



“Top 24”

Most Popular Questions for Pest Control Professionals about OvoControl® P for Pigeons

1. What exactly is OvoControl P?

OvoControl P is a specially formulated bait that interferes with the hatchability of eggs from pigeons. OvoControl contains nicarbazin, an active ingredient originally developed to prevent an enteric disease in chickens. Registered by EPA, OvoControl is approved for use in pigeons, geese and ducks.

2. OvoControl P is a pesticide. What is the classification?

OvoControl P is considered an unrestricted or general-use pesticide in all states with the exception of New York where it remains restricted-use.

3. Can OvoControl be used concurrently with other bird management tools?

Yes, OvoControl complements all other bird management tools, with the possible exception of toxicants.

4. What are the best sites for an OvoControl program?

Although OvoControl can be deployed in any urban setting, the common denominator in most successful programs is large size and scope. Manufacturing, food processing, power plants, rail stations, oil refineries, grain processing facilities, hotels, prisons and airports are just a few of the potential sites where OvoControl can be the most cost effective solution for pigeon control.

5. What is the Application Rate for OvoControl P?

The application rate for OvoControl is 1 pound of bait per 80 pigeons/day.

6. How do you get the pigeons to come back to the same place every day?

Pigeons are creatures of habit and are relatively easy to condition to a daily baiting program. An automatic wildlife feeder takes most of the labor out of this process. Simply dial in the appropriate quantity of bait and set the time and begin the daily feeding program. Pigeons become conditioned to the baiting program often within a matter of days.

7. What does OvoControl P cost?

Depending on the distribution channel, the cost of OvoControl is approximately \$6.25/lb. Put differently; it costs roughly \$7.80/day in OvoControl bait to treat 100 pigeons. The quantity of OvoControl bait required declines in parallel to the population of pigeons.

8. What are the advantages of using an automated feeder?

The OvoControl automatic feeder provides an automated delivery system for the bait. The feeders come with digital controls allowing the applicator to dispense the appropriate quantity of OvoControl at pre-programmed, 24-hour intervals. The units are equipped with a battery and optional solar charger.

9. How do I bid an OvoControl program?

An OvoControl program is based on time and materials.

a) Materials

Bait requirements are a function of pigeon numbers – assume 1 pound/80 birds/day, declining by 50%, annually. Therefore, a flock of 160 pigeons requires 2lbs/day on day 1 declining to 1lb/day by the end of a year. In this case, total bait requirements for a year is approximately 525 pounds, the average between the start and end point. OvoControl bait retails for \$6.25/lb. For planning purposes, assume 1 feeder/150 pigeons. Each feeder kit costs \$179.99.

b) Time

The bulk of the time required to establish an OvoControl program is on the front end. Feeder assembly and installation can vary from 1 to 2 hours depending on site circumstances. Observations are required to determine pigeon numbers and to confirm no non-targets are present. The conditioning process requires several observations, so calculate accordingly. A monthly service cycle to maintain the feeder is recommended once birds are conditioned to the program.

10. My customer “wants the birds gone today”. What can I tell them?

This is what *EVERY* customer *WANTS!* Unfortunately, no single tool can accomplish this feat at a large site. The job is to provide realistic expectations no matter what set of tools you decide on.

- ✓ Ask the customer how long they have been living with pigeons.
- ✓ Is exclusion an economic option in this wide-area site?
- ✓ Does the customer need “zero” birds or will a population reduction work just as well? Most sites can tolerate a certain (smaller) population.
- ✓ Account for the current cost of pigeons in increased maintenance, damage, clean-up, corrosion, contaminated product, etc. OvoControl will reduce these losses.

11. What can you expect in terms of pigeon population control following the first year of use?

Under ideal conditions, with all pigeons in the area consuming the appropriate dose during the breeding season the expected outcome is no new pigeons. The average lifespan of a pigeon is 2 to 4 years, although the population turnover through predation and disease is very high. The objective for OvoControl is to minimize the hatchability of pigeon eggs. Studies conducted in the United States and Italy show the population of pigeons declining by 50% within the first year and the lower population density dominated by adult birds.

12. Is there a pre-baiting period?

Pre-baiting with either whole or cracked corn is always recommended. Pre-baiting helps condition the birds to an OvoControl program. Furthermore, pre-baiting facilitates observation and avoids wasting OvoControl during the start-up phase.

14. How do I know OvoControl is working?

OvoControl is a population management tool - not a toxicant. You do not need to have corpses to know it is working – the eggs are not hatching.

