Like all of Bell’s rodenticides, Ditrac® Ground Squirrel bait contains only the highest-grade toxicants and inert ingredients for outstanding rodent acceptance and control. Ditrac® Ground Squirrel bait is now available through Bell distributors, in select U.S. states. Ground squirrels can cause extensive damage and also carry and transmit disease. Their burrows cause structural damage to ornamentals, lawns, sports fields, parks, golf courses, and levees, which can lead to human injuries and damage equipment - costing property owners a significant amount of time and money.

PEST WORLD 2015 IN NASHVILLE - OCT. 20-23

Mark your calendars for PestWorld 2015, this fall at the Grand Opryland Hotel & Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

Bell’s booth #615 will be easy to spot this year – look for Bell’s EVO Mouse and Contrac® Blox towering over the exhibit. This is where the Bell team will be to answer questions and discuss new products and expanded labels for select Bell rodenticides.

See you in Music City, October 20-23!

Island Conservation continued from page 3

feat in island restoration. With many years and several million pounds of bait to be dis- tributed, Bell and partners at Island Conserva- tion work towards 100% removal of invasive rodents.

“For island projects only 100% eradication is acceptable,” said Craig Riekena, Bell’s Compliance Manager.

If any rodents are found on follow up in- vestigations at one and two years post appli- cation, the project is considered a failure. This is because the inherent isolation of these is- lands and typical lack of predators means that just a few rodents left unkillled will repopulate and resume their destructive ways in just a few years.

After initial surveys, the project shows signs of success. “It will be one year before we can declare the six islands rat-free, but initial signs are very positive,” said Steve Cranwell – Operation Manager and Invasive Species expert from BirdLife Pacific, in a recent report from project headquarters.

“In the last few days of the operation more Polynesian Ground-dove and Tuiotua Sand- piper were sighted on Vahanga,” said Richard Griffiths, Island Conservation Project Direc- tor. “This is a sign of hope for recovery not only for these French Polynesian species, but for the hundreds of threatened island species around the world waiting for similar interven- tions on their behalf.”

Rats are nothing new to sugarcane pro- ducers in Guatemala. As one of the most damaging pests that growers have to deal with, managers and producers stop at nothing to protect their valuable crop from a rodent’s sweet tooth.

Rats, in particular the Cotton Rat, cause extensive destruction to sugarcane yield. Rats gnaw through the ring of the sugarcane stalk in order to eat the juicy tissue inside. This causes anything above the chewed portion to die and attracts insects and other pests to the hollowed out section.

Just a mere six inches of gnawing can com- pletely damage a full 30-foot sugarcane stalk. Every one percent of damage to each hectare of crop represents half a ton (1,000 lbs) lost in sugar production. It’s a costly pest problem that requires creative methods to eliminate.

After a recent presentation with the Sugar- cane Growers Pest Control Association, Bell’s Latin American Business Manager, Dan De Poli, gave a box of Bell’s Trapper T-Rex® Snap Traps to sugarcane producers to test in the fields. After much success, one company in particular, Ingenio Madre Tierra, was ready to put the T-Rex to the ultimate test.

Ingenio Madre Tierra (translates to ‘Mother Earth’) is Guatemala’s fourth largest sugarcane producer, and second largest in output. With over 18,500 hectares of crop (plus production facilities), an aggressive Integrated Pest Man- agement (IPM) program is fundamental to suc- cessful crop maintenance.

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See you in Music City, October 20-23!
Birds-of-prey that hunt rodents

Continued from front page

So, Perez and his team purchased 3,000 of Bell’s T-Rex T-Rex snap traps to use for not only trapping, but also monitoring rodent pres- sure. They placed seven traps in each hectare of land, using corn tortillas as an attractant. Based on the percent of captures, Perez would then determine the amount of bait to use.

“If we see a rate per hectare was less than 8%, no baiting took place. 8%-15%, then one kilo of bait was placed per hectare. 16%-30% - two kilos, and so on,” explained De Poli.

This strategy avoided the costly mistake of either over baiting or under baiting the fields as part of an ongoing effort to use less rodenti- cides.

Traps and IPM

In crop and commercial food processing ac- counts, trapping is an essential component to a comprehensive IPM approach to rodent pre- vention and control. It can be the most effec- tive method to eliminate rodents quick. Dead rodents can easily be disposed, eliminating any odors or other issues.

