiple catch traps

placing baits in locations regularly used by mice. The effect of territorial marking by dominant mice may need to be considered as a factor in the use of bait boxes by mice from different groups. I suspect, however, that the placement of mouse droppings in, or around, bait stations would not be an option in food premises.

"The results should be of interest to operators who may be tempted to clean bait boxes. In some cases chemical cleaners are used in order to demonstrate a 'premier' service to customers. The outside of the bait box should be kept presentable but the 'dirty' inside may be considered a benefit; on condition the bait remains palatable.

"The pig farm used as a trial site has a large population of mice – a necessity when running a trial. On many sites we deal with the number of mice is low – therefore the competition for feeding sites may be less. We are however aware of the use of urine markers in these small populations which results in regular re-distribution around large sites," concludes John.

Objective 2 – do surface textures matter?

Method

Bait stations are typically made of smooth, hard surfaces such as metal or moulded plastic. To assess whether texture matters, three different materials were tested: cardboard, Masonite (a type of hardboard) and plywood. The adapted devices were all placed in areas of high mouse activity.

Results

Modified bait stations did not attract significantly more mice.

They also had other limitations as Dr Buczkowski explains: "One

Key lessons from the research

- Consider preconditioning new bait boxes with faecal pellets;
- Don't clean inside bait boxes over zealously;
- Try placing faecal pellets inside bait boxes;
- If the situation allows, then also try placing faecal pellets around box entrances;
- The texture of the material used in bait stations has no impact on efficacy;
- Don't worry about rat odour contamination of bait boxes, it is unlikely to have any practical implications for rodent management.

issue was low durability and susceptibility to moisture. All three materials are relatively soft and susceptible to damage by moisture, both from air humidity and mouse urine. Devices used for mouse control need to be durable. Metal and moulded plastic meet this criteria and appear to be the best options for use in devices for mouse control.

"Another problem with using softer materials is that they are easily damaged by mice. All three materials tested were frequently shredded and used as nesting material."

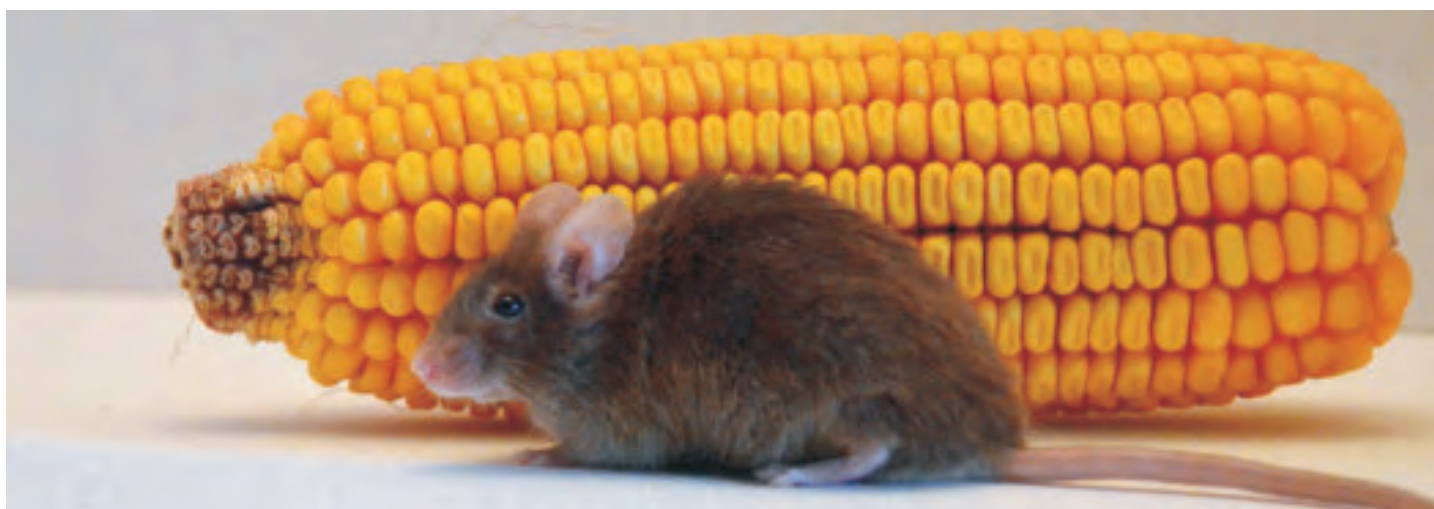
Objective 3 – predator odour impact

Method

Rats are known predators of mice and the two don't typically overlap. To expose the bait stations to rat odour the devices were placed inside a cage containing adult male and female Norway rats for 48 hours. The devices were randomly assigned to various locations throughout the test buildings and were placed in areas of high mouse activity.

Results

The results demonstrated that bait stations contaminated with rat odour significantly reduced mouse activity. However, the presence of rat odours did not completely prevent the mice from entering the bait stations. The researchers concluded that the biological importance of such effects is probably low and not important for practical rodent management.

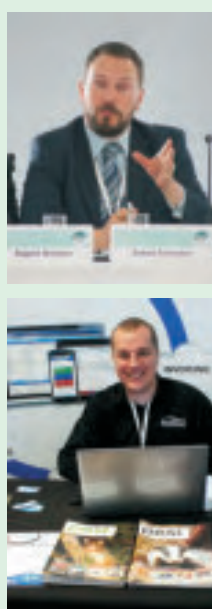
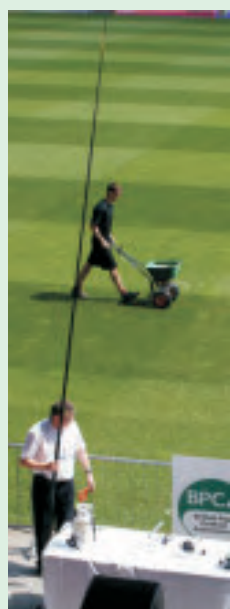


PPC Live goes east



For the second PPC Live event the organisers, the British Pest Control Association (BPCA), have chosen to travel to the east of the country, to the Peterborough Arena at the East of England Showground. This relatively new one-day event is now held in alternate years to PestEx. The move east follows the successful launch which was at the A J Bell Stadium in Salford in 2014.

The event is predominantly designed for UK pest control technicians, company owners, managers and supervisors. It is described by BPCA 'as a powerful medium for building and growing your business'. With over 40 exhibitors showcasing the latest products and techniques, a *Question Time* style session about the new UK Rodenticides Stewardship Regime and a variety of seminars and outdoor demonstrations, it's looking as if it will be the place to be on Wednesday 16 March.



