Subject: Blackbird control to protect rice crops

Date: June 7, 2001

To: M. O. Way

Texas Wildlife Damage Management personnel in cooperation with TAEX and Dr. M. O. Way from the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, completed the 2001 blackbird control program on March 25, 2001. This was the seventh year that TAEX and WS personnel have conducted a blackbird control program using the avicide DRC 1339 to protect rice crops.

The extremely wet conditions this past winter prevented most producers from participating in the baiting program. The start dates of the program were delayed due to rainy conditions and resulted in reduced numbers of blackbirds at bait sites. Producers from four counties participated in the 2001 blackbird control program. Eleven sites were treated in 2001. The number of bait sites in each of the counties were: Brazoria 1, Colorado 5, Matagorda 4, and Victoria 1. Texas Wildlife Damage Management Service personnel reported taking 200,000 blackbirds during the 2001 baiting program.

Thanks to Dr. M. O. Way of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station for his assistance with the program. Thanks is also extended to Mike Burnside from Matagorda County, and Mike Palmer from Brazoria County for providing their barns and equipment for bait storage and mixing. Thanks to the TAEX CEAs from participating counties for their assistance in coordinating the county programs.

If producers plan to conduct blackbird control operations in 2002, Wildlife Damage Management Services personnel recommend the following:

1. Begin coordinating the county control programs in September, 2001. Form committees and select committee chairpersons.

2. Gather additional information on roost sites.


5. Begin all baiting projects no later than January 15, 2002, to allow for unfavorable weather conditions or other delays.

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