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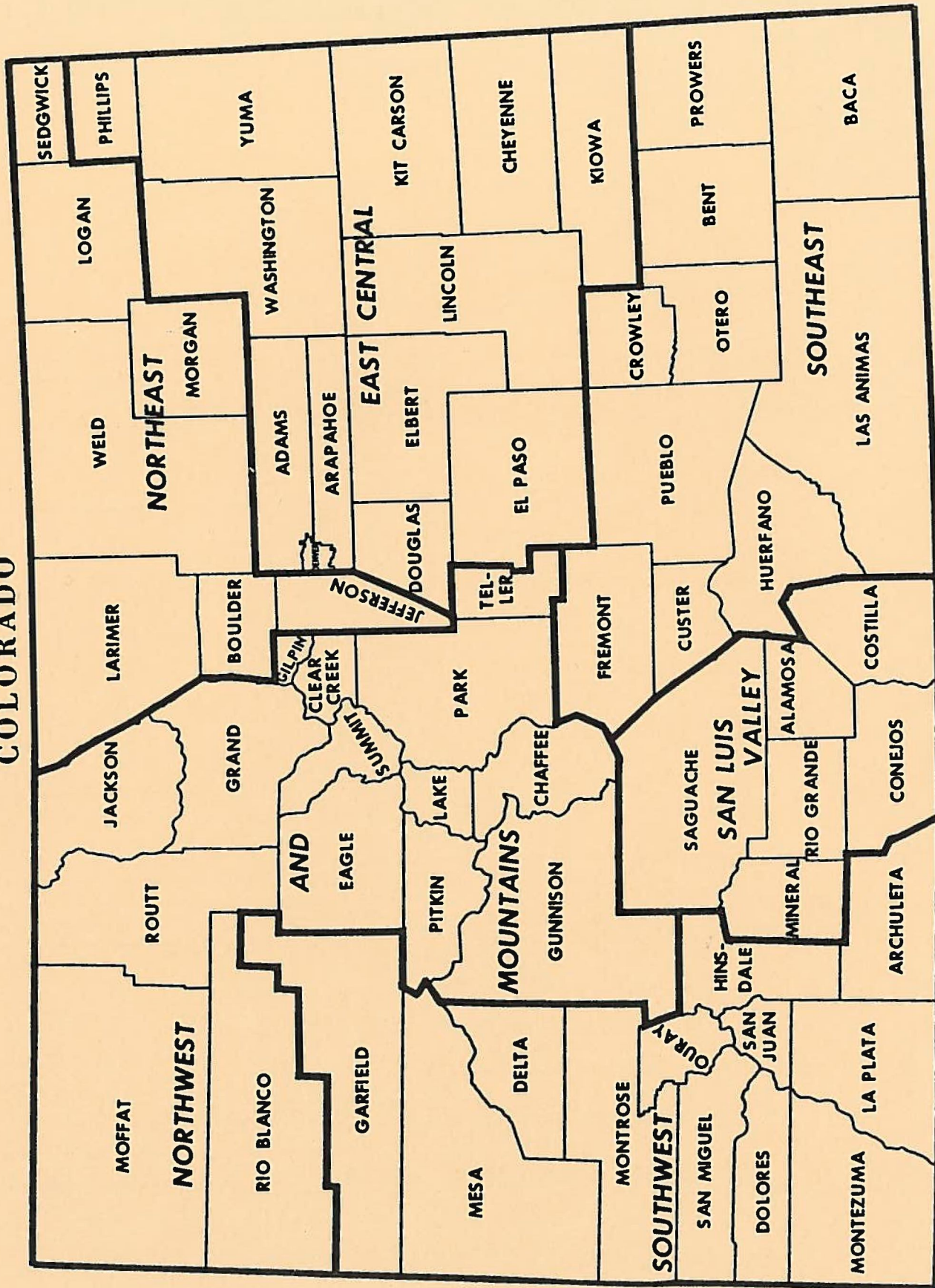


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COLORADO
VERTEBRATE RODENT
INFESTATION SURVEY
FALL 1990

COLORADO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

COLORADO



COLORADO VERTEBRATE RODENT INFESTATION SURVEY

Conducted By

COLORADO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

For

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FALL 1990

This report presents the results of a special Vertebrate Rodent Infestation Survey conducted by the Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service under a Cooperative funding agreement with the Colorado Department of Agriculture. The survey was conducted during August and September 1990. A total of 9,046 questionnaires were mailed to Colorado farmers and ranchers on August 24, 1990. The survey results were compiled from a total return of 2,943 useable questionnaires for a response rate of 33 percent.

The survey was designed to provide a non-probability statistical estimate of the total acreage of farm and ranch land infested by prairie dogs, pocket gophers, and/or ground squirrels at the county level. A subjective measurement of economic loss in each county from each of the three rodent types was also obtained from the survey results. Survey responses were received from all counties except San Juan. The survey covered nearly 6 million acres of Colorado farm and ranch land, representing 17.6 percent of the total farm and ranch land in the state.

In addition to the statistical data, over 1,000 producers wrote comments on the questionnaire concerning rodent and other pest problems on their operations. Those comments are included in this report on a county basis and are followed by a copy of the survey questionnaire.

Table 1 identifies the magnitude of infestation and economic loss from the three types of rodents on a county basis and Table 2 contains the same information for the state's agricultural statistics districts. The total combined economic loss from the three rodent types is included in tables 1 and 2 but no combined total for the acreage infected is shown because of possible duplication of acres infested by more than one rodent. The major duplication of infested acres occurred between pocket gophers and ground squirrels with much less duplication of acres between prairie dogs and other rodent types. The state outline maps illustrate the distribution and magnitude of infestation across the state for each rodent type. Tables 3, 4, and 5 show the percent of infestation for each land use by type of rodent on an area basis. Tables 6, 7, and 8 provide a subjective measure of producer's judgment as to the seriousness of these rodents in their locality.

Comments or questions relating to the interpretation of these survey results may be directed to: State Statistician, Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service, 645 Parfet Street, Room W201, Lakewood, Colorado 80215; Phone (303) 236-2300

RODENT INFESTATION SURVEY

Table 1: Total Acres Infested and Economic Loss By Rodent Type, By County, Colorado, 1990 1/

County	Total Acres 2/	Total Acres Infested By:			Economic Loss From Infestation Of:			Total Economic Loss
		Prairie Dogs	Pocket Gophers	Ground Squirrels	Prairie Dogs	Pocket Gophers	Ground Squirrels	
	Acres	Acres			Dollars			Dollars
Adams	712,000	22,700	7,300	200	320,000	40,000	8,000	368,000
Alamosa	210,000	6,200	40,500	2,200	28,000	73,000	1,000	102,000
Arapahoe	295,000	5,100	5,900	3,900	175,000	44,000	5,000	224,000
Archuleta	161,000	48,900	61,800	1,300	18,000	15,000	8,000	41,000
Baca	1,305,000	92,200	114,100	2,700	356,000	18,000	3,000	377,000
Bent	856,000	115,500	61,500	8,000	275,000	43,000	22,000	340,000
Boulder	156,000	11,800	1,100	300	218,000	22,000	8,000	248,000
Chaffee	105,000	3,200	12,600	6,700	17,000	49,000	16,000	82,000
Cheyenne	863,000	22,800	31,400	10,500	172,000	39,000	11,000	222,000
Clear Creek	8,000	-	1,100	-	-	2,000	-	2,000
Concejos	302,000	20,500	34,900	600	17,000	32,000	-	49,000
Costilla	292,000	1,600	5,800	-	49,000	45,000	-	94,000
Crowley	409,000	20,700	8,800	12,300	151,000	5,000	2,000	158,000
Custer	150,000	5,900	30,100	3,500	38,000	48,000	5,000	91,000
Delta	269,000	52,500	40,100	10,400	495,000	54,000	173,000	722,000
Denver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dolores	160,000	56,000	3,500	1,400	21,000	6,000	1,000	28,000
Douglas	212,000	12,600	11,500	10,400	92,000	54,000	11,000	157,000
Eagle	213,000	8,900	14,100	34,100	78,000	3,000	8,000	89,000
Elbert	1,015,000	17,300	25,600	96,000	20,000	248,000	8,000	276,000
El Paso	918,000	16,700	32,200	35,200	399,000	8,000	175,000	582,000
Fremont	305,000	15,300	68,000	8,800	23,000	26,000	27,000	76,000
Garfield	484,000	1,000	48,400	2,800	5,000	40,000	15,000	60,000
Gilpin	16,000	900	900	800	1,000	2,000	1,000	4,000
Grand	320,000	100	50,400	6,700	4,000	54,000	31,000	89,000
Gunnison	225,000	5,800	9,600	9,100	33,000	32,000	8,000	73,000
Hinsdale	10,000	300	2,600	-	5,000	1,000	-	6,000
Huerfano	643,000	6,400	8,700	1,700	16,000	20,000	1,000	37,000
Jackson	460,000	3,000	82,800	59,700	16,000	85,000	53,000	154,000
Jefferson	92,000	1,700	7,000	3,400	18,000	15,000	14,000	47,000
Kiowa	997,000	39,800	7,200	2,000	389,000	1,000	1,000	391,000
Kit Carson	1,416,000	56,700	147,200	148,700	111,000	315,000	34,000	460,000
Lake	11,000	900	-	2,200	2,000	-	1,000	3,000
La Plata	614,000	80,000	31,900	54,500	448,000	130,000	13,000	591,000
Larimer	575,000	88,100	52,800	30,000	771,000	191,000	189,000	1,151,000
Las Animas	2,150,000	18,500	77,000	4,800	90,000	164,000	4,000	258,000
Lincoln	1,615,000	23,600	80,400	37,000	118,000	30,000	40,000	188,000
Logan	1,082,000	40,000	151,100	86,600	518,000	357,000	18,000	893,000
Mesa	437,000	34,400	40,300	42,300	327,000	68,000	126,000	521,000
Mineral	12,000	200	3,100	1,500	1,000	4,000	-	5,000
Moffat	1,033,000	26,300	23,300	64,000	20,000	16,000	195,000	231,000
Montezuma	844,000	92,000	171,700	2,600	802,000	218,000	18,000	1,038,000
Montrose	431,000	52,100	26,000	32,300	999,000	25,000	96,000	1,120,000
Morgan	743,000	8,200	92,300	35,100	154,000	190,000	5,000	349,000
Otero	732,000	133,500	9,300	6,300	267,000	55,000	35,000	357,000
Ouray	162,000	7,400	18,400	10,200	50,000	9,000	3,000	62,000
Park	400,000	5,100	16,500	100,000	60,000	7,000	41,000	108,000
Phillips	450,000	3,000	24,000	18,500	11,000	28,000	62,000	101,000
Pitkin	33,000	2,400	1,300	1,900	50,000	13,000	5,000	68,000
Prowers	882,000	36,500	27,700	9,300	253,000	76,000	9,000	338,000
Pueblo	892,000	70,500	56,800	5,600	298,000	242,000	24,000	564,000
Rio Blanco	505,000	29,500	67,300	102,700	26,000	52,000	152,000	230,000
Rio Grande	221,000	14,300	10,900	-	73,000	119,000	-	192,000
Routt	589,000	3,600	44,000	89,500	9,000	62,000	144,000	215,000
Saguache	472,000	13,200	54,800	9,700	37,000	103,000	12,000	152,000
San Juan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
San Miguel	169,000	13,400	300	200	190,000	2,000	3,000	195,000
Sedgwick	324,000	10,400	11,700	21,400	44,000	28,000	1,000	73,000
Summit	34,000	100	1,200	2,300	4,000	3,000	1,000	8,000
Teller	83,000	5,200	5,900	6,300	28,000	14,000	9,000	51,000
Washington	1,391,000	2,600	57,000	193,600	42,000	186,000	204,000	432,000
Weld	2,105,000	58,800	168,000	163,200	870,000	373,000	33,000	1,276,000
Yuma	1,478,000	7,100	116,300	38,000	139,000	206,000	118,000	463,000
State	34,048,000	1,553,000	2,418,000	1,655,000	10,261,000	4,410,000	2,211,000	16,882,000

1/ Economic loss during 1989. 2/ Total land in farms and ranches from 1987 Federal Census of Agriculture.

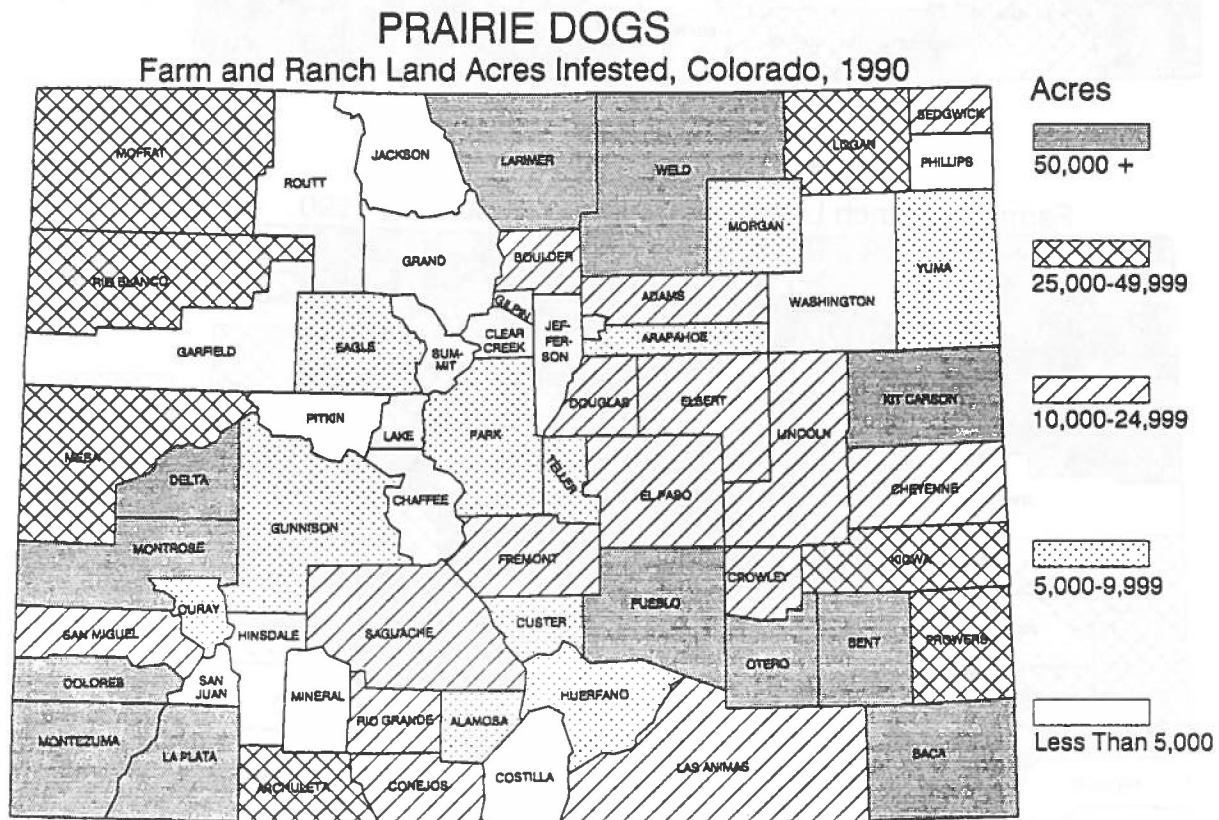
RODENT INFESTATION SURVEY

Table 2: Total Acres Infested And Economic Loss By Rodent Type, By District, Colorado, 1990 1/

Agricultural Statistics District	Total Acres <u>2/</u>	Total Land Infested By:			Economic Loss From Infestation Of:			Total Economic Loss
		Prairie Dogs	Pocket Gophers	Ground Squirrels	Prairie Dogs	Pocket Gophers	Ground Squirrels	
	(000)	Thousand Acres			Thousand Dollars			\$1,000
Northwest	4,035	95	331	486	348	394	665	1,407
Northeast	5,077	219	484	340	2,593	1,176	268	4,037
East Central . .	11,362	230	546	594	1,988	1,199	677	3,864
Southwest	3,741	438	445	158	3,360	568	456	4,384
San Luis Valley	1,509	56	150	14	205	376	13	594
Southeast	8,324	515	462	63	1,767	697	132	2,596
State	34,048	1,553	2,418	1,655	10,261	4,410	2,211	16,882

1/ Economic loss during 1989.

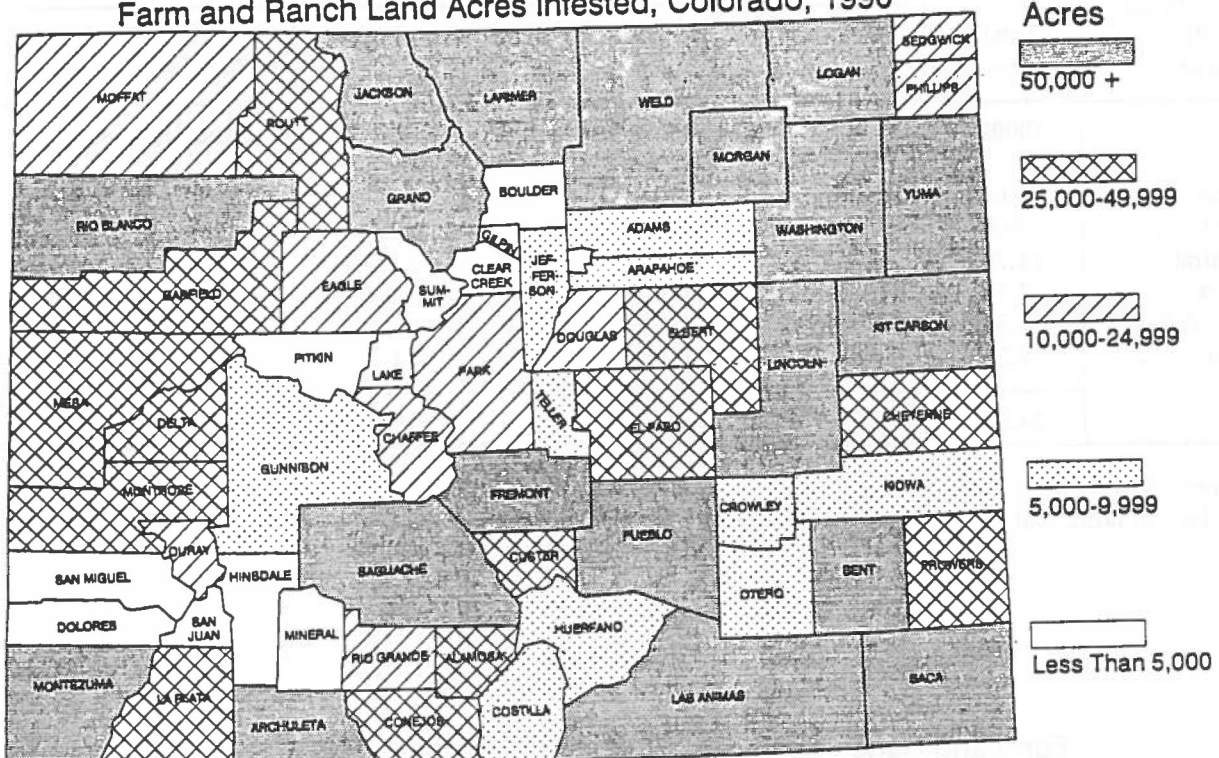
2/ Total land in farms and ranches from 1987 Federal Census of Agriculture.



