

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 However, several portions of the handbook are no longer current, such as the sections on laws and regulations, available pest control products, and information on diseases related to wildlife and humans.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.

Progress to Date:

July - September 2006: This quarter focused on preparation and planning for revision of the CDFA Vertebrate Pest Control Handbook. In July, a meeting was conducted between representatives from CDFA and UC. From this meeting a report was developed outlining the parameters of the new manual, assignment of responsibilities and a time line for activities to be completed. In August an initial new book framework and new chapter outline were developed.

A meeting was conducted to develop the web book concept and determine any pre-requisites for web publication. Research and editing work has started on 6 of the 23 vertebrate mammal pests to be included in the booklet. Photographic materials, diagrams and sketches were obtained from various University resources. Database compilation and categorization of these materials has begun with the aim of creating a database of computer format images for the web publication.

Last Updated:

12/18/06