

FARM NAME _____

Doc.No. **2.31**

Title: **Policy for Rodent Control in Farm Work Areas and Storage Facilities***

Effective Date: _____

Reviewed by: _____ GAP Coordinator, Date: _____

1. Our farm's rodent control program is considered to be an ongoing process.
2. We will practice a 4 step prevention program:
 - a. Elimination of harborage
 - i. All stacked or stored materials including product, packaging and other materials will be kept on pallets.
 - ii. When possible, stored materials including stored product will be stored no closer than 18 inches from adjacent walls.
 - iii. Vegetation, rubbish and ornamental plants around structures will be reduced as much as possible
 - iv. Any spaces under buildings will be blocked off and burrows filled in.
 - b. Rodent-proofing structures
 - i. Any opening that is considered a possible entry (greater than 3/8-1/2 in.) will be closed up.
 - ii. This includes sealing around pipes and floor drains.
 - iii. Areas where recurring burrowing has occurred, will be sealed with sheet metal or concrete.
 - c. Elimination of food and water
 - i. Daily facility cleaning procedures (Doc. 2.27) shall be followed and documented (Doc. 3.39).
 - ii. No foods should be left in worker break rooms unless they are kept in a sealed container or refrigerator.
 - iii. All culls or "grade outs" shall be removed from buildings on a daily basis and placed in closed container away from production or storage areas.
 - d. Killing rodents
 - i. All rodenticides will be used according to label directions.

Standard Operating Procedure

- ii. Rodenticides will be used in enclosed tamper-proof bait stations placed outside of buildings (no farther than 50' from perimeter of such buildings). No rodenticides will be used inside storage facilities or coolers when produce is present.
 - iii. Bait stations will be placed so that they are located on both sides of outside corners and
 - iv. Traps will be used inside of buildings and coolers when needed.
3. During harvest season when product is being cooled or stored, monitoring of traps and bait stations shall be done weekly and recorded in the Pest and Rodent Control Log (Doc. 3.05).
4. The rodent control program will be a part of the Annual Assessment of Wild and Domestic Animal Activity (Doc. 4.29)

*Washington State University Extension