Indoor seminar theatre

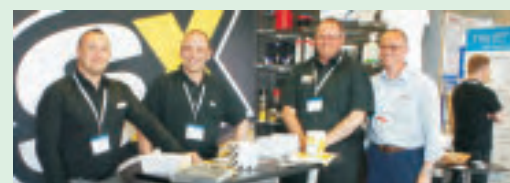
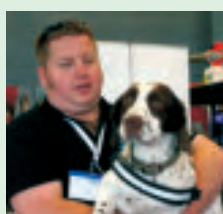
Wednesday
16 March

The digital landscape: Right audience – right message – right channel by Jane Shepherd, Shepherd PR	09.30 - 10.00
Risk mitigation measures and reproductive toxicity: Where do we stand? by Professor Philippe Berny, University of Lyon, France	10.15 - 11.00
Drain flies: Their biology and reasons for control by Professor Moray Anderson, Killgerm Chemicals	11.15 - 12.00
The UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime: 'Question Time' Panel of invited experts	12.15 - 13.00
Successful pest control for food manufacturing: Practical tips for better compliance by Paul Westgate, Westgate Pest Control	13.15 - 14.00
Making sense of mammalian scents: Implications for their use in rodent pest control by Professor Jane Hurst, University of Liverpool	14.15 - 15.15

Outdoor demonstration area

Wednesday
16 March

Is the Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) you're wearing protecting your health? by Lee Ainsley, Stallard Kane Associates	09.30 - 10.00
The art of falconry in the urban and industrial environment by Imogen Davis, Avian Environmental	10.15 - 11.00
Rural pest control simplified by Steve Gould, Enviro Professional Management Services	11.15 - 12.00
Drones and their use in pest control by James Rawlings, Wide Horizons	12.15 - 13.00
Air rifles: Safe cleaning and transportation by Geri Buckley and Nick Lane, BASC	13.15 - 14.00
The world's first discriminating smart trap by Adrian Robinson, 4 World Designs	14.15 - 15.00



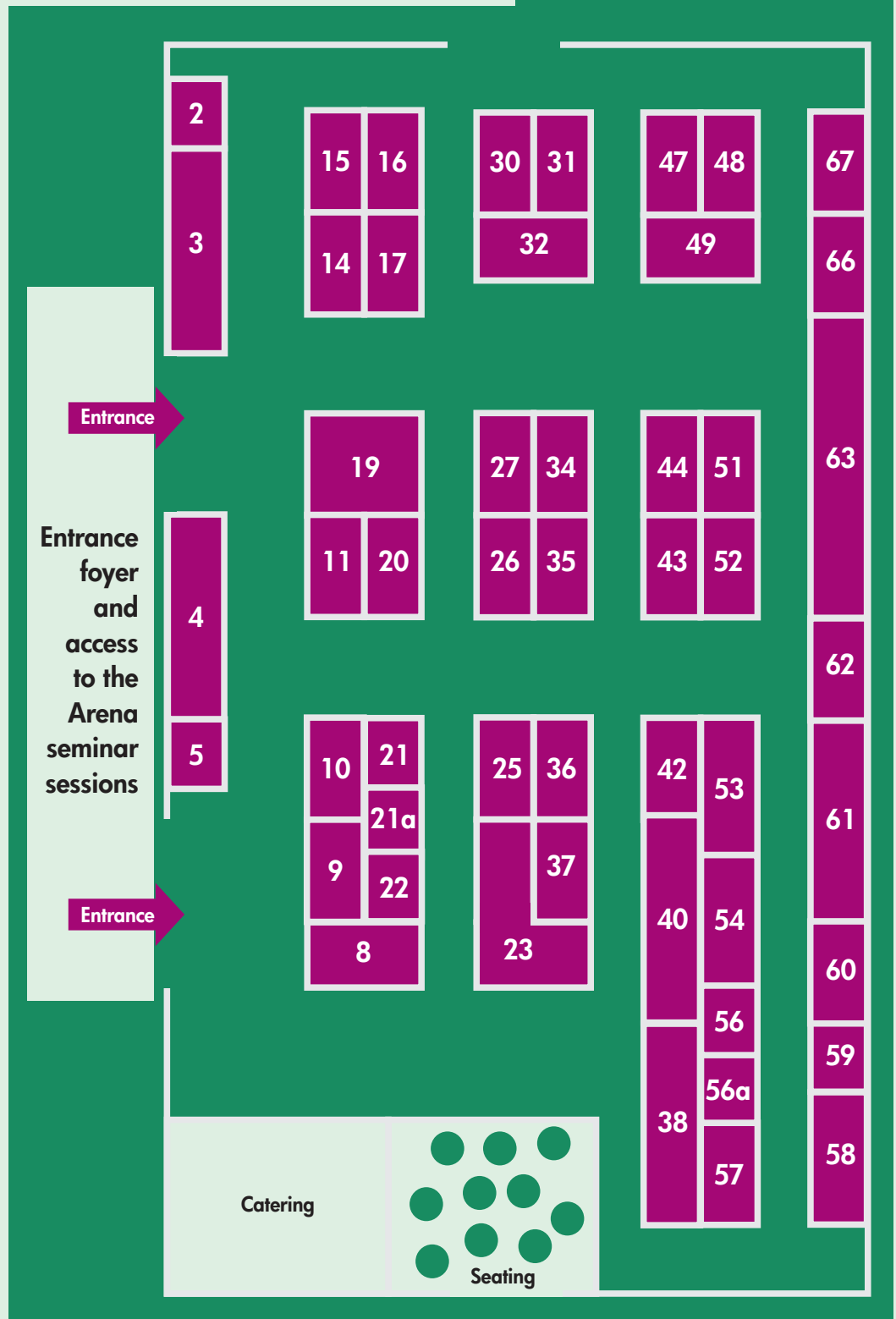
Exhibitors

36	Tenv Solutions
34	4 World Design
27	Alphatex
2	Association of Urban Wildlife Professionals
59	B&CE
38	Barrettine Environmental
15	BASF
66	BASIS PROMPT
3	Bayer Environmental Science
11	Bell Laboratories
37	Bird Control Group
22	Bookpestcontrol.com
5	Bower Products
63	BPCA
62	BPCA Business Shield
25	Bradshaw Bennett
51	Bureau Veritas Certification UK
44	Cliverton Insurance
32	Control Zone Products
16	CRRU
53	Detia Degesch
31	Hockley International
43	Huck Nets (UK)
40	Jones & Son
19	Killgerm
67	Lance Lab
9	Lodi UK
8	Merlin Environmental Solutions
14	MouseStop by iPestcontrol
26	PelGar International
61	Pelsis
4	PestFix
58	Pest Trader
17	PestWest
10	Plastdiversity
56a	Precision Pest Control
49	Rat Pak Engineering
54	Rentokil Products
56	RSPH
42	Russell IPM
35	Safety Screens
20	Sentomol
23	ServicePro
21a	Thermokil Insect Control
21	Vermend
48	Which?
52	Woodstream Europe

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Getting to the venue

Peterborough Arena is easily accessible by car and public transport. Located at the East of England Showground, the main North/South (A1) and East/West (A14) road networks virtually crisscross the venue. Visitors arriving by train are just a 15-minute taxi or bus ride away. There's plenty of parking on site. Sat Nav users should follow PE2 6HE.

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AGRISENSE

Re-imagining post & wire

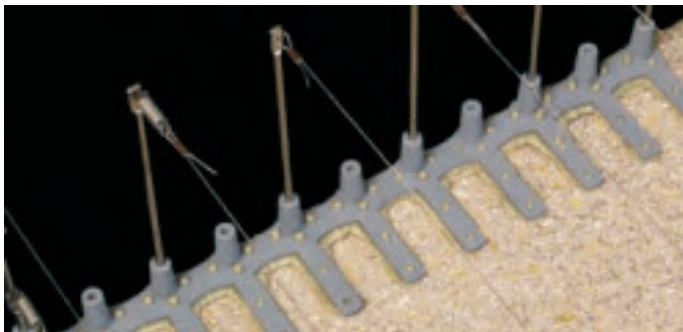
Post and wire systems are the backbone of many bird management businesses and have proved themselves over time, but can they be improved?

