**Novelty Suppressed Feeding Protocol**

**Day 1: Fasting**

1. Fast all mice for 18 hours prior to running. Place food restriction cards on cages.
2. Weigh all mice as you remove the food.

**Day 2: Setup**

1. Place the NSF bins on the ground in a row. Fill each bin with fresh sterilized bedding (fine-grain, not corn cob bedding) until the white pieces on the edges and in the center of the bin are covered.
2. Locate pellet holders in the NSF storage tub. Insert a big intact food pellet into each holder and place in the center of each bin, on top of the bedding.
3. Clip lamps with white 1000W bulbs above the bins, on the edges of the CFC boxes. Check that the bins are in >800 lux conditions (ideally 1000-1200+).
4. Place a fresh holding cage in front of each bin.
5. Set aside four rectangular test cages with empty wire hoppers.
6. Locate scales for weighing the mice and for weighing food pellets during the task.

**Day 2: Running the task, part I**

1. Place mice in holding cages for a few minutes prior to the start of the run.
2. In the meantime, weigh all eating pellets for the second part of the task.
3. Rapidly place all four mice in the corners of each bin and start the timer.
4. Record the time at which each mouse first *bites* onto the food pellet.
   1. **Note:** This is *not* when the mouse first approaches the pellet. It must actually bite down (this may make a faint noise). Biting the rubber holder also does not count, nor does digging under the holder.
   2. **Note:** Run mice for 6 minutes maximum.
5. Upon biting, immediately remove the mouse and return it to the holding cage.
6. Wait until all mice have taken a bite or have timed out of the first part of the task, then move to the second part.

**Day 2: Running the task, part II**

1. Place all weighed pellets in their respective wire hoppers on top of the rectangular cages. Place a mouse in each cage and start a timer for 5 minutes.
2. When complete, remove the mouse and weigh it. Remove the pellet and weigh it as well. Record all data.
3. To prepare for the next set of mice, mix around the bedding in each bin (no need to change the bedding completely). If switching between sexes of mice, add a new cup of bedding on top to hide any previous scents.
4. When a whole cage of mice is complete, return a food hopper to their cage and remove the food restriction card.