

## Rodenticide Free Rodent Control

### Objective

To give an alternative method (to rodenticide) of rodent control for farmers around the farm while also encouraging the nesting of Barn Owls using the 'Barn Owl Boxes' NPI. The aim is to cease or reduce the need for the use of rodenticide on a farm which can cause secondary poisoning in predators which feed on rodents such as Barn Owls, Kestrels, Long-eared Owl, Red Kite, and Hen Harrier.

### Background

The use of rodenticides has been linked with to the declining numbers of Barn Owls and can affect other species including Otter, Hen Harrier, and Kestrel. Barn Owls and Kestrel are priorities in parts of the CP areas. This NPI is designed to reduce the risk of secondary poisoning of these species.

The first step in addressing rodent related problems is to reduce access to food sources and the adoption of an Integrated Pest Management strategy. This action will support the farmer to achieve effective rodent control using appropriate traps while preventing accidental and secondary poisoning. While this action is particularly applicable on farms where the Barn Owl box NPI is selected, it is available on all farms.

### Site Suitability

- This action can be selected on parcels with an Eligible hectare > or = 0.
- This action is available on CP and Non-CP LPIS parcels that will be claimed by the participant for the remainder of the ACRES contract.

### Requirements

1. Purchase and install a self-resetting, non-toxic smart trap for control of rats.
2. This NPI is for use in farmyards or around sheds used for feed storage. Select the location on the map submitted by drawing one point.
3. Traps should be checked and maintained regularly.
4. The use of rodenticide must not be reinstated.
5. Each trap applied for is only eligible for one NPI payment and once claimed must be retained for the remainder of the ACRES contract.

### Additional Guidance

- All animal feed should be stored in sealed, rodent proof storage to discourage rodents from inhabiting the target area (See Mobile Feed Storage Bins NPI).
- These traps can be used around sheds outside of the farmyard area if the sheds or buildings are being used to store feed.
- Traps should not be installed in fields or areas away from built farm structures.
- Rats are often shy of new objects and the placement of unset traps in a new location for a week or two will increase the opportunities for catching.
- Traps should be placed in any dark hidden corner or placed adjacent to a wall since rats like to run along walls to avoid detection.

- Cage and other rodenticide-free traps can and are encouraged to be used (if necessary) in the farmyard. They do not fulfil the requirements for this action.
- Traps can be switched off if Barn Owls are known to be nesting in the vicinity.