RODENT INFESTATION SURVEY

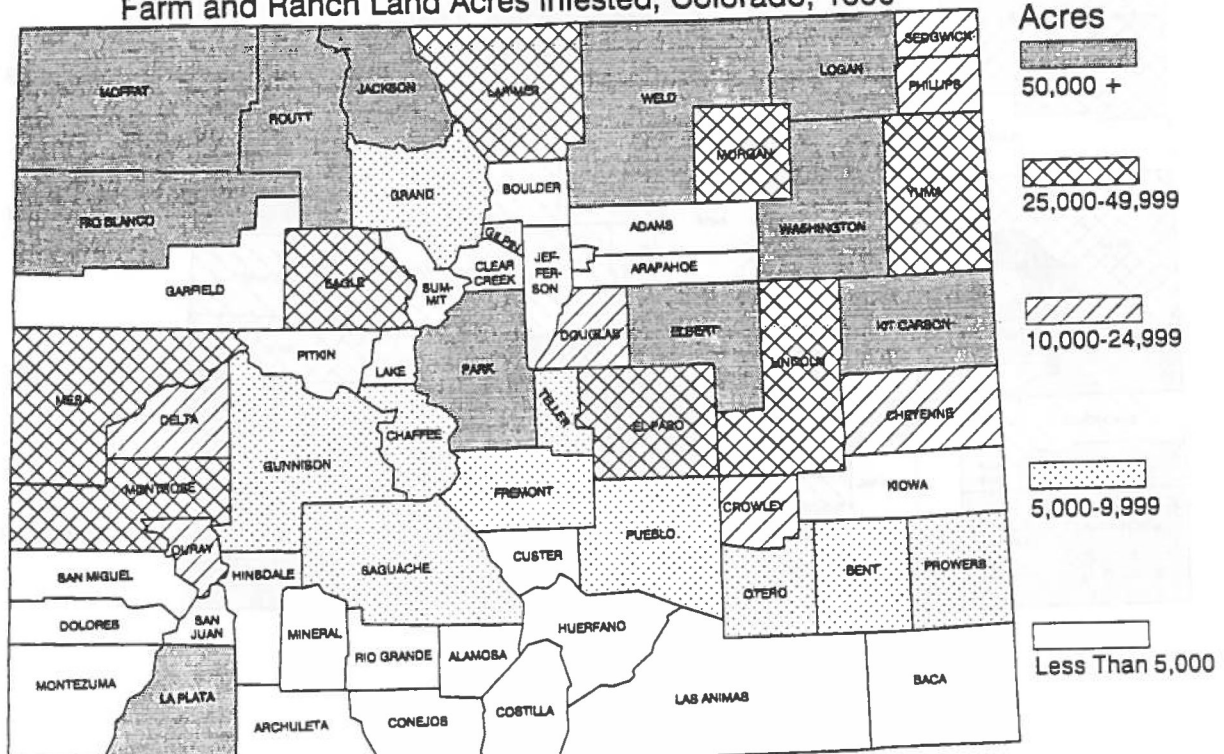
POCKET GOPHERS

Farm and Ranch Land Acres Infested, Colorado, 1990



GROUND SQUIRRELS

Farm and Ranch Land Acres Infested, Colorado, 1990



RODENT INFESTATION SURVEY

Table 3: Prairie Dogs - Acres Infested By Land Use, By District, Colorado, 1990

Agricultural Statistics District	Total Acres Infested	Percent of Infestation by Land Use				
		Total Land	Cropland		Hayland	Pasture and Rangeland
			Irrigated	Non-Irrigated		
	Acres		Percent			
Northwest	95,000	100	1.1	7.9	12.4	78.6
Northeast	219,000	100	2.1	11.0	3.2	83.7
East Central . . .	230,000	100	.9	2.7	1.6	94.8
Southwest	438,000	100	2.8	2.3	4.2	90.7
San Luis Valley .	56,000	100	6.0	1.0	17.0	76.0
Southeast	515,000	100	.5	1.5	.4	97.6
State	1,553,000	100	1.8	2.9	3.6	91.7

Table 4: Pocket Gophers - Acres Infested By Land Use, By District, Colorado, 1990

Agricultural Statistics District	Total Acres Infested	Percent of Infestation by Land Use				
		Total Land	Cropland		Hayland	Pasture and Rangeland
			Irrigated	Non-Irrigated		
	Acres		Percent			
Northwest	331,000	100	1.1	1.8	21.2	75.9
Northeast	484,000	100	6.6	6.0	9.7	77.7
East Central . . .	546,000	100	9.4	13.3	8.5	68.8
Southwest	445,000	100	2.2	3.9	13.1	80.8
San Luis Valley .	150,000	100	9.5	2.9	47.1	40.5
Southeast	462,000	100	3.3	1.7	8.4	86.6
State	2,418,000	100	4.6	4.9	14.3	76.2

Table 5: Ground Squirrels - Acres Infested By Land Use, By District, Colorado, 1990

Agricultural Statistics District	Total Acres Infested	Percent of Infestation by Land Use				
		Total Land	Cropland		Hayland	Pasture and Rangeland
			Irrigated	Non-Irrigated		
	Acres		Percent			
Northwest	486,000	100	.5	3.1	5.8	90.6
Northeast	340,000	100	1.0	27.1	1.6	70.3
East Central	594,000	100	4.3	22.7	1.4	71.6
Southwest	158,000	100	18.6	10.8	8.2	62.4
San Luis Valley . .	14,000	100	-	-	24.0	76.0
Southeast	63,000	100	4.7	13.0	9.6	72.7
State	1,655,000	100	2.3	12.5	4.4	80.8

RODENT INFESTATION SURVEY

Table 6: Prairie Dogs - Extent of Infestation By District, Colorado, 1990

Agricultural Statistics District	Total Survey Response	Number of Responses Reporting:				
		No Problem	Minor	Moderate	Serious	Total
	Number	Number				
Northwest	365	161	34	30	64	289
Northeast	582	279	39	55	173	546
East Central . . .	714	380	55	48	168	651
Southwest	543	180	50	80	202	512
San Luis Valley .	216	109	24	26	43	202
Southeast	523	204	37	46	176	463
State <u>1/</u>	2,943	1,313	239	285	826	2,663

Table 7: Pocket Gophers - Extent of Infestation By District, Colorado, 1990

Agricultural Statistics District	Total Survey Response	Number of Responses Reporting:				
		No Problem	Minor	Moderate	Serious	Total
	Number	Number				
Northwest	365	93	56	76	71	296
Northeast	582	250	123	90	49	512
East Central . . .	714	319	138	106	64	627
Southwest	543	228	98	76	34	436
San Luis Valley .	216	91	40	32	38	201
Southeast	523	185	89	114	54	442
State <u>1/</u>	2,943	1,166	544	494	310	2,514

Table 8: Ground Squirrels - Extent of Infestation By District, Colorado, 1990

Agricultural Statistics District	Total Survey Response	Number of Responses Reporting:				
		No Problem	Minor	Moderate	Serious	Total
	Number	Number				
Northwest	365	124	36	47	99	306
Northeast	582	331	116	32	11	490
East Central . . .	714	380	153	58	21	612
Southwest	543	243	104	64	31	442
San Luis Valley .	216	143	31	6	3	183
Southeast	523	247	92	48	19	406
State	2,943	1,468	532	255	184	2,439

PRODUCER COMMENTS FROM 1990 RODENT INFESTATION SURVEY

(NOTE: Each paragraph represents a different producer's comments written on the survey questionnaire).

ADAMS - 001

The prairie dogs are taking over Adams County. We would like to donate them to Denver County.

I am located about one half mile from the Thornton city limits. This area is semi-populated and the open area is infested with prairie dogs about two square miles in area. Also adjoining my property is a parcel containing ten acres which used to belong to me. It is very heavily infested with prairie dogs and is used only as dry land horse pasture.

We had gotten rid of these prairie dogs in the 60's. We dairied, had cows and horses in the 50's to farm with and now we couldn't lease our pasture because of dangerous holes for animals. We've asked for our taxes to be adjusted accordingly. I think our environmentalist keep or supposedly animal lovers keep putting these rodents on our productive lands, shifting from developing land to just any place they decide. They're all over and carry diseases and fleas to our pets.

Most of my damage is in pasture land and loss is due to animal injury.

The population of prairie dogs must be kept under control. We are in the proximity of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, our populations are less now due to the bubonic plague outbreak at the arsenal a few years ago.

The only problem is the gophers dig into the irrigation ditches and let all the water out.

In 1989 had trouble with prairie dogs cost me about \$100 to get rid of them. At present I have not got any. They are getting the upper hand of the county. I farm over in the Erie community.

These prairie dogs are really a nuisance, we are concerned about fleas on our cattle and then we have to work them and it is dangerous. We can not ride through their towns because a horse could break a leg. They are spreading into the neighbors property also. The land owner will not control them.

Need help controlling these prairie dogs.

We need a way to control prairie dogs.

The prairie dogs are migrating from the Rocky Mountain Arsenal where there are millions.

What is the possibility of using ferrets for a natural predator of prairie dogs?

No problem with rodents.

Bare land - not in use at present. Weir Gulch runs through and also Rocky Mountain Waste Waters Ditch which drains into the gulch.

An ongoing problem - year after year - major damage 1989 including loss of water and labor.

Getting rid of the prairie dogs increased the amount of pasture grass significantly - we could have had more cattle this year but didn't know this in time to buy them.

We have workers from the State on both the prairie dog and pocket gopher problem. Results have been marginal. We have used the Burrow (Baiser) with bact. on gophers. A variety of practices have been used on the prairie dogs.

Prairie dogs moved into pasture 18 months ago. Are increasing daily. Damage extensive. I must control the increase in their numbers and new burrows.

We were fortunate enough to have a government employee eradicate prairie dogs on our land many years ago. They have not come back. We are overrun with coyotes who are eating all our wildlife.

The pasture that joins my farm is very badly infested with prairie dogs and this year they have started moving onto my farm.

I keep killing the prairie dogs so they haven't took over my place yet. But some neighboring places they are a bad problem.

There are about a thousand prairie dogs just across the road - and although they occasionally come across my land - none have taken up residence (two or three a week turn up as road kill) but I would not welcome their presence and would consider it a very serious problem.

Infestations on adjacent land that are not controlled continually repopulate cleared areas. A law similar to the noxious weed control method should be passed.

It would be helpful in controlling prairie dogs if all landowners would participate.

ALAMOSA - 003

The main problem with deer is not what they eat but bedding down.

Not only a loss to the crops but a big loss in repair of machinery is time consuming. We have a lot of gophers in the Mosca and Hooper areas.

Pocket gophers are a problem in our alfalfa fields as they make them rough and also kill out stand. They also stay in the field as long as there are any roots left. They are becoming more of a problem in our other crops each year.

Pocket gophers are a real problem in sprinkler irrigation. A more moderate cost on gopher bait would make control more feasible.

I do not have a problem at this time but there are areas of the Valley with large populations of prairie dogs and gophers and if not controlled could become a problem to me.

Dogs 3 years ago killed 70 head of my sheep. I am not feeding dogs, so I quit the sheep business. Now I am starting to operate cows which dogs don't bother too much. But still dogs come. This year got infested with foxtail really bad - 20 acres. Need help with rodent and foxtail.

I have sold my farming operation except for 80 A.

Last year we had a moderate problem with pocket gophers. They destroyed sections of our land and all about a 1 - 2 acre radius around the house. Last year we consulted with the Wildlife Reserve on what to do, and they suggested some poison grain, which we were not able to buy. This year they came back but were not as bad. It seems like they were just passing through. We would like some information on this.

The coyote has been given a bad reputation for no good reason. The answer to animal problems is not shooting them all.

ARAPAHOE - 005

Registered Simmental Bull broke a front leg stepping in prairie dog hole.

I would like to see the U.S. Government take steps to help control prairie dogs.

Something should be done about the prairie dog population. It is becoming a real problem.

Our ranch is a basic family owned small horse and mule breeding/training and sales facility. Some prairie dogs are on our leased pasture and N/E corner of our holding pasture. I believe with the 22 rifle as of this year we have got 100% kill from those which crossed over to our pastures from the north side of Arapahoe #6. P.S. The large influx of hawks and one big owl have really helped!!!

We realize deer are not rodents but they cause us more damage than all other things. We can't raise corn anymore and they scatter bind weed all over our alfalfa fields.

At the present time we do not have a rodent problem on our land. They are fast coming our way.

I'm glad to see some action being taken. Prairie dogs have been a problem for several years and are getting much worse the last two years. Years ago the County made poison oats available for controlling prairie dogs.

We have horse pasture. Most of the damage was done to seedling trees.

I have no prairie dogs. The gophers put a lot of mounds in my hay fields.

Pocket gophers are getting into range land.

Stop Aurora bringing prairie dogs out. Kill these dogs before they start more rattle snake nests. Blowing tires and bending wheels in these holes. Damaging machinery. Chances for sickness in people and livestock.

Said he had a problem but went from rangeland to farmland.

In neighbors' starting to come over to his land.

ARCHULETA - 007

You are wasting my time and my tax money! If you knew anything about these rodents you would know they cycle from year to year depending on weather conditions, predators, and diseases such as plague carried by fleas. By the time any government agency could facilitate any control measures the rodents would be at the low end of their cycle anyway.

Ranch under agricultural controlled clearing and burning 88-91.

These prairie dogs are spreading fast! Need help pronto!

Gopher damage continues to increase. Prairie dogs showed up in my hay fields for the first time this July of 1990. I seem to have them under control at the moment. Ground squirrels do me the most damage when I put up oat hay. I haven't put up any oats in the last 6 years. The damage caused by ground squirrels is when they find their way into my horse feed.

We have prairie dog problems - about 10 acres of alfalfa crops have been ruined because of them 700 bales = nothing, also some pastures - est. at 10 acres.

I also am leasing pasture in New Mexico due to drought conditions. This pasture is 1 mile south of my home ranch, next to the state line. There is a large uncontrolled prairie dog town of at least 40 acres. The neighbor between us also has a large town. These prairie dogs have really increased and spread the last 2 years. I have always attempted to control them by shooting and trapping.

Prairie dogs came in from neighbors who do not try to control them.

BACA - 009

The last two years the prairie dog population has exploded. If control measures are not used on private and BIM lands, the grasslands and CRP lands will be totally infested in a matter of a few years. It would also help if the poisons available would do a better job of controlling. The poison 1080 would help control if we could use it.

We are having a very bad infestation of prairie dogs. Have poisoned them several times and shot them but never seem to keep them down for long. Rattlesnakes are bad around the holes and have had some cattle bitten from them. Coyotes are even worse.

1. We as farmers and ranchers need a control program.
2. We need a poison that will kill prairie dogs and is economical.
3. We need to have the government control prairie dogs on government lands.

We have been putting out P. grains, it helped a little. We put out \$2,500.00 worth in 1989. Now we are trying a new grain poison out which is costing me \$1.94 a pound.

To the best of our knowledge it is against the law to use poison on prairie dogs. We haven't had time to rid them in other ways.

We have seen a great increase in prairie dogs in our area, even moving in close to Pritchett.

About 5 years ago I had a quarter section of prairie dogs - I had been controlling them by poison grain and shooting. I'd probably spent \$1000 to control them - The plague moved in and eliminated them late one summer. I have only had 1 to 8 or 10 migratory dogs since and have been able to get them by shooting or poisoning the used hole.

We are in our seventies and do our farming. These prairie dogs are so destructive, having already ruined about one half of a grassed 160 acres. It is very difficult for us to fight these creatures and do our work also. When they started we were not allowed to kill the "endangered darlings".

We have no problems with these rodents now as we eradicated them 3 years ago.

I doctored about 25 acres of prairie dogs and the cost was \$725. Looks like we could get a cheaper and better control.

They are both sides of the fence. The other side is government. There is a lot of prairie dogs around my land. They are worse than they have been since War II.

My operation is wheat farming on dry land. There are some prairie dogs on grassland adjacent to my land, but so far have not been a problem for our wheat. We have a problem with antelope and birds bringing in bind weed seeds. Every year we have 3 to 4 new patches of bind weed. Antelopes and of course combines do most of the scattering of seed.

I don't have any idea of the dollar damage the prairie dogs have thinned out this year.

There is a section of grass just across the road from my pasture which is covered with prairie dog dens. I am sure this is where they come from to get on me. I have spent a lot of time and money trying to kill the prairie dogs with what I can buy, but nothing I have used works.

I don't know how to estimate economic loss. We spent \$500 in treating besides all of the time, etc. Prairie dogs are a serious problem to whole county and the materials available are not adequate. We used some gas toxin but mostly gas. They keep increasing every year. I work for Extension Service and we have more and more calls each year of people who aren't getting control from what's available!

Prairie dogs have filled an adjacent pasture. I have found over 150 new holes since July 10, 1990.

My concern would be prairie dogs. We have been pretty successful in keeping them off our land but we have three neighbors who have prairie dogs and don't seem to care. We are on guard and kill all prairie dogs we see. However, they are difficult to kill.

Since the old full strength 1080 I have found nothing to get rid of prairie dogs. I go over them 2-3 times a year, thin them out a little, but they stay and still make new towns.

I leased my land and that is why I have so few cattle on my land. Lessee had approximately 100 head on said land.

BENT - 011

I have kept my prairie dogs killed out. But my neighbors are eaten up. Some have cost 30 to 35% of their carrying capacity.

One 9.5 acre field of alfalfa was gone over 4 times with strychnine milo, replanted with brome and orchard grass to thicken stand. The first cutting netted 11 bales less than 4 cuttings the year before. At its worse, a 48 hr. run of water, 260 shares, 2 cutouts 12 ft. apart, water didn't reach the end of the field. Normally a run of water covers 18-22 acres.

There is no way to determine the dollar loss. As we loose water from holes in ditches. In fact one hole that washed out took 8 loads of a 9 yard scrapper to fill up the wash out. We have even purchased a backhoe to work on holes in the ditches. The mounds of soil is very costly as the dirt goes into feed and wears out machinery. We trap, try at times to drown those animals. There is no way for us to control the rodents. It would easily cost us \$3000 a year and possibly more.

I hired help to shoot prairie dogs on my land as I had no other way of controlling them. I paid enormous price for prepared poison from feed store to control other rodents and etc.

