

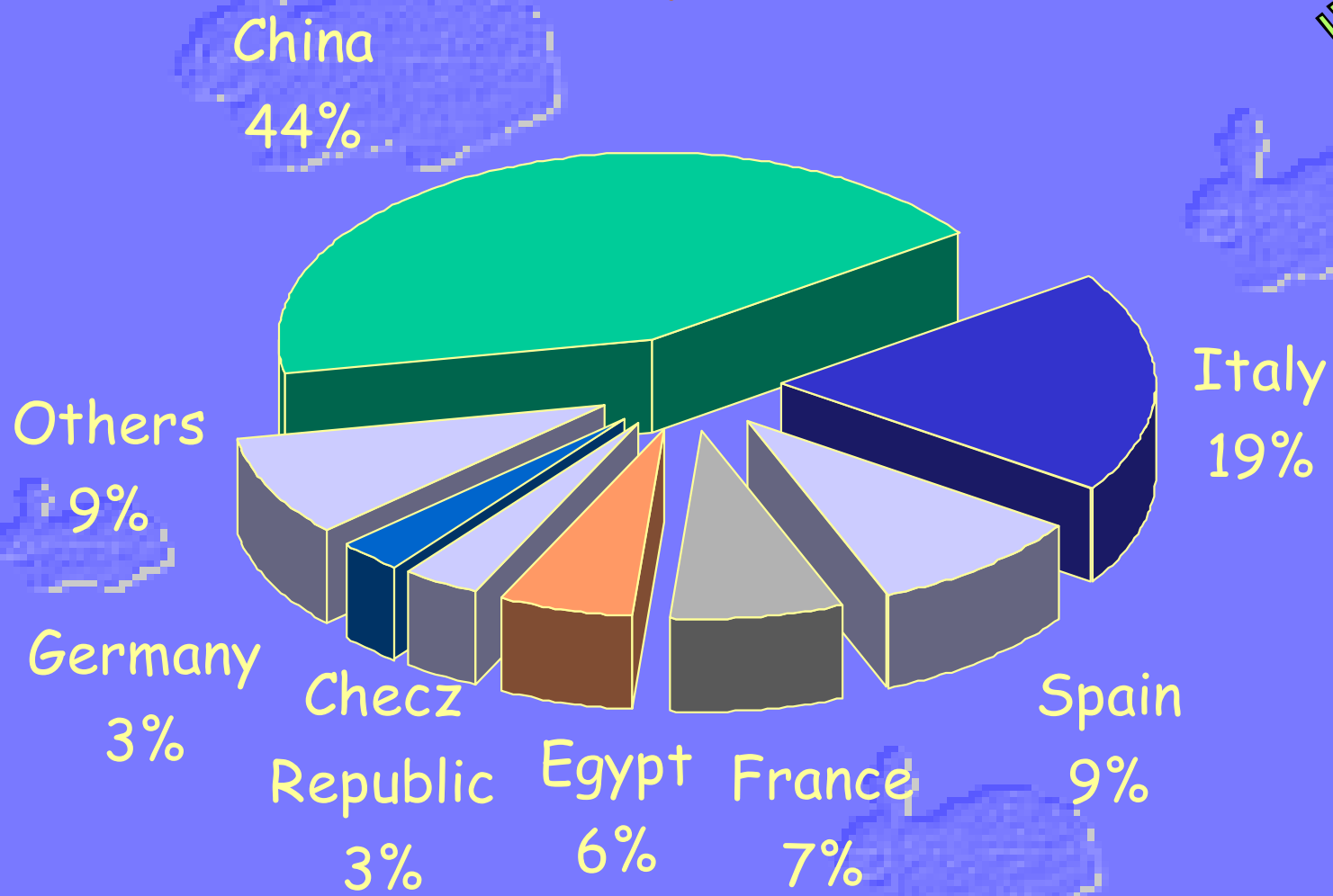
China - Italy ASIC Meeting on Rabbit Science
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Rabbit production and organization in Italy

