



AB Vista

Alltech

Andres Pinaluba

Aveve Biochem

Ayurved

Biomin

CID Lines

DACS

Easy Bio

Elster

Henke-Sass Wolf

Hubbard

Invesa

LUBING

Meriden Animal Health

Norel

Olmix

OVET

VICTAM International

Vermin

Typically, vermin are rats and mice but this term can also include other animals like lizards, snakes and monkeys/baboons. The latter can become a real nuisance if they develop a liking for eating eggs. Rats, mice and lizards are notorious salmonella carriers. 'Typhimurium' actually means fever of mice and mice have been implicated in carrying Salmonella enteritidis into newly placed poultry flocks.

The route into poultry flocks

Rats and mice will happily eat poultry feed and then nest in stacks of straw bales, both of which they readily contaminate with their faeces. In cold countries they are also attracted by the warmth of poultry houses.

If a rat or mouse falls into a header tank it can not usually get out so it drowns and decomposes, ultimately releasing all the germs in its body into the water. Lizards are very capable climbers and small lizards are virtually impossible to keep out of poultry houses. Cockerels have been known to catch and eat lizards!

Any clutter or debris, such as stacks of old nest boxes, piles of old sacks and old disused drains or overgrown open ditch drains, provide ideal habitats, especially for rats.

Control

The first aspect of vermin control is to make the poultry farm unattractive for rats and mice. This includes removing all possible havens, such as old equipment and overgrown ditches. In addition, mice do not like going over open ground because they are susceptible to attacks from hawks and other birds of prey during the day and by owls at night. Six inches of grass can hide mouse runs. So, another aspect of vermin control is to surround each poultry house by a zone of clear ground. This is easy to do in desert regions but not so easy in the tropics where plants grow quickly and their roots are often needed to minimise erosion by heavy rains.

Do not leave food, such as feed spillages or dead birds, around the poultry houses. In arid regions water can also be strongly attractive to vermin.

Remember rats can travel hundreds of metres in search of a new home, so beware of potential populations of rats in the neighbourhood and consider if it is worth trying to remove them.

Dr Bata • Hato • Hotraco • Intracare • Reventa • Waste Spectrum • Plumatech • VDL Rotem • Gasolec • Fieravicola • OX-CTA • Veit • Inform Nutrition • Jansen • Nuscience Multiheat International • Chemoforma • Novation • Quat-Chem