Most of all range and pasture land in the county is badly infested. Dogs are moving into our alfalfa fields, there are also more squirrels and gophers around.

Prairie dogs in this area are becoming a real problem. They denude the grass and cause sheet erosion, deplete the climax grass and lower the real estate value of farms and ranches! We need 1080 back!! No one likes to kill animals that are a benefit but I don't think cockroaches, rats, or prairie dogs benefit society to any great extent. If poisons are banned for prairie dogs, roach killer and Decon should be banned from cities.

There is another very serious problem for southeastern Colorado that is causing a hardship for farmers and that is the starling population.

Prairie dogs have become a real problem on our ranch. We have poisoned them but have had no success in controlling them. The pocket gophers are over most of the ranch but do not cause the damage of the prairie dogs. The ground squirrels are around but cause very little damage.

The ground squirrel causing much damage to peaches, tomatoes, and grain bin. (Mice and rats very active.) 2 rows of sweet corn planted this year 1990, right under the security light and under the nose of 2 Chow mix dogs. No corn loss.

I think that prairie dogs are the worst thing that is happening to the land today. Even worse than wind damage or erosion. They are literally taking over large areas of land in southeastern Colorado. They take over the best parts of the grassland, they dig up the roots. I wish those animal lovers had them in their backyards.

I have had a serious prairie dog problem and after 10 years of fighting them I have the problem under control. Every year a few move in and I have to fumigate them or they would be out of control in no time. My present problem is with ants. If I have 100 ant dens/acre x 16 sq. ft./den x 400 acres, it adds up. I am working on this problem and will exterminate the ants also.

Prairie dogs are really a serious problem in this area.

Kangaroo rats are also a pest. The economic loss would be similar to the amount listed for pack rats - \$100.00.

Due to large house cat population and underground and above ground plastic irrigation pipe system gopher problems are less of a problem. Loss of irrigation water due to gophers is main reason for underground irrigation pipeline (2 1/4 mile of 15" pipe - \$5/ft.) installed - if this would be included economic damage would be much greater.

If something isn't done about prairie dog control then in a few years there will be no land left for farm and ranch use and I am sure the state would lose a lot of tax dollars.

Prairie dogs are very bad all around. One neighbor has a whole herd of ground squirrels.

For many years a poison program controlled prairie dogs but never got them all. We purchased a barrel of carbon bi-sulfide and eliminated totally all dogs. We since have had no large infestation but we control small yearly migrations by gas pills used in grain fumigation. If they never get a large start there is no problem.

In the year 1988 I used gas pellets in the holes to treat 40 acres of prairie dogs. Although results were good, continual migration from adjacent landowners defeated this effort. A united effort is needed.

Prairie dogs are a major concern in our area. It doesn't do any good for one rancher to fight them while everyone else in an 8-10 mile radius does nothing. This problem needs to be addressed on a county or state level.

All of Bent County has a serious problem with prairie dogs except for the land that is irrigated.

South of Las Animas I lost part of a section of grassland.

Used poison gas pills to work prairie dog towns - by teaming with neighbor we worked 3 times - to date 100% kill. Ground squirrel problem around farmstead. Need county wide prairie dog control!!!

Approximately 25 acres infested in 1981. Rapid increase in prairie dogs during 1988 and 1989. Started poisoning them in 1989 and believe they will be controlled by 1991.

Prairie dogs are becoming a real problem. The ranchers are in need of a state program to control the growth and spread of prairie dog towns. We the ranchers are loosing too many acres to them.

Prairie dogs are a serious problem. My operation has spent \$10,000 in control procedures the past 3-4 years.

The prairie dogs have or will completely take over our hill which we process alfalfa on which in the future could cause damage to machinery and employees. We do operate at night and the burrows are a serious problem.

We have been working on an eradication program for about two years. All of the infested areas have been covered one time, and about half or more have been covered a second time. But they keep coming back.

BOULDER - 013

I spend a lot of time and money fighting prairie dogs. I feel I am loosing the battle, mostly because I am the only one in the fight right now. If I wipe out a dog town it will be reestablished by the neighbors next year.

Prairie dogs are so bad in 5 years there will be no farm ground in Boulder City.

We had prairie dogs 10 years ago affecting 20% of our crop land - we have eliminated the problem, but not without serious expense and effort.

Prairie dogs are hard to control. Since many of my neighbors make no attempt to control them and the excess flows to other areas. We have two places where they border us.

Looks like this survey really doesn't cover all rodents - just gophers and prairie dogs. For this operation mice are a much bigger problem, but I would imagine prairie dogs are a serious problem, if they got started. Since man has upset the balance of nature - less natural predators, less natural habitat - we should weigh how to control these pests in the context of a balanced community of species.

We have spent between \$200 to \$400 per year for the last 5 years to try to control prairie dogs. We have them pretty much in control.

Pasture is mountain pasture 6200 - 7800 feet elevation.

30 acres - basically hay and pasture - we smoke bomb twice yearly - our neighbors do not.

I am pleased to know you are making this survey. I have spent about \$1000 trying to get rid of them. The neighbors have them too. The cattle had fractured legs - especially after a light snowfall. Got 90 bales of hay but could have got much more - also it is difficult to mow over the holes that are built up. I have spent much time using the plow from the Co. agent should have taken advantage after a rain and not carry water - also used more than one.

We have an egg producing operation - our problem are mice and a few rats. We keep it under control with rodent bait.

South of my place is open space from McCasland to Hwy 36 which is two miles long. Prairie dog holes are about 3/4 the length of it and 1/2 miles wide. This strip of open space is west of Harper Lake. It is used a lot by people riding horses, about ten a day. Those prairie holes are very dangerous for the people and the horses. I had a lot of trouble with them on my ranch south of Hale, Co. Our land joins the Bonney Dam on the south side. I never knew that they are good for anything.

This land used for boarding stall horses only.

There are prairie dogs on the property to my west, only a county road separates. I constantly look to make sure they don't move my way.

It's hard to keep getting rid of them and have them move in from land next door where they are just allowed to multiply.

25 acre field next to our land is overrun with prairie dogs. Last year all holes were poisoned and now population is over run from prairie dogs from nearby land being developed.

After trying just about all the ideas for getting rid of prairie dogs - I finally discovered running irrigation pipe to the infested areas was the answer. They get tired of being irrigated for weeks at a time. I'm not sure if they die or just leave the area, but there are a lot fewer of them now.

I've had the State man poison these dogs, shot them hundreds of times but they still increase in number and spread. The best result was when the State let us use 1080 poison. These animal activists need to buy some land and raise their own varmints, but most of them don't pay taxes, have any idea of the damage the rodents do to the land by devastating it. We need help with a removal system. The county don't do anything. This year I lost a cow and a registered horse due to broken legs.

The plague cleaned the dogs out a few years ago, but I think some animals rights activists transplanted some. I would like to see a law passed that if they wanted to transplant, they had to own the land and keep them on it.

Prairie dogs are a serious problem. We need something to control them. I have poured hundreds of gallons of gasoline into holes and other means - to no avail. PLEASE HELP!!

At present time I do not have any prairie dogs on my land but with 1/4 mile on 3 sides for sure. In this area prairie dogs are the biggest rodent problem. We need to get rid of more prairie dogs.

Prairie dogs and pocket gophers and especially prairie dogs are a major problem and a continual battle to keep them off my pastures - In my opinion prairie dogs and thistle are ruining our pastures.

Would give \$5000 to have never had prairie dogs.

Predatory birds exert control over the prairie dogs in the sheep pasture. My involvement is filling in the holes they dig.

Pickett Pins are a kind of mountain prairie dog. They are smaller but cause the same kind of damage. They have 6 to 8 young and sometimes 2 batches. Last year I shot 275. This year over 500. It takes a 22 mag. with a scope to reach out far enough to get them. This year I have spent over \$70 for shells. We used to have foxes and weasels, hawks and badgers, but man just keeps killing our predators.

The Rodent Elk do the most damage probably 3 - 5 thousand dollars.

What I have listed as pocket gophers is what we call Picket - Pins. They have completely ruined our 5 acres of alfalfa, but we don't know how to get rid of them.

Although I currently do not have a rodent problem, I am aware of the damage that can be done by these rodents. I would like to see some studies done on natural control of rodents.

On approximately 50 acres of my ranch where there was a heavy population of prairie dogs about 2 months ago all of a sudden there was no prairie dogs in this area. Evidently they got some sort of disease and all of them in this area died. We haven't seen a single prairie dog in this area in the past month to 5 weeks. Will bubonic plague kill them off like this?

Loss indicated is due to repair cost and range damage. Intangible loss is the effect on ability to lease out pasture land due to the danger created by prairie dog holes. This loss would approach \$1000.

An available economic method of control is badly needed.

Because of the dry year we had, made it all the worse for the rodent damage. We didn't use poison because of damage to all wildlife around us. So we shot them, we have kept on top of this and eliminated a lot of them.

If 1080 were available there would be no rodent problem. We also have a deer problem. Having a count of 100 on a 200 acre hay farm.

Property north, BLM east, State land south and west all heavily infested and shows decreases in productivity. This combined with the heavy infestation of rodents on my property. Note listed above is badgers which has been a serious problem for years.

We can control on our land but there is constant re-infestation from government land.

Please do something about the rodents.

Gophers, since all land is irrigated they are minor to moderate and not much problem except along the ditch bank.

Had lots of ground squirrels but saw a coyote and hawk and now sees less ground squirrels.

There is a significant prairie dog population south and adjacent to the town of Kit Carson that needs to be treated.

This prairie dog situation has gotten completely out of control. The poison the State of Colorado has is very ineffective.

The prairie dog population has increased dramatically this year. They have either migrated in or been transplanted. The neighbors have towns now where there weren't before. Getting serious and I've been controlling them a long time.

We don't have the problem here now. When we came out in 1907 we didn't have the problems we have now. We have 2 -3 prairie dog towns started and it will get worse if we don't do something about it. Really all we need to do to control them is a few ferrets.

Prairie dogs moved in last winter for the first time in two different locations each taking up about 50 square feet. As far as gophers and ground squirrels are concerned they are no doubt here but are not on the increase and give no trouble.

Estimating infestation and loss due to ground squirrels is very difficult. They seem to be present over all acres but heavy concentrations are rare and damage impossible to estimate.

The prairie dog loss is easier to estimate because they are in one area. The economic loss from pocket gophers and ground squirrels is harder to estimate because they are scattered over such a wide area.

We have some problems with Kangaroo Rats or called Sand Rats.

It's impossible to estimate the exact acres on any of these problems on an outfit our size. We sure have a rodent problem - also a coyote problem. We just keep on trying and it is tough. If we don't get help there is going to be a real problem, and bureaucratic red tape is not the answer. About 10 years ago Kangaroo rats ruined 10% of 860 A of milo. We got the situation under control by using poison milo from the State. Now it is unavailable. Some doctor making \$1000/hr operating, can shoot more doves in one day than we would poison by keeping the rats under control. He could do this for a number of days and we would raise and feed the doves. Not only can we not get the poison we need, but the rules for using it are completely ridiculous and WILL NOT GET THE JOB DONE! The rodents are all over the place - prairie dogs gaining all the time all over the place. Rattlesnakes in the holes they cause. All we need is the means to control these things. You people know they exist as well as we do. The strychnine milo worked real well on the rats. We could get control in the milo fields by mixing some of the poison milo with the seed in the seed boxes and this way it was underground. Not eight inches in a tunnel - hell, even a rat is smart enough to dig up a seed that is planted only 2 inches deep rather than eight inches for something in a completely different place than the middle of the field. Going around the borders helps but these rats build their dens all over the field. Another thing - time - we can't spend all our time poisoning rats.

Prairie dogs are increasing and taking over. Need more effective means of control.

This survey needs to be sent out later in the year - like November. You picked the worst time of year to expect somebody to fill out a questionnaire during wheat drilling time.

The people will probably do more about it if you called them prairie rats. (Ha!)

I don't have any prairie dogs now but had them in the past. I have quite a few ground squirrels, but don't feel they are a problem. I have a few pocket gophers but they don't do much damage. There are some quite large prairie dog towns within 10 miles of here - damage is very serious in them.

He believes that if you do something about the prairie dogs it will throw off the balance of nature. He believes his ground squirrels help to keep insects down.

Ranch owners and operators need market access to an effective prairie dog control substance. Phostoxin, which is not even available on the open market, does not produce satisfactory results. The cost of eradication by commercial operators is very expensive.

CLEAR CREEK - 019

No comments received.

CONEJOS - 021

Leave the coyotes and other predators alone and they will control the rodents cheaper than anyone else can.

We need help in trying to control prairie dogs and pocket gophers - prairie dogs multiply fast. It's impossible to keep them under control.

No problem at all from rodents of any kind.

We have a real problem with moles in head ditches and also in fields. A lot of gophers in head ditches are a real problem. No coyotes to eat them.

One of the biggest losses we have by rodents is the damage caused by loose dirt on our mowing machinery. We also loose water in our irrigated fields which reduces the yield considerably.

Have pocket gophers around ditches but not sure how many acres they occupy.

Prairie dogs from neighboring lands come across and eat alfalfa and ruin ditches but can't figure a dollar amount on damages.

There are many areas around here effected by these moles or whatever they are. They make mounds of dirt in fields and mess up ditches.

It's not serious, but they're on next farm and there is quite a few.

Prairie dogs are the greatest problem we have with rodents. I am not sure what the economic impact would be.

Small cattle, apple, chicken, and garden operation. 8000 elevation.

The loss was because of prairie dogs and dry summer, not much water in 1989.

Gophers are more a problem in hay lands because of damage and wear and tear of equipment such as Swathers (conditioner) and Bobbers. Prairie dogs have not been a problem yet, although their town is located on the edge of sprinkler quarter. They could move on into hay, though anytime.

Control measures are very important in that without them we are experiencing a very rapid build up of prairie dogs and gophers. State and County supported programs are a must.

It's hard to estimate the loss but we do have a serious problem with prairie dogs. Appreciate your help, concern. I have my EPA card for pesticide applicator.

These prairie dogs are destroying us. They eat the alfalfa and Coors barley. I've seen them in my yard. Those gophers cause great expense in a 160 acres with two irrigation ditches. Problems in irrigation with all the holes they make. I have to hire a bulldozer each Spring to repair a large irrigation ditch the gophers destroy. Going to have to pipe this ditch.

Something needs to be done to control these rodents. They are a very serious problem.

Gopher holes caused damage to machinery.

I still don't have problems with rodents yet, but I have seen gophers, squirrels, and raccoon holes on my place. I have 8 head of cattle with calves but have not seen that there is injury or sickness from this problem. I cannot specify how much economic loss they have caused.

Prairie dogs are within a mile from this place and he expects trouble in the next year or so.

The problem is not too bad now but they expect it to be much worse next year. Gophers are spilling out over the ditches and prairie dogs are all around him.

Prairie dogs are coming back. We haven't had them for a long time but they are a menace. Ants and pocket gophers are a mess especially on hay ground. I am always goofing up my sickles. Coyotes are getting very tame, they are almost in my corrals. I still haven't had any losses because I head my sheep and cattle. I have found carcasses of new born calves at least 3 this year.

Neighboring ranches have a lot more prairie dogs.

Prairie dogs in the past have caused 2 broken legs on horses. Infestation of weeds in pasture due to the grass they have killed.

The prairie dog population probably has quadrupled in the past 2 years and is spreading over many acres. We, as farmers and ranchers, need stronger poison to use to eradicate these pests. I have made many complaints during the last couple years, but no one is willing or able to help. Now we are in serious trouble trying to kill these pests off.

Something needs to be done with the prairie dogs before it is too late.

Prairie dogs are going to completely ruin at least 25% of grazing land in eastern Colorado if not controlled. I am also an auctioneer and cattle buyer and therefore see large areas of ranch land. P. dogs are a problem on most ranches - figure 1 yearling for 10 acres; a steer will advance \$200 per head in a grazing season, therefore for every acre the prairie dogs control you are losing \$20 per acre in summer of 1990. Not to mention the men and horses crippled from prairie dog holes. Several ranchers I have talked with are considering pooling resources and starting court action against State and Federal Gov't. for recovery of damages. The release of 1080 handled by Game and Fish would end problem.

This needs immediate attention. The environmental control needs to take a good look at the damages done instead of making the land rodent recount. The increase of prairie dogs is terrific. They out produce the land produce.

Prairie dogs are the number one problem on range land in eastern Colorado above drought and price changes. If not stopped soon it will cost more to get rid of them then the land is worth. There should be some kind of cost share plan from the State or Federal Government.

I would like some help financially to control rodents.

People who operate or own land should not let rodents get out of control, the ones I poisoned were on land I had just leased in '88.

In May 1990, it cost \$8000 to treat 300 acres infested with prairie dogs which resulted in 95% control. Estimated loss in productive yield on rangeland for the last 5 years, 70%. On 300 infested acres prairie dogs are a serious problem in eastern Colorado.

Squirrels around yards are destructive because they tear up ground digging around granaries and bins they bore into ground pipelines, chew up storage items like bags and paper packages, baling wire, cartons - tractor seats they bore into. They bore into hay stacks, car hoods for the insulation. They are very mischievous. In general, we are exterminating gradually with a 22 cal. and poison.

The prairie dog infestation has increased dramatically during the past 5 years and control of existing colonies has become more difficult because of increasing migratory traveling of young prairie dogs. Colony size appears to increase 15 to 20% per year without extensive control efforts.

I feel prairie dogs are a very serious pest and should be controlled before they get completely out of control. Also I spend lots of time and money on my land when the neighbor does nothing. This is a losing battle.

The prairie dog is the most destructive animal I have ever dealt with. It is a constant battle with the private landowner because of the lack of control on public lands.

Bad infestation on property next door but have managed to control my fields.

I have used ammonia for 3-4 years. It kills a few. Have used your poison 3 times with no results! When we could get 1080 it worked. If we don't get 1080 they will eat us up. 1080 would save ranchers money. Another thing we need to get rid of is coyotes. They kill calves in the Spring and in the Fall they catch all the chickens we have.

CUSTER - 027

Occasional heavy rains in July may have drowned some gophers as I've noticed less evidence of them around the pastures this past month.

I have had questions on how to control prairie dogs. I don't know how many prairie dogs there are but people have told me the towns are increasing in size.

Loss to 2 horses plus loss to alfalfa due to prairie dogs. We have gophers on all our 3100 acres and it is almost impossible to estimate the damage such as machinery and crop damage.

Prairie dogs used to be a real problem in our area but we have got rid of them some years back. But there are still way too many dogs in Custer County and they can always come back.

At this time we do not have a problem. Thank you.

Having problems with brush and obnoxious grasses. Would like to see a brush program initiated.

I used gastoxin on one bunch of prairie dogs and I am not sure if they died or it killed them but I have not seen any for three weeks.