The trouble with post and wire is that installation can be time consuming. It requires careful positioning of the posts and accurate measurement of distances between the posts. Traditional systems also involve lots of drilling and all while working at height. What's more, where ledges are in poor repair, it can be difficult to site posts correctly along the leading edge of the ledge.

Some 18 months ago, David and Kursty Jones of Devon-based Jones and Son Pest Control Supplies decided to take a fresh look at the old post and wire system. And the result is that they have found clever ways round most of the difficulties associated with the post and wire system; re-inventing it for the 21st century. The innovative new Defender bird post and wire holder system has just been introduced, see page 41 of this issue.

It demands no drilling or power tools, nor any time-consuming measuring, reducing installation time by half, they say.

Commenting on their new invention David and Kursty Jones explained: "In the past we have not sold post and wire because the systems currently available do not position the wire over the leading edge, which often leaves enough of a foothold for a pigeon or seagull to try and overcome the system. Our new product prevents this."



Kursty and David Jones with their latest innovation, the Defender bird post & wire holder system

Installation is faster and easier

David and Kursty say that the new system is much easier to install than traditional post and wire: "For pigeons, posts should be located 65 mm apart, leaving every other post holder empty, whilst for seagulls, it's 95 mm apart so two empty post holders should be left between each post. For smaller birds like starlings and sparrows every post holder should be used.

"Each holder strip has 50 holes through which the silicone fixing glue oozes when the strip is pressed into position, creating a lock to give a strong permanent hold.

"And, we've incorporated anti-topple stabilisers into the design so that if a large bird attempts to land on the wire, the force of the bird is shared down the length of each strip. The anti-topple stabilisers make it impossible for the post and wire system to collapse in on itself."

This is the ninth patented bird deterrent that Jones & Son has launched. "We hope it will completely change the way post and wire is installed," they say.

Take a look at the company's short video (search YouTube for *Defender bird post and wire*) and judge for yourselves.

Pest deterrent people

Jones & Son describe themselves as the pest deterrent people.

It all began back in 1995, when David and Kursty invented and patented the Defender 8 pigeon spikes. The following year the couple set-up a business to manufacture and supply their spikes to pest control companies. The business grew and, in 2003, they decided to open up the sale of their spikes to everyone. In 2015 they delivered 1.5 million strips.

"All our products are invented, patented and manufactured by us," explains David. "We're very proud of our products, which we believe are the best in the world."

Today the company, based in Newton Abbot, Devon, employs 20 people, but it remains a family run business.

Kursty explains: "Our first born, Harry Newcombe Jones arrived in December 1999. At the time we had just started manufacturing bird spikes in our garage in

London so for the first day or so after his birth we named him 'Spike Jones'. On the third day we had a change of heart and settled on Harry."

Fast forward 16 years and David and Kursty are still manufacturing bird spikes with son Harry (16) now involved in the business and his younger sisters Alice and Olivia waiting in the wings. (Maybe there will be a name change in the offing – Jones and Son and Daughters!)



iPest plus

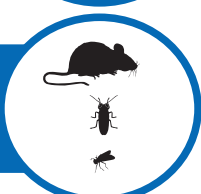
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A different approach to insurance

Insurance often gets pigeon-holed as boring. But, of course, like many 'boring' things getting adequate insurance cover for your business is actually pretty important.

If you type 'pest control insurance' into Google (as most of us would do when we want to find just about anything these days), Cliverton Insurance pops up in the top three (top five if you included the two paid for adverts at the very top of the search page).

Turns out this is exactly what the British Pest Control Association did last year when they were looking for insurance companies to contact for a 'mystery shopper' exercise.

For those who didn't see the results of the mystery shop, Cliverton came in with the most economical quote for basic pest control cover. OK, you could add in as 'extras' items which other insurers included as standard and that brought the premium closer to a couple of the other insurers.

But, having the flexibility to build the sort of policy you need, rather than take an off-the-peg package, sounded like a good idea to us. So we decided to find out a bit more about Cliverton Insurance.

Norfolk-based with rural roots

Based in Fakenham in Norfolk, the company was founded over forty years ago specialising in insurance cover for animal-related trades, rural and equestrian businesses, farms and smallholdings. From this animal/rural background, products for gamekeepers, commercial shoots and pest control were developed. The pest control specialism was added in around 15 years ago.

"By focusing on selected classes of insurance, we have developed relationships with insurers which allow the company to arrange cover for risks that have traditionally proved difficult to place," explains Cliverton's Peter Knowles. "Most of our business is arranged through unique schemes with insurance companies which are exclusive to us," he adds.

Unique charitable ownership structure

In 2003 the business was sold by the original owners and incorporated into the Lycetts group. However, it continues to trade under the Cliverton name.

Lycetts itself has interesting owners – the company is wholly owned by Ecclesiastical Insurance Group and, the ultimate owner of the Ecclesiastical Group is Allchurches Trust. The Trust is a registered charity which provides grants to a wide range of charitable activities. Some grants are to support Christian churches and religious charities, others for community projects and initiatives to help preserve UK heritage.

Therefore, uniquely in the insurance industry, Cliverton's profits are entirely devoted to charitable purposes. This structure fosters an ethical approach to the transaction of insurance business and results in a high level of client trust.

An innovative company

"In 2011, responding to increasing demand for rapid service we became the first broker to offer three of our animal trades products for immediate sale online," enthuses Peter.

"Online sales are an increasingly important part of our business. Currently pest controllers can submit a simple online form to get a quote the same working day, or can just call us and speak to an expert. We are working on opening up our website so that pest controllers can complete their details online and get an instant quote and cover," he adds.



Peter Knowles proving that insurance is not just about blokes in suits! Here he's in India on a 100 mile ride in 45 degree heat to raise money for equine welfare

Are you properly protected?

Peter Knowles of specialist brokers, Cliverton Insurance, offers some pointers on what to look for.

All businesses, large and small, risk being sued if things go wrong. Sadly, in our experience insuring tens of thousands of businesses it's a situation that happens only too often. It may not be something any of us want to think about, but a good insurance policy will ensure that if it happens, you will not be alone.

Whilst running your own business can be incredibly satisfying, it can also be stressful. Knowing that if things do go wrong there is someone there to help, can be a real weight off your mind.

We have an understanding of the risks you are exposed to and how to protect you from them. Whilst not all risks are insurable, where they are, you can be sure we have a policy tailored to your needs.

When looking for insurance for your pest control business there are a number of key questions to ask:

- What does the policy actually cover me for? For example, use of guns, working in airports and/or other hazardous areas, failure to perform.
- What is my public liability limit of indemnity and will this be enough in the event of a claim, or to meet contract conditions?
- Are there any restrictions on my policy?
- Are my employees/helpers covered too?
- What optional extra cover do I need? For example, professional indemnity, extreme height work.
- Can I make mid-term changes to my cover and what will this cost me?

Our products come with a generous £5,000,000 limit for public liability insurance and include cover for damage to property being treated and efficacy as standard.

