AG WATER CHEMICAL
Water Treatment Services
Rodent Management / SDI

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Rodent Management

• Why have a plan?
  – SDI is a 5-7 year investment
  – Pocket Gophers = Yield Losses (in excess of 8%)
  – No single solution to the problem
  – A layered, integrated approach is best!!!
Rodent Control Plan

• Assess Situation: What are the issues?
• Manage Problem (Prior to Install / Planting)
  – Baiting
  – Deep Ripping
  – Protec-T Dripperline treatment at plow-in
• Evaluate Techniques / Best Fit
Rodent Control Techniques

- Habitat Modification
- Baiting
- Burrow Fumigation
- Trapping
- Biological Controls
- Protec-T Application
Habitat Modification

• Mechanical: Deep Ripping
• Remove Weeds
• Remove Food Sources
• Create Buffer Zones
Baiting

- About 40% Efficacy
- Various Products Available:
  - Anticoagulants
  - Zinc Phosphide
  - Strychnine (Difficult to acquire)!!!
- Change Bait: Gophers become “bait shy”!!!
- Bait field perimeter when using Protec-T!!!!
Fumigation

• Tablets / Pellets 55%-60% aluminum phosphide
• Gas Cartridges
• Carbon Monoxide Machines: PERC Machine ($$$)
• Difficult to get fumigants to spread through burrows
• Affected by moisture, etc.
• General Consensus: Not very effective
Trapping

- Consensus: More efficient than baiting
- Box Traps & Pincers (Gophinator)
- Cover or No Cover?
- Check w/in 24 Hours / Relocate
- Attractants not significantly more effective!!!
Biological Controls

- Owl Boxes
- Owls eat 150 rodents / year
- 1 Owl Box / 10 acres
- Placement Critical
- About 40%-70% Occupied
Protec-T

• What is Protec-T?
• Environmentally Safe Product utilized as part of a gopher management strategy.
• Protec-T is applied through the irrigation system.
• How does it work?
How does Protec-T work?

- As part of a gopher management strategy:
  - Protec-T’s smell prevents damage to dripperline
  - Protec-T attaches to soil and remains effective for a few months
  - Protec-T has shown up to 90% reduction in damage when utilized appropriately
  - Apply in early Spring and Fall
  - Rate: 1 Gallon / Acre
Protec-T Effectiveness

Day 1  Day 2  Day 4

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Protec-T: Application Guidelines

- Apply in early Spring & Fall
- Bait field perimeter
- Pre-irrigate field prior to application
- Fix leaks / breaks in irrigation system
- Shut system down for at least 24 hours after application!!!
- Utilize owl boxes, trapping to increase effectiveness!!!
Summary

• Protec-T effective as part of a gopher management strategy in SDI: Repair Costs About $200 / Acre.

• Additional tools include:
  – Owl Boxes
  – Baiting Perimeter
  – Trapping

• Gopher Management is an on-going effort!!

• Gophers account for 17% crop losses in Alfalfa (average)