



# WRSA News

WORLD RABBIT  
SCIENCE  
ASSOCIATION

Newsletter N° 12  
July 2022

## Main topics:

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- ★ Last News of the World Rabbit Congress
- ★ 7<sup>th</sup> American Congress in Rabbit Science
- ★ Selected Publications
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Dear WRSA officers and members,

Six months have passed since our eleventh Newsletter. There are certain aspects that we want to inform you about and that will surely be of interest to you. We have tried to summarize the main news of these last six months in the current issue.

## Letter from the WRSA President

Dear WRSA members and followers,

It finally seems that we have moved on to the “new normality”, after two sober years during the covid pandemic. Although the scientific activity in rabbit science has continued during these years, it seems that scientific meetings and collaboration between institutions, which have been so limited these years, are now being reactivated. We have been able to successfully celebrate our World Rabbit Congress, and the next one is already beginning to be organized. The national branches have begun to hold their national congresses in person and the Congress of the Americas will also be held this year in Varadero (Cuba).

We are living in times with important changes that directly affect rabbit farming. Europe is proposing the need to change rabbit housing in the coming years. The post-pandemic scenario and the war in Ukraine have generated an unprecedented rise in the price of raw materials and feed. We are experiencing an episode of economic inflation worldwide that we have not suffered in decades. All these circumstances, and some more, are affecting the viability of rabbit production worldwide. In this scenario, it is very important that science and scientists continue to provide solutions that allow us to successfully face these challenges.

From the WRSA we commend you to continue with your magnificent work and commitment to rabbit science, which allows a new but hopeful future for this species.

Do not forget to use our discussion forum for every question to our community:

<https://groups.google.com/forum/world-rabbit-science-asso>

Publish in the WRSA journal, World Rabbit Science <http://polipapers.upv.es/index.php/wrs>

Visit our WRSA website <http://world-rabbit-science.com/> and our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/wrsaface/>

I hope to meet you in Varadero  
Best wishes

Juan José PASCUAL   
WRSA President

Universitat Politècnica de Valencia (Spain)

## Last News of the World Rabbit Congress

As you all know, the last WRSA General Assembly approved that the 13th World Rabbit Congress (WRC) will be held in Catalonia (Spain) in 2024. Next, we will try to advance the latest news about the celebration of this congress.

- The 13<sup>th</sup> WRC is going to be organized by the Spanish branch of the WRSA (ASESCU, the Spanish Rabbit Farming Association) and by the Program of Animal Breeding and Genetics of the Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology (IRTA, Catalonia).
- The organizing committee of the 13<sup>th</sup> WRC is made up of Raquel Quintanilla, Mariam Pascual, Miriam Piles and Juan Pablo Sánchez (IRTA) and Pedro González, Ceferino Torres and Juan José Pascual (ASESCU).
- The Congress will be held from October 2 to 4, 2024, at the Exhibition and Congress Center of Tarragona (Catalonia, Spain).

The organizing committee plans to have a website before the end of 2022 to be able to follow all the news related to the organization and attendance at the congress.

Throughout 2023, WRSA will constitute the scientific committee that will select the invited papers and will manage the request, review and acceptance of communications to the congress.

Of course, we will continue to keep you informed through our Newsletter of the advances in the organization of the 13<sup>th</sup> WRC.

The scientific and organising committee of the 13<sup>th</sup> WRC



## EL PALAU

Palau Firal i de Congressos de Tarragona



## 7<sup>th</sup> American Congress in Rabbit Science

The 7<sup>th</sup> American Congress in Rabbit Science will be held on October 12 and 13 in Varadero (Cuba). The congress is organized by the Cuban Institute of Animal Science (ICA), the Cuban Association of Animal Production (ACPA) and the American branch of the WRSA within the 2022 Animal Production and Agrodevelopment Convention, which will be held from 10 to 14 October 2022 at the Plaza América Convention Center in Varadero, Matanzas, Cuba.

The 7<sup>th</sup> American Congress in Rabbit Science convenes specialists, researchers, teachers, students, breeders and producers from various latitudes, related to rabbit farming. The meeting aims to



motivate the exchange of experiences and results in rabbit production systems in the Americas, their technical, economic, environmental and social sustainability, and strategies for the improvement, conservation, use and characterization of animal genetic resources for rabbit farming.

The reception of all the works will be until August 15, 2022.

Those interested should send their work to the following email: [agropat2022@gmail.com](mailto:agropat2022@gmail.com) or to the event website <http://www.agropatcuba2022.com> and follow its instructions for submission.

The event will take place in a hybrid way (face-to-face and virtual).

