

PRESS RELEASE ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR RESPONSIBLE RODENTICIDE USE (CRRU)

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First Wildlife Aware course on 2nd Feb 2010 in Reading

The first BASIS-accredited *Wildlife Aware* training course developed by the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) will take place on Tuesday 2nd February at the University of Reading, it was announced at PestTech.

As other dates and locations are set during 2010, they will be announced in the pest press and available from CRRU member companies. By the end of this year, CRRU aims to have 25 BASIS-accredited trainers available. To cover speakers' expenses, venue costs and the BASIS on-line exam, without a profit margin, there will be a course fee which may vary according to venue pricing. The aim is to keep this at about £150 per person. Places can be booked with the BASIS office.

The one-day course is designed for qualified pest control technicians working in rural situations for both private and public sector employers. It offers an easy-to-follow code of practice for responsible and effective rodent pest control, and an update on essential knowledge and recent developments. Accreditation is by a post-course examination, moderated and marked by BASIS.

At the launch, CRRU chairman Dr Alan Buckle said: "On gaining accredited status, participants will be entitled to use the licensed Wildlife Aware logo to signify their competence in combining effective control of pest rodents with minimising non-target animals' exposure to rodenticides.

"Accreditation will indicate to users of pest control services that the holder will work to the highest standards in order to achieve effective control with minimal risk to wildlife and the environment."

Accredited individuals will have their name and employer listed on a register maintained by BASIS and on the CRRU website (www.thinkwildlife.org.uk). Under the BASIS CPD scheme, accreditation also carries 10 CPD points. Places on the course will be offered first to the 80-plus members of the CRRU Supporters Club.

Information about booking places on a forthcoming course is available from BASIS (www.basis-reg.com, tel 01335 343945) and CRRU (www.thinkwildlife.org.uk). The activities of CRRU are managed and funded by the following group of companies: Syngenta Professional Pest Management, Rentokil Initial, PelGar International, Novartis Animal Health, Killgerm Group, Bell Laboratories, BASF Pest Control Solutions.

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Further information: Dr Alan Buckle, CRRU chairman, alan@alanbuckleconsulting.com, tel: +44 (0)1730 826715 or +44 (0)7881 656564.

Issued by: Phil Christopher, Red Rock Publicity, phil@redrock.uk.com, 07802 672304.