

PROJECT REPORT

Project Title: Vertebrate Pest Research in California Website for the VPCRAC, the Public, Vertebrate Pest Control Researchers, and Others Concerned with Vertebrate Pests

Research Agency: University of California Cooperative Extension

Principal Investigator: Terrell P. Salmon

Budget: \$57,580.00

Background:

VPCRAC had funded a series of contracts with the University of California to develop and various aspects of a computer database of the research projects approved by the VPCRAC. The database and the accompanying 3-ring binder have recently been replaced by the updated VPCRAC website. Newly standardized grant proposal and progress report templates allow expedited transfer of proceedings, as well as more efficient and easier to use reports. This on-line system also brings this information to the public, giving easier access to the fully disclosed database of reports.

Objectives:

1. Continually improve the VPCRAC website
2. Develop a sophisticated user survey system
3. Obtain data from researchers on current projects.

Summary:

Throughout the duration of this grant numerous changes have been made to the www.vpcrac.org website:

Vertebrate Pest Control Handbook

The Vertebrate Pest Control Handbook (4th edition) has been completely rewritten as a web document with links to appropriate websites as well as to other areas within the handbook. The handbook is now fully accessible from multiple pages within the www.vpcrac.org website and can be printed by any user, see Figure 2.

Calendar

The calendar is a feature that is constantly monitored and changed to reflect upcoming events of interest in the vertebrate pest control arena. For example, the twice yearly VPCRAC meeting details are displayed on the website calendar. Most recently the biannual 24th Vertebrate Pest Conference information was displayed in the calendar.

New Web Links

Rodenticide Baits: At the request of the Vertebrate Pest Control Research Advisory Committee a web link to Kings County rodenticide bait sales webpage was inserted into the VPCRAC website. As other County Agricultural Commissioner web links become available they will also be added. This provides convenience for the online user in being able to simply click on the web link from the vpcrac.org website to obtain information about rodenticide bait sales, see Figure 3.

VPCRAC Meeting Minutes: A web link has been created within the content section describing the Vertebrate Pest Control Research Advisory Committee that will contain past approved VPCRAC meeting minutes. The range will be 2005 until present. Currently minutes for 2008 and the first half of 2009 are displayed and can be viewed. Meeting minutes will be added as they become available, see Figure 4.

Other Website Content

A full review of all the website text and content was made with minor modifications where appropriate. For example, template documents were amended to accurately reflect the grant submission process.

Additionally, graphs and images were reviewed for accuracy. The graph detailing Rodenticide Surcharge funds expended on research projects was updated from 2005 to include data up to the end of 2008.

Conclusion

It is our recommendation the Vertebrate Pest Control Research Advisory Committee continue to facilitate the continuous maintenance of the www.vpcrac.org website. Because of the nature of the internet it is often difficult to project the future needs of online users. Online users do expect constant updates and relevant information when utilizing websites. The continued maintenance of websites is essential to keeping the website up to date and well used as a communication tool. From initial development to continued maintenance the authors of this report through the University of California

have been able to utilize resources available to them. Their expertise, knowledge and experience in the areas of vertebrate pest control make modifications to the website seamless.

As new content and ideas are incorporated into the website its use will grow throughout the state. One future possibility is the addition of vertebrate pest control and rodenticide education and certification which the authors are uniquely positioned to incorporate into the website through their prior projects.

Last Updated
01/21/2011