Coordinators: Lissette Fernández Páramo (ACPA, Cuba) and Yoleisy García Hernández (ICA, Cuba)

Scientific Committee: Gaby Quagliariello (INTA, Argentina), Ana Silvia A.M.T. Moura (UNESP - Botucatu, Brazil), Luiz Carlos Machado (IFMG - Bambuí, Brazil), Benjamin Valladares Carranza (UAEM, Mexico), Yazmín E. Felipe Pérez (UAEM, Mexico), Alexis Lamas Trujillo (UCV, Venezuela), and Yasmani Caro Ríos (ICA, Cuba)



## Selected Publications

It is for us a pleasure to report that the impact factor (JIF) of our World Rabbit Science journal has risen this last year, reaching a value of 1,000. This places our journal back in the Q3 quartile (43/62 Agriculture, Dairy & Animal Science; 31.45 percentile). Here you can find the most Popular Articles in World Rabbit Science last 6 months:

1. Consumer behaviour related to rabbit meat as functional food. World Rabbit Sci. 2018, 26: 321-333 <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2018.10435> 454 views in 180 days
2. Rabbit meat: valuable nutrition or too-cute-to-eat? World Rabbit Sci. 2021, 29: 239-246 <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.0.12663> 446 views in 180 days
3. Normal values of haematological and some biochemical parameters in serum and urine of New Zealand White rabbits. World Rabbit Sci. 2012, 20: 253-259 <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2012.1229> 377 views in 180 days

Reviews published in WRS during 2022:

1. Viral haemorrhagic disease: RHDV type 2 ten years later. World Rabbit Sci. 2022, 30: 1-11 <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2022.16505> 352 downloads in 120 days.



2. Challenges in rabbit doe feeding, including the young doe. World Rabbit Sci. 2022, 30: 13-34 <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2022.15562> 343 downloads in 120 days.
3. Aspects of social behaviour and reproduction in the wild rabbit – Implications for rabbit breeding? World Rabbit Sci. 2022, 30: 47-59 <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2022.15954> 362 downloads in 120 days.
4. Rabbit meat trade of major countries: regional pattern and driving forces. World Rabbit Sci. 2022, 30: 69-82 <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2022.13390> 373 downloads in 120 days.

## International and National Congresses

In the last six months, WRSA has news about two national congresses held in Europe.

### ASIC Congress, Rimini, Italy

On May 6, 2022, the Italian Section of WRSA, the Italian Scientific Association of Rabbit Breeding (ASIC), held its Annual Conference in Rimini (Italy). The conference was intended to offer an update on the actions underway for a sustainable transition of livestock production systems which also affects the rabbit system. The European Green Deal outlines a global transition towards competitive sustainability, through an integrated food policy that must involve the entire production chain. The European Commission is carrying out a comprehensive assessment of existing legislation on farm animal welfare, with an open debate within the European Platform on Animal Welfare and the European Union Reference Center for Animal Welfare on the welfare of small species, including rabbits. These activities also reflect the critical position of public opinion towards animal production systems, with particular reference to the use of cages in farms.



In this context, the intervention of Prof. Agustin Blasco (Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain) highlighted the new challenges that the sector must face in terms of contributing to global warming, animal welfare and system resilience. Dr. Gianluca Bagnara (President Assoavi, working group on the welfare of rabbits and poultry; COPA COGECA, Expert for the European Commission) addressed the open debate in Europe for a sustainable transition of animal production systems while Prof. Juan José Pascual (President of the World Rabbit Association) has shifted the public's attention to the urgent actions needed by the rabbit production system to survive the current “perfect storm”. During the conference, Dr. Leonardo James Vinco and Clara Tolini (EURCAW Poultry-SFA) presented the report on rabbit welfare recently published by the European Reference Center on Poultry and Small Animal Welfare while Dr. Luigi Bertocchi (reference center national for animal welfare) and dr. Antonio Lavazza (Zooprophyllactic Institute of Lombardy and Emilia Romagna, Brescia) presented the Italian Classyfarm system for assessing animal and farm welfare, including the specific framework developed for rabbits.

The meeting was closed by Dr. Ugo Santucci (Ministry of Health) who summarized how the need for transition of the rabbit sector with respect to the different drivers is well defined and therefore interventions are required. At the Rimini Fair, the meeting between producers, researchers and various speakers was a renewed opportunity for the

rabbit sector, with its limits and potential, to take stock of what has been done and to identify sustainable and fruitful collaboration paths between the world of research, technology and production.

You can find all the presentations of this congress at <https://www.asic-wrsa.it/atti2022.php>

## ASESCU Congress, Pineda de Mar, Spain

The 46th Congress of the Spanish Association of Cuniculture (ASESCU) was held in Pineda de Mar (Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain) from 1st to 2nd June 2022, hosted by the Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology (IRTA) and the Department of Climate Action, Food and Rural Agenda of the Government of Catalonia. Four main guest lectures were given. The first explained the trends in the meat products market and the implications for the rabbit sector. Another one presented an overview of rabbit farming in Catalonia. Moreover, another talk addressed the question of how much a rabbit farm pollutes. Finally, a fourth talk was addressed to the prudent use of antibiotics in rabbit farming in the context of reducing the use of antimicrobials. A round table was held on the demands of European legislation and citizens in terms of rabbit housing and welfare, with the participation of experts from Belgium, Italy and Spain. Moreover, a total of 26 communications were presented in working sessions (genetics, nutrition, reproduction, and pathology and welfare) as oral communications and posters. The meeting was attended by near 140 participants from several European and American countries. Abstracts of the contributions will be soon available in World Rabbit Science.



Asociación  
Española de  
Cunicultura



Instituto  
de Investigación y Tecnología  
Agroalimentarias



Generalitat de Catalunya  
**Departament d'Acció Climàtica,  
Alimentació i Agenda Rural**



You can find all the information of this congress at <https://asescu.com>

Best regards and wishing you a great summer

Juan José Pascual  
WRSA President



Valencia (Spain), July 29, 2022