






# Control rats in your farmyard



## About rats

-  Rats breed fast and their numbers can easily get out of control.
-  They are creatures of habit and like to establish runs.
-  They prefer to move undercover, in contact with solid objects.
-  They pose a threat to man and stock because of the many diseases they carry.
-  In poultry houses, rats like eating chicken feed and they often reach up and push the eggs off.



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## Where to look for them





<b>Along base walls</b>	In undisturbed areas next to and between buildings overgrown with weeds.
<b>Undercover</b>	Runs and rest holes near drains, ditches, ponds and streams.
<b>In feed stores</b>	Signs of droppings, torn or damaged feed sacks and gnawed holes on the outside of buildings.
<b>In poultry houses</b>	Underneath nests for signs of damaged eggs.
<b>In piggeries</b>	Tracks in muddy areas indicate regular movements. Remember, rats will leave 4-toe prints while birds will leave 3.

## Control measures



**Once you have discovered that you have a rat problem, you should plan a programme of getting rid of it. *Baiting with poison* is one of several methods that can be used**

### *Baiting with poison*

-  Place poisoned item of food (bait) in or near holes and in runs.
-  Lay the bait at different points to maximise the effect.
-  Protect it against weather and other animals by covering it with basic containers or using improvised tunnels. You can use small sections of pipe or a couple of small pieces of wood nailed together at right angles to the ground. A couple of bricks with a piece of wood across the top will also do.
-  Check the bait everyday for the first 5 days and replace those that

have been eaten. If all the bait has been eaten, lay twice as much as you put out before.

- When the bait is left untouched, it might mean that the programme is working. It is, however, advisable to leave it for another week and then remove the bait and destroy the remains.



### *Owls*

Allow barn owls to stay on the property —1 pair can catch up to 30 rats in a single night.

### *Cats*

Cats can have a dual function — they can be kept as pets and to reduce rat numbers.



**When using poison, follow the instructions carefully because it poses a danger to children and other animals!**

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