

Muskrat – Norway Rat Sightings

Throughout the year, we receive several Norway Rat complaints from ratepayers around the county. To date every complaint that we have received and have investigated has been identified as a Muskrat. Fall is usually the time when many rodent species are on the move in search of winter quarters and new territory. Young muskrats can be found crossing roadways at dusk, traveling through farmyards and other areas where human activity is high, leading people to believe that these furry creatures must be rats. An adult Norway Rat can weigh up to 1 pound and measure over 15 inches in length, which can include a six to eight inch tail. A young muskrat can grow to be exactly the same size and weight but can appear larger as a result of their soft and thick undercoat.



Norway Rats (photo courtesy of AAFRD)



Muskrat (photo courtesy of Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation)

Please click on the link below to learn more about the Norway Rat:
[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex816](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex816)

To report a suspicious rodent sighting, call the Alberta Ag-Info Centre at 1-866-882-7677. Farmers can also call their municipal agricultural fieldman, or Fish and Wildlife officer to report a rat sighting. If rats are identified and confirmed, Alberta Agriculture should be contacted for follow-up action.