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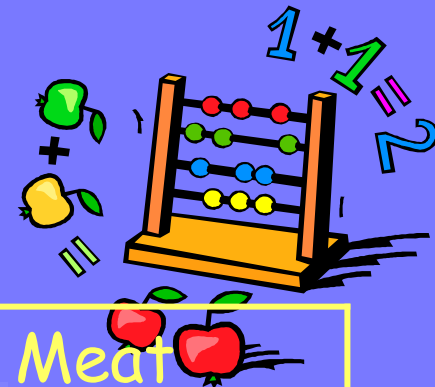


Rabbit meat production



Italy is the 2nd producer of rabbit meat
(220-230.000 t per year, FAO)

Rabbit meat production Italian statistics



	Slaughtered rabbit	Live weight (x 1000 t)	Carcass weight (x 1000 t)	Meat consumption (kg/person)
FAO	155 millions	388	220	3.6
ISTAT	26 millions	70	39	0.65
Avitalia	67 millions	174	97	1.6
Commerc. + rural estimate	≈100 millions	≈ 250	≈ 140	≈ 2.3

The Italian production is overestimated by FAO
and underestimated by ISTAT and Avitalia

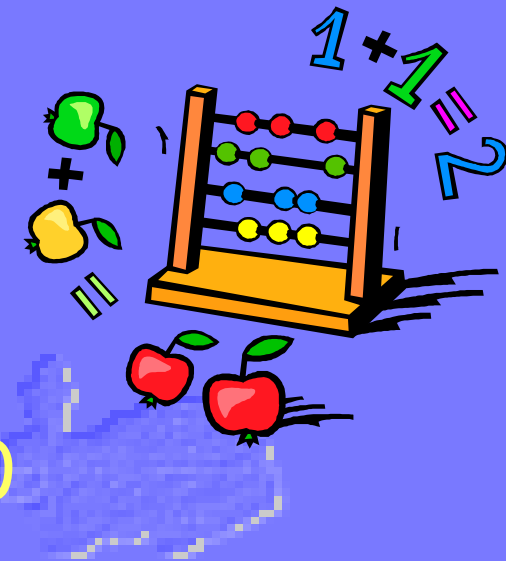
Rabbit farms and rabbit does

Rabbit farms:

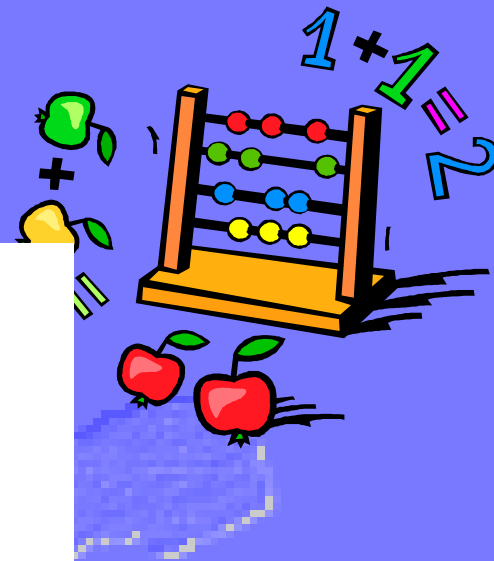
- rural (less than 20 does): 100,000-150,000
- medium (20-200 reproducing does): 5-6,000
- intensive (200-10,000 reproducing does): 2,000-2,500

Number of reproducing does:

- rural: 500,000 - 1 million does
- medium: 5-600,000 does
- intensive: 1.3-1.4 million does