- ✓ Help the customer understand the difference between population management and extermination. Killing all the birds may make everyone feel better that day but does not have a lasting impact on the population.
- ✓ Without the benefit of other tools, the population will decline 50%, annually. The population unwinds over time, but this is not discernable from day-to-day by observation although a census every 3 months is effective for evaluation.
- ✓ Pigeons only live 2-4 years and the population does not bounce back with OvoControl.

15. Won't feeding the birds OvoControl, attract even more pigeons?

Pigeons are flocking birds and the flock represents a social unit. While an OvoControl program is designed to attract the local “flock”, it does not attract birds from neighboring flocks. Pigeons are territorial and while the birds will share feeding resources, nesting and roosting sites are defended from intruders. Furthermore, pigeons are monogamous and only adolescents, widows or widowers seeking reproductive opportunities will potentially move from their existing flock.

16. What advantage does OvoControl have over nets, spikes and other common deterrent devices?

Conventional pigeon deterrent systems are designed to exclude birds from a specific surface or area. While this may resolve a modest pigeon problem, in the very best case, it moves the birds to another location. OvoControl is designed for sites where simply moving the birds does not resolve the problem. Exclusion systems complement the effects of OvoControl, consistent with an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. These tools can be combined for optimal results.

17. How does OvoControl P work and how does it affect hatchability?

Recently published research has shown that the active ingredient inhibits the ZP3 sperm receptor sites on the vitelline membrane to prevent the fertilization of eggs. Sperm are effectively prevented from fertilizing the egg and therefore no embryo is ever formed.

18. What advantage does OvoControl have over other chemical control programs?

Use of OvoControl allows for the reduction in hatching of eggs laid by treated pigeons without the risk of toxicants. Other than a declining population, there are no long-term effects and nothing ever dies from OvoControl.

19. When do you start and stop using OvoControl P?

OvoControl baiting can begin at anytime during the reproductive season. Pigeon reproduction is concentrated in the spring through fall although, depending on the climate, they can reproduce throughout the year. With adequate food, water and nesting sites, pigeons can hatch eggs as often as six times a year.

20. What happens if a raptor consumes a pigeon that has been treated with OvoControl P? Will the raptor's eggs also not hatch?

Fortunately, the chemistry of the active ingredient assures that there is no risk of any effect in a raptor. To have an effect, the bird **MUST** consume the bait – raptors enjoy fresh meat and fish, not OvoControl bait. Once OvoControl is digested and absorbed, it is no longer biologically available to another bird. There is effectively no risk of secondary toxicity.

21. Do the baiting sites need to be monitored?

OvoControl is offered in the early morning on a daily basis. Initially, each site is observed for approximately one hour to ensure that pigeons are eating the bait. With automatic feeders, baiting can be preprogrammed to dispense the appropriate amount of bait once a day, with periodic inspections to observe feeding behavior and to refill the bait. Some applicators use automated trail cameras to supplement monitoring.

22. Who is allowed to use the product?

The product is intended for use by businesses (Pest Control Operators), property and facility managers, government agencies and municipalities for the control of feral pigeon populations. No special license is required to purchase or apply OvoControl for pigeons. Check with authorities in your state if providing pest control services.

23. How do you prevent other birds from consuming OvoControl P? (i.e., starlings, house sparrows, songbirds, raptors, etc.)

All avians are considered sensitive to the product. OvoControl has therefore been designed to limit non-target exposure to birds. There are five techniques employed:

- ✓ The bait is relatively large, suitable for a pigeon but not to the average songbird.
- ✓ The bait is fed sparingly, at 5gm/bird, or roughly 15% of the pigeon's daily dry matter intake – in the early morning. Experience shows that once the pigeons are conditioned to the baiting routine, it is consumed within a few minutes, leaving little opportunity for non-target feeding.
- ✓ Pigeons are flocking birds and feed rapidly as a group. Most passerine activity is at or below the tree canopy level, and feeders are placed on rooftops where the risk of non-target exposure is limited.
- ✓ A daily dose is required during the breeding season – a single dose has no effect. It is possible that a non-target receives a dose from time-to-time, but periodic observation by the applicator ensures that OvoControl is reaching the target population.
- ✓ Raptors, insectivores, fish and crustacean eating birds will not consume bread-based bait.

24. What are the opinions of animal welfare groups to OvoControl P?

The Humane Society of the United States (“HSUS”), People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (“PETA”), American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (“ASPCA”) as well as other animal welfare groups support the use of non-lethal technology to moderate the populations of pigeons. Left unchecked, pigeon numbers in a local flock can grow very rapidly. Innolytics' egg hatch control technology enhances the quality of life for pigeon populations while controlling their numbers. The effects of OvoControl are analogous to spaying and castration programs in domestic animals, except that OvoControl is reversible.