The people in the west had better get their heads out of their rear's, I've never seen so many prairie dogs in my life. In the 1950's a government trapper and I worked for days poisoning prairie dogs. We were without them for about 15 years and one neighbor didn't control his and now there are millions. That crap they let you use is worthless, the EPA is ruining the country with their stupid ideas about ferrets. Take a drive down by Penrose and look at the sorry landscape. Have you seen a horse with a broken leg. WAKE UP BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!!!!!!!!!!!

Perhaps I am confusing moles and pocket gophers. Locally the creatures that burrow into the soil and leave mounds of dirt and rock are referred to as moles.

Property of 9000 ft. elevation is irrigated but pocket gophers damage some hay and cause some damage to mowers.

State and County assistance to control prairie dogs is essential to control numbers and migration of rodents from adjoining property. Present methods of control for prairie dogs are not effective - gas bombs, poison, etc.

I would like to see a county wide rodent control program.

We don't have too much trouble with gophers or prairie dogs - but skunks and ground hogs get in the way of irrigating, digging holes, getting into gated pipe. Eagles, hawks, etc. take care of rodents and fast. We have had much more loss of alfalfa and pasture due to deer, and for a couple of years, elk.

I own an eleven acre apple orchard. Some problems with field mice. No problem with any other rodents.

Prairie dogs have increased to the point that they are even under our house when we go to the mountains to check on sheep.

The loss of the crops was moderate but the extra work trying to irrigate through and around the holes and some rows not watered. Last year I got stuck with my swather in one hole.

When will the 1990 legislation be implemented?

Do something about the prairie dogs!!!

Raccoons and deer are also disturbing the ranches and farms.

State and County pay for the control of prairie dogs. Have environmentalists come and get their prairie dogs and take care of them, FEED THEM!!!!!!

In orchard mice are a very serious problem.

I'm glad you're looking into this. I've tried to get rid of these pesky rodents but to no avail. I don't dare use this land not even for grazing because of all the holes.

Some people over here have serious prairie dog problems. You can tell that governor of ours that we ought to ship him a carload if he thinks they are so damn cute. I've personally shot 40 of them this year.

No problem with rodents except some mice damage to apple trees in winter. Some wood chucks are no problem. I wish the U.S. Fish & Wildlife would stop using 1080 poison on prairie dogs!!!!

My operation is small mostly in range and wasteland. The area around is badly damaged by prairie dogs.

I said moderate only because they are in places I can't drown.

The prairie dogs have increased about 10 times in 1990.

Most of my damage is from prairie dogs and squirrels coming into fields from waste ground.

Raccoons wipe out my sweet corn in our garden patch.

I don't have prairie dogs now.

Since we have no corn or silage this year the raccoons and squirrels are not quite such a problem although they do destroy some of the fruits and grapes in our household garden and get in our granaries. The muskrats are a problem in our main supply ditch and ditches in the field.

In past 20 years prairie dogs first noted in 1989 and are increasing. They are not yet in my irrigated hay fields.

Prairie dogs should be more controlled in desert lands and on public lands. This is where our rodents are coming from. Also we need a better pesticide to get rid of the problem.

Gophers are everywhere and seem to be getting worse. They are down in our hay meadows as soon as the water is turned off. Nothing we do seems to be very effective against them. Our county has a prairie dog control program which helps keep them down.

Too close to city limits.

Pastured some cattle but due to lack of rain and irrigation water could not pasture more.

The loss of value for land from holes in field, extra work it takes to irrigate, loss of water in the holes, damage to machinery from repairs to fix swather, broken axles and dirt from mounds causes damage to hay fields in general.

I am surrounded on 3 sides by federal land. I have eradicated rodents on my land only to be re-infested with them a few months later. It is costly to eradicate the dogs on my land when the borders are not eradicated because they keep coming back.

The prairie dogs are on land that isn't used but are mounding all around the edge.

Due to the drought in this area we sold our cattle in 1989. Ordinarily we keep 25 mother cows.

As yet we haven't had any problems with prairie dogs, but they keep moving closer. Think some drastic measures should be taken now.

Most are on rangeland.

DENVER - 031

My father was a cattle rancher in Kansas. Perhaps you would be interested in his method of stopping the spread of prairie dogs in his pastures in the 1920's - 1930's. He used shelled corn with additive placed into the holes and the prairie dog towns did not grow.

I am retired from farming but have my cropland in the CRP program. We have occasional gophers and ground squirrels on all places, but not a problem.

The gophers have been a major problem for a lifetime - they cause erosion, irrigation problems and the loss of crop land due to root damage and mounds of dirt which is hard on machinery. The prairie dogs have been coming in on us but we try to kill them right away. It's hard to estimate the dollar damage cost.

We haven't had a dam full of water since 1983, but if we do get rain again we will have problems. The squirrels dig holes in our cellars and make big mounds of dirt inside; they dig in and out under the buildings. The squirrels take our garden and fruit. We plant enough for 12 people and are lucky to get enough for 2 people. I asked the county agent if he had poison oats or something and he said that the government had taken everything away that would kill squirrels and prairie dogs.

There are several seed pockets of prairie dogs in our locality. The prairie dogs seem to spread from these pockets of towns and especially so when a person begins to control them. They are spreading over our entire area and certainly need to be controlled. Perhaps the control could be combined with the weed control.

Prairie dogs are taking over my hay ground causing crops to die out. Also the holes have caused hay equipment to break down. Have spent many dollars to control them but no luck getting rid of them.

In 1936 - 1940 we had 40 acres of prairie dogs, by trapping, using poison oats and corn, and finally by using an old tractor and gassing them we finally got rid of them. So in our area so far we don't have any.

The prairie dog problem in Dolores County is very serious and is rapidly getting out of control, mostly because farmers in the CPR and pasture are making no effort at controlling them. The prairie dogs are constantly moving into the cropland. We can get rid of them but the fields are re-infesting immediately from the grasslands. We need a prairie dog control law at once.

Prairie dogs must be controlled or they are going to destroy the western slope of Colorado.

My operation only - prairie dogs are rapidly becoming a SERIOUS problem in the area.

I rent most of my pasture land. There is also prairie dogs on the pasture. I rent 6000 acres pasture. I think that the prairie dogs are getting out of hand. If we don't do something right away we will be lost. My pasture is in Dolores and Montezuma county.

Prairie dogs are spreading fast. We did not have any problem for years with this rodent. About every area has a prairie dog infestation problem now.

Ground squirrel population doubled this last year.

We would like some information on eliminating prairie dogs before the problem gets worse.

Over the past 15 years have made a determined effort to control pocket gophers with gopher - getter, etc. I have had considerable success but eradication seems unlikely due to adjoining acreage that is not under control.

I raise Christmas trees and have a serious problem with moles girdling them and pocket gophers eating the roots.

I am not a farmer or rancher so my judgment of the problem in IIA above is mostly a guess.

We lost about 20 sheep and lamb to coyote. We need help to control coyotes.

The prairie dogs have not reached us yet, but they are coming. They are a big problem in this County and something needs to be done now! Whatever you do don't advertise it to the news.

Idiot city people kill coyotes. Ship me 4 and there won't be a problem. Fine \$600 for killing one. Let us poison prairie dogs!!

All the pasture is gone because the prairie dogs dig up or eat the grass for great areas around them. There is a large area by us owned by Capitol Federal which is heavily infested. They will do nothing about the prairie dogs so they continue to multiply and move to places around there.

5 or 6 acres infested with prairie dogs killing grass and digging holes.

The moles or pocket gophers dig in the alfalfa, then when I mow the sickle strikes the dirt they have piled up thus dulling and damaging the sickle in the swather. I raise the swather when I can see the dirt piles, but I cannot always see the mole hill in thick hay. These sickles cost over \$100 each.

Have tried poison pellets and traps to control pocket gophers but not much success. They are devastating my alfalfa fields.

Porcupines destroy our expensive trees.

Part of ground adjoining Buckley Air Force Base is wholly infested and the prairie dogs have spread throughout all of pasture and into farm ground. Also, my brother has 320 acres in same location that is equally affected.

The moles just make it hard to cut hay. Just a lot of dirt on top of the alfalfa. Don't know what the loss of money that would be.

Coyotes are also posing a possible problem.

Prairie dogs are becoming a terrible problem in this area where residential development is coming close to agricultural land. Our problem is with neighbors who do not use their land productively and do not use control methods.

EAGLE - 037

1080 works, everything else is a waste of time and money!!

Deer is my biggest problem.

We have spent \$390 this year alone to try to control prairie dogs and we only get about an 80% kill. If the State does not help in the control on both private and public ground, in a few years the prairie dogs will take over a large part of this county. What we do on private land will not control them unless public land is treated.

Having farmed at this location for 25 years, I am aware of periodic fluctuations of wildlife populations, including the rodents identified in this questionnaire. Rodent population increases are followed by predator population increases if left to natural control. Pesticide/rodenticide applications may work in the short term but are devastating to natural cycles in the long term.

ELBERT - 039

I am beginning to see more and more gopher holes in some new alfalfa/brome I seeded about 4 years ago. The main problem is the killing of the alfalfa in the area (not the brome) and having to be aware of lifting the swather sickle as we cut the alfalfa to stay out of the fresh mounds.

We have a lot of moles. They should be poisoned. They damage a lot of hay and alfalfa, also the dirt gets into the haying equipment.

Noxious weeds are much more serious to pasture and cropland.

I have irrigated alfalfa and the pocket gophers are terrible. Damage to sickle sections and plant loss. Early retirement of field.

We have a few ground squirrels, seems like they are everywhere but I don't believe they do us much damage. The hawks keep them under control.

Have not seen any prairie dogs. Coyotes, snakes, owl and other predators take care of a portion of pests, then I set mouse traps.

The gophers just make mounds of dirt in the hay and cause damage to swather also nothing grows in the place where the mounds are.

Our 286 acres is a tree farm. Out of a thousand trees planted five years ago, we have lost 50- the minor loss could be caused by gophers.

Only antelope - about 30.

We do not have any prairie dog infestation on our land but prairie dog numbers are increasing in the locality.

Additional cost to equipment repair due to gopher mounds - also loss of product quality. Neighbors tried a burrow machine to poison gophers. Control was very short term. Thistle seems to be the biggest problem.

We are still bothered by grasshoppers.

The only aggravating pests we have are porcupines. They sure eat on the pine trees. They kill a few when they completely encircle them.

5 years ago land that borders us had a 10 acre area of prairie dogs. New owner stopped all hunting. Now there is about 120 - 160 acres infested on his land and I have approximately 80 acres infested. I had none before. We need help!!!!

We do not have prairie dogs. The whole place has gophers and ground squirrels but are not a problem as yet. Ants are giving me the most trouble.

These pocket gophers are very much a nuisance around our farm stead. Around our trees, garden, and even in the coral. The badgers must be looking for insects as in my summer fallow - 69 acres of wheat, 2 filled and 12 covered up 14 holes before drilling.

Put coyotes and coon on the land and I won't have a problem.

A serious problem especially in the alfalfa.

Problem is in the alfalfa land.

EL PASO - 041

The prairie dogs were not even here 2 years ago - they came last year and are multiplying quite rapidly. Am working with the El Paso County Pest Control Officer to eliminate the problem.

We have a few gophers but no problem.

My dogs and cat seem to keep the gophers in check.

Prairie dog infestation was very severe for about 5 years prior to 1988 when the plague killed off a large number. During the summers of 1989 and 1990 the number of prairie dogs has been increasing rapidly. The grass on my land has been largely replaced by weeds and weedy type grasses.

We have 4 acres of open land which we use for 2 horses to graze - we have seen no animals on our land. Thanks.

My adjoining neighbors have prairie dogs that they are having trouble controlling. Their neighbor is a naturalist and will not do any type of controlling. I will probably have prairie dogs within 1 years' time.

Prairie dogs under yearly control.

Lush productive land infested with rodents.

I would like to see a product that would provide some effective ant control. Most everything now is so environmentally safe that the ants are using it to decorate their hills. I have lost a lot of square footage of pasture to ants and they are getting worse year after year.

I have been trying to poison the prairie dogs. Of course we have a neighbor who doesn't believe in killing nothing.

The prairie dogs on our El Paso, Co. ranch and on the neighbors are terrible. We spent \$600 one year on poison grain and it did no good. We have tried other things too. We need something that will work for good control.

There are a few gophers and ground squirrels around field but no problem. Prairie dogs are spreading about 5 more acres in 1990.

We need some help on weed control in this area.

Loss figures are for control 1990 of prairie dogs.

I have had up to 160 acres of prairie dogs. 2 years ago we spent \$300 on control and got them down quite a bit.

We had a few holes taken care of by a private firm but it is expensive.

Ground squirrels are a nuisance in that they kill young trees especially in the winter months, looking for food. They will cut completely through the trunk below ground and the tree will be dead before anyone notices it, especially in snow fences (line) - I am interested in ridding our county/state of thistle.

Prairie dogs are a very serious problem in this area. We have conscientiously used every legal poison available from the minute they started to move in; we have spent many hours and hundreds of dollars and it has all been a waste of time and money. They are at least doubling or more, the land they take.

Our damage of dryland alfalfa was thinning of the stand by gophers working especially in fall.

We poisoned prairie dogs quite a few years ago. Some are moving back in. Gophers are some problem but not causing a lot of problems or economic loss.

I have had 2 horses hurt from prairie dog holes.

The prairie dogs are taking up the grass lands and making holes and expanding into new areas this year. They are eating my Sudex feed unbelievable this year seems they really produced a lot of young. They are making new holes out into the cropland also. I wish we could poison them without the terrible high cost.

Muskrats are our main rodent problem. As they cause considerable loss of water in our reservoirs and general costs to repair dams.

Should do same survey on thistles.

FREMONT - 043

We have a 760 apple orchard and moles. Other than \$10 per poisoned fruit and the aggravation of spending afternoons for digging and placing bait and covering it up. That is all our loss. It doesn't do much good. All the moles do is leave one area and move to another. There is the same amount of active mole tunnels.

Ground squirrels are causing damage. In many ways they should be controlled in any way possible. EPA should stay out of farming and ranching.

It is difficult to make a dollar loss on the apples damaged by the ground squirrels. They cut them down and put them in holes to eat.

Pocket gopher mounds cause damage to sickle when cutting hay, also cause main ditch to break.

Prairie dogs moved in from adjacent housing development. Holes are dangerous for the horses and riders. Ground squirrels have been a real problem.

We have cats that keep gophers down and they would probably like prairie dogs too.

Prairie dog infestation is serious on a limited acreage of about 200 acres NE of Victor in Teller, Co. - need control before they spread.

I own 70 acres of dryland pasture. We have a few moles on the property. We pasture about 30 head of dude horses in the summer time and feed hay in the winter or rent winter pasture.

At present ranch grazing land has been leased. The family corporation sold the livestock, with the exception of 20 horses. We plan restocking the ranch with cattle within the next 3 years. In years past, we were plagued with gophers, beavers, but haven't had problems in the past 5 years.

We pasture horses on 20 acres which surrounds our home. It is a constant battle with prairie dogs, which kill off the pasture grass and leave holes for the horses to step into. All of our neighbors have this problem.

Don't have prairie dogs right now but have had them. If they get started they give you a very severe problem.

I had a problem 2 years ago but they all died of the plague.

I would like to get rid of the prairie dogs but there is an eagle, a few badgers and a bobcat or two out there that I wouldn't want to get poisoned.

GARFIELD - 045

Large coyote population seems to keep rodents in our area under control. We've witnessed coyotes feeding on these rodents throughout the year.

It is impossible to determine the expense caused by gophers. Gophers cause a lot of problems with irrigation.

This report covers our turf operation only.

Muskrats damage irrigation ditches and ponds. Marmots eat some pasture.

Ants infesting irrigated hay lands in the past 3 years.

Garfield County never did have serious rodent problem.

My problem with gophers is mostly loss of water by running down the draws from gopher holes in the ditches. It's lots of work trying to plug them but the economic loss is not much.

It is hard to estimate damage. The gophers make irrigating difficult to say the least. Coyotes feed on them as well as large birds but don't seem to make any headway. Wish there was a magic answer to get rid of them.

I didn't harvest any crops during 1989 or 1990 due to no water.

All data based on estimates only - No records available on leased ranches.

I have about 40 cats and there has been quite a few coyotes until the last 3 years, so along with the drought there is very little to sustain wildlife except for a few magpies that can move around quite easily to scavenge anything that is edible for them.

Muskrats cause damage to headgates - diversion boxes and ditches.

This being a drought year it is hard to estimate the loss, but I had about 50 acres of alfalfa and brome grass pasture this spring that I didn't get any use of at all as the ground squirrels kept it ate right into the ground. We haven't been able to get any poison to control them.

Our greatest crop loss is from the wildlife such as deer and elk eating off our hay grain and shrubbery and also coyotes harassing cattle and eating our poultry.

There are more ground squirrels and marmots this year than usual but damage is minimal.

We have ground hogs(whistle pigs).

GILPIN - 047

We feel natural predators should be allowed to solve the rodent problems. Pesticides are extremely dangerous in our food chains and will probably threaten man's survival on the planet eventually -we don't use or endorse the use of pesticides or trapping.

The property is mountain property used for summer pasture for cattle.

GRAND - 049

Since there is no acceptable method of control, there's no cost - the rodents are winning!!

They say the meek will inherit the land but I think the little gray gopher as we call them here (ground squirrel) have beat the meek to it! This area has got a problem.

The squirrels dig holes - Then the badgers dig big, big holes to get the squirrels. Result: Monstrous big holes dangerous to livestock and machinery. I broke whole front end of one tractor due to hole. Also repairs to dams and ditches.

Considerable digging holes etc. Occasional problem riding. Problems minor. Would not want to poison owls, coyotes etc. by poison bait.

I cut my operation down in 1971 - When I got to be 70, sold land and cattle. I put out a trap line around my meadow and caught 150 a day for some time. More kept coming from outlying country. 75 ground squirrels eat as much as a cow or horse.

We are starting to see a real coyote problem and would like help with it.

My property is infested with Richardson's ground squirrels. I would like to obtain poison for control of these rodents but am told by our county agent that I must attend some training in Denver in the use of poisons. This is inconvenient for me. How may I bypass this step? Please clarify. Thank you.

We about invited the governor up for a whistle pig shoot, there were so many this year. They're burrowing under our buildings.

Besides the damage to pasture land, ground squirrels damaged our vegetable garden extremely.

GUNNISON - 051

I have worked for Gunnison Co. for about 5 years controlling rodents. I use a pickup with a hose hooked up to the exhaust. This works but it is very time consuming and expensive. I have eliminated all rodents in many areas, and have reduced the rodent population in the county considerably. I would like to know if there is a better way to control rodents.

We would like to talk to someone concerning the damage, it is hard to estimate the damage. We have a problem with thistles so who would we contact?

