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Online training available:

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Florida School IPM Focus on Rodents

No one likes to think about rodents, but in the coming months as the weather turns cooler rodents may be returning to warm school buildings and classrooms for the winter. That means it is time to think about rodent prevention. You need to focus on limiting rodent access to your school. One of the best ways to do that is by preparing yourself and the people you work with to look for (and change) pest conducive conditions. Here are just a few ideas:

- Remove or reduce food sources that may be attracting rodents.
- Keep dumpster areas free of places where rodents can multiply.
- Keep vines and plants at least 12-18 inches away from buildings.
- Seal holes in your structure and fix door sweeps.

The **EPA** has an excellent **chapter on rodent control** that is applicable to most conditions found in Florida Schools. The **CDC** has also revised their rodent control web pages to include new fact sheets and rodent images, this homeowner information can be used in a school setting. Have a look at some of the material we have available on **our website**. Don't forget you can customize our material to fit your needs. Take a minute to forward the UF article on **Non-Chemical Rodent Control** or the following extract from the article **"What Everyone Should Know About Rodents"** to pest managers in your school or district.

For more information about the Florida School IPM program and how to tailor our material to fit your needs please contact Faith at: foi@ufl.edu or Jennifer at: gillett@ufl.edu. We are both happy to help you make this school year a success. Don't forget our goal is to have every school using IPM to protect everyone in the school from the risks posed by pests and pesticides.

Tom Jarzynka on Controlling Rodents with IPM



Tom Jarzynka has had success controlling rodents using IPM. Tom is a Technical and Training Director for the PrevenTech Commercial Services Division of **Massey Services** where he works with several School Districts in Florida. He has spent the last 30 years working in pest control. Along with Bob Belmont he has been training Massey technicians to use IPM in the schools they service.

Tom believes that every time he gets involved in a rodent service it is very engaging, because you need to look at so many factors to determine the

best tactics for control. These include the working environment, behavior and biology of the rodent, and selection of service techniques and equipment.

He said "Rodent control can be very complex and requires extensive investigation. I like the challenge of working on rodent issues, which includes identifying the contributing factors and then developing and implementing the service plan. Successfully resolving a rodent problem is challenging and rewarding at the same time."

His most recent success with rodent control has been: In recent years we have been utilizing non-traditional techniques like exclusion, deterrents and repellent gels. These tactics are all offering means to manipulate the behavior of the rodent but reducing the sometimes negative aspects of baits and traps (disposal of rodents after you have been successful is a major problem).

Examples of successful IPM techniques for rodent control: One of the new techniques we are using with success is a **high intensity strobe light** to drive rodents out of an area. After they are gone you can come back and do repairs and exclusionary work to help minimize the possibility of return. Repellent gels with **capsaicin** are showing promise in our work as well.

If you would like to discuss rodent management as part of a school IPM program please contact Tom at:
tjarzynka@masseyservices.com .

What Everyone Should Know About Rodents

Rats and mice often enter homes and schools in search of food and shelter. The most common rodent pests are the commensal rats and mice. These are Old World rodents that have adapted to live with man. They include the roof rat, Norway rat, and house mouse. These commensal rodents have been carried by man to every corner of the Earth. Rats and mice consume or contaminate large quantities of food and damage structures, stored clothing, and documents. They also serve as reservoirs or vectors of numerous diseases.

In most cases of rodent infestation, the pest animals can be controlled without having to resort to the use of poisons. The practices of good sanitation and exclusion will prevent most problems. If rodents do find their way indoors, small populations can be easily eliminated with various nontoxic methods. Rodenticides (rodent poisons) need only be used in cases of large or inaccessible infestations. The trapping of rodent pests is often preferable to the use of poisons. Traps prevent rodents from dying in inaccessible places and causing an odor problem. There is no chance of an accidental poisoning or secondary poisoning of nontarget wildlife, pets, or children with the use of traps. Secondary poisoning of pets or wildlife can result from eating poisoned rodents. Traps can be used in situations where poisons are not allowed, such as in food handling establishments.

Information from the article **Non-Chemical Rodent Control** by W.H. Kern and P.G. Koehler.

Post Your School IPM News!

We hope you will submit news items and would be happy to help you write a story if you have an idea but don't have the time to write up the information. This newsletter will be published as content arrives, please



keep the information flowing! Please send news items to **Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman**.