

The Rodent Index System

This IPM scouting system employs the use of mechanical traps (tin cats) to trap mice over a period of time. The goal is to have less than 10 mice from twelve traps in one week (rodent index ≤ 1) counted.

To account for days in use and number of traps used for monitoring the following algorithm is employed.

$$\text{Rodent Index [RI]} = \frac{\left(\frac{\text{Number of mice caught in all traps}}{\text{Number of functioning traps}} \right) * 12}{\text{Number of day's traps are set}} * 7$$

This formula normalizes for periods of time traps are set and the number of traps used beyond the normal values of seven and twelve respectively.

When measured over time the rodent index (RI) will indicate levels of control currently in place, and whether action needs to be taken to control a growing population.

RI and Mouse levels

- RI = 1 (0-10 mice) *Low* [desired level]
- RI = 2 (11-25 mice) *Moderate* [Controls needed if continues 2 wks.]
- RI = 3 (26 + mice caught) *High Level* [Controls needed...Now !]



Consolidated from PA egg quality assurance program (PEQAP) by Dr. Gregory Martin,
Penn State Extension – poultry gpm10@psu.edu