The prairie dogs are increasing very fast. It is hard to estimate the damage caused by the gophers. They are hard on hay machinery. The prairie dogs cause water loss in irrigation ditches.

Muskrats cause damage to irrigation ditches.

The problem will get bad without some type of control.

We are located about 300 yards from Blue Mesa Lake. The Park Service Land adjoins us. They can't control the rodents because of tourists and domestic pets that can be harmed or killed such as with traps, poisons, and etc. They cross the road and come in our hayfield and we have a very hard time irrigating. It is a big problem here because we also have up to 12 head of horses in the summer. Luckily they haven't stepped in one and broken a leg.

Not only do I have dogs, but when they are thinned more move in. It is a real problem and getting worse each year.

Hard to estimate because of holes to fill - damage to property by undermining damage to hay and corn crops.

Colorado maybe could approach the Republic of Korea where dog soup kitchens are common and "puppy-gullion" is a special. We could contract with them to supply prairie dog meat which they would think was real special. Could be a great cash crop for Colorado and its taxpayers. What do they estimate? 50 million? That's quite a few years supply. Might pay for the baseball stadium from those around Denver alone? Have to control the harvest around Nucla for its big day. One thing for sure - when the last man falls over dead on this earth there will still be coyotes to eat on his carcass and prairie dogs to dig around his bones.

HINSDALE - 053

It would be nice to have an effective, easy-to-use poison or control.

Illegal but he's heard of people using gasoline - oats in antifreeze.

HUERFANO - 055

They just started to move in.

Have introduced more bull snakes.

1/4 alfalfa crop destroyed due to gopher and holes where loss of water (due to holes) is gone and alfalfa is killed off by roots eaten off.

I am having a serious problem with gophers at my residence. They are killing my fruit trees, and digging up all my yard.

Prairie dog towns are within the area, up to 3 miles from my operation. The movement of these rodents could be a problem in time to come. That is my worry.

I contacted the extension office in Walsenburg about a year ago and at that time no one in the Co. was certified for rodent control. Has this changed?

The rivers are dry and the year has not been too labored.

I would like to have some control on coyotes.

Neighbors have prairie dogs but none on this ranch. Coyotes are a major problem in this area.

JACKSON - 057

The economic loss on badgers is due to one hurt horse and maintenance to machinery due to the large holes they dig and the number of holes they dig.

Badgers are a bigger problem on my holdings.

We have been tempted to hold a grand international ground squirrel shoot!! Are you including damage done by badgers in this report? Last year we shot over 200 ground squirrels in my garden, but what can you do about moles?

Have no idea of how to measure economic loss, but there is quite a lot.

Have less prairie dogs and ground squirrels than usually. The badgers are very thick by their diggings.

We take care of our own prairie dog problems by shooting them as they move in from the wildlife refuge and our gopher problem is taken care of by barn cats and shooting since poison was taken off the market by the pressure from the environmentalists.

JEFFERSON - 059

Would appreciate a hearing on remedial measure for eradicating prairie dogs.

We are chiefly a Christmas tree operation, although we pasture horses from time to time where there are fences. We are basically a one man operation (myself) which stretches one pretty thin. From time to time we have a few volunteers (family and friends) that help for no pay. We could do more if all our fences were up. I have at least 9 more miles to put up and fencing in the mountains with few roads is a tough deal. We have no rodent problems that I'm aware of.

We must take the water about 4 miles along our open irrigation ditch. The water passes through about 3/4 mile of land heavily infested with prairie dogs. They tunnel into the bottom and sides. If it continues we won't be able to get water to the landowners downstream from Alkire Street. Prairie dogs are on both sides of the ditch.

Rodents are a minor problem affecting roots of plants and new plantings only.

10 years ago we had no prairie dogs. They spread from the open space around Stanley Lake. The number of prairie dogs has doubled in the past 3 years. They have been poisoned twice - once 7 years ago and once 3 years ago.

We work very hard to keep prairie dogs out of our hay ground and have been fairly successful. However, prairie dogs are a very serious problem in our area.

I have been fighting prairie dogs for several years trying to keep them off of our farm. Open Space has purchased land on both sides of me and I cannot get them to control their prairie dogs, so they keep re-infesting my land. I think some sort of law should make landowners responsible for prairie dog control.

We have horses (15) , goats, and chickens. We are aware and slightly bothered by moles in our irrigated hay ditches. Really no problem.

I believe that rodents are a serious economic threat in some areas. I am fortunate that they have not bothered me.

2 calves 600# suffered broken legs from holes. This occurs yearly and with such a small operation the percentage loss is extremely high.

Please advise on how to rid land of pocket gophers.

Coyotes, deer and elk cause more loss than the rodents. Of course the coyotes help control the rodents. Landowners living on the land should be allowed to hunt deer and elk, either sex, any or all seasons. Who can guess in May when the deer and elk will come through in October - November.

We have just pasture ground and there is no problem with rodents.

Just beginning to see ground squirrels moving in.

We are especially concerned about injury to our horses because of prairie dog holes. We would appreciate a list of control methods available to us. We have had no serious injury as yet - we have lost 50% of pasture feed in area 50A.

KIOWA - 061

Like to see something done about them.

We don't have any prairie dogs on our land yet, but a half section across State Highway #96 and across the railroad is thickly infested with them. This lies adjacent to our field and we notice dogs moving closer every year. We are afraid that soon they will be invading our land. Help!

I do not have a big problem with prairie dogs but my neighbors do. Consequently I will have a problem soon if they don't or won't control them. They are ruining thousands of acres. The prairie dog towns also carry disease and plague. I do not like the health risk.

I work hard at controlling prairie dogs. If I didn't we would be overrun by them. It seems a never ending battle keeping them under control and the problem seems to be getting worse.

Poisoning prairie dogs kills prairie dog predators too. Shooting of prairie dogs is best.

We have spent \$660 for Gastoxin tablets in 1989 each hole treated 3 or 4 times each but as of today every hole has an occupant with several thousand new ones. None of the land is grazeable and we do need some sort of preventative. Part of the land is owned and the other part is leased from the State of Colorado.

The prairie dogs are a major problem in this area. They cause extreme damage to land and livestock and are no good whatsoever for anything.

It cost \$1/hole to get rid of the prairie dogs and there is 50 to 60 holes per acre. It doesn't do any good to use bait or phostoxin if there is another town within 4 1/2 miles. Within 2 years the town is back to original size or larger.

Haven't found any effective means of eradicating prairie dogs.

We have been fighting prairie dogs for 20 years. When we think we have them under control we have another outbreak and have to start again. They are getting out of control all over eastern Colorado.

I think that prairie dogs are becoming a serious problem. I would like to see more things done to get rid of them.

I have 1/4 sec. pasture rented that I use as horse pasture. Prairie dogs are taking over a small corner, from a large prairie dog town, surrounding my pasture on the east and south. No doubt these will show up on other reports.

Rodents are not a major concern on this farm. Antelope are a very major concern with heavy crop losses sometimes and the spread of bindweed seed and the expense of control. The need for a free hand in dealing with this problem is necessary.

I have very little damage to my ranch but I can see lots and lots of damage driving along our highways, north of Larimer, west of Haswell, north of La Junta, and a lot more that damage the land to where it is worthless. The prairie dog needs to be done away with. They are no good to anyone. I try to deal with my little bunch but they are hard to deal with.

I wish we could get rid of them. I have a neighbor with about 50 acres in pasture across the road that really have a lot of prairie dogs on it and east is a fellow that is in CPR who has prairie dogs on his land.

I have never seen prairie dogs increase so much in my life as in the last year. Many people don't seem to do anything about them. If you can do anything about them I sure would appreciate it, otherwise they are going to take all the grassland in Colorado.

Prairie dogs are destroying our land and destroying our grass plus carry bubonic plague. Antelopes are destroying our crops by eating and trampling them into the ground. Antelopes infest millions of choice farm land - with bindweed, which totally drops the price of the land by about 1/2 its value.

I don't have very much of a problem with rodents on my place. There is a big problem in the west end of Kiowa County.

We have a 630 acre farm with no rodents.

KIT CARSON - 063

We do not seem to have a problem although we do have some of all the rodents mentioned. Am unable to make any of the estimates requested with sufficient accuracy to be of any value.

I would like to see the state or federal government help more in assisting aid to farmers from destruction of crops from deer and elk.

I don't have any rodent problem that I am aware of.

Pocket gophers moved into our alfalfa fodder from the dryland range. Their mounds cover up the alfalfa plant and ruin the swather sickles. We need to poison them 2 or 3 times a year.

These rodents are filthy and reproducing in record number. Send us something that will get rid of them, quickly.

My neighbors have approximately 500 acres of prairie dogs in their pastures adjoining my pasture. The cost to kill them I'm not sure. There are several areas in county heavily infested with prairie dogs. Thanks.

I had some prairie dogs move into one pasture last year, but was able to eliminate them with phostoxin. The pocket gophers are a serious problem and seem to be getting worse because they are so hard to poison. I have tried to poison them with bait but to no avail. I would appreciate any help or ideas on eliminating them.

Occasionally prairie dogs move in but we eradicate them fast. No problem.

Pocket gophers minor problem. So far only in roadside bar pits.

Prairie dog problem solved a number of years ago. Ground squirrels and gophers reduced as necessary.

The pesticides allowed are totally ineffective. The prairie dogs mass produce faster than rabbits or cats. What was a joke a year ago is a major problem now. Maybe I should have my own prairie dog shoot.

I am semi - retired. I have been farming since 1946. It makes me sick to see the prairie dogs taking over our county and destroying the pastures. I think there should be a law to have them killed.

I would be very interested in some type of procedure to eliminate prairie dogs and pocket gophers.

We have controlled the prairie dogs in our area and hawks control the ground squirrels. My operation is all dryland.

Prairie dogs noticed August 1990. New holes 10-15 mounds. Never had them before! Poisoned immediately - under control.

Prairie dogs leave very little for the livestock to eat. We pay taxes on all acres of our land, therefore it would be nice to receive some return on all acres of land and not loose out to the prairie dogs. The diseases and lice they carry are bad. The holes they make in the pasture are dangerous for horses when rounding up livestock as well as to the riders. The towns are also homes for snakes.

My land is all in CRP.

The antelope are by far the biggest problem. We can poison the prairie dogs and be done with the problem but with the antelope its years if ever you get rid of the bind weed. We have seen a very large increase in prairie dogs the last couple of years.

Weeds are a big problem.

We are finding lots of gophers spreading into CRP land.

LAKE - 065

No comments received.

Deer are becoming a problem also. I have shot 872 prairie rats and it doesn't seem to stop them from increasing.

I would be delighted to have some of the animal lovers come in and remove all of the prairie dog colonies.

In the last 2 years our prairie dog population decreased rapidly. I feel that the plague has reduced them. Prior to this our prairie dog population was serious and was causing us much greater economical loss and much more damage to our ranch and pasture land.

Prairie dogs are taking some of the best land in the area since 1080 is no longer available. Higher taxes but less production is what we have here, with no relief in sight. How long can anyone in agriculture hang on? PLEASE RESPOND! Land value with prairie dogs is considerably less than land without dogs. The issue needs more than lip service.

Neighbors do not control their rodents. County cost share has been reduced for gastoxin 50 to 75%.

Damage to animals and ditches by gophers resulting in flood and washing away of surfaces. Required 11 yards of fill and 9 yards of surface material to repair damage plus approximately 24 hours on backhoe, loader, and dump truck time. We were able to repair damage ourselves; to hire it done would have cost us 4 times as much.

On my farm the prairie dogs migrate into the alfalfa fields. Apparently they are moving from the CPR land to the alfalfa field for better food. I have used gas pellets, guns and gasoline and it seems impossible to keep up with them. I feel we need help on this matter.

I have a very bad prairie dog problem.

Some of us raise and use only horses.

We had a few - maybe a 10 acre infestation of prairie dogs until about 1950. Within 5 years they were all gone. We do not know why - disease or cold weather. We had made no attempts to control them by poisons, gas, etc. Our altitudes are 7200 to 8700 feet.

Prairie dogs are a pain but real problem is noxious weeds. Neighbors really don't know or do anything about weeds or prairie dogs. Consequently it is a struggle to maintain a clean product.

This is a rodent infestation survey not a livestock census.

We spent a lot of time and money in trying to control the prairie dogs on our land. We have Indian land on 2 sides that is badly infested with dogs and they do very little to control them, so it is a continual job for us to keep the dogs under control. I think we are losing the battle.

The lack of prairie dog control on adjacent land causes my prairie dog problem to be worse than it would otherwise be.

If you have some prairie dogs you have serious problems. I really don't know what to put down for the economic loss.

I no longer farm as I am 80 years old. I have the ranch leased for the above number of cattle.

We have lost close to 50 acres of grazing due to prairie dog towns. Porcupines have stripped and killed pines. Beavers have cut down 10 acres of cottonwoods on our bottom land.

All my land has been cleared of prairie dogs and the coyotes are keeping the gophers and ground squirrels controlled.

We have fought prairie dogs for 19 years - Probably 200-300 active holes. This spring/summer 1990 was a surprise as at the moment we have no prairie dogs. The plague came through and wiped them out. I feel sure they will be back but we are real happy for now!!

No livestock or troublesome rodents.

Losses caused by these and other rodents is extremely difficult to estimate. Every year we spend several days repairing, cleaning, and restoring lands and materials effected by these pests.

Prairie dogs are a problem on 2 sides of my place. We try to drown them out twice a year and we are not bothered to a great extent.

Lost a lot of crops because of prairie dogs and deer and elk, but couldn't put a dollar figure on how much it cost.

Suggest the government let them use Thallium. It works better than anything else. He has no prairie dogs or gophers but they are on land around his.

Lost 8 lambs from coyotes.

State and Division of Wildlife aren't cooperative about damage by elk and deer. Have lots of deer eating hay.

They are a pain most of our prairie dogs are on the canal banks which causes subterranean leakage. This leads to swampy areas.

Our prairie dogs come from non-irrigated rangeland.

Those suckers are hard to kill.

We have had a major problem with marmots. They have caused major seeping of irrigation water all along the ditch and has ruined our pasture and a neighbors hay land.

The prairie dog infestation has increased, not only in their original areas but they are migrating once excellent agricultural land. They are taking over these fields, crops, etc. They are very damaging and some are moving into my nursery 1/4 mile away from their original colony. They have extensively diminished the pasture for cattle, and irrigating and trying to raise crops is almost impossible where it once was very productive.

Get the people who want to save prairie dogs to come and catch them and put them in their backyards or basements.

Currently pasturing horses. As soon as a horse breaks a leg in a prairie dog hole I'll change the seriousness of the problem from moderate to serious!

Prairie dogs and ground squirrels are in the 1,000's within 150 feet of our land.

The prairie dog take over is a constant problem to our rangeland. I appreciate the interest - maybe we can get this problem solved.

There is no way to tell totally how much damage they can do, depending on what property they try to spread to and the diseases they carry. It is in our plans to exterminate them as soon as possible.

40 acres of this report is on the western slope and that is where the infestation is.

Our ranch is infested with a large herd of elk that eats our pasture hay and I had to buy hay to stay in the cattle business. There were 92 to 204 head in this herd that ranged over our land and other nearby ranchers' lands. We do have some pocket gophers but marmots are more damaging to pastures as we don't shoot coyotes and they eat gophers. The number of elk licenses needs to be increased drastically in our area.

Prairie dogs are definitely out of control in Larimer county. Ground squirrels stay out of crops and rangelands but are real problem around farmsteads and storage silos.

Prairie dogs mainly on unproductive lands. They can sure reproduce in a hurry.

Prairie dogs kill the soil, hazard to livestock - spread disease.

The prairie dog problem is on the rise especially on pasture ground east of our place.

The prairie dog population is very serious. I have neighbors that have them but aren't doing anything to control them. I fight them and work at keeping them off of my land. Landowners should be forced to control the prairie dogs.

Prairie dogs are a serious problem on adjacent lands.

You and the IRS might be interested in how we will control the prairie dogs when they enter our land. They are very near now.

Prairie dogs are not a problem at this location but other places the population of prairie dogs are a real problem and should be eliminated.

I have no estimate as yet on ditch losses or water and ditch repair but it looks like it would be about \$2000. If the rodents should cause a large washout or dike break, the loss would be great.

We raise horses and although the prairie dog infestation is not directly on our property because we keep the ground worked up and pasture low due to the heavy infestation on neighboring acreage, there is not a good material available to exterminate prairie dogs. If there was land owners would do a lot better job of controlling them.

The prairie dogs are taking over the pastureland. Nobody will rent this land as there is no grass left and the holes will break animals legs. Lots of damage from prairie dogs! You could hire someone to poison them, but now its so expensive you can't afford it. They used to have government trappers that did this but I can't get anybody to do it.

Ground squirrels are a very damaging animal and almost impossible to control, will not eat poison (just the birds die) and I have tried gassing and that is impossible. There are too many holes. Would appreciate any help available in controlling these damaging animals!!! They are in epidemic proportion!!!

Prairie dogs have been eradicated twice in three years. However, the infestation occurs over and over because lack of controls by surrounding infestations which are not controlled.

This is the first year we have had prairie dogs. We are trying to control them and are very worried about possible spread.

Current prairie dog population is very small but it is new. We have never had prairie dogs until this Spring. Their population is increasing rapidly. Although no problems so far we do expect some in the near future.

A small number of deer wonder all over this land but is no problem.

Wants to know if there is an effective way to get rid of prairie dogs. Doesn't have any on his land but they are near his fences.

Prairie dogs are a serious problem on two sides of this property.

Would like to see all prairie dogs eliminated in Weld and Larimer County.

All of my property is located in the higher foothills, ranging from 6,772 ft. to 7,900 ft., and is leased out for pasture. We do not have prairie dogs or ground squirrels and only a few gophers.

The prairie dog infestation is very serious in Larimer and Boulder County. We need help.

Blackbirds destroyed 90% of milo crop in 1989. Rodents are not a problem at this time.

Prairie dogs have been a problem for a number of years. I put out poison grain last year and did not get a kill at all. Pocket gophers have always been a problem on our irrigated acres, and I do not have any solution to get rid of them.

Kangaroo rats or gophers chew off 3 and 4 fruit trees in the wind breaks over the ranch, and in the yard. The flower bulbs in the yard are lucky to last a year. What can we do to eradicate them?

No more problem than usual, gophers damage hay field, irrigation ditches, resulting in loss of water as above had same problem for years. Cats, coyotes and hawks keep them pretty much under control. Very few prairie dogs in this area, I need more for the ground owls, so the quail can repopulate.

The coyotes and mountain lions are so bad in this area they are killing calves, sheep, goats and chickens. Something needs to be done about them.

It's very difficult to assess economic loss to a crop - but gophers are a major problem in our irrigated fields.

Pocket gophers: There isn't a large infestation any one place but generally seems to be all over the county.