Cliverton
right for your insurance

If your business involves falconry, our policy includes public displays as well as hawking and hunting days, as standard. There's an extension available to include the public handling of birds. It's important that your cover is arranged expertly, as the issues involved in the pest control industry can be complex and require specialist advice.

If you employ any individuals, including people on work experience, casual labour or even volunteers, full or part time, by law you are required to have employers' liability cover. If one of these people is injured, their claim will be brought under the Employers' Liability Act, meaning that your defences are limited, so don't take a chance on this.

We can also provide cover for equipment and stock which can be extended to include cover for interruptions to your business. Our personal accident extension provides a sum of money in the event that you are personally injured in the course of running your business and are unable to work. This can be in the form of either a one-off, or a weekly payment, depending on the circumstances.

We can also provide cover for your home, which is especially important where you run an element of your business from your domestic premises. Many home insurance policies exclude cover where that property, or land, is used for business purposes.

Finally, if your vehicle is specially adapted you need to ensure you have the right type of cover, otherwise you risk having inadequate motor insurance in place.

'Go compare' for pest control

It had to come. We have comparison sites for virtually everything you might want to buy. So why not pest control? One is about to be launched for our sector and the organisers have a stand at PPC Live – so go along and find out what it's all about.

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They will certainly be the first. But being the first is always hard work. You are breaking the mould and, let's face it, the pest control industry can be jolly traditional. But this concept has worked with all sorts of other service industries – so why not ours?

Consumer benefits

Gemma Scorer, the director responsible for getting this new venture, up and running in the UK explains: "Bookpestcontrol.com will be the first, and so far the only, pest control comparison website in the UK. Our aim is for consumers to be able to quickly compare and book their selected pest controller. Their options will simply be displayed by location and price.

"Consumers will be able to tailor their request by problem pest – rats, mice, wasps

etc. The site will come up with a nearby pest control company and they will also be able to immediately see the advantages the company offers such as: Is the company discreet? Are they BPCA members?

"The customer can then pay through our secure portal and receive a confirmation email and text message containing details of the visit along with the pest technician's name and the date/time of the visit. The whole of the transaction should take no longer than two minutes.

"The website is built and ready to go. But we have not currently listed any pest controllers as we would like to gain more members and make them all live at the same time, giving everyone the same advantage.

"Our objective at PPC Live is to meet pest

control companies, so they start to recognise and trust our brand and to enrol them onto our site," concludes Gemma.

Pest control company benefits

So why should you as a pest professional want to get involved? Primarily this is just another way to gain business. Pest control companies that sign-up will remain in complete control over their schedule and pricing. Bookpestcontrol.com points out that it will not be taking any sponsors for listings as it wishes to remain unbiased. Customers booking a service pay up-front, then Bookpestcontrol.com makes a small charge and passes on payment to the servicing company in ten days. There is a fee to join.

If this sounds like something for you – go and speak to Gemma at PPC Live.

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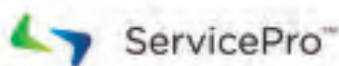
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Rat wins lottery thanks to pest controller

Let's face it, when people think about pest control they don't really think about our fluffy caring side, especially when dealing with rats, but as this lovely little tale from Justin Holloway of Prokill Thames West points out, pest professionals do have a heart.

Late afternoon on 5 November 2015 a call came in from a gentleman who had spotted what he described as 'an albino rat' scurrying around a conservatory and that it had already located a packet of bird seed which was now scattered around the floor. In all of my years in pest control I have never seen a wild albino rat first hand so I was rather excited to hopefully have the opportunity to see one in person. Unfortunately, for the rat, the end game when we get involved is mostly not so good!



What are the chances! One very lucky rat is reunited with his owner

We arrived at the property and began to search the seriously cluttered outhouse (definitely not a conservatory) and after 15 minutes of hunting there was not a rat to be found. I looked up at the resident to explain that the remaining option was to set traps and, as I began to utter the words, his attention moved from me to the corner of the outhouse where, from under a cupboard, appeared an albino rat! Totally undeterred by our presence, it simply walked towards me, sat up on its haunches and looked me square in the eye.

Shocked as I was, I managed to pick it up by the tail, placed it into a plastic box and fitted the lid on tightly. This was clearly no

wild rat and had all the hallmarks of an escaped pet that was probably loved by someone. We set about knocking on doors in the neighbourhood but, after 20 minutes, we had drawn a blank. I suspected that the people answering our knock found our question rather incredulous and suspected that we were perhaps distraction burglars!

So, nothing for it but to call home and request that the unused glass tank in the shed be readied for an unusual visitor. Later that evening Ben (yes, I had given him a name by this point), seemed to be quite at home in the tank. He was happily consuming chicken pellets washed down with tap water and had made a tidy little nest from toilet paper. Half an hour later he was fast asleep.

Social media

Unless we could find the owner it looked like, for the near future, I would be stuck with a rat. It's at times like this that the



The caring face of pest control, Prokill's Justin Holloway

,power of social media comes into its own and my good lady wife suggested posting a request for help on the "Free, Wanted & For Sale" Facebook page in Swindon. Well, within the hour a friend of a friend spotted the posting and, knowing of her friend's loss, put us all in contact.

At 12.30 the following day 'Ratty' (his actual name) was re-united with his owner and everybody was a winner! Ratty must be the luckiest rat around. To be found and recovered to the owner is unlikely, but to be returned safely by a pest controller is surely the rat equivalent of winning the lottery.

Snug home for snails

Our thanks to Stuart Taylor, senior pest control officer for Arun District Council, for sending in this picture.

The bait box providing such a comfortable home for the snails was found by pest control officer Tony Wicks during an inspection of a commercial site, which, to protect the innocent, must remain nameless. Tony comments: "I don't think this bait box has been looked at 'last week' as per the current pest control supplier's paperwork."

Thankfully, that pest control company no longer operates this contract.

With Rodenticide Stewardship now a reality and product label changes restricting sales of professional rodenticides to certificated users coming soon, not to mention point of sale checks on competence, let's hope examples like this become a thing of the past!



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No easy task



Baking rats – an easier task but also a great way to raise funds

© Roland Gockel

Ridding the sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia of rats has been no easy task – neither for the operating team on the ground nor for the supplier of the rodenticide used – USA-based Bell Laboratories.

The decision to commence the rat eradication project on South Georgia was taken in 2007 by the South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT). It was a bold move as this was to become the largest island eradication project anywhere in the world. It has taken eight years to arrive at the point where baiting is complete. Working closely with Bell Laboratories, a rodenticide bait designed specifically for the task was developed. A total of 329 tonnes of bait were shipped virtually to the other end of the globe.

South Georgia is located in the sub-Antarctic; about 1,000 miles off the southern tip of South America, and is rightly celebrated for its wildlife. The remote island is a breeding ground to over 29 bird species, and over 30 million birds nest and bring up young chicks on the island every year.

But in the early 1900s it also attracted the sealing and whaling industries. These lucrative trades practically wiped out the islands' seal and whale populations, until whaling was ended in the 1960s.

With the whalers came Norway rats who found their way ashore and soon made themselves at home on the island. Whilst whaling has long gone and the marine life

has since bounced back, the rodent legacy remained. They went on to devastate South Georgia's seabird populations, causing a drop of more than 90%.

