

COMPLETED PROJECT REPORT

Project Title: Vertebrate Pest Control Handbook

Research Agency: University of California Cooperative Extension San Diego County

Principal Investigator: T. Salmon

Budget: \$74,663

Background:

The Vertebrate Pest Control Handbook 4th edition (Clark 1994) has been used as a resource on vertebrate pest control throughout the state and nation, and has been considered the standard for vertebrate pest control information in California. However, several portions of the handbook are no longer current, such as the sections on laws and regulations, available pest control products, and information on diseases related to wildlife and humans. Recently, issues about public access to bait formulations and mixing procedures have been raised since this information is considered proprietary and the public cannot generally purchase technical rodenticide materials. Currently, Agricultural Commissioners that manufacture CDFA-registered baits do so under strict guidance from CDFA, so the need to make procedures so readily available is no longer there. The handbook also does not incorporate the latest research on wildlife pest control, much of it funded by VPCRAC. For these and other reasons, the handbook is currently out of print and basically unavailable.

Objectives:

1. Update the information within the handbook using the latest research, recommendations, labels, Material Safety Data Sheets on products, laws, regulations, wildlife disease risks, and other information available.
2. Produce a web-based version of the handbook so that agricultural producers and the public could download information on specific pests or other vertebrate pest questions.
3. In collaboration with CDFA, develop University Pest Notes or other outreach materials from the information produced from this project.
4. Evaluate the impact of the revised handbook on users such as agricultural commissioners, Cooperative Extension advisors and agricultural producers.

Summary

1. The Vertebrate Pest Control Handbook (4th edition) has been completely rewritten. All references to the manufacturing process for rodenticides, rodenticide formulas and confidential ingredients have been removed. The laws and regulations section was extensively rewritten to reflect current Federal and State laws and regulations. New diseases were added to reflect current CDC information. All VPCRAC funded proposals

were reviewed and the information, if appropriate, was added to the relevant portion of the handbook.

2. The handbook has been written as a web document with links to appropriate websites as well as to other areas within the handbook. Once the final edits are made and approved by CDFA, the handbook will be accessible via www.vpcrac.org.
3. Outreach materials based on the information from the handbook have been developed. The ground squirrel control kiosk, reflecting the latest information from the handbook is being deployed to four agricultural commissioners' offices the first week of June.
4. A survey program has been written into the vpcrac.org website and will be activated once the handbook has final CDFA approval.

Last Updated:

01/26/09