

# UC Agriculture & Natural Resources

## Proceedings of the Vertebrate Pest Conference

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Opening comments - Sixth Vertebrate Pest Conference

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## OPENING COMMENTS--SIXTH VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE

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On behalf of the California Vertebrate Pest Committee, I want to extend a welcome to the sixth meeting of the Vertebrate Pest Conference.

With this welcome, I would like to remind you that this is your Conference and hope that you will benefit from the program that has been arranged as well as the opportunity to become acquainted with and exchange ideas and information with your fellow workers in vertebrate pest control and associated fields. As has been said before, it is a great tribute to this Conference to have noted scientists willing to travel across the nation, from Canada and from abroad to participate in the program without financial remuneration from the Conference and frequently at considerable personal expense. We greatly appreciate their efforts and contributions.

We are all aware of the need to manage vertebrate pest populations with various methods of control, not only as it pertains to the agricultural industry, food production, and preservation of natural resources, but also to the public health, safety, and general welfare of people of all nations. We are aware of the need of chemicals for efficient and effective control programs.

There are those people and organizations who take an extreme viewpoint on any type of pest management and control except by nature's ways in maintaining the so-called balance of nature. This we know is not effective.

Their activities, publications, and testimony at public hearings have created unreasonable barriers for those responsible for vertebrate pest control programs and research activities.

There is no doubt that their activities have been of value in maintaining a reasonable balance in our laws and policies regulating the use of pesticides and pest control operations. It now becomes our responsibility to provide adequate data to support and justify rational, rather than emotional, regulations and policies governing vertebrate pest control programs and registration and use of pesticides. It is essential that we document losses to our economy and the need for control programs. From research we must supply adequate pertinent information and sufficient scientific facts to those responsible for registration of needed pesticides and approval for requested pest control programs.

The people sitting in judgment on our requests are reasonable people, willing to work with responsible persons or groups but have only the facts presented to them on which to make their decisions. By working together and exchanging ideas and information at meetings such as this, I hope will be beneficial for continued development of improved vertebrate pest management programs and a stimulant for future research projects.