

Annex 2. Auditing rodent populations

This Annex provides a simple check on rodent populations, potential rodent harbourage, and existing rodent control and monitoring measures in stocked poultry houses. It is intended to assist in assessing the actual or potential problems regarding rodents and highlight the areas that should be improved. In order to obtain as objective an assessment as possible, it should be completed by an external auditor or pest specialist. The audit should be carried out on all areas where rodents might be a problem, including poultry houses, anterooms, service and feed, bedding, solid fuel (e.g. firewood, coal), tools and equipment and manure storage areas.

- Any answer in a grey filled tick box suggests the need for corrective action and provides an indication that specialist advice may be required.
- Any answers in a dotted tick box suggest a cause for concern. In cases where Salmonella is present in the flock prompt corrective action is essential.

Auditing potential for rodent harbourage

(to be completed for each poultry house)

Concrete house surroundings

No

Partly

Totally

Puddles, vegetation and/or residual feed/manure around the house

Abundant

Some

Absent

Feed spillage in house (including beneath slats)

Abundant

Some

No

Manure storage

Yes, emptied once a year or less often

Yes, emptied 2-3 times a year

No

Included in rodent monitoring and baiting programme?

No

Yes

Association of a poultry house with other poultry houses

Communication through open corridor/manure or egg conveyors beneath slats or other relevant routes.

Other contiguous house/s

No direct communication

Single house

Air inlets/outlets

Not proofed

Proofed or not accessible

Sealing of doors/other entry ports

Very poor

Some proofing or not easily accessible

Good seal

State of repair

Poor

Average

Excellent

Potential for entry of rodents

High (i.e. well built/ maintained)

Moderate

High (i.e. can easily access the building in its present state)

Potential for harbourage of rodents

High

Average

High (i.e. could easily act as harbourage in its present state)

Auditing rodent control/monitoring programme

Type of control programme

No control programme

Control programme exists, but unsystematic, no records kept

Systematic and written

Monitoring programme

No monitoring programme

Inadequate monitoring

Systematic and written

Auditing rodent populations and baiting

(to be completed for each house and feed store)

Signs of mice inside the house (including beneath slats)³

Abundant

Some/few

None

Signs of rats inside the house (including beneath slats)⁴

Abundant

Some/few

None

Signs of rats outside the house

Abundant

Some/few

None

Level of coverage of baiting inside house ^â

Poor

Average

Very good

³ Includes live/dead rodents' faeces, urine pillars, typical smell, grease marks, uptake of bait, structural damage;

⁴ Includes live/dead rats, burrows, structural damage, uptake of bait.

†Includes plan of baiting/trapping points, type of bait used, dates of baiting replenishment and number of rodents trapped

Quality of the baiting inside house ^â

Poor

Average

Very good

Level of coverage of baiting outside house ^â

Poor

Average

Very good

Quality of the baiting outside house ^â

Poor

Average

Very good

^â evaluated according to presence or risk of infestation