



### **Downtime Baiting Procedures**

Jason Price, National Technical Support Manager

The most important and best time to eliminate rodents is during downtime between flocks and herds. Below you will find recommendations on how to prepare your houses, and how to bait starting immediately after birds or hogs have exited the houses.

#### **Bait no less than 2-3 days in a row with 7 or more days being your best-case scenario.**

- As soon as production animals leave the farm, close all houses up tight and simulate the house environment as if birds or hogs were still there. (An undisturbed house environment keeps rodents in place and looking to eat instead of migrating.)
- Remove all feed or other food sources from the farm as soon as possible (Do this so there is not a competing food source working against the rodenticides.)
- In poultry houses, lower the waterlines to give rodents their natural runway down the cables as if birds are still present.
- If you are having to enter the houses to windrow, de-cake the litter or washdown the houses, it would be best to let the houses sit for at least 2-3 days undisturbed with 7 days being the best scenario. By not disturbing the rodent's day to day activities, this should allow them to find the bait and they will more than likely consume a lethal dose.
- Put out feed trays down the walls with Cannon II blocks or soft bait for less than 2 weeks turnaround time. Placements for mice 8-12 feet apart and placements for rats 15-30 feet apart. These can vary depending on hotspots.
- Do not bait with Cannon II and any anticoagulant bait at the same time. Since Cannon II has a stop feeding mode of action, the rodents may associate that with the anticoagulant bait since they have the same texture.
- If you are having to work the litter or wash down houses within 2-3 days after birds leave, you will have to pick up the bait and place it back down once you have completed the work inside the houses. One of the important things to remember is to keep the bait clean and fresh, because rodents will not eat wet or tainted bait. You must have all the bait picked up before bird placement.
- Don't forget to also concentrate on the other areas of the houses including attics, litter pits, half house control rooms, work rooms, cool cell areas/doghouses, well houses and any other structures in proximity of the houses.
- Make sure all bait stations on the outside perimeter of houses have fresh bait in them and the stations are clear of debris (grass, fire ant mounds, nesting material and old bait).
- Using the Aegis-RP stations, the 3 vertical rods inside the station can be baited with Cannon II soft bait or mini blocks. Increase or decrease the amount of bait on the vertical rods depending on the consumption rate per day, within the amounts indicated on the product label.
- Monitor the bait in the houses and bait stations daily to determine the consumption rate, which will in turn determine the population level you are baiting for. If you are under baiting the infestation you have, this can lead to rodents no longer eating the bait with Cannon II due to its stop feeding mode of action.

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- As the bait consumption rate decreases you can increase the number of days between bait checks in the house or stations.
  - Ideally once this happens and birds or hogs repopulate your houses, you will need to monitor the bait stations every 2 weeks and then possibly only once a month if the population stays in check. Relocate bait placements if needed, to ensure they are inaccessible to non-target animals.
  - Always ensure the bait stays fresh and does not get contaminated or wet.
  - Using the Aegis-AP Anchor bait stations you will see cleaner stations due to the 1 3/8-inch increase in height from the weighted blocks attached to the bottom of the stations. They also stay in place without having to attach them to the houses due to the added weight.
- ❖ **Reminder: the label is the law. Please read and follow the label for application instructions. For more information, go to: <https://liphatech.com/animal-health-biosecurity/>**