Prairie dogs: These animals have really spread out this summer - they have started new towns in lots of places that were formerly not infested.

The prairie dog problem is a serious one and is only going to get worse unless we are able to poison them. I tried the pellets or gas pellets but they did not work and so we need some kind of help from the Dept. of Agriculture.

I have no prairie dogs on my land. A couple of years ago an absent landowner across the fence from me had about 130 burrows of the dogs, I tried poisoning them with poison milo but it didn't work, so used gasoline, about 1/2 pint per hole, stuffed newspaper in hole covered with dirt - this measure got the dogs cleaned out 100%.

Prairie dogs are becoming a very serious problem in this area. I have none but my neighbors do and are doing nothing to control them. A program to control dogs is needed. In some areas there is a dog town that covers as much as a section of land and turning the land to waste.

A new and better method of prairie dog control is needed.

Have no prairie dogs and few ground squirrels and gophers.

The prairie dog problem is serious on the 280 acres that are infested because there is nothing there. But in relation to the whole ranch the problem is minor.

I took a lot of time and effort to bring the prairie dog under control and now there is little or next to nothing for control of this very serious problem. More money and greater control are needed.

Pocket gophers killing trees in windbreaks and grass in pastures. Ground squirrels damaging grass in some areas.

Although we have no prairie dogs on our land, there are several towns that border ours. They are positioned in such a way that prairie dogs would have to cross County or State highways. So far this has not happened.

None of these rodents represent a significant hardship in my operation. The minimal inconvenience and cost is more than offset by the sight of a healthy ecosystem. I'm sorry I can't say the same about the cost and inconvenience presented by our government including the Dept. of Agriculture.

I have a neighbor that has a much worse prairie dog problem than I do. I am very concerned with their prairie dogs moving onto my property.

I have no prairie dogs on my land. Pocket gophers are also no problem. Ground squirrels are also no problem.

As a ranch we have been doing prairie dog control every year for a long time but they are increasing in number due to the fact that 1080 is no longer available for us to use.

We need a product that will eliminate the prairie dogs.

There is no rodent problem on this ranch at this time.

Antelope - we furnish pasture for them.

Raccoons - damage buildings.

Coyotes - damage calves.

Prairie dogs are serious.

Grasshoppers on the land but not too bad this year.

I have eliminated the prairie dogs twice in the last 3 years , with gastoxin but they keep coming back in from somewhere. I now have 2 towns about 2 1/2 miles apart instead of one. Ground squirrels keep increasing in area and population. They are very hard on newly planted crops. My worst problem is with raccoons. They are very destructive on corn or sweet corn.

Something has to be done to stop the spread of these rodents. I don't expect the State government to come out and get rid of them for us. Just have a decent poison or fumigant out on the market so we can take care of the problem ourselves.

Gophers in the hay bottoms probably do more good than harm. They are loosening the soil and turning it for better water infiltration.

Prairie dogs moved out last year but don't know why.

It doesn't do me any good to get rid of my prairie dogs because there is a dog town across the fence about a mile and a half long. There are many prairie dog towns in this area.

Foxes burrowing in ditch bank caused large erosion; \$500 required to repair.

Prairie dogs are out of control on big area. I have tried some poisoning with good luck!

We have gophers and squirrels but not in enough numbers or concentration to warrant control measures.

What shall I do to control the pest. I have been giving them some poison grain, but at times they don't even phase them. I would like to know some answers or ways to control them. There mostly in alfalfa the worst. In close to creek, which at that time, there's all kind of wild animals. I would like answers because I had to make a cement ditch because of this.

Very difficult to fill-out hard to assess dollar damage. The Animal Rights Movement is our biggest concern now and in the future.

We only have 1.8 acres. Where our home and business. We raise sheep, horses, goats and a variety of birds. I know these are of a concern to others but do not seem to be to us.

Although the acres that I show are small in relationship to my total acres the problem is rapidly growing on my ground as well as on many of my neighbors.

We had some prairie dogs some years back exterminated 100%. I can tell you they are very destructive and costly. Not to mention the aggravation and wear and tear on equipment.

In our area the prairie dogs are a very serious and costly problem.

The coyote population is also a critical problem here.

At this time we don't have many prairie dogs on our land but our adjoining ranches do. Also we graze on Federal land and I feel the prairie dog problem there is serious. They will come over to my land from there I fear as each year they become more numerous, and I believe it is vital to control them as they are very damaging to grassland.

The prairie dog is becoming an increasingly serious problem that threatens to infest and destroy all our pasture land, if some serious control measures are not approved in the near future. We are in need of some help.

Too few farmers try to control their pests while others do nothing letting the problem get worse.

What a way to spend the state money with these surveys!

We do not have rodent problems.

On 100 acres of pasture there is a prairie dog mound approximately every 20 ft. or so. They have completely tore up the grass around every hole and they are spreading rapidly.

There are currently no prairie dogs on any of the land I operate. However, there are hundreds of prairie dogs in adjacent pastures that will soon be infesting my land.

We rent grass that has prairie dogs on it. They cover about 10 acres. I am not reporting about them because my father has that land leased so he will report on them.

The prairie dog problem has been our greatest problem - not only economically - but in finding a way to get rid of them - your surveys ask for only the economic loss for 1989 - we are getting our problem somewhat under control but the expense in doing so, plus the loss in pasture yields over a number of years is staggering. There better be something done quickly in getting rid of the prairie dogs or Colorado is going to have a problem that we cannot live with.

Prairie dogs are terrible in northeastern Logan County, northwestern Sedgwick County, most people don't do anything, only talk and watch them increase. We keep ours under control.

We have started rodent control on prairie dogs again this year, 1990. So far we have spent \$7000 for poison and labor. The prairie dogs are growing by leaps and bounds (should say they know no bounds) in this area of NE Colo.

Prairie dogs continue to move in from neighboring pastures.

The more we try to control prairie dogs the more there seem to be. They come from neighbors who don't take time to control them and then they spread out to start new colonies. I believe in conservation and caring for our environment but the prairie dogs and the city folk and Eastern transplants wanting to protect them are starting to get on my nerves. Gophers and ground squirrels do very small damage in our area.

MESA - 077

Birds are the main problem we have in the orchards - they are a real problem with cherries, apples and peaches.

Raccoons are our biggest problem.

I have tried every way I could to control my prairie dog problem I could think of but nothing works. P.S. Send me a solution!

Cost of control material is very expensive and you control what material we really need.

This is not applicable yet, but the neighbors who irrigate with flood ditches, it causes problems.

1st time in 19 years that we have had any problem with rodents. Ground squirrels on homestead.

Muskrats do extensive damage to my irrigation systems, i.e. burrowing phlumes, dams, ditches, etc.

The few acres we have are used for fruit growing.

Prairie dogs dug holes under ditch bank and roads on ditch banks which made the ditch banks wash off so we can't drive to some areas of our land. We have to check our irrigation lots more often to keep everything from washing. We don't know the dollars lost.

I probably spent 2 man weeks, poisoning, shooting, blowing up (with calcium carbide) prairie dogs which infested my property but mostly come from neighbors 15+ fallow acres. They cause water loss down holes, unwatered areas, they crop alfalfa but not plantain and cause plantain to take over young hayfields. They potentially can break legs of livestock. Fumitoxin is practically useless (have applicators' license) - we should go back to strychnine grain which never bothered our pheasants-but killed prairie dogs.

Squirrels dig under bin to carry things. Pack off more than we can bring in, eat half of the garden. Prairie dogs are moving in to where we have never had them. The pasture is bare around their nasty mounds and they dig so many holes.

Too many rocks around here - sort of discourages burrowing rodents.

I do lots of custom work and those fields not being farmed are being infested with prairie dogs. They then seem to move into fields being farmed. Some type of control for these rodents is necessary in some cases.

There are one or two pair of the Bank or Tree Squirrels around the orchard in Mesa County but no economic loss has ever resulted from them. Skunks have always been more of a problem. The prairie dog population along Hwy 92 and Hwy 50 was very large in 1989 but has declined to only a few for 1990. A mass decline was noted in late 1989 along the two highways.

Ground squirrel and prairie dog problems generally relate to their making burrows in irrigated orchards. It's hard to measure economic damage. But it takes time and money to deal with the infestation. The ground squirrels eat quite a few peaches as they near maturity.

I don't have problems with rodents here. I have enough coyotes and cats around to keep them under control. Now if they would just control weeds and insects.

Deer and elk are our big problem and our community is getting desperate.

We have lots of mice. Would like to get bait like we used too. Where can we get it now?

A survey of the extent of noxious weeds, the different varieties of noxious weeds and the estimated cost for controlling or eradicating these weeds would be a very useful survey. The weeds that come most in mind are Bind weed, Russian Knap weed, whirl milk weed, Canadian thistles, bull thistles, must thistles, burdock and cocklebur. These weeds are probably costing much more than the rodents.

Damage of under mining buildings.

The cows are on summer range from June to October. Ground squirrels cause the most damage to fruit in season and to grain in the winter which we store to feed the cows.

I don't know how you would figure the loss. The mounds of loose dirt are everywhere in the alfalfa. It is not only the alfalfa they eat off but the plugging of the mowing machine. We are starting to see a lot of ground hogs too.

Used to have squirrels but these are all gone now.

We run horses and have no problem with rodents.

There are some ground squirrels in the area south and west of my land. My son has an acreage northwest about 3 miles and it has many ground squirrels that cause large holes in his hay fields.

We have had ground squirrel problems on about 2 acres in the past, but they are under control for the past 3 to 4 years due to the County rodent control crew doing a very good job for us. The gopher problem is minor since it seems to be only in the fallow part of our garden.

I am assuming that disease has decreased the prairie dog population in this particular spot. Over a 3 year period they decreased greatly, leaving the area pock-marked with holes and mounds. We do not have natural predators.

Our local rodent control program is ineffective. I had 4 shooters spend a lot of time and did kill a great number of squirrels. Next Spring however I will continue to have an epidemic. I need gas pellets to drop in a hole and cover or something. Diesel exhaust in holes is too time consuming - too many holes. I lost a horse, hay machinery is destroyed and crops suffer. With the squirrel problem I have badgers coming in and you know their holes.

We spend thousands of dollars a year trying to control ground squirrels. Bullets and days of labor filling badger holes before baby lambs are put in the fields is a big expense, besides the forage lost. The poison program used by the County had very poor results this year.

MONTEZUMA - 083

All around us the prairie dogs are so thick. We try to get rid of them but the neighbors don't. Also we run this packing house and you would be shocked by how many animals are brought in with broken legs.

The prairie dog problem around this area is getting real bad. I bet I gassed prairie dogs 8 to 10 days this year and about 3 or 4 days later more dogs will move in; off the neighbors land.

Prairie dogs are increasing in this County and are getting out of control.

We have never lost an animal from broken legs because of the holes. Trying to irrigate with prairie dogs is time consuming and frustrating, not to mention crop loss because of dry strips. We have spent considerable time gassing them with a tractor or shooting them. I am sure our population would be much worse without our efforts. The neighbors don't appear to do anything about theirs.

We had a very serious prairie dog problem. The County Health Dept. has discovered I've had bubonic plague which appears to have cleared them out. The farm is in the CRP program so the damage has been minimal. However, we could of had crop damage. We did not try to gas them last Spring as it was too dry.

I pasture horses of my own and others. I have had sheep in the past but am not yet back in business.

Each year the problem grows worse despite all efforts we have used to control them.

Prairie dogs are impossible to control on our land due to neighbors in City of Cortez.

I would like to get rid of the prairie dogs completely.

Prairie dogs are spreading in Montezuma. The SCS have and will spend millions of dollars on conservation practice on farms and ranches. If the prairie dog isn't controlled soon they will be a big problem later on. I can control prairie dogs on my place, however within a few days they will move in from other lands.

Prairie dogs have been a significant problem on this farm for many years. Futile efforts with live trapping, shooting, gasoline, phosphine, and carbon monoxide have resulted only in minor short-lived control. Infestation this Spring seemed heavier than usual, but by mid-summer almost all had disappeared and a few carcasses began showing up near dens. I have not seen or heard of one in weeks. Disease, perhaps?

1989 we experienced low water supply, high winds, and \$0 in revenue crops. So \$0 loss for 1988 would be unrealistic. Normal years I would estimate 1000-1500 loss in crops and other injuries per year due to prairie dogs.

Other people won't do anything about prairie dogs. When I get mine cleaned out, they move back in again.

We only have 9 acres of irrigated land now and about 2 acres of pasture land is prairie dog city. We have the land rented for cow pasture. Pocket gophers are everywhere. Ground squirrels are popular under all buildings.

Dollar loss is hard to calculate due to drought. Pasture is heavily infested, hay land is modest.

Needs to be a law forcing landowners to control prairie dogs. They are wide spread and taking over more land all the time.

We have cropland in CRP - it is now vegetated with grass.

Since the County has quit poisoning the prairie dogs, they have just about ruined the whole county for farming or grazing. It isn't safe to ride a horse in most of the pastures. Cattle are breaking their legs in the holes. When you go to some of the eating places in the County the prairie dogs are running around the cows. They are digging holes in some of the County roads with out some help from the County, State, or Federal, people might just as well as give up now. They have ruined two dams for me this year. The Game Wardens are fining people for firing at them in the roads.

Weeds and erosion cause more problems than rodents in our area, especially on our horse ranch. Need ASCS program beefed up to assist in control of weeds and erosion problems.

Prairie dogs are getting worse every year. They are spreading to more acres, one of the problems is that they are on neighboring land so getting any kind of control over them is very difficult.

We have tried to control on land that we own and have worked several years but the neighbors have not all done the same. They just re-infest again.

The prairie dog situation in Montezuma County is beyond serious. These rodents have taken over some of our land, and the neighbors too. We would like everyone around here to cooperate and get rid of the prairie dogs.

Our son owns and operates a 211 acre ranch below us. His place is so heavily infested with prairie dogs it is almost a ruin. He works daily to overcome it. The damage to his place comes to thousands of dollars in lost crops.

I have been trying to control prairie dogs on my place for several years. the neighbors don't so it costs me more and more because of migration. Montezuma County has a prairie dog control district but no one enforces it. Thistles are another problem.

Need help with prairie dog control on neighbors land. Also have quite a problem with creekbomb erosion/collapse due to prairie dog holes.

If you aren't going to do something about the prairie dog infestation almost all the land will be worthless. Worthless land should cost zero taxes!!!!

Prairie dogs are getting worse every year. Can't seem to keep ahead of them. Need more assistance from anyone. More public prairie dog shoots like at Nucla. Tell Romer to quit wimping out to the Animal Rights activists like he did on the Nucla shoot.

We are also pasturing at least 40-50 deer.

Prairie dogs are getting out of hand. They are coming from everywhere.

Prairie dogs have started on CRP and are spreading. Landowners and operators are getting payment on their CRP and not controlling prairie dogs and bindweed and Canadian thistle. Why not?

At present most of the pasture is sub-irrigated - Prairie dogs are making a mess of road going in.

Prairie dogs and gophers are our worst problem. Haven't lost livestock yet - they have caused a lot of damage in the pasture and hay field and of course there is danger from the diseases they carry.

It is hard to believe the man hours I have spent trying to control prairie "rats" on my place. It is hard to estimate a dollar value on the wear and tear to equipment, let alone unforeseen injury to livestock.

The ground squirrels ate 5 rows of corn seed right after planting. They can find every kernel of corn. The muskrats are digging holes in stock water ponds causing them to wash out and irrigation ditches also. When the neighbors plow the prairie dogs migrate to my hay fields.

They are becoming more in number and keep moving in difficult places.

Prairie dogs are a problem on some of the neighboring properties but so far haven't invaded my place. Many of my neighbors kill every coyote and badger they see. Looks to me like we need a few more predators since this isn't a sheep area. A coyote or two or a badger or two can probably kill more rodents in a week than a man with a rifle.

Prairie dogs are a serious problem in my area and I would encourage the State Trappers to give this destructive rodent their full attention in their eradication.

Question B is stupid! Not only is it impossible to accurately estimate loss directly caused by prairie dogs, this is like asking an individual to assess damage value on rat infestation in the city. Most landowners try to keep the population down before it results in excessive damage. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Even though our operation is quite small our prairie dog herd out numbers our cattle herd anywhere from 5-dogs/1 cow.

Without the use of control methods like we used in the 40's, until these methods were banned in recent years, one cannot effectively control these rodents.

Squirrels and raccoons ate all our gardens. Some animals dug the holes and took the seeds out.

I do not presently have a rodent problem. I do see a threat of prairie dogs in the future if control is eliminated.

Had previous serious prairie dog problem but none at present.

Prairie dogs on County owned land for a new airport and runway that joins our property number in the thousands and the County has made no effort to control. No way to estimate damage. The concern is they're moving into private land as soon as construction starts. Also the BLM has hundreds of thousands of them and no control.

As soon as a prairie dog shows up I trap or shoot them.

I personally have no problem with these except for squirrels picking away my chicken feed - I can see much damage from prairie dogs in areas around me.

We have two large rodent problems and the expense involved is great and it's an ongoing battle. We would like help in solving it.

The amount of crops and cropland being destroyed each year by the pests would almost feed the Third World Countries. It is time we controlled this problem with or without the help of Roy Romer, Timmy Wirth and Night Rider Campbell.

Prairie dogs have been a real problem and are becoming a lot bigger problem here in Montrose and Delta Counties. Even the City of Montrose has a severe prairie dog problem within city limits. I have used all types of pellets, gasoline, fire, guns, propane, and I have a new blaster that mixes propane and oxygen and then the mixture is detonated and the concussion and fire kill them little bastards. I have declared all out war on them.

I have prairie dogs and squirrels scattered all over the place. They are both a nuisance but not devastating yet, just a constant pain.

Prairie dogs would take over if you didn't try to control them. They are the most worthless animals I know.

Garden, trees, shrubbery, worst pests are rabbits and deer. Prairie dogs in hay fields, ditch and ditch banks worst - domestic (feral) cats, skunks, and coons make raising domestic fowl nearly impossible. Deer more and more due to chaining of the cedar and the pinon trees on way to high country stopped natural high country summer use and come clear into valley instead of sage as historical.

We really need some method of control for prairie dogs and raccoons.

The prairie dog problem is completely out of control in our area. We nearly lost total production on 1 ten acre field.

17 acre pasture cannot be grazed with horses of any value - lost one yearling filly with broken ankle - prairie dogs are on adjacent 20 acres.

Damage consisted of rerouting irrigation water to avoid prairie dog holes. Labor costs of \$5/hr was used. No estimate for forage loss was included.

Ground squirrels damaged a barley field and apricot tree. Raccoons damaged and ate one tree of Bing cherries and one apricot tree and ruined a patch of sweet corn.

Back in the 1940's the government had a program that nearly eliminated the prairie dog in our area. In the last 15-20 years we cannot keep up with the problem.