South Georgia's land and sea bird species – petrels, the South Georgia pipit and prions – are particularly susceptible to the rats which prey on the eggs and chicks. The lack of trees on the island means birds must nest on, or under, the ground, within reach of the predatory rats. Due to the remote location, and the size of the island (165 km long and from one to 35 km wide) it was feared any rat eradication project would be too challenging a task to tackle.

Traditionally, with these types of eradication programmes, the whole island is



Bell made special bait for South Georgia



All packed up and ready to go

treated at once, as, if not, any available niches are soon colonised by the rodents. The sheer size of South Georgia prevented this, but the numerous heavily crevassed glaciers, some nearly a mile across and stretching right to the ocean created effective rodent barriers.

99.99% isn't enough

As Professor Tony Martin, the director of the SGHT's Habitat Restoration Project and Professor of Animal Conservation at the University of Dundee, details: "A rodent control officer in London or New York would be delighted to kill 99.999% of the rats in their patch, yet an eradication project with the same results would have utterly failed. Therein lays the difference between controlling rats and eradicating them. The former is a temporary solution to a problem, whereas, eradication is forever.

"The key to success in eradications is the use of bait, but first you have to ensure that the bait is extremely attractive, second that the active ingredient is always 100% effective and thirdly that a lethal dose is delivered to the home range of every single target animal," he explains.

Hard at work

With this clear brief, Bell Laboratories set to work at their home base in Wisconsin, USA and applied their extensive development, planning and manufacturing expertise to produce a specially formulated island bait.

Craig Riekens, Bell's compliance manager and liaison for the SGHT project, explained that the bait used in island conservation projects is specifically formulated to meet the unique conditions of each location. The South Georgia bait, for example, was formulated for wet conditions, while bait used in another rat eradication project on the Galapagos Islands was designed for arid conditions.

Island conservation baits contain the active ingredient, brodifacoum, but Bell also adds a special biomarker. "Under UV light the biomarker appears as fluorescent green in rodent faeces and intestines, which helps researchers determine the distribution of the bait on the island and verifies that dead rodents consumed the bait," adds Craig.

Bait condition

The logistics behind a project the size and magnitude of the South Georgia project were daunting. A critical part of the operation is the condition of the bait.

"It has to arrive in pristine condition, free from any contaminants or mould caused from condensation build-up as the ship crosses the tropics," notes Craig.

The time and distance the bait spends in transit called for special shipping protocols.

Shipping containers were steam cleaned and thoroughly dried before being filled. The pellets were packed in multi-layer paper bags and then stacked on pallets, which were double bagged and shrink wrapped.

Cutting non-target exposure

To reduce exposure to non-target species, SGHT performed extensive studies beforehand to learn about the species living on, or visiting the island. The shape, colour and size of the pellets were carefully considered and tested to minimise non-target primary and secondary poisoning, whilst remaining palatable for rodents.

For South Georgia, this meant a large, green pellet that was sturdy and big enough to survive aerial baiting. It was too large for most bird species to consume easily, but small enough for rodents to eat.

'Team Rat', as the team on the ground became known, took advantage of the fact that most of the indigenous birds on South



© Frances McKim

Georgia are seabirds that eat marine prey, so the brodifacoum conservation pellets were not a tempting meal. Bait spreading was achieved using up to three helicopters and took place in the autumn and early winter when most migratory birds had already departed.

After the necessary planning and feasibility studies, the first of three treatment phases started in 2011, with further work in 2013 and completion of the third and final baiting phase in 2015 – a momentous event for SGHT, Team Rat and Bell Labs.

Over the three phases a total of 329 tonnes of bait were manufactured and spread (102 tonnes were donated by Bell), some 1,050 helicopter hours were flown covering a distance equivalent to three times around the world and an area of 1,070 sq km was treated. The cost of £6.7 million was raised by supporters from around the world.

Final stage

The project has now reached its final stage – one of monitoring for rodent presence. The team will monitor closely for any sign of rodents by checking rodent chew sticks placed throughout the island following each of the baiting phases.

As project director Prof Tony Martin concludes: "We now need to raise a further £800,000 to complete the work of this habitat restoration project and ensure its legacy continues for years to come.

In the unlikely event of any rodent survivors we would need to determine how to tackle them. We also want to promote research into the recovery of the island's wildlife in the absence of rodents as well as passing on the lessons learned on South Georgia so that island biodiversity benefits on a worldwide scale."



Bait arrived by the container load!

© Ingo Andt



© Tony Martin

Loading bait for helicopter application



© Tony Martin

Reclaiming South Georgia



Reclaiming South Georgia is a 144-page hard-backed book by project director Professor Tony Martin. Written in an easy-to-read style it recounts, as aptly described in its sub-title – the defeat of furry invaders on a sub-Antarctic island.

In his preface, Professor Martin says: "This book, developed in the months following Team Rat's return from South Georgia, tells the story, in words and pictures, of the freeing of the island from its rodent tyranny. It is a story of highs and lows, excitement and frustration, fear and astonishment and lots of plain hard graft. Ultimately it is a story of operational success based on the collective vision and dedication of literally thousands of people with the desire to make South Georgia a better place than when they themselves first saw it."

For professional pest controllers it makes a fascinating read on the practicalities of organising and undertaking such an ambitious project. All proceeds go to the ongoing monitoring. Copies at £25 from www.sghtonline.gs/Reclaiming-South-Georgia

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Whatever happened to... the PiedPiper device?

In two issues of **Pest** in 2014 (issue 31: January & February and issue 32: March & April) we featured a new rodent control device being developed by Aston University. So what has happened? As it turns out, quite a lot. **Pest** contacted the developers for an update. In his own words, this is what project co-ordinator, Steven Goode, had to say.

"Since the last report in **Pest**, our initial grant funded by the EU Commission through REA (the Research Executive Agency) as part of the Seventh Framework, or FP7, has finished. Work is currently being funded by a further grant from FP7 DA (Demonstrator Activity of pre-commercialisation). This runs for 15 months from 1 December 2014, so is now nearing completion.

So far, PiedPiper has successfully developed and patented the trans-dermal route for toxins. This work was published in 2015 in the *International Journal of Pharmaceutics* 487 (2015) 101–109. Read it online at <http://europepmc.org/articles/PMC4441109>.

Our work is now focussed on developments on the pest control device itself. We have had a radical redesign of the delivery system, as we realised that we had gone as far as we could with the inverted can design. So now, the can is upright (normal orientation) and we have built in tamper-proof security. The first batch of these units will be delivered in late February for our ongoing trials work. The production unit will include an electronic alert device for which we have a patent already granted in 2013.

There are also further new developments – but these are subject to second level patents, yet to be applied for.

PiedPiper has also addressed the REACH regulations and as a result has dropped a number of attractant products, as regulatory approval would be unjustifiably expensive.

Next step regulatory matters

The regulatory market is the next step. PiedPiper technology is in a global market and regulatory approvals will be sought where there are viable markets and reasonable regulatory regimes with realist approval timescales.

