Here are some tips to prevent them without poison.

1. Store all horse (or other animal) feed in a metal container with a tight fitting lid. Spoiled and uneaten food should be thrown away into a metal container with a lid and disposed of.
2. Regularly inspect for rat entry points and seal them up.
3. Backfill tunnels to discourage digging.
4. Consider using a non-toxic fertility control product like Contrapest to decrease rat numbers.
5. Bury galvanized steel mesh along the foundation (known as a trench and screen) to block tunneling.
6. Install a layer of concrete (known as a rat slab) to block tunneling.
7. Consider installing a raptor perch to attract birds of prey (contact us for plans).

**DO NOT USE:**
- **Snap traps** in the open landscape or in your barn. They can maim and harm other animals.
- **Sticky traps** or glue boards. They cause horrific suffering and other animals get caught in them, including songbirds.
- **Rodenticides:** Rat poison kills birds and wildlife, not just rats. When a hawk, owl, or bobcat eats a poisoned rat, they too, can become very ill or perish of secondary poisoning. Rat poison can even harm horses and other farm animals.

**O.K. TO USE:**
- **Electronic traps** (only in safe locations) like The Raticator or other rat “zapper.”
- **Cayenne pepper** sprinkled on rat trails to deter them.
- **Dry ice** in rat burrows, outside but not inside your barn.