Raccoons are damaging corn fields and silage pits. Also killing pheasants and quail. Squirrels eat our corn seed, seriously thinning our corn field stand. Prairie dogs remove a lot of feed, make irrigation hard, and holes that break livestock's legs.

My neighbor to the west has a drain ditch bank through his place that harbors the prairie dogs so far I have had pretty good success in keeping them out of my fields with irrigation.

Muskrats effect ditches heading to my acres as well as the arroyo and drain ditches and stock pond. The actual loss is impossible to estimate but water loss is considerable in a years time.

I have tried trapping, poison, exhaust gassing, smoke bombs, and shooting for the past 40 years and none of these succeeded in controlling prairie dogs. Cyanide gas is the most efficient but unavailable way. Coyotes and badgers and weasels we have and do not shoot.

Since the drought the prairie dogs have taken over.

If there isn't something done real soon they are going to take the farm land out of production. We are having a drought in this area and we can't rent our land because the cattlemen won't ride their cattle or horses over prairie dog land.

It's hard to give a dollar value on the damage caused by the prairie dogs as they dig holes in ditches and fill in furrows.

We don't have any prairie dogs on our place, but everywhere you drive you can see how serious a problem they are becoming. They are getting as bad as they were in the 30's and 40's as I have lived here all my life.

Our big problem is dogs moving in from other properties. Could get serious if we sit still like others have in the past and do nothing to control them.

It is a serious problem and something has to be done. As far as cost I can't estimate because we have had 3 years of drought.

I think it would be a good idea to have a program to eradicate the prairie dogs like they had back in the 40's.

Prairie dogs have become a very serious problem! Nothing on the market seems to affect their increase. We would be willing to put out poison if we could get something that was truly effective. It's costly and disheartening to see what they can do to your ground and crop.

Damage to ditches.

We try to control the prairie dogs especially in the pastures. Have crippled livestock in these areas. Loss of irrigation water is also a problem. The dogs can be a real problem if left uncontrolled. It is difficult to estimate acreage infested. My estimate is not accurate. I am pleased that your office is aware of the problem and doing something about it.

Had to go to pipe in the irrigated land because of the prairie dog infestation.

MORGAN - 087

Have 4 men who shoot varmints with guns every weekend and have used over 1500 gas pellets last 2 years. Seems like we have no control over these dogs.

The main economic loss we have from gophers is the extra wear on hay cutting equipment from cutting through the mounds they make. I think it is gophers that make those mounds.

Prairie dogs are becoming a very serious problem. They are not an endangered species but a pest worse than a weed in a corn field.

There are some people who won't treat dogs even with government assistance and so their neighbors land becomes infested. Some purchase the bait but never spend time to use it. A dog moved into my pasture and he had made 7 mounds before I got him treated.

Gophers doing quite a bit of damage to pasture land.

Feels as though they are just a fact of life - they're always there - like the weather, sometimes they're bad.

Very little problem in this area - they seem to be in areas that sit idle.

Has had moderate gopher problem in irrigated hay, serious in pasture around sprinkler.

Kangaroo rats are a problem on the same acres as gophers.

Operator didn't seem to know if he had prairie dogs, gophers, or ground squirrels. He said the rodents he reported were concentrated in intense numbers along concrete ditches and burrowing under the concrete ditches.

OTERO - 089

This does not apply to our business although south of Fowler, Co. there is a big prairie dog colony that has damaged several acres of pasture.

It's impossible now to get any poisons that are effective controlling rodents. The rodents, especially the prairie dogs, just keep increasing in number.

Never had any problem with the above, except with grasshoppers, lost about half of my alfalfa. I had my 2 1/2 acres plowed until next year.

Not too much of a problem.

I do not have any kind of rodents on my place.

We have tried poisoning these prairie dogs to no avail - I believe they are expanding at about 30 acres/year. I would appreciate any help or advise I could get on controlling these pests.

We have 10,000 acres of deeded acres, 10,000 of leased land. We have approximately 300 prairie dogs in one town and also another town of 200 acres which joins comanche grassland. We have spent lots of time/money but not much results poison grain and grain fugment pills.

This is all irrigated cropland and we don't have much of a rodent problem. There are a few squirrels and a few rats and mice and muskrats in the irrigation ditches. I purchased poison oats from the County agent 2 years ago. Did help but there are plenty more. They are scattered over more than a section in different areas.

There are big prairie dog towns all around this ranch and soon they will roam this ranch. We need old fashioned 1080 to kill not watered down crap!

If we cannot have good rodent control soon, our property will be overrun with rodents!

We have 3 or 4 cows a year who fall in the holes and dislocate hips etc. We did have a horse step in a hole and caused the rider to be thrown. This could have been serious. I can't say we have been out any money amounts though. The prairie dogs are becoming a serious problem.

None on the property but it is a serious problem with the neighbors. They are doing a lot of poisoning.

We have had an extensive prairie dog control program for the last several years or these figures would be much larger.

Prairie dogs are increasing in number on adjacent land to the east and west of our farm. They have moved to within 1/2 mile of our farm from the east and 1 mile to the west. They're populous on our pasture lands - one town must cover 10-15 acres.

Prairie dogs are about to create a desert out of southeast Colorado if something is not done immediately economic impact will be tremendous.

We have controlled the prairie dogs.

OURAY - 091

These pests have not caused any dollar damage as yet, but they have increased in numbers and are a nuisance around the house. Our problem is ground squirrels and ground hogs. I don't know what a pocket gopher is.

PARK - 093

The ground squirrel population is growing at an alarming rate.

The trappers and shooters have killed most of the coyotes, badgers, bobcats for money. We need these animals and birds to keep nature in balance. I used to hear the owls most every night, I haven't heard or seen one for over two years. The rodents are taking the good lands over and destroying it.

We are no longer irrigating to produce hay because the ground squirrels are spreading on to ground they never used to inhabit. Due to the increased human occupation in the Put-division hunting is no longer permitted in these areas and the number of rodents is increasing yearly.

Pocket gophers are a real problem with dry areas causing many holes and drawing badgers to the area, whom feed on them and dig much bigger holes.

My guess is that 50 of the squirrels eat as much as 1 yearling. Yes, I have had problems with Richardson ground squirrels for the past 8 years. I have tried to keep them under control by shooting them. I buy 1500 rounds of 22 cal. ammo. each year and will kill 1000 plus per season; so far this year I have killed 802 as of Aug. 24, 1990. If you are interested I have kept a daily log for the past 4 years and the squirrel problem is recorded also. I could relate how this animal has affected my ditches and grasses.

Weed control is a big problem too.

We fight these rats (ground squirrels) all the time. Sometimes bubonic plague gets lots of them but in no time they are right back. I shoot lots of those picket fence things as they work my yard, pond, dams, fields, grassland, they even get under our house. The County years ago dusted the holes and got some but the environmentalists made them stop. I wish the environmentalists had them all in their home and had to live with them.

Ground squirrel concentration unusually high this year in non-irrigated pasture areas, but well thinned out by neighbors who shot them with bow and arrows and ammunition.

The Wyoming ground squirrel is about to take over this whole area. The 1040 poison they make now days don't phase them. We have shot probably 5000 of them and you can't see that they have thinned out any.

I just can't figure the economic loss because we also had a very dry summer, but the ground squirrel problem is great.

PHILLIPS - 095

The only problem we have had with these rodents is occasional damage to irrigation ditches bordering our now irrigated land. Of great economic loss would be the rats in our silage trenches - not easy to control and a yearly problem.

The biggest economic loss is the value of the land. We have fought these dogs for a number of years but they just seem to come back. Every time they do the town gets bigger. the biggest danger of gophers is that a horse might fall in a hole while working cattle.

The pocket gophers or kangaroo rats as we call them are real bad around the edge of our sprinklers, which we raise corn in the Sand Hills and have pasture on all sides - they eat the corn before it comes up - we use poison oats around the edges and through the field before we plant and have good results but have to do it every year.

Moles is my problem.

Pocket gophers are mainly on planted corn in Sandhills. Prairie dogs keep all grass clipped and produce total loss of grass land.

Had squirrels but they are under control.

RATS IN WASHINGTON!!!

PITKIN - 097

We have very little problem if any with rodents.

Our problems are in the ditches and non-irrigated areas.

We just keep raising a little hay - at a loss each year that our accountant says we can't count as a loss, even including 5-6000 to operate our salvation ditch which I still have 1,100 shares. Seems very unfair!! 1986 tax adjustment because I'm too old to work.

If we stopped trapping our coyotes there would be a better balance of rodents! Stop the poisoning and trapping of coyotes!

The prairie dogs are an extremely serious problem in this area, particularly on our ranch. To date we have come up with no solution. Eagles are very prominent on the ranch, so any method of poison is out of the question. Our crop loss is phenomenal as they eat more than our stock! Any solution would be welcome.

PROWERS - 099

I don't have a problem with prairie dogs on my land but they seem to come over from pasture or rangeland next to us.

It's difficult to estimate \$ loss - my irrigating water runs everywhere but the field because of gophers and the prairie dogs - even after trying to poison them - are growing faster than rabbits.

Prairie dog population exploding - infesting native grasslands and starting to move into irrigating fields - need a program to control or eliminate them.

Prairie dogs have ruined thousands of acres of grassland in our area and something needs to be done.

I am trying to control mine but the neighbors have grass next to my farm ground and he doesn't do anything. They have moved into a quarter of summer fallow that I intend to plant with wheat.

The pasture affected by prairie dogs would be useless for livestock if they weren't controlled. We inspect for prairie dogs at least every 2 weeks and try to use methods and materials recommended by the appropriate agencies.

Gophers are minor to serious.

The expense of controlling prairie dogs is getting so high some operations are not doing any control. Especially on rented pasture. The pesticides that are available for prairie dog control are not very effective. Individual control is difficult to maintain because prairie dogs move around a lot.

Economic loss to the pasture land is very evident but hard to calculate because we don't use it for rangeland but rent it out.

Loss of irrigation ditches.

Prairie dog towns harbor rattlesnakes and a rattlesnake bite is fatal to a cow 98% of the time. I lose some cows each year due to rattlesnake bites. Dogs also take up to 90% growth on grassland. Pocket gophers burrow and kill grass - In my area turpentine weed comes back instead of grass and nothing eats it, and it is very hard to kill out. For more information call 719-336-5269 evenings.

We need someone to kill the rodents.

This past Spring the prairie dogs expanded greatly on our operation. Years before had seen a small increase each year.

We have prairie dogs invading irrigated alfalfa and hay. We have poisoned them and they come back immediately. We have a very large town on a neighbors property across land that are moving on us. They haven't worked very hard at controlling them. We also have very serious ditch problems with pocket gophers and we are facing a 14,000 dollar repair to eliminate this problem because of washouts because we keep loosing our water to a lower drainage ditch. This ditch has been in since 1923 and we have had more problems the last year then ever before added up.

We have spent approximately \$10000 in the past 5 years on various products and still don't have our problem under control.

Have no prairie dogs on my ranch but it is full time job checking for migrating prairie dogs and keeping the dogs killed as they start a new town as there are big towns of prairie dogs on adjoining ranches which keep migrating in to farm new towns.

Prairie dogs keep gaining but we try to control them to the last of our ability. We have written our congressman but received no answer.

Prairie dogs are very heavily populated on all land surrounding us, approximately 4000 acres. Something needs to be done or they are going to take over all the grass pasture. Population is about 25 to 30 mounds per acre.

My prairie dog population is down right now. Don't know why. There are many areas of the county that are very bad, and they are starting to move into CRP in some places.

Prairie dogs are not a serious problem yet on irrigated land but have devastated many adjoining dryland pastures.

We have some very serious problems with control and elimination of prairie dogs. We cannot control/eliminate our infestation even after trying to for 6 years because our neighbors won't control theirs. It is also very expensive to fight prairie dogs with chemicals that are available today. It costs more than the land is worth. We need help! \$1/hole without guarantees is a waste of money!

Prairie dogs are across the fence. We kill them when they come across. Feel survey is a waste of time because no one will give any help for the problem.

Land is irrigated. See a prairie dog once in a while but there are high populations near by on dryland.

Get restrictions on 1080 lifted.

There is no way to really know the damage in dollars only in the dog towns the grass damage is pretty great.

This is the first survey I have responded to in 15 years. I feel the prairie dog problem needs quick control.

PUEBLO - 101

All land I use is pasture. I don't see very many rodents.

Ground squirrel numbers seem to be increasing rapidly. Gophers population has started to stabilize but a few new colonies appear every year. Starting to cause more damage all the time. Very difficult for us to estimate loss since our irrigated alfalfa meadows are just coming into full production.

My worst problem is ground squirrels in grain and skunks in my chickens.

Rodents would not be a significant problem if landowners had access to effective poisons. We could handle the problem ourselves.

I really have no facts, but I would guess the prairie dogs destroy 1/4 of the grass on 1500A.

Pincy weed is going to take over Custer County if something isn't done. Please let me know if there is any way to get help to spray.

Gophers kill the Gramma grass and then weeds and inferior grass take over, we have been bothered with gophers in this area since the early 1960's and soon after with squirrel tail grass and lump jaw in our cattle. In 1967 I spent 7 weeks in the hospital due to a broken pelvis because the horse I was riding broke through a tunnel with both front feet, fell and rolled over me.

Prairie dogs are on the increase! Something better be done fast! Stop worrying about the Blackfooted ferret and poison the P. dogs. It seems ferrets are more important than ranchers!

Prairie dogs represent a great threat to horses on our property due to stepping in holes and/or loose dirt. Also they are reservoirs for bubonic plague. We have been killing them over the last 5 years.

1420A of adjacent land of which 300A is cropland is becoming infested. This particular 300A is CRP which is also very precarious. I have hesitated to attempt poisoning due to the ineffective poison the Extension Service is presently allowed to use. Prairie dogs are really getting to be a problem on prairie around Pueblo.

Prairie dogs are on the increase.

Our biggest problem last 2 years is drought. I lease mountain pasture in the summer - 4 months \$2000.

The prairie dogs have tripled in the last year and are a serious problem.

How does one measure rodents on the farm or grassland? The raccoons are the worst. They like to eat my corn.

Holes in ditches cause us to loose water from irrigation pumps. We have a small farm operation. We have tried many means of getting rid of the prairie dog but they keep multiplying in the pastures.

RIO BLANCO - 103

Something needs to be done! In the last 2 years the squirrels have gone berserk. We shot over 3000 this year alone.

It is difficult to give a dollar figure under B for economic loss. I am certain there must be some but I'm not sure how one would measure it because the rodents have always been present. I would not know what it would be like if they were not present.

Kind of hard to figure but we have a serious problem in this area.

Because we have plenty of water and all land is irrigated we don't seem to have any problems. I have seen many prairie digs on neighboring land, dryland and hay and pasture land.

Ground squirrel infestations are almost always followed by heavy badger infestation which leads to heavy lamb losses down holes when lambs are small in early Spring. Also, this creates a hazard to horses and destroys a substantial amount of forage.

We need to be able to get the 1080 poison that was available to us years ago. Also we need to be able to have more resources other than the County Extension. There has got to be something done about the squirrels or else in a few years we will not be able to continue.

Hopefully the small animals (marmots, rabbits, ground squirrels, etc.) will provide an alternative source of food for coyotes - fewer lambs lost.

We have not been able to get any bait that does any good. We had zinc phosphide bait and Ramik green bait but the only thing that done any good was 22 bullets!

It is hard to give an exact amount of loss to crops. Have trouble with badgers making holes. Have had to pull new born calves out of holes and lambs. Horses have stepped in them causing them crippling the horse. The drought has been in favor of squirrels this year.

Ground squirrels are a wildlife problem - I have to guess as to how much loss in \$'s they create. By having ground squirrels we also become infested with badgers which create their own problems. Life should be easier with fewer of these rodents.

My biggest infestation of ground squirrels is on BLM grazing permit on Piceance Creek. We haven't injured any livestock yet, but must be extremely careful when horseback.

Something has to be done to control antelope in our area worse than any rodent. Prairie dogs just starting this year.

Rodent infestation from adjacent land.

We lose lambs in holes as many as 5 lambs in 1 hole. Also broken legs on horses. One of our hired help broke his leg from falling from a horse.

No problem at this time.

The dry years are effected more by rodents. The wet years when squirrels are numerous and graze, trample, dig up land after which noxious weeds take over plus badgers dig up the earth. Young lambs fall in and die - rodents have to be controlled or American Agriculture will not survive.

The horrendous problem of pocket gophers and rock dogs in our hay fields the last few years seems to be coupled with the decline in our coyote population. This year I haven't seen or heard a coyote, and rodents are increasing and becoming a real and growing problem. In both Rio Blanco and Moffat Counties the damage caused us by deer and elk is an even greater economic significance. Weeds are even a greater and growing problem. Prairie dogs and ground squirrels a problem for many don't seem to impact us. Thanks for recognizing this problem, and please keep rodents, deer and elk, and weeds high on your agenda.

My operation is in the high country and used for pasture. The predators take care of the rodent population and in this way do not bother our domestic fowl and animals. If the experts would stop fooling around with Mother Nature they wouldn't always be looking for problems.

We have a bad infestation of ground squirrel in most of our meadows. I would like to know if effective and economic ways to control these rodents exist.

It is difficult to estimate the total economic loss. The alfalfa field is riddled with gopher holes, in spite of yearly control measures taken. Parts of the grass and hay fields are becoming infested and under a yearly control program. Rangelands are so infested that vacuums created by rodents in hay ground are promptly filled by overflow from surrounding areas. In these dry years forage will not make a comeback. Baby lambs fall into the holes and cannot get out and die. Some I find, but the rough dusty terrain makes it impossible to find everything.

My neighbor to the north has a definite ground squirrel problem.

RIO GRANDE - 105

I have had the same prairie dog town on the same irrigated crop land that has lain idle for some time. I would like to farm this parcel again and would like to know if there is any government agency who can help me eradicate the dogs.

The prairie dogs are moving in all around. Pocket gophers are thick on my place. The mounds are bad on sickles on machinery and interfere with irrigating.

No rodents on my property. They are a serious problem to agriculture and are increasing in local public and private lands.

It is very hard to cut alfalfa - the machine binds up when it comes into contact with the gophers' mounds - breaks machinery, time-consuming. The BIM land adjoining us has many varmints. The Old Woman's Creek area N of us is also loaded with varmints. We would like to participate in a poisoning program.

Water for irrigating is major problem. However, marginal/wasteland use to be irrigated. Pocket gophers keep disturbing soil infested with Canada thistle. Spraying helps but gophers start a new crop each year.

Is this really necessary?

There is not much of a way that you could estimate the damage in water loss in a dry year.

Prairie dogs are increasing rapidly in Rio Grande, Co. - Mineral, Co. of which I'm familiar from day to day. If nothing is done - they will more seriously infest than in the 1930's. Poison should be made available to landowner.