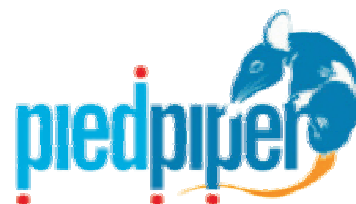
Whilst external funding from companies would be welcome, we currently have decided to go down the EU grant route with applications for EU FTI (Fast Track to Innovation) with our long-term partner IRIS and another, as yet undisclosed, company. We are also going to offer a limited amount of equity in the UK, via private equity investors, Beer and Young.

We have also carried out extensive market research on the market size and companies involved.

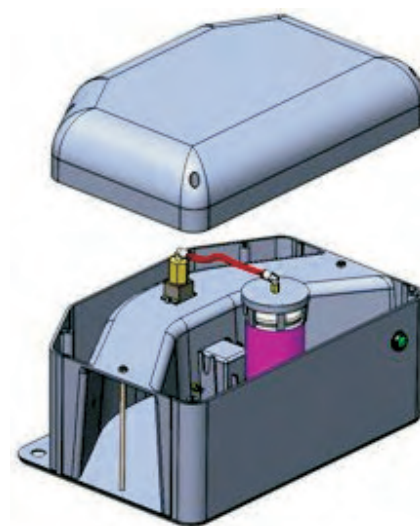
In short, PiedPiper has made major strides in making possible a transition from a multi-feed to a single shot approach, to give greater efficacy and a reduction in toxin resistant rodents.

The fact that we are currently majoring on cholecalciferol is a deliberate choice as it has no track record of use in the EU and was actually removed from the market in 2012, as it was not supported by the industry.

The lack of support was not surprising as companies want to sell their molecules, not a generic. There are also issues with the amount of cholecalciferol that rats can ingest via the oral route compared to our one millilitre dose. The oral route is of course multi-feed as opposed to our single shot. However, we are not just



PiedPiper pest control device (prototype). The production version will be in mouse grey and yellow



concentrating on cholecalciferol as the trans-dermal agent – other molecules are being assessed and we have had discussions about aerosolising other products.

As ever we are pleased to hear from readers with their views and comments. We will be having a mini conference in Brussels in April or May and would also be happy to hear from anyone interested in attending."

Steven Goode can be contacted at oneshot@piedpiper.eu

www.piedpipertech.com





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K-Othrine® WG250

K-Othrine® WG250 is a deltamethrin granular formulation from Bayer. When used in conjunction with an Ezidose applicator, this water dispersible, broad spectrum insecticide offers the following benefits:

- ✓ **Ease of use.** One press of the Ezidoser measures precisely the correct dose for 1 litre of mix.
- ✓ **Smaller bottle size.** Easier to carry and reduces storage in vehicles and store.
- ✓ **Less risk of contamination** due to the granular formulation.
- ✓ **Less wastage.** Only mix what you need with the Ezidoser.

Perpetual trap lives up to its name

Imagine their surprise when staff at the Museum of English Rural Life (MERL) – part of the University of Reading – logged onto their computers on 3 February 2016 to find an email from the museum's assistant curator, which read:

"There appears to be a dead mouse in this mousetrap...which is not described as being there on the database."

The mousetrap in question wasn't baited but it clearly still works extremely well as the photographs opposite show. The trap was manufactured by Colin Pullinger & Sons of Selsey, West Sussex and although the museum doesn't know the exact date this one was made, the trap itself was patented in 1861. It is a multi-catch trap with a see-saw mechanism. It is known as a 'Perpetual Mouse Trap' and proudly declares on the label, also pictured, that it 'will last a lifetime'. How apt.

The trap was actually in store but luckily, because the collection is heavily used, this mouse was found quite quickly. Having posted the story on the new MERL blog, the power of social media was once again revealed.

Among those commenting on the story was Christine Considine who writes:

"Colin Pullinger was my great, great grandfather. I have two business cards of his showing all the things he did, plus all his legal documents relating to land acquisitions etc, all on parchment. There is a blue plaque to him in Selsey."

"He was at the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park in 1851 and in total sold 1.5 million traps worldwide! My grandad, his grandson, went to Upper Norwood to watch the Crystal Palace burn down in 1936. My Dad watched from his bedroom window. My Dad is thrilled the mousetrap still does its job after all this time!"



Rodent damage to farm machinery is widespread

Initial results from a study by Bayer into rodent damage to farm machinery show that 95% of farmers have experienced some damage. So far, 44% say their combines had suffered, with 28% reporting that days of harvest had been lost as a result.

Chewing of wires was the most widely recorded problem (47%). When it came to the cost of putting the damage right, a fifth reported costs of £1,500 or more, with 42% of respondents reporting costs of between £500 and £1,500.

Ken Black, rural hygiene manager at Bayer is keen to see how big an issue this is: "Rodent damage to machinery is a serious issue for many farmers," he says. "They're often so pleased to see the end of harvest, that machinery is shut away without being cleaned properly, and this can attract rodents," he adds.

It was also interesting to note that just under half (45%) of farmers participating in the survey used a pest control company for their rodent control. So, that's 55% who, perhaps, need some professional help!



Bayer's Ken Black



New insect discovered

Another museum, this time in the USA, has found it has a different sort of beetle in its collection. It was an eagle-eyed social media fan who goes by the name of muppaphone on Reddit who made the discovery. He spotted a beetle-sized Volkswagen Beetle hiding in a collection of real insects at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. This 'new bug' was photographed and posted after which it went viral, including trending on Facebook.

The joke is double pronged. First, whoever mounted it in the collection certainly had a sense of humour, and second, it has been on public display since 2002 but has only now been spotted!

New websites

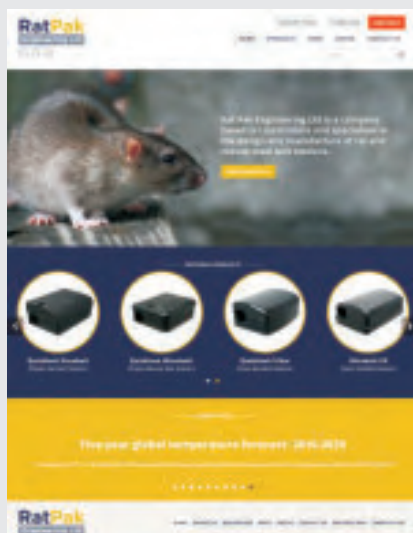
Rat Pak

To coincide with the launch of Rat Pak's product distribution activities, comes a totally new website.

On it customers will be able to order online, view actual pricing, arrange delivery or click-and-collect. They will also be able to view their own bait station printing design.

The site has been constructed with the upcoming Rodenticide Stewardship Regime in mind.

Customers will be able to upload and maintain all their proof of competence certificates in their account.



www.ratpak.co.uk

Edialux

To accompany the re-branding of SX Environmental, Pelsis has created a new website for the distribution business, Edialux. It is clean and functional and clearly details all their special offers.



www.edialux.co.uk

RSPB Scotland – 20 years of illegal killing of birds of prey report

RSPB Scotland has published a detailed 20-year review of the illegal killing of birds of prey in Scotland, which confirms that 779 protected raptors were illegally killed between 1994 and 2014.

In total, 468 birds of prey were poisoned, 173 were shot and 76 were caught in illegal traps. There were also seven attempted shootings. The figures include 104 red kites, 37 golden eagles, 30 hen harriers, 16 goshawks and 10 white-tailed eagles.



