

When inspecting your breeder or broiler house, there are critical steps to take in making sure you have covered all possible and likely areas of activity. Those steps include:

1. Exterior Inspection

- a. Check for burrowing in the ground along the outside wall
- b. Check outside bait stations for bait consumption and/or activity
- c. Inspect ground for trails coming from hay/crop fields or woods/trees
- d. Take a look around your feed bins for activity from rodents searching for food
- e. Check outside wall for gnaw holes and entry points

2. Interior Inspection

- a. Check electrical rooms, egg collection areas, storage rooms, etc
 - i. These are forgotten areas that are sometimes quiet and rodents see as a perfect place to live
- b. Check attic area for mice or roof rat activity
 - i. Rodents will use attics to nest and to travel out of sight
- c. Inspect beneath slats for burrowing and runways
 - i. Burrows and runways will usually be along the inside wall
- d. When wall voids are present, inspect for gnaw holes and rub marks
 - i. Rodents will use wall voids to travel and nest
- e. Check cool cell/dark outs for activity
 - i. Rodents will nest on top of cool cell pads and dark outs
 - ii. Cool cell pads are easy to gnaw through and gain access to the house
- f. Inspect for gnaw holes and rub marks on the inside wall
 - i. These are likely areas of entry
- g. Check area where feed enters the house
 - i. This is usually an area of higher activity

3. Night Inspection

- a. Will give a true picture of what the rodent activity on a farm is
- b. Perform the inspection around dusk or when the lights turn off in the evening
- c. Bring a flashlight with a strong beam for inspection
- d. Bring a notepad to record where areas of activity are so you can remember to address them the next day

Consistency is the key in a strong rodenticide program. Frequent inspections will show when a rodent population makes a change in the population size, behavior, or preferred nesting areas. Knowing when these things happen will help you adapt faster.