ABSTRACT: The objective of this study was to determine the potential of Milorganite® as a repellent for the domestic house mouse (Mus musculus). Milorganite® is the biosolids by-product left from the activated sludge process from the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewer District. Within a climate controlled building, two triangular enclosures consisting of panels (2.4m x 1.2m x .064m) resulting in 2.6m² floor surface area were secured to a concrete floor and provided with pine shavings and a container of water. Round metal containers (8.3cm x 3.0cm) were each secured to a 10cm x 20cm plastic lid and placed within the three corners of each enclosure. Two, 6-day treatment periods, consisting of three, 48-hour trials were conducted. During each trial, 100g of a pelleted feed was placed within each feed container at a rate of 1g Milorganite®, 500mg Milorganite® or 0mg Milorganite®. Ten mature mice were placed within each enclosure for each 6-day treatment period. Consumption of the 100g pelleted feed in each container during each 48-hour trial was utilized to determine repellent potential. Consumption of feed across all trials were similar (p=.87) among mice for the control (49.6g ± 3.2), 500mg Milorganite® (49.7g ± 2.8) or 1g Milorganite® (50.7g± 2.7) treatments. It was also observed that mice would consume Milorganite®. Results of this study indicate Milorganite® was not effective as a repellent for mice.

Key Words: feed, house mouse, Milorganite, repellent