RSPB Scotland's specialist investigations team has been meticulously documenting the illegal killing of birds of prey in Scotland for 20 years to provide a thorough public record of the scale, location and methods of wildlife crime.

A copy of this 48-page review, which also contains some stunning photographs, can be downloaded from the **Pest** library.

CPD app for your PROMPT points



A new mobile app, developed by BASIS PROMPT, acts as a digital ID card. This will make it quick and easy for members to register at events, log participation in training activities and collect Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points. The free facility, which can be downloaded to smartphones, will be launched at PPC Live on 16 March.

Bower Products

This is another totally revamped site and also details any special offers. Most useful, specification sheets and images can be downloaded for your own use.

www.bower.co.uk

A lavish guide to mosquitoes

OK. Not many of our magazine readers live in Australia, but an Asian Tiger Mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) looks just the same, be it found in the UK or Australia. So don't let the book's title put you off.

This 216-page book, packed full of high quality photographs, explores the biodiversity of this group of insects. It provides a pictorial guide to almost 100 mosquito species and includes notes on their biology, habitats and association with disease. The book also provides information on how to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne disease.

ISBN: 9780643100305 Price: AU\$ 49-95

From www.publish.csiro.au/nid/20/pid/6391.htm

38 pest

www.pestmagazine.co.uk

Issue 43: February & March 2016

Rodent control on farms

This excellent 36-page booklet is primarily designed to assist farmers undertaking an approved training course and working towards obtaining their certificate, as required by the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime.

In an attractive and readable format, it covers the familiar ground of types of rodents and the need for control. It then has a large section on integrated rodent management where plenty of photographs are used to illustrate good and bad practice. Likewise, the sections covering physical and chemical control methods are well-illustrated. It concludes with sections on resistance and record keeping.

So all good stuff for any practical pest controller, especially those with farm contracts.

Published by the Agricultural & Horticultural Development Board (AHDB) copies are downloadable from www.rodentcontrolonfarms.co.uk or the **Pest** library.



Two special edition catalogues

The first 2016 distributor catalogues are out and both are special editions.

The very posh embossed Killgerm one celebrates the company's fortieth year of independence and comes with the theme 'Focused on Pest Control. Focused on you.'

The second is the launch catalogue for recently re-branded distributor, Edialux (formerly SX Environmental). Also included are details about training and the Pelsis Academy (see **Pest** issue 42: December 2015 & January 2016).

Both contain their respective company's full range of products, including all new additions, along with a host of other helpful information. Copies are bound to be available to collect at PPC Live, or place your request from the relevant company:

- www.killgerm.com/resources/catalogue-request/
- www.edialux.co.uk//Feedback/Request-a-catalogue



Pest Test 43

Now also
online

BASIS has made two PROMPT CPD points available if you can demonstrate that you have improved your knowledge, understanding and technical know-how by passing the **Pest Test** and answering all our questions correctly. So read through our articles on *Point of sale checks for stewardship* (pages 8 & 9), *Reclassification of rodenticides* (page 11), *Zika the latest disease to emerge* (pages 13-15) and *Better bait take* (pages 19-21) in this issue of **Pest** and answer the questions below. Try to answer them all in one sitting and without referring back to the articles.

SEND COMPLETED QUESTIONS to: **Pest** Magazine, Foxhill, Stanford on Soar, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 5PZ.

We will mark your **Pest Test** and, if all answers are correct, we will enter the results onto your PROMPT record held by BASIS.

- 1 Under rodenticide stewardship, what proof of competence will Internet traders need from their customers?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) Proof of address e.g. a utility bill	<input type="checkbox"/> c) Copies of CRRU approved certificates & declarations
<input type="checkbox"/> b) Self certification by users e.g. ticking a box	<input type="checkbox"/> d) None, they are exempt from stewardship
- 2 If rodenticides are reclassified as 'Toxic to reproduction' what specific concentration of active will mean they must be labelled as such?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) 500 parts per million (ppm)	<input type="checkbox"/> c) 50 ppm
<input type="checkbox"/> b) 250 ppm	<input type="checkbox"/> d) 30 ppm
- 3 How many fatalities a year are estimated to be caused by dengue?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) 5,000	<input type="checkbox"/> c) 25,000
<input type="checkbox"/> b) 15,000	<input type="checkbox"/> d) 35,000
- 4 Which mosquito that is already present in southern Europe do experts feel could spread Zika?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) <i>Aedes scutellaris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> c) <i>Aedes kochi</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> b) <i>Aedes cretinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> d) <i>Aedes albopictus</i>
- 5 What was the mean bait consumption in the mouse bait stations provided with fresh mouse droppings?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) 89%	<input type="checkbox"/> c) 65%
<input type="checkbox"/> b) 78%	<input type="checkbox"/> d) 58%
- 6 What advice did John Charlton give about cleaning mouse bait stations?

<input type="checkbox"/> a) They should be thoroughly cleaned inside and out	<input type="checkbox"/> c) They should only ever be cleaned on the inside
<input type="checkbox"/> b) The dirty inside is a benefit as long as bait is palatable	<input type="checkbox"/> d) Bait stations should never be cleaned

Name: _____

Organisation: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

PROMPT account number: 200 _____

PRODUCTS

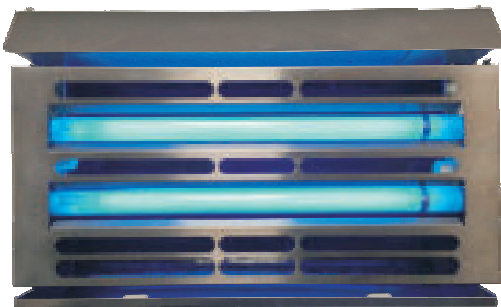
What's new?

Neptune fly killer

Neptune 30 is new to the 1env Solutions' Eradisect range.

Looking sleek, this fly machine is manufactured from high quality, brushed stainless steel and comes with glue boards.

It provides effective coverage of up to 100 m² with its two 18 inch 15 watt tubes. It is easy to install and service claim 1env Solutions.



www.1env.co.uk

Go blue with Bower

Bower Products has teamed up with one of Europe's major lamp manufacturers to develop their own effective, yet low cost, Hi-Blue 15 watts, 18 inch, T8 lamp.

Its unique phosphor emits a luminescent blue light, which combined with the efficient UV output and amazing budget price, makes this the most competitive and effective volume lamp in today's market, claims Bower.



www.bower.co.uk

Additions to the rodent menu

Offering all the same attractive, non-toxic, allergen free benefits of the original blue mushroom shaped NARA lure and NARA bloc, comes two new variations.

Both are now available in a dashing orange 'fish' aroma and a cool magenta 'meat/beef' aroma. Yummy!

www.emitter.info/en/



Knock-down and residual activity

Containing both cypermethrin and tetramethrin, Vazor Cypermax Plus offers both quick knock-down and residual activity against a range of flying and crawling insect pests. It comes formulated as a micro-emulsion concentrate.

www.killgerm.com

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Contains Alphachloralose 4% w/w. Use biocides safely. Always read the label and product information before use.



Vazor film for mosquito control

A ready-to-use silicone based treatment that works by physical means, for control of mosquito larvae and pupae, particularly suited for application in temporary accumulations of water where mosquitoes are active.

