

Pest Control in Organic Certified Operations

Grain & Feed Industry Conference

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Goal for today

- ▶ What pest are we targeting
- ▶ What is common between Traditional and Organic facility pest control programs
- ▶ What are the Organic Certification Regulations
- ▶ How do you comply
- ▶ Summary and Questions.

What are the pest we are trying to control?

Rodents-

Mouse



Roof Rat



And we continue

Norway Rat



Ground Squirrel



Facility Design

- ▶ Building should be designed in a manner that discourages rodent infestation
- ▶ Building should be as tightly built as possible
- ▶ Utility penetrations should be sealed to not allow easy rodent movement
- ▶ Do not use insulation that is fiberglass batting or blow in type in any area of the facility. These insulating material are perfect for bedding and nesting for rodents
- ▶ Limit water sources.

Exclusion

- ▶ In most facilities, this is the best pest control weapon
- ▶ Mill design does not allow for effective exclusion but it should not be overlooked. Open bays is a challenge for us
- ▶ Rodents are brought to you sometimes in loads so exclusion is still important but is not the weapon as in other types of operations.
- ▶ Exclusion between areas of the plant is essential.
- ▶ Rats only need a hole the size of a quarter, or a gap that is about 5/8 inch to enter an area.
- ▶ If the mouse can fit its head **through** the gap, it can get **through**

Facility Housekeeping

- ▶ Free access to food is our greatest challenge.
- ▶ Un-installed equipment and parts stored on floor are perfect harborage for rodents.
- ▶ Open pipes are another concern.
- ▶ Pallets are perfect homes for rodent. Rotation of materials should be monitored. 18-24 rule applies in warehouse areas.
- ▶ Maintain water system so that you eliminate leaks. Water access is a real challenge.

Pest Program

- ▶ Scheduled- can be weekly but not less than twice monthly- depends on pest pressure
- ▶ Bait stations installed in locations that make sense
- ▶ Rodent traps should be used as monitoring device.
- ▶ What are you trying to prevent from the station location?
- ▶ Solid bait or liquid bait.
- ▶ Established map with station location
- ▶ Report written after each service
- ▶ Should be reviewed by someone other than the service person

Pest Program- continued

- ▶ Findings must be communicated to management with recommendations and follow up
- ▶ Include time for communication with operation employees. They know what is happening in the facility better than anyone. Use sighting logs
- ▶ Inspection should be at different times of day.

General Pest Control Principles summarized

- ▶ Facility design.
- ▶ Exclusion of pest.
- ▶ House keeping efforts.
- ▶ Structured program.
 - ▶ Regular monitoring of program.
 - ▶ Routine Inspection by trained individual.
 - ▶ Sighting log for all employees
 - ▶ Record Keeping
 - ▶ Adjusting to challenge

USDA National Organic Program

§205.271 Facility pest management practice standard

(a) The producer or handler of an organic facility must use management practices to prevent pests, including but not limited to:

- ▶ (1) Removal of pest habitat, food sources, and breeding areas;
- ▶ (2) Prevention of access to handling facilities; and
- ▶ (3) Management of environmental factors, such as temperature, light, humidity, atmosphere, and air circulation, to prevent pest reproduction.

USDA National Organic Program

§205.271 Facility pest management practice standard

(b) Pests may be controlled through:

- ▶ (1) Mechanical or physical controls including but not limited to traps, light, or sound; or
- ▶ (2) Lures and repellents using non-synthetic or synthetic substances consistent with the National List.

Trapping Option



 DoMyOwn.com



Trapping Continued

► Squirrel Trap



USDA National Organic Program

§205.271 Facility pest management practice standard.

(c) If the practices provided for in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section are not effective to prevent or control pests, a non-synthetic or synthetic substance consistent with the National List may be applied.

National Approved Products

- Vitamin D3 Rodenticide is the only approved NOP product
- These products are not accepted by Rodents readily.



USDA National Organic Program

§205.271 Facility pest management practice standard.

(d) If the practices provided for in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section are not effective to prevent or control facility pests, a synthetic substance not on the National List may be applied: *Provided*, That, the handler and certifying agent agree on the substance, method of application, and measures to be taken to prevent contact of the organically produced products or ingredients with the substance used.

USDA National Organic Program

§205.271 Facility pest management practice standard.

(e) The handler of an organic handling operation who applies a non-synthetic or synthetic substance to prevent or control pests must update the operation's organic handling plan to reflect the use of such substances and methods of application. The updated organic plan must include a list of all measures taken to prevent contact of the organically produced products or ingredients with the substance used.

USDA National Organic Program

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(f) Notwithstanding the practices provided for in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this section, a handler may otherwise use substances to prevent or control pests as required by Federal, State, or local laws and regulations: *Provided*, That, measures are taken to prevent contact of the organically produced products or ingredients with the substance used

Organic Programs Summary

- ▶ USDA National Organic Program regulations dictate what we can use.
- ▶ Trapping or monitoring becomes more important in Organic Certified facilities.
- ▶ You need to determine what part of your facility is Organic and what is not. It is possible to treat only part of your facility as Organic.
- ▶ Do your suppliers have a robust rodent control program?
- ▶ Record keeping is crucial- you need to thoroughly document results from efforts. Must demonstrate thoughtful decision making in how you proceed in solving a pest problem

Organic Programs Summary

- ▶ Biggest challenge is that approved baits are not readily accepted by rodents and that we do not have a liquid option that can be used in an on-going basis.
- ▶ Most important Requirement for a Successful Organic Program- You must establish a good communication and trust between you and your Organic Certifier.

Questions ???? ?