

Rodent control

House mouse control

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The common house mouse (*Mus musculus*) is the smallest of the rodent pests and is located throughout most of Australia.

For poultry farms, mice are typically just a nuisance, but in plague numbers they can cause large amounts of damage. Due to the small size of the house mouse and their ability to breed in large numbers in a short amount of time, it is difficult to completely eliminate mice from a poultry operation.

Understanding the feeding and nesting patterns of the different rodent types can help with designing appropriate control and management strategies.

Diet and feeding patterns

Mice are very inquisitive animals and will readily investigate new and different objects, which includes eating bait.

Their diet mostly consists of fruits, nuts, grains and vegetables. They get all of their water from the food they eat, so do not need a fresh source of water. Mice will range up to 35 metres from their nest when searching for food.

Housing and nesting patterns

Mice create nests in shallow burrows, natural hollows and crevices. They are good climbers and can easily fit through

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small holes and cracks, making it hard to stop them from entering poultry sheds. Large numbers of mice seen during the day is a good indication that numbers are high.

Control and management strategies

Clean up feed spills and keep grass and weeds short between sheds to reduce mice moving from shed to shed. Also remove rubbish or debris that might provide shelter.

As mice are inquisitive, take advantage of this and place bait stations in areas of known activity. This should include around the perimeter of the sheds and other areas where mice might be nesting.

Replace bait regularly and secure it inside the bait station to stop it from being moved by rodents.

Cholecalciferol (vitamin D3) can be used in rotation with second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides such as brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difethialone and flocoumafen for mouse control.



The house mouse is much smaller in size than the black and brown rats. They are mostly brown to grey in colour with smooth sleek fur. Mice have a tail similar in length to their body, large ears, pointed snout and bulging eyes.

If unsure which rodent you have, refer to 'Know your rodent' fact sheet.

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