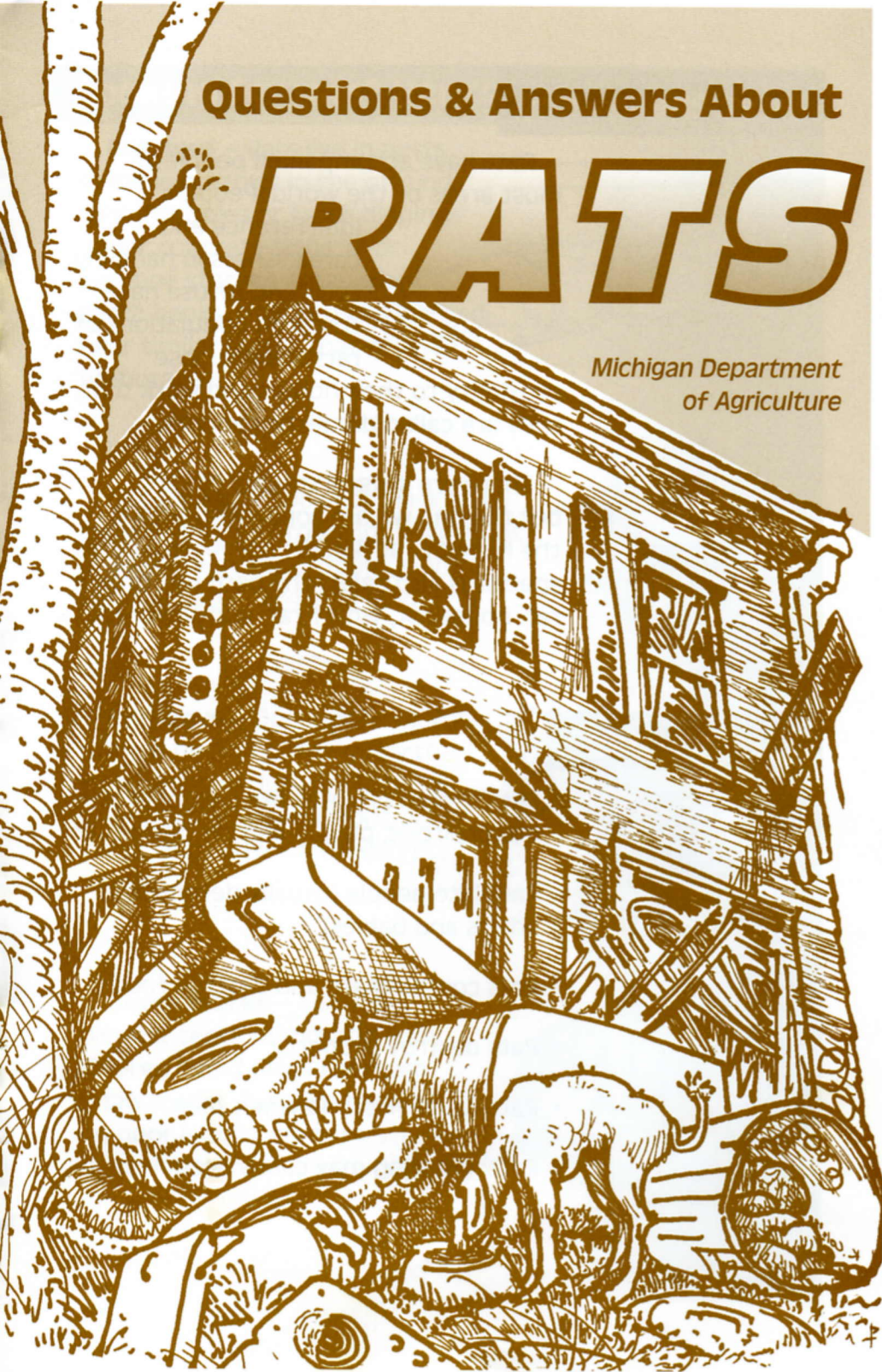


Questions & Answers About

# RATS

Michigan Department  
of Agriculture



## Meet the enemy

Rats have accompanied people to most areas of the world. People's indifference and carelessness in handling food and refuse have fostered populations of rats in such close proximity to their homes and work that they are called domestic rodents.



There are several species of rats, but the one we are concerned with is the Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*). This species is also called the barn rat, brown rat, house rat, wharf rat, and sewer rat.

## Rats are bad...



- Rats spread diseases like salmonellosis, leptospirosis, plague and rat bite fever.
- Rats bite people (usually defenseless adults and babies).
- Rats contaminate and destroy food.
- Rats destroy property.
- Rats cause hysteria when seen.
- Rats' gnawing may cause fires.

