

How to prepare and use bait cards

1. Cut sufficient cards (10cm by 10cm) from bond (photocopy etc.) paper to lay out 10 cards in each chosen location.
2. Soak the cards in canola oil for 5-10 minutes and drain on paper towel for several minutes.
3. Peg out cards at 10 metre intervals at right angles from the edge of the paddock into the crop or stubble at each location.
4. Collect the cards the following morning keeping the cards for each location together. Estimate the amount eaten on each card for a location by overlaying it on a grid square such as the one above. Each small square on the card is equal to 1%.
5. Calculate the average % eaten for a location, which is the total of the % eaten on each card divided by the number of cards pegged out. When average amount eaten for a location exceeds 10%, it is likely that economic damage will occur to the crop especially if grain is present
6. Keep a record of the average amount eaten on the cards in each location so you can track changes in mouse activity over time.