

## Keep the Rats ALL OUT

Rodents can be a sneaky and potentially deadly carrier of many poultry diseases such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, or HPAI. A poultry house offers attractive shelter and nesting sites, especially during cold weather, and availability of food and water. Pests such as rats and mice are never polite enough to knock or enter through the front door and they also travel from farm to farm. So, effective rodent control is a must.

There are four basic steps that poultry growers can take to prevent an infestation or remove it once a rodent has made its way inside a poultry house:

1. Sanitation
2. Rodent-proof construction
3. Rodent population reduction
4. Evaluation



For this **ALL-IN** segment, we'll focus on sanitation. . . .

The primary purpose of clean practices is to expose evidence of critters attempting to burrow through. Mow the grass regularly and keep a 3-foot perimeter around the poultry house that is free of brush, trash, and other clutter.

Also, always clean up feed spills quickly and completely to avoid leaving an inviting trail for rodents to sniff out and follow.

You likely will never be able to build a total fortress against rodent invasion, but proper sanitation sure can keep you better prepared – and lessen the chance of yet another potential AI carrier infecting your birds.

*This segment provided in part from information compiled by the Mississippi State University Extension Service.*

**ALL IN**  
**or ALL GONE**

**PROTECT YOUR FARM.  
PROTECT YOUR LIVELIHOOD.**