Perdue poultry producers host educational program

While many Kentuckians, including poultry producers, were trying to cope without electricity, Perdue poultry producers were continuing their commitment to learning ways to improve their operation.

Ohio County Senior Center located at the Ohio County Park in Harford, Kentucky, provided shelter for the educational meeting featuring Mr. Robert Rowland with IVESCO Technical Services.

Mr. Rowland has a Masters Degree in Entomology from the University of Florida and over 20 years of experience in poultry pest management.

Mr. Rowland’s two-part presentation began with ‘Maximizing Beetle Control Dollars. How can we kill the most beetles for each dollar we spend?’

His recommendations included:

- Apply the label-recommended amount of each insecticide. Using less than the recommended amount will lead to increased resistance to the insecticide.
- If you are seeing large populations of beetles, apply an insecticide before placement of each flock. This will keep the beetle populations under control in every flock.
- Apply the insecticide using as little water as possible. It is best not to exceed 12 gallons of water in a 500’ house. Change your nozzle tips to get a fine mist (flat-fan 06-08) instead of a coarse spray in order to use less water.
- Apply the insecticide under the feed lines and along the walls instead of the entire house. By focusing the insecticide applications to the areas where the beetles are living when the birds are in the house will offer much better control.
- Add 1-ounce of Citric Acid or PWT to each Organophosphate or Pyrethroid insecticide tank mix before applying the material. The insecticides kill more beetles when they have an acid added to the tank mix.
- Apply the insecticide on top of the litter after caking out, or on top of fresh shavings after clean out. The beetles crawl on top of the litter as they are making their way to the feed line areas after bird placement. You will not get as good results if you apply the insecticide on the bare floor.
- After caking out or clean out, apply insecticide to any litter stored in the stacking shed. This will prevent the beetles from migrating right back into your houses.

Part two of Mr. Rowland’s talk focused on ‘Minimizing Rodent Damage to the poultry operation.’ Following the diagram on page 3, fourteen bait stations should be placed around the perimeter of the poultry house. If cool cells are being used, place two rat-sized stations in each access area. Place an additional bait station at the feed bin area.

For rodent control procedures at cleanout, he recommends:

- Immediately after birds are removed from the barn
- Place a feed tray about 50 feet apart along the walls and a tray at each end door. Put 8 chunks of Rampage in each tray.
- Check and replenish the chunks in the flats everyday for at least 5 days.
- After following these procedures, clean and disinfect the house.
- At any time during cleanout, bait the attic space in the house
- At any time during cleanout, pressure wash all bait stations; allow them to dry then, just prior to chick placement, place fresh bait in all bait stations.

The procedures for the regular maintenance of the rodent control program are as follows:

- Check all baiting locations once each month.
• Open the bait stations, remove the bait, and clean out the inside of the station using a stiff bristled paintbrush.
• Replace with fresh bait if necessary. Be sure to have 2 chunks in the stations along the outside walls and the inside stations, and 3 chunks in the stations at the end of the house and in around the feed bins. Double the recommended amount August thru December.
• All bait stations will be treated using the above procedures, whether they are the large bait stations or the mouse bait stations.

Bait stations need to be checked once every month and kept clean in order for the program to be effective. It is also important to rotate the brand of bait used.

An example of bait rotation would be:

January – April  Hawk Chunks
May – September  Di-Kill Chunks
October – December  Jaguar Chunks

The Perdue Education Committee would like to thank IVESCO, LLC, Neogen Corporation and Perdue Farms for providing the meal.

Written by:
Nancy Butler
Chairperson, Perdue Integrator Education Committee

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**Rodent control bait station placement for broiler and turkey houses**
By Robert Rowland, Ivesco Technical Services

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**Key:**
- = Rat sized bait station

For all broiler and turkey houses place the outside bait stations following this diagram, and if cool cells are being used, place two rat-sized stations in each access area.

When placing all outside stations, attach the Tomcat Rat Bait Stations, or the Tomcat Rodent Station, in an upright position, to the footings or walls; ¾ inches above the ground, using contractors adhesive. The best are PL 500 Outdoor Project Adhesive and Liquid Nails Exterior.

All bait stations will need to be dusted out and baited once each month. This schedule will keep rodents from entering the houses.