“We are trying to reduce our bait usage con- siderably by increasing the amount of traps,” said Perez. “Not only to monitor, but also to control and reduce populations mechanically.”

The T-Rex not only traps rodents with its patented interlocking teeth, but it’s also built with a durable plastic material to withstand the harshest environments, and can be re-used again and again with continued results.

The durability and performance of T-Rex went above and beyond Perez and his team. Where wood traps failed, T-Rex outperformed the rest. Overcoming the extreme environmental conditions that caused other traps to break, T-Rex performed despite heat, humidity, rain and direct sun.

“The account noticed a much higher kill rate per hectare,” said De Poli. “With the T-Rex, the trapping rate improved to 11 kills for every 12 snaps.”

This strategy avoided the costly mistake of either over baiting or under baiting the fields as part of an ongoing effort to use less rodenti- cides.

Another benefit of T-Rex was the ease-of-use for applicators in the field. “They are much easier to use and safer for our employ- ees,” said Perez.

When setting 3,000 traps across 18,500 hectares of land (that is about 45,700 acres), safety and ease-of-use is of top priority. The T-Rex is a safer option because it can be set eas- ily by foot or hand. Applicators simply have to press the lever on the back of the trap and they are good to go. The removable bait cup can be withdrawn to fill with an attractant, and then re-inserted without having the trap set.

“With the results and durability of the T- Rex, they’re already paid for themselves,” said Perez. The team at Ingenio Madre Tierra is so pleased with how T-Rex has performed in the sugarcane fields, they will soon place an order for 2,000 additional traps.

“T-Rex continues to be a favorite tool used for IPM in Latin America,” said De Poli. “When it comes to mechanical control, it has quickly become the market’s number one choice.”

Return to Paradise

A historic project to eradicate rats from the French Polynesian Islands.

Continued on back page

A mother island rat eradication project is underway, this time in the Pacific par- adise of the French Polynesian Islands. Lo- cated in the South Pacific Ocean hallway between California and Australia, it is known as an exclusive island escape, filled with stunning turquoise lagoons and picturesque landscapes.

Visited by honeymooners and travelers alike, the island is now the site to which will likely be the largest ever rat eradication proj- ect. BirdLife International, with SOP Manu (BirdLife Partner in French Polynesia) and Island Conservation are leading the opera- tion across the remote areas of the French Polynesian Islands.

The first phase of bait application fin- ished in July of this year. For Bell, the French Polynesian project is currently the largest island bait donation to date with more than 200,000 pounds of Brodifacoum pellets manufactured and donated.

The project team of 31 successfully car- ried out the aerial rodenticide bait drop. For several weeks, the team bated more than 1,300 hectares of land spread across two is- lands in the Acteon group (Vahanga and Tenarunga), and four islands in the Gambier group (Tetemo, Kamaka, Makara, and Maua).

The French Polynesian project is expected to span over 20 years and 48 islands, requir- ing more than 16 million pounds of bait spread across almost 100,000 hectares of is- land land. It’s an ambitious undertaking - with the hope that the island groups will be free of invasive rodents and the native ani- mals and plants will return to their fabled beauty and abundance.

In particular, the project aims to restore the populations of one of the world’s most rare and endangered birds, the Polynesian Ground-dove. Found only in French Poly- nezian, invasive rodents nearly wiped out the population, with BirdLife International esti- mating fewer than 100 birds remain today.

A Familiar Story

Despite the isolation of these islands, res- ident- species were not immune to human in- terference. Decades ago the Norway rat, Polynesian rat and other invasive species overran the island groups of French Polynesia. They fed on the young chicks and hatchlings of the famed ground-dove, along with native species including the endangered Tui motu Sandpiper.

Because the island species evolved with- out predatory animals, they were particu- larly susceptible to hungry rodents that preyed on the eggs and chicks of the flight- less birds.

“Imvasive alien species are a key driver of global biodiversity loss,” says Don Stewart, Director of BirdLife Pacific. “Introduced mammals alone are believed to be responsi- ble for 90% of all bird extinctions since 1500, and are presently the main cause of decline for nine out of 10 globally threat- ened birds within the Pacific.”

Without intervention by Island Conserva- tion with support from Bell, these famed and endangered species would be driven to extinc- tion.

The Road Ahead

The completion of Phase 1 is a remarkable

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Nests built throughout the sugarcane fields; entice birds-of-prey that hunt rodents

Patented interlocking teeth of the Trapper T-Rex deliver quick results with a powerful snap.

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