

Provincial Rat Eradication Program (PREP)

Recommendations and Best Practices 2011

Rat eradication in Saskatchewan starts by recognizing the expertise and experiences of pest control officers across the province to establish best practices. The PREP Board has developed the following recommendations for Pest Control Officers and Rural Municipalities for the purpose of moving towards provincial rat eradication:

1. Supervisor Sign-off of Notice to Destroy Forms
2. Bylaws preventing the sale of Norway (Fancy) rats
3. Landfill Inspections
4. PCO Qualifications & Recommendations
5. PCO Remuneration
6. Best Practices for RMs
7. Grain Bag Usage

1. Regional PCO Supervisor Sign-Off of Notice to Destroy Forms

PREP recommends that local Pest Control Officers acquire Regional PCO Supervisor sign-off on Notice to Destroy Forms. Though not currently a requirement of the province's Pest Control Act, the PREP Board maintains that this practice will ensure all other avenues to resolve issues are exhausted *before* a notice is issued to the landowner. It will also document the support of PREP and the Regional Supervisor behind the PCO issuing it. See the PREP website for Regional Supervisor contact information.

2. Bylaws Preventing the Sale of Norway Rats (aka "Fancy Rats")

The commercial sale of rats as pets under the principles of free enterprise in Saskatchewan is counter to the mandate of the Provincial Rat Eradication Program. To date, there are no provincial bylaws preventing the sale of rats as pets; however, RMs need not feel powerless in this issue. The PREP Board recommends that individual RMs pass their own local bylaws in this regard. Precedence has been set by other RMs in the province and sample bylaws are available for individual RMs to draft their own. Contact the PREP Manager for more information.

3. Landfill Inspections

PREP recommends that landfills be inspected monthly. Diligence is necessary for preventing and controlling rat infestation. Best practices indicate that annual spring baiting is inadequate to control rats and often new infestations occur between spring and fall. Repeat baiting in the fall saves money because new infestations are caught early. PREP suggests landfills be baited twice per year in spring and fall and that Pest Control Officers return to areas of high or repeat infestation as needed.



Photos courtesy of Grant Peeling

4. PCO Qualifications & Recommendations

All Pest Control Officers should:

- Maintain a current license
- Maintain records as required by RM or Saskatchewan Agriculture
- Inspect each agricultural site in an RM (grain, feed or livestock)
- Instruct residents/ratepayers regarding proper use of rodenticides
- Provide instructions on how to bait and proper bait placement
- Strive to maintain a good working relationship with all residents/ratepayers/municipal councils whenever possible
- Inspect to make sure proper baiting is done

5. Best Practices for Rural Municipalities

PREP administers grant money to the RMs for rat eradication efforts. Rural municipalities can support rat eradication efforts through the following means:

- Provide rat bait free of charge to rate payers
- Pay for their Pest Control Officer's membership to the Saskatchewan Pest Control Officers Association (SPCOA) and cover expenses for them to attend educational workshops and training.
- Copy their ADD Board on all PREP updates as needed
- Keep informed about inspections and infestations within the RM by maintaining good communication with PCOs (and ADD or Pest Control Boards if necessary).

6. PCO Remuneration

PREP conducted a survey of Saskatchewan RMs in November 2011, requesting PCO remuneration information. View our [PCO Remuneration Survey results summary](#).

7. Grain Bag Usage

The use of grain bags for long term storage purposes more often than not leads to rats. Grain bag usage should be limited to nine months and used only as short term storage. Grain should not be stored under bags in the same location year after year, as the likelihood of re-infestation increases. Disposal of grain bags is also important to keeping rat populations down and PREP encourages RMs to participate in the [Saskatchewan Grain Bag Recycling](#) program.



Infested grain bags (Photo courtesy of Grant Peeling)

*For more information on PREP, visit our website at
www.prep.sarm.ca*