

# Barn Owls vs. Traps: How Each One Fits Your Rodent Control

Traps and barn owls both cut rodent numbers. They work in different ways, and most farms get the best results using both.

Here is how the two compare and where owls carry the load.

## **What traps ask of you**

Traps work, but they cost labor.

- Time and payroll: someone has to set, check, and reset them. That means wages, payroll taxes, workers comp, and unemployment insurance on every hour spent.
- Limited range: each trap covers a small area. Covering acre after acre by hand is slow going.

## **What barn owls bring**

Owls hunt your fields at night while your crew sleeps.

- Wide coverage: a nesting pair patrols open ground across your blocks, night after night.
- No daily labor: once boxes are up and owls settle in, they hunt on their own with no resetting.
- Low ongoing cost: after the box goes up, upkeep runs to about one cleaning a year.

## **The environmental side**

Snap traps and poisons carry a cost to non-target wildlife.

Barn owls hunt rodents without chemicals and without bycatch. That fits farms working toward sustainability goals and keeps other beneficial species on your ground.

## **The long-term picture**

Traps solve today's problem where you set them.

Owls give you steady pressure season after season. Many growers report a real drop in rodent activity within months of putting up boxes, and owls return to good nesting sites year after year.

## **Using owls in your plan**

Barn owls will not clear every rodent, and they do not replace trapping or other control where you need it.

What they do is take the daily hunting off your crew and cover ground no trap line reaches. Put owl boxes to work as the low-labor base of your IPM program, then use traps and other tools where pressure runs high.

Curious where owls fit on your farm? A short site review shows you which blocks suit boxes and how many your acreage needs.

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