



Rodents out of control?



We'd like to hear from you

You probably know about rats as carriers of leptospirosis, but did you know that they could also carry *Salmonella*, APEC, *Pasteurella*, Influenza, proliferative enteropathy...

We have a new research project on rodents' roles in poultry disease, and what might happen under new stricter controls of rodenticide use. We will look at how ecologically-based rodent control – pest management that uses knowledge of the rodent population to target controls most effectively – can work on farms to limit damage and disease spread by mice and rats.

We will trap rodents and screen them for a wide range of poultry diseases. We will work with you to decide which diseases are most relevant to your farm, look for evidence that the same strains are infecting your birds, then continue to trap and test rodents for around 18 months to understand seasonal population changes. This will help to design packages of control measures that can be best applied to different farm types, or disease problems.

How can you get involved?

We are looking for a small number of farms to take part. You would need to commit to working with us for the duration, allowing us on farm to trap in autumn and spring for two years, sharing some veterinary data and letting us collect faecal samples from birds.

We are also interested in hearing from farms undergoing a big change that might impact the rodent population – perhaps a site closure or a decontamination. Lastly, you can also contribute by joining interviews or focus groups to give feedback on proposed control measures.

If you'd like to find out more, contact Judy on J.M.Bettridge@greenwich.ac.uk or 01634 883021