



Country town's pest 'plague' horror as rampaging rodents put livestock at risk in Orange

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A mice plague is tormenting residents in Orange in NSW's Central West with hundreds of pests invading their roads, homes and crops.

Frustrated residents have taken to social media and dubbed the rats a "plague".

In one household, they caught 250 mice.

A family dog hunted down more than 200 mice over a couple of days.

A spokesperson from Furneys Stockfeeds in Orange said his store couldn't keep up with demand for industrial and domestic mice traps and bait.

"We're very concerned because we can't buy bait. Our suppliers can't supply it at the moment," he told PRIME7.

"I had a lady in the other day, she's actually trapping them in buckets of water."

Posting on Facebook, some Orange residents said farmers were burning their hay to kill mice nesting in there.

"Mice eat the grain or seeds in the hay and make nests in it," they wrote.

"Their urine and faeces spoils the hay, stock won't eat it ... and it also causes illness or death in livestock."

Mayor of Orange, Councillor Reg Kidd, warned "the numbers (of mice) can build up very very quickly".

"Make sure you block any holes where mice can get in. An old remedy was steel wool", he told PRIME7.

Residents are being warned to handle the dead mice with caution.

They can carry leptospirosis which can cause hepatitis, liver issues and chronic problems.

The NSW Farmers Association is calling on the Environmental Protection Agency to allow farmers an exemption to using phosphide on their ground.

"We're seeking that effectively so that people can pre-bait before they plant," a spokesperson from the Farmers Association said.