Adult mosquitoes are deterred from laying eggs on treated water surfaces. Mosquito larvae and pupae are controlled as they cannot attach to the water surface to obtain oxygen.

www.killgerm.com

Rechargeable sprayer

With its large 16 litre tank and its 12 volt rechargeable battery with five hours battery life, this rechargeable sprayer makes light work of your spraying activities, claims 1env Solutions.

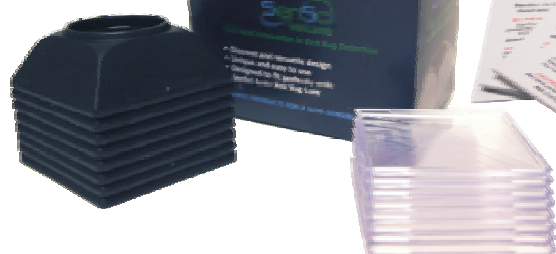
It comes supplied with three nozzles and two lances.

www.1env.co.uk



SenSci Volcano and Activ Lure

With its novel design, the SenSci Volcano, developed in the USA by BedBug Central, can easily fit behind beds and into corners. It comes with a clear bottom making for easy bed bug inspection. It can be used on its own or in combination with SenSci Activ Lure, developed by Rutgers University. This mimics the chemicals on the surface of the skin to attract bed bugs and lasts for up to 12 weeks.



www.killgerm.com



Three beeps and you know you've got him!

The eMitter BEEP lets you know each time your trap has caught a rodent.

The vibrations of the captured rodent activate the beeper which keeps giving off three beeps every 30 seconds until reset.

It can be used with all shapes and sizes of rat or mouse stations and comes with a replaceable battery said to last three years.

www.emitter.info/en/

Never drill a hole again

Jones & Son Pest Control Supplies' new Defender bird post and wire holder system halves installation time, requires no drilling and, critically, positions the wire directly above the leading edge of the ledge, says the company.

They also say their new 'patent pending' invention means no water ingress, no resulting freeze/thaw stone damage and no more having to measure out spacings and drilling points.

The new post holder has a multitude of other patented features including, anti-topple stabilisers, crushable fins to lock the posts in place and snap-off points incorporated into the base allowing a single strip to be snapped into a maximum of 11 separate post holders.

Post holders and posts can be bought separately, or they can be purchased ready-assembled.



www.birdspikesonline.co.uk

Lowest premiums in a British Pest Control Association mystery shopper survey, Autumn 2015!

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With 40 years' experience protecting the UK pest control sector, we *know* your world.

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Which product in 2016?

best
product
award
2016
pest

The 2016 **Pest** readers' Best Product Award is underway. Products launched between 1 January 2015 and 31 August 2016 are eligible – so what's impressed you so far? It's time to get your nominations in.

OK, here we go again. It's time to (at least) start thinking about which products you want to nominate for the 2016 **Pest** readers' Best Product Award. Better still, there's no time like the present, so why not nominate any product that you feel has made an improvement to your working life and/or practices as a pest controller now.

Pest associate editor, Helen Riby, explains: "Now in its seventh year, we have truly had some fantastic winners.

For the 2016 award, any product introduced commercially during the qualifying period of 1 January 2015 up to 31 August 2016, can be put forward, with one exception.

The products which achieved a first, second or third place in last year's award cannot be put forward.

"You can add more product nominations as the year goes on.

"Don't

worry if you're unsure about when your favourites were introduced. We'll double check that for you," she adds.

Pest readers are in the driving seat. You nominate the products (photocopy the form or go online if you don't want to deface your copy of the magazine.) We'll then produce a shortlist and you will be invited to vote for the product you feel has been the most innovative.

The winning product will be announced at PestTech in November.

Timetable

- 26 January – **Pest** Best New Product Award 2016 launched;
- 26 January to 31 August 2016 – **Pest** readers nominate products;
- 1 September 2016 – product shortlist drawn-up;
- 1 September to 30 October 2016 – readers vote to find the winner;
- 31 October 2016 – votes counted;
- 2 November 2016 – winners announced at PestTech.

Nomination form

I would like to nominate this/these product(s):

1

2

3

4

5

Name:

Organisation:

Tel:

Email:

SEND YOUR COMPLETED FORM to *Pest* Magazine, Foxhill, Stanford on Soar, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 5PZ

All the rules are at: www.pestmagazine.co.uk/en/news/posts/2016/jan/which-products-will-win-in-2016

best
product
award
2016
pest



Diary dates

15-16 March 2016

IX Italian Pest Control Conference

Sala Aurea, Camera di Commercio, Via Verdi 2,
Parma, Italy
www.disinfestazione.org/files/pieghevole%20parma.pdf

16 March 2016

PPC Live 2016

East of England Showground, Peterborough PE2 6XE
www.bpca.org.uk/pages/index.cfm?page_id=318

17 March 2016

ISNTD Bites 2016

Driving integrated vector control in the global sustainable development framework
Lords Cricket Ground, St John's Wood Road, London NW8 8QN www.isntdbites.com/

22-24 March 2016

Facilities Management

NEC, Birmingham B40 1NT
http://www.easyfairs.com/events_216/maintec-facilities-management-2016_75738/facilities-management-2016_76265/

26 April 2016

Benelux Pest 2016

NH Conference Centre Koningshof, Locht 117, 5504 RM Veldhoven, Eindhoven, The Netherlands
<http://beneluxpest.nl/>

25-29 July 2016

15th Conference on Rodent Biology

Faculty of Science, Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic
<http://rodensetpatium.upol.cz/>

27-29 August 2016

PestWorld East

Grand Hyatt Hotel, P.O. Goa University, Bambolim, North Goa, Goa, India, 403206
<http://www.npmapestworld.org/education-events/upcoming-events/pestworld-east/>

... and finally our latest recruit!



Felix, the Huddersfield station cat, was recently promoted to senior pest controller and given her own high viz jacket and ID badge for access to all areas on the West Yorkshire station! And, yes she does read **Pest!**

The story went viral with newspapers as far apart as Taiwan, the Netherlands, the USA and New Zealand covering it. Felix has also been filmed for ITV and BBC news. The press office for First TransPennine Express has been inundated with requests for photographs and details.

Recruited in 2011 as a nine-week-old kitten, Felix was named for her black and white colouring before the station realised she was, in fact, a girl! We are told that she mainly works nights helping keep the platforms free of rodents. However, during the day she also does a good line in scaring away the pigeons.

When new ticket barriers were installed in 2013 she even had her own cat flap fitted to give her continued access to all platforms. Customers and staff hold her in great affection and she is seen as very much part of daily life at the station.

Felix also has her very own facebook page with, at the time of writing, over 46,000 likes! Readers can add to those at www.facebook.com/Felix-the-Huddersfield-Station-Cat-107081156301541/



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3

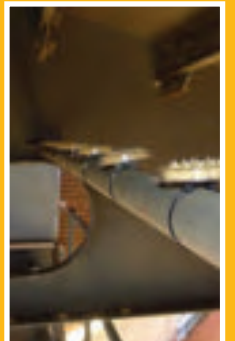
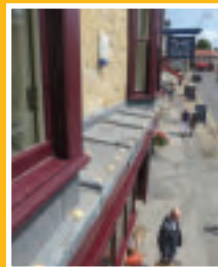


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- Keeps all pest birds away from structures without harming them
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