This problem does not exist in my land at this time.

Hard to tell economic losses for there were many. For me the gophers have really caused problems and I don't know how to combat them. Need some kind of control.

I have no prairie dogs on my land. However, there are parts of Rio Grande County that have serious problems.

ROUTT - 107

I encourage natural predators and as a result we have no problem with rodents.

This is my best estimate in all of Routt County.

This is the third year - hopefully we killed all of them?

The increase in ground squirrel population is immense with movement into all areas. The poison grain used by the County is not effective and we need a program where landowners can control through own efforts.

Major steps need to be taken to control ground squirrels in Routt County. What has been done in the last few years has been a "Big Laugh".

Squirrels are a big problem as we have nothing handy to really kill them.

The poison used by the County does not kill the animals.

Most of our problems stem from irrigation ditch repair. To date we have no animals lost to injury.

Badgers are a problem. Beavers are a terrible problem in irrigation systems - we have to remove their dams which make it impossible to maintain a constant flow of water.

Mostly we run horses, about 60. We are a dude ranch so these gopher holes are very dangerous to us. They mess up our irrigation too.

Badgers are as bad as the prairie dogs and gophers.

Neighbors have squirrels so he'll have them back now.

The county has done a good job of controlling rodents in this area.

County Extension Agent used to come out and poison the holes - but not in the past 2 years now.

Thinks prairie dog hunts are great!

SAGUACHE - 109

Rodents are not a big problem in our area however coming from northeastern Colorado they are a big problem.

Problem with ground squirrels has just started in past year or two but does seem to be growing. More and more squirrels appear each year.

The ground squirrels give us a lot of problems at our irrigation dam located on Forest Service land because of the tourists, fishermen etc. it makes it a problem to control them.

Prairie dogs now increasing after being mostly killed 4 to 5 years ago.

Prairie dogs historically have been a major problem here and at present are re-infesting the area. I dread the day when they are back at full strength.

We have a few gophers which don't bother us much yet.

Prairie dogs are an increasing problem that has so far not cost a lot - Pocket gophers have been and are a problem that's hard to estimate damage to meadows - equipment - very few squirrels - muskrats cause most costly damage as they cause a problem when water is flowing and you can't get in to make repairs.

"Armored" power line had to be installed to keep pocket gophers from chewing through power lines.

900 head of cattle not on the land as of 7-1-90. I had a gopher machine and when I could buy poison grain we could cut them down where we could live with it, but in the past few years, between the gopher mounds and the badgers and coyotes digging the gophers out it's not even safe to walk out there. Hope you can come up with some plan to eliminate them.

I think these rodents should be controlled on public lands as well as private land.

200 pairs of cattle graze during the winter months. The holes in the ground are a big problem. The summer months the prairie dogs are very active. I wish that this problem could be dealt with. The problem is worse on the BLM lands and private land around our farm.

SAN JUAN - 111

No comments received.

SAN MIGUEL - 113

This area is overrun with prairie dogs.

I am using Rotox -AT to control this prairie - Do not know what results I am having at this time.

The prairie dog problem here is very serious. They have no natural enemies and since we are no longer allowed to poison them, there is no way to control them. There are people running around with guns but they are more apt to shoot livestock or buildings than they are to control prairie dogs.

U.S. Animal Damage Control agents should be working on this problem before the problem gets bigger.

I made a concentrated effort to eliminate prairie dog in 1989 within a 10 acre area. I used Rotox 3 or 4 times plus once in 90'. They keep moving in from neighbors.

I have everything in CRP and I haven't had any prairie dogs move in yet.

I've tried for 5 years to get help and haven't been able to get any. I appreciate your help.

We need a practical prairie dog control program desperately that is not only used by private land owners but also on public lands. Ranchers have spent millions of dollars in the past trying to control prairie dogs using the best methods available for control and now we have none and the prairie dogs are controlling us.

Do not have a specific dollar loss although one 40A pasture is completely infested with prairie dogs - feed is reduced and horseback riding is extremely dangerous. Gopher mounds on hay land increasing and reducing crop yield as well as increasing the difficulty of harvesting. One ditch has required repair.

Prairie dogs are becoming a very serious problem and we definitely need some kind of control that works and it should be a county or state wide mandatory program that includes state and federal lands.

The prairie dogs must mean destruction!! I have never experienced increases like the last five years! We have used many means of repellent to control these creatures and cannot see anything but further devastation. Something has got to be done.

Prairie dog have become serious problem becoming concentrated on certain area. Spent considerable money on control but ground too dry for pellets to work.

Hard to put dollar value on damage by prairie dogs but prairie dogs have gotten completely out of control. Riddled all pasture land, was unable to irrigate because of drought plus destroyed ditches.

If you don't get 1080 grain back we are DOOMED!!!!

SEDGWICK - 115

Prairie dogs are seriously damaging three sections of land in northwest Sedgwick County. Economic loss is substantial as no grass is available for grazing. Cost to kill dogs, blade, and reseed pasture will have to be in neighborhood of \$50-\$75 per acre to include labor, materials and machinery.

I know that the farmer has to spray but it is killing our wildlife. I know it won't kill the animal but it stops reproduction.

I have reported the acres in the county because I know we have some serious problems in this county. As I stated, I do not have a problem yet, but I could start having a problem soon.

No control of prairie dogs has been done by County for last 2 years. There are hundreds of acres infested with prairie dogs bordering us. They are fast moving in on us. If something is not done soon to control the prairie dogs, they will soon take over all the grassland and there will be no place to run cattle.

Prairie dogs are hard to control and take a lot of time and money to try.

Milo gopher bait doesn't work! Poison oats work better.

SUMMIT - 117

No comments received.

TELLER - 119

Sold all our cattle 1989 - no rain, no grass, and lots of prairie dogs.

Guess horses don't count anymore - 4 head as of 7-1-90.

It's hard to estimate the dollar value as to loss - horses step in holes and sprain legs and ankles and can't be used until the injury is healed.

I shoot and gas prairie dogs and ground squirrels. A number of coyotes have drifted in and they thinned them out quite a bit.

We attempt to control Richardson ground squirrels near habitations due to possible diseases.

WASHINGTON - 121

I have no rodent problem!

We have had prairie dogs in past years and have seen some in the area from time to time.

We are farming small grain.

The ground squirrels on our land really don't amount to hardly anything and the chicken hawks follow my tractor in the Spring and early Summer and catch a lot of the squirrels, and even if they didn't the ground squirrels are very few anyway.

Since we just have pasture land it's hard to estimate the dollar amount lost. But pocket gophers are a serious problem and parts of our pasture have mounds every few feet. We have tried planting grass seed to help hold the soil but have not had much luck. We need help controlling the rodents.

Some prairie dog colonies located in rangeland area not grazed. Nuisance but not economic loss. Ground squirrels are a serious problem.

Our neighbor has a pasture bordering on our pasture that has a very serious prairie dog infestation. It worries me that they will move to my pasture land. There is 160 acres on the neighbors land infested with prairie dogs.

Severe economic loss due to damages caused by gopher mounds on machinery and hay quality due to sand. The same applies to badgers. An economic loss to cattle due to severe loss of calves during calving time because of coyotes.

There are no prairie dogs. The pocket gophers are only one or two that I have seen evidence of. The ground squirrels the same.

With all of the hawks flying over our tractor while we are farming, rodents don't have much of a chance - especially the rabbits.

Pocket gophers are serious not only in pasture land but in orchard and yard, garden and tree wind breaks. They have done a lot of damage on newly planted trees and shrubs each year.

WELD - 123

This is an overblown problem - relax!

I wish to report on prairie dogs. I have been able to control them on my farm, so far, as they come in or are dropped off. However, neighboring farms are highly infested with no control and the dogs are moving onto other farms. These people need assistance and advise on ways of control. We all want to control them, since much land and its potential is being destroyed by the dogs.

On a farm I rent I have lost 20A of irrigated grass to prairie dogs. It is impossible to irrigate or cut as the mounds are 2 to 3 ft. apart and highly populated. 6A of a 20A alfalfa field have been ruined, as well as 65A of dryland pasture ground. In total I lease 260A irrigated ground mostly in corn and alfalfa.

The economic loss to gophers is hard to determine because of the loss of water and damage when it breaks out and the loss to the crop that does not get the irrigated water.

We need help with gophers and prairie dogs.

We need some easily accessible poison to control them.

Prairie dogs are getting to be a very serious problem. They are protected by people who don't understand the problems. Check with City Park in Greeley.

I have only 2 prairie dog mounds on my place last year and they didn't increase any this year. I have very few gophers and squirrels.

We spent \$900 on trying to control prairie dogs.

Prairie dogs are a serious problem for us. For the last 5 years we have tried to control them with little or no success.

Geese are worse than all the rodents.

State and Local government should allow people to kill these disease infested rodents. West of Greeley prairie dogs are within 30 yards of Moffat Elementary School playground. Nothing will be done until a child catches the plague.

There are no prairie dogs on this land now. Other rodents are not a problem.

Saw one prairie dog and some signs of gophers. Not a problem yet but there is a prairie dog town within 2 miles. Would like to know how to prevent real infestation.

I have used carbon monoxide to control prairie dogs. We do keep them under control this way. The gophers and squirrels I have not tried to poison yet. They are a definite problem.

We are irrigated - but gophers are a real threat to us - there are several prairie dog towns close by and they are growing in size and population. They must certainly be a serious problem.

Bring all the environmentalists who want to come on this place to catch the rodents. They are welcome. Personally I think they could put their interest in more vital problems of the world.

There is a fairly extensive prairie dog colony within 1/2 mile of our operation but so far we have not been affected.

Would like to see some kind of prairie dog control without any feedback from outsiders that know nothing of this problem. Also poison available to farmers to control the growing problem of prairie dogs.

Let's get help to get rid of these prairie dogs or give each city folk 1 prairie dog to keep in their backyard and give 2 of them to the animal rights lovers and make them have heated quarters in the Winter months.

I am a certified applicator and have treated my own pastures to exterminate prairie dogs but only got a 80% kill.

I would like to have some help in getting rid of these prairie dogs. If I could be provided with some poison grain I would gladly pick it up and use it to get rid of these pests. We do not need a survey, we need poison oats!!!

Pocket gophers cause much damage to dike irrigation ditches. More of an aggravation than an economic loss. Would like some info on how to control these gophers in ditches.

No out of pocket loss so far.

Total acreage is only 7 acres. Use of land is for vegetables and only 4 acres are used for vegetables.

We have a lot more trouble with coyotes than any other varmint. It is not uncommon for us and surrounding ranches to lose 1 to 6 head of baby calves each calving season. I am speaking of live 2-3 day old well calves!

Antelope are a serious problem with our dryland alfalfa. I estimate about 5-6 thousand dollars loss of hay due to antelope.

Kangaroo rats fast becoming problem as well as gophers - prairie dogs starting to take over the neighborhood.

I see a few pocket gophers on the farm but not enough to do economic damage, yet.

I have only 60 acres but the P. dogs are ruining it! It's mostly pasture and these cows help make my living. I have used the pellets from agri. dept. and I think they thrived on them!

I need some poison to kill the prairie dogs.

One bull stepped through tunnel and I had to sell him a butcher's price. One cow down long enough she lost her milk for calf. Every mound of dirt has a fresh patch of Bull thistle and Canadian thistle. I have tried to shoot a dog each day per year - can't stay a head of them so have to try an average of two per day. Poison available to me does not do the trick.

There is a very serious prairie dog problem across the road and they are starting to come on our property. This should be taken care of immediately. It is getting totally out of control. The State should step in. I pay taxes and I want something done, NOW!

My biggest complaint is the dogs and cats people bring out here and dump off.

I know that rats aren't listed as one of your rodent species, but I know they are a problem both in the industrial areas in the city and agricultural areas of the country. I have been in the hog business for 10 years and though I have had an eradication program ongoing they are increasing in number.

I estimate that the landowner has had an approximate \$5000-\$8000 monetary loss to the farms I manage from the damage from prairie dogs.

These rodents are very destructive in making dirt mounds all over the hay area. Makes moving difficult. We had the poison from the county but have run out. Would appreciate any help you could give us.

I am appalled by urban support of the prairie dog. Known and documented to harbor fleas and plague they pose a human health threat. We are all quite aware of devastation to pastures and livestock too.

We do not have a rodent problem at this time. Prairie dogs are moving this way so it will be a matter of time before we will have a problem.

It is hard to determine the extent in dollar loss done by the prairie dog on the pasture land, but we do have a lot of them.

U.S. Forest Service land that borders me with a dog town in excess of a square mile. There is no way I can keep them off my pasture land without the Forest Service taking control measures. This causes loss of grazing, decreased land value and costly control measures.

Prairie dogs are doing thousands of dollars worth of damage to irrigation ditches and water canals each year.

I have not noticed any increase in rodent populations.

Prairie dogs are a very serious problem. Some members of the public have a very incorrect idea of what prairie dogs are all about. We need some poisons which can be used as we use to have in the past that can be used to control the prairie dogs much faster and more economically than photoxin. It just takes too long and costs too much to use the pellets. We have 120 acres of range which we cannot use for grazing horses due to the problems with the dogs and their holes. They come in on us from city property so no matter what we do to keep them out they just keep coming back on us. There needs to be a prairie dog district just like there is weed districts.

3 cows and 1 horse stepped in prairie dog holes. All had broken legs.

1 cow broke leg due to prairie dog hole.

The prairie dogs are the worst problem we have. There seems to be no way to control them.

Each year more small infestations are showing up. It is a constant battle because surrounding neighbors do little for control. So far this late summer we have spent hundreds of dollars for control not including labor. I have not estimated any range loss amounts on this report. Controls are needed.

It's a big problem and we need help. They ate 40 A of hay that is not farmable anymore.

At this time prairie dogs aren't on my land but it is only a matter of time since we are surrounded by them and I'm worried at what we can do. They are multiplying at a fast pace. New holes everyday. They are a real hazard to our health and welfare. Is there something we can do to be rid of them?

We need something that will poison and kill these prairie dogs.

We spent \$600 for gas bombs and approximately 35 hours labor and got less than 50% results. Would be nice to get something that works.

We would not give acres except where we had prairie dogs.

Washouts in ditches extreme in one area. 2 calves with injured legs. Ground squirrels just starting.

Killed off gophers a few years ago - haven't reestablished.

Constant fight to keep rodents under control. Snakes get in the holes.

Prairie dogs are on the neighbors' land. \$300 it took to get rid of them and they were also starting to move onto my fields. I used smoke bombs to get rid of them. At one time the State had a repellant program which I used in the 80's.

Prairie dogs are a problem near here, but not a problem for this operation.

Raccoons - repair ditches etc. can't raise sweet corn. They want it all!

Is not bothered with prairie dogs but some of his neighbors are.

YUMA - 125

Damage primarily confined to outer edges of irrigated circles.

Biggest economic loss due to gophers causing damage by chewing up underground electrical lines to sprinkler systems.

Gophers are #1 problem but are located in spots. Prairie dog town located in adjacent pasture and numbers increasing. More ground squirrels seen this year too, but not as many as a year ago.

Prairie dog damage to rangeland has been extensive. When a town is established they totally clean all vegetation within this area. Very hard to control them with any success.

At the rate the prairie dogs are taking over the eastern Colorado lands, it won't be long before every pasture will be riddled with them! At the present time we do not have them on our land, but they are east and southwest of us. We have fought them before and know of this destruction.

Some pocket gophers in pasture and rangeland but are more of a nuisance than an economic loss.

These prairie dogs are showing up on most every piece of flat grass in the area. Like maybe they are being planted there.

I don't have any problems with rodents on my place.



**COLORADO
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE**

P.O. Box 150969

Lakewood, CO 80215 Phone (303) 236-2300

COLORADO DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Rodent Infestation Survey - 1990

Dear Land Operator:

Colorado's farmers, ranchers, and land operators appear to be facing an increase in the population of rodents including prairie dogs, pocket gophers, and ground squirrels. In order to better utilize limited rodent control resources, the Colorado Department of Agriculture is asking your assistance in identifying areas of the state which are facing the greatest threat to our land resources and to measure the economic impact caused by rodents.

Your response to this important survey will be tabulated by the Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service. To maintain the confidentiality of your individual report, the survey results will be used only in combination with other reports to prepare composite totals. *Even if you are not facing a rodent problem, your response is needed to this survey!*

Please return your completed report promptly in the postage paid envelope provided. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Horn

Steven W. Horn

Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture

REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Report for all the land you operate. Include acres owned and leased from others on a per acre basis. **Exclude** land rented or leased to others or public, industrial or grazing association land leased on an AUM basis only.
2. Include summer fallow in cropland.
3. Make your best estimate of acres actually infested with each specific rodent for each land use category.
4. The sum of the entries on lines 2-6 for each column should equal the entries on line 1.

I. Land Use and Estimated Rodent Infestations

Acres in Your Operation		Acres Infested by Rodent Type			
Land Use	Total Acres	Prairie Dogs	Pocket Gophers	Ground Squirrels	Other <small>specify</small>
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
1. ALL LAND in your operation	100	110	120	130	140
2. Irr. Cropland (Exclude Hay Land)	101	111	121	131	141
3. Non-Irr. Cropland (Exclude Hay Land) (Include Summer Fallow)	102	112	122	132	142
4. All Hay Land	103	113	123	133	143
5. Ranges and Pastures	104	114	124	134	144
6. All Other Land (Include waste, farmsteads, etc.)	105	115	125	135	145

Please Continue with Questions on the Reverse Side

II. Economic Damage from Rodents

- A. How serious a problem do you consider each of the specific rodents to be?
Circle one response for each rodent.

OFFICE
USE

Prairie Dogs:	No Problem	Minor	Moderate	Serious	201
Pocket Gophers:	No Problem	Minor	Moderate	Serious	202
Ground Squirrels:	No Problem	Minor	Moderate	Serious	203

- B. Estimate the economic loss during 1989 for your operation caused by specific rodents. Include damage to your crops from rodent infestations located on land adjacent to your land but not under your control as well as from rodents located on your land.

Economic Loss Incurred in 1989 1/

Rodent Type	Economic Loss
Prairie Dogs Dollars	204
Pocket Gophers Dollars	205
Ground Squirrels Dollars	206
Other (specify) Dollars	207

- 1/ Economic loss should include:

- * Loss in yields and productivity of crops, hay, pasture and rangeland due to infestation.
- * Loss as a result of injury or death to livestock (including horses).
- * Expenditure to repair damage (ditches, dams, etc.) due to rodent infestation.
- * Expenditure to control rodent pests.

III. Livestock on Your Operation on July 1, 1990

All Cattle and Calves Number	301
All Sheep and Lambs Number	302
All Hogs and Pigs Number	303

- IV. Would you like a copy of the results of this survey?

Office Use

Please check one: YES ☐ NO ☐ 998

Comments: _____

Reported by: _____ County: _____ Date: _____

