

OCTOBER 2018

## Are you baiting for rats? Records must be kept and provided to your local Productivity Service Group

Rats can cause damage to sugarcane and the overall productivity of a crop. Growers are allowed to bait rats, however there are conditions that must be followed for baiting to occur.

The two species of native rat, the ground rat (*Rattus sordidus*) and the climbing rat (*Melomys burtoni*) are native grassland animals and are protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and their control is subject to the Queensland Government issuing a Damage Mitigation Permit (DMP).

Local Cane Productivity Service (CPS) groups now hold regional DMPs' which are reviewed every three years. This avoids the necessity of individual growers applying for individual permits. Growers baiting must keep a record and provide this information to their local CPS.

The process that must be followed is:

1. Only registered baits may be used. There are three registered for use in sugarcane:
  - **Rattoff**
  - **Racumen**
  - **ZP Rat**
2. Baiting can only occur between **1 October and 30 June**.
3. A record must be when before baiting commences. Information required:
  - **Date commenced and date completed**
  - **Area baited**
  - **Product used – Rattoff or Racumen or ZP rat**
  - **Species being targeted – Ground rat or climbing rat or both**
  - **Name and farm number**
  - **Lot & Plan**
4. Provide records via one of the following within 48 hours:
  - The easiest option is via the MAPS portal <https://www.maps.org.au/rat-mou>; or
  - Give to your productivity services group.



If the process is not followed, there is a risk district-wide DMPs will not be renewed, and growers will need to apply for individual DMPs to do baiting.

### Other options when access is an issue - Aerial application

With the support of SRA, HCPSL & MAPS, CANEGROWERS secured a permit to allow for aerial application where crops are not accessible for ground distribution baiting methods. This method is only permitted in lodged cane.

Aerial Application details:

1. Only **Rattoff Zinc Phosphide bait sachets** may be applied.
2. Application method must be via helicopter or UAV only, not a fixed-wing aircraft.
3. Growers are required to report the same information as outlined above and provide this to the local Cane Productivity Service group.
4. Hold the correct certifications for UAV use.

These records should be provided to your local productivity services group, who will forward to CANEGROWERS to be reported as the permit holder.

**For further information:  
Contact your local Productivity Services advisor,  
SRA or CANEGROWERS.**