Distribution of rabbit farms

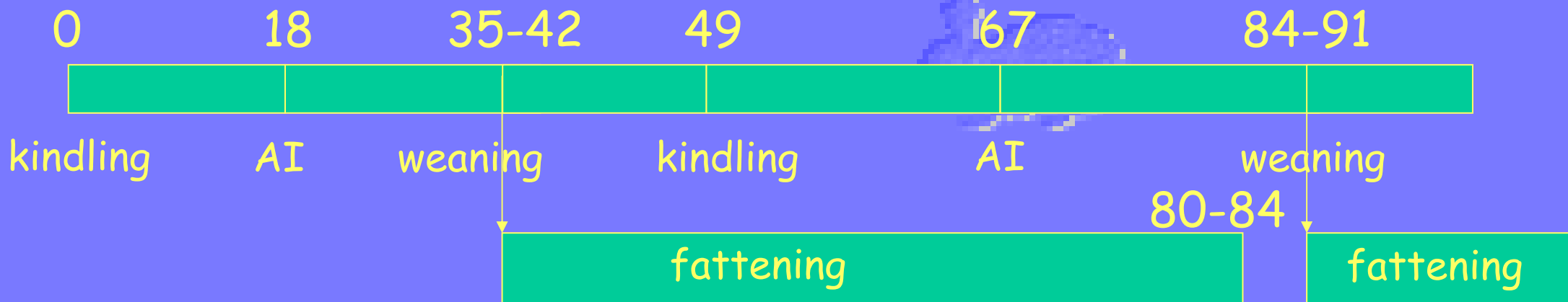


The Italian production system

a) Theoretical interval between kindlings: 6 weeks



b) Theoretical interval between kindlings: 7 weeks



Technical and economic results of rabbit farms in Veneto

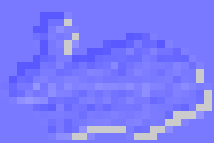
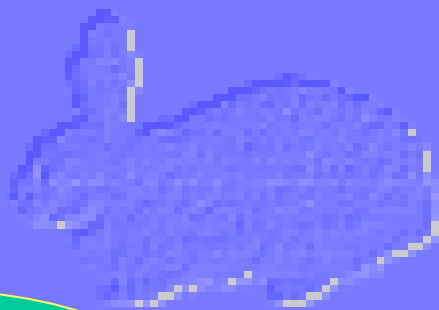
Controlled farms, n	48
Reproducing does, n	1216±805
Culling rate of reproducing does, %	87.4±17.8
Average kindling to kindling interval, d	56.5±5.9
Fertility, %	76.8 ±6.0
Kindling/doe/year, n	6.52 ±0.53
Mortality during fattening, %	7.1 ±2.2
Sold rabbits/doe/year, n	43.7 ±6.7
Average live weight, kg	2.65 ±0.11
Feed conversion	3.82 ±0.19

(Xiccato, 2005)

Rabbit production chain



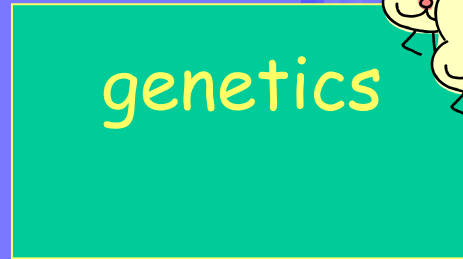
feed industry



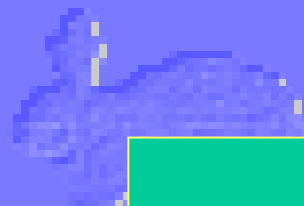
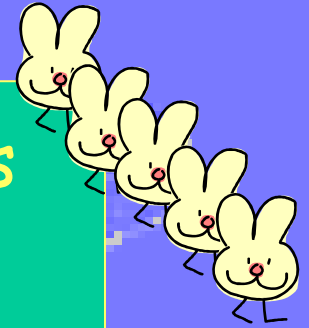
farmers



slaughter
houses



genetics



retailing

Genetics



Reproducing does in commercial farms are obtained as:

- in-farm reproduction or cross of hybrids: 60-70%
- commercial hybrids (parents, grand parents): 30-40%

Available hybrids:

- France: Hyplus-Grimaud (30-40%), Hyla 15-20%
- Italy: Martini (30-35%), local selection and pure breeds (ANCI-AIA)

