

Agricultural Innovation Insider Newsletter

New Organic Pest Control Method Wins Organic Product Verification

The Rodenator Pro is the only verified organic rodent control method targeting burrowing pests without poison or labor-intensive trapping that can collapse tunnels to prevent re-infestation

Until recently organic growers, dairy and livestock producers have had precious few effective options to protect crops, livestock, and farm equipment from burrowing rodents, their troublesome mounds and collapsing tunnels.

“Organic growers have needed better, more productive tools for years,” says Dale Johnson, who’s on the Board of Directors at Custom Certification Services, a subsidiary of the Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA). “For the industry to continue growing at 20% per year, that has to change. What’s asked today is, ‘Can the organic industry feed the world?’ The answer: definitely yes — given new tools that enable food safety, quality, and productivity.”

One such new tool, the Rodenator Pro, has won Custom Certification Services Verification. It is the only rodent control method that targets burrowing pests without poison or labor-intensive trapping which is capable of collapsing tunnels to prevent re-infestation.

Manufactured by Midvale, Idaho-based Meyer Industries, the Rodenator Pro injects a calibrated mix of propane and oxygen into the targeted gopher or rodent’s burrow. Since propane is heavier than air, the gaseous mix sinks to the lowest parts of the burrow where the nest usually is. When the operator electronically activates this mixture of blended gases from the end of the application wand, the oxygen mixture rapidly expands at 5,000 feet per second, creating a high pressure shockwave that kills the rodent and collapses the tunnel systems of many burrowing species.

“The Rodenator Pro is a totally new process that we took our time to thoroughly verify,” says Johnson of Custom Certification Services’ verification process.



The Rodenator Pro, has won Custom Certification Services Organic Verification. It is the only rodent control method that targets burrowing pests without poison or labor-intensive trapping which is capable of collapsing tunnels to prevent re-infestation.

“We asked, ‘Is this harmful to the environment? Does it use or leave any toxins?’ We determined that it’s a very safe, clean process, and it’s now available for use by all organic producers.”

“The organic industry hasn’t seen anything like the Rodenator Pro,” adds Johnson, who’s also an OCIA member and has been farming organically for years. “With it, growers could rid themselves of rodent problems in record time whether they’re working farms, pastures, dairies, or orchards. Since it’s in compliance with domestic and international organic programs, it’ll increase growers market flexibility to sell their product wherever needed at the best price.”

The Rodenator Pro is in compliance with the following domestic and international organic programs:

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- * the United States National Organic Program (NOP)
- * OCIA International Standards accredited by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)
- * Japan Agricultural Standards (JAS)
- * Council Regulations (EEC) EU 2092/91 (EU)
- * Conseil Des Appellations Agroalimentaires Du Quebec (CAAQ)

Because the system ignites the mixture of propane and oxygen immediately, it leaves no chemical residue behind and is suitable for organic pest control. Since the resulting concussion will often collapse the tunnel system and bury the pest, growers don't handle the carcass and new gophers or rodents won't re-inhabit the collapsed tunnels.

Custom Certification Services scrutinized the Rodenator Pro, giving extra attention to the fact that liquid propane (LP) is used as part of the process. Research has shown that the Rodenator Pro leaves less LP residue than flaming to burn weeds from a field, which is an approved process for organic farming.

"The Rodenator Pro uses no unapproved products," says Johnson. "Having satisfied the verification process down to the smallest detail, it's deemed safe for soil and product for any organic producer. The organic industry always errs on the side of safety and this is no exception."

What is exceptional about the Rodenator Pro is its ability to adhere to rigorous organic standards while offering growers unparalleled productivity in controlling burrowing rodent menaces.

Cameron Tomkins-Bergh, owner of Gopher Busters a River Falls, Wisconsin-based pest control company, has used the Rodenator Pro on a certified organic dairy farm after previous experience with trapping.

"Setting traps and driving through fields twice a day to check them for weeks on end is just too time consuming," says Tomkins-Bergh. "Growers don't have that kind of time, and finding qualified trappers



Cameron Tomkins-Bergh, owner of Gopher Busters a River Falls, Wisconsin, cites the Rodenator Pro's productivity edge over traditional rodent control methods like trapping. "It's at least ten times more effective than trapping time-wise," he explains. "It takes about a minute per blast at each gopher hole, and when you destroy the tunnels it helps prevent re-infestation."

can be difficult. A couple of people I know have had to put cows down because they've stepped into a gopher hole and broken a leg."

Tomkins-Bergh notes that gopher mounds can be a huge menace for farm machinery like haybines. "The mounds can make fields so bumpy that machinery is almost unusable," he says. "You can jam, damage or break machinery on mounds. When service calls run \$60 an hour and parts up to several thousand dollars, disregarding gopher mounds can be a costly mistake."

From personal experience, Tomkins-Bergh cites the Rodenator Pro's productivity edge over traditional rodent control methods like trapping. "It's at least ten times more effective than trapping time-wise," explains Tomkins-Bergh. "It takes about a minute per blast at each gopher hole, and when you destroy the tunnels it helps prevent re-infestation."

"Today, the Rodenator Pro is the most cost-effective way to control rodents while complying with organic standards," concludes Tomkins-Bergh. "It's an invaluable new tool for organic growers needing to keep their crops, orchards, livestock, dairy cows, or machinery safe from rodent appetites, mounds, holes, or collapsing tunnels."

The Rodenator Pro organic pest control system can be used to eliminate burrowing pests from gophers, ground squirrels, moles, voles, groundhogs, and prairie dogs to rats, fox, coyote, and woodchucks.

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For a free consultation, call 877-RODENATOR; fax 208-355-0103; visit www.rodenator.com; email sales@rodenator.com; or write to Meyer Industries at PO Box 39, Midvale, ID 83645.

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