Feed industry

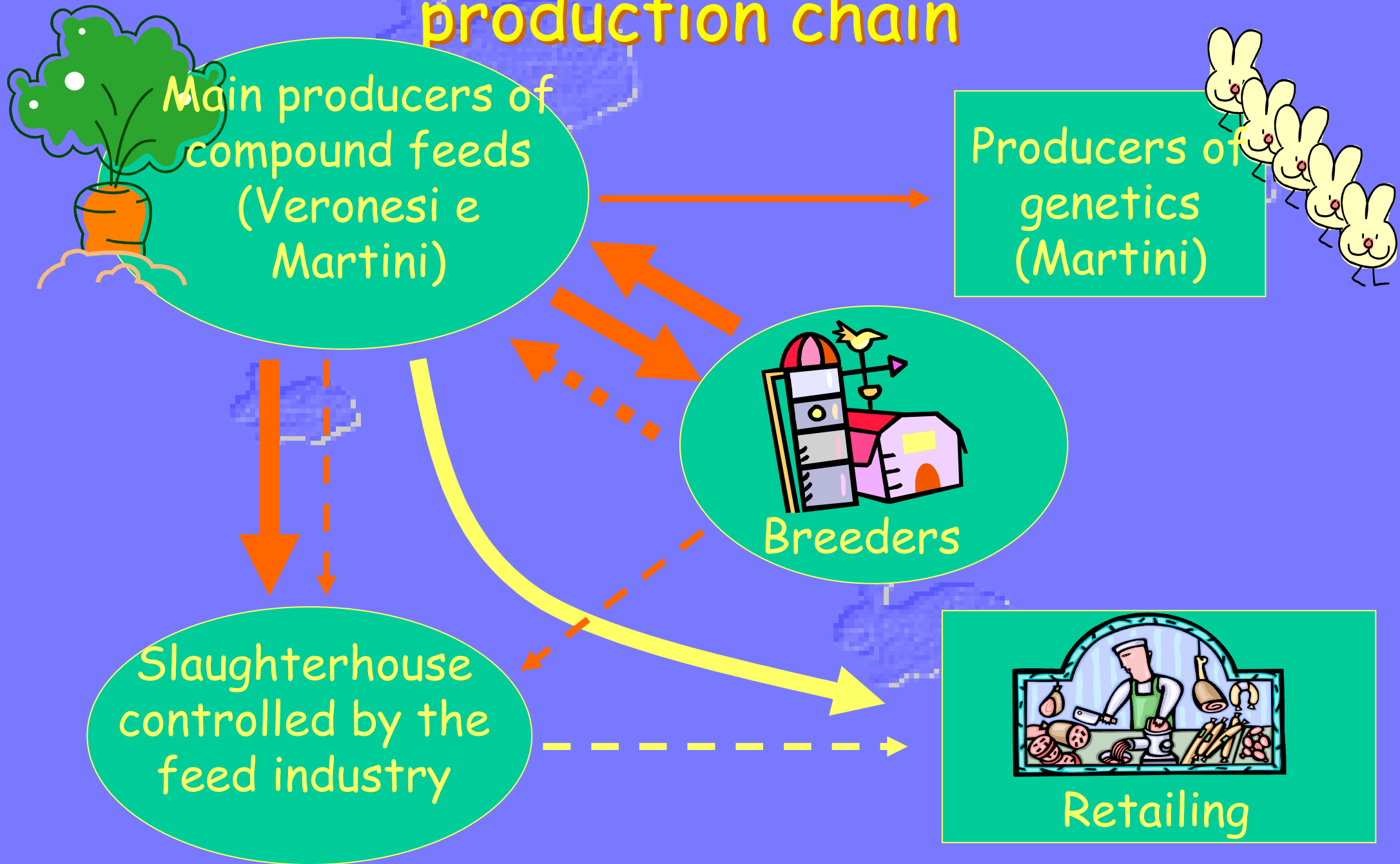
Production of compound feeds for rabbits:
600.000-1.000.000 t

27-30 feed industries of different sizes with a
continuous production

- Mostly feed industries are not integrated with breeders: 70% of the volume
- Only two feed industries (Veronesi and Martini) has developed an integrated system with rabbit farmers: 30% of the volume



Vertical integration of the rabbit production chain



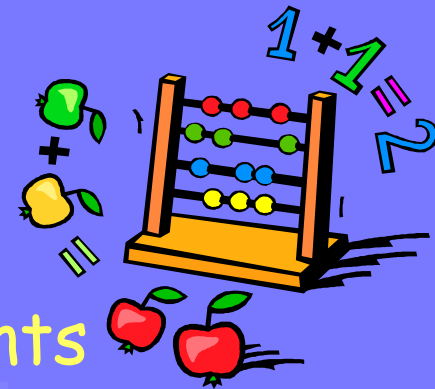
Retailing

Rabbit meat is sold:

- 40% through the mass retailer organization (50% as whole carcasses, 50% cut-up and processed products)
- 40% through traditional butchers (80% as whole carcasses)
- 15% through others markets (local markets, direct sales, self-consumption)
- 5% through canteens, restaurants, agro-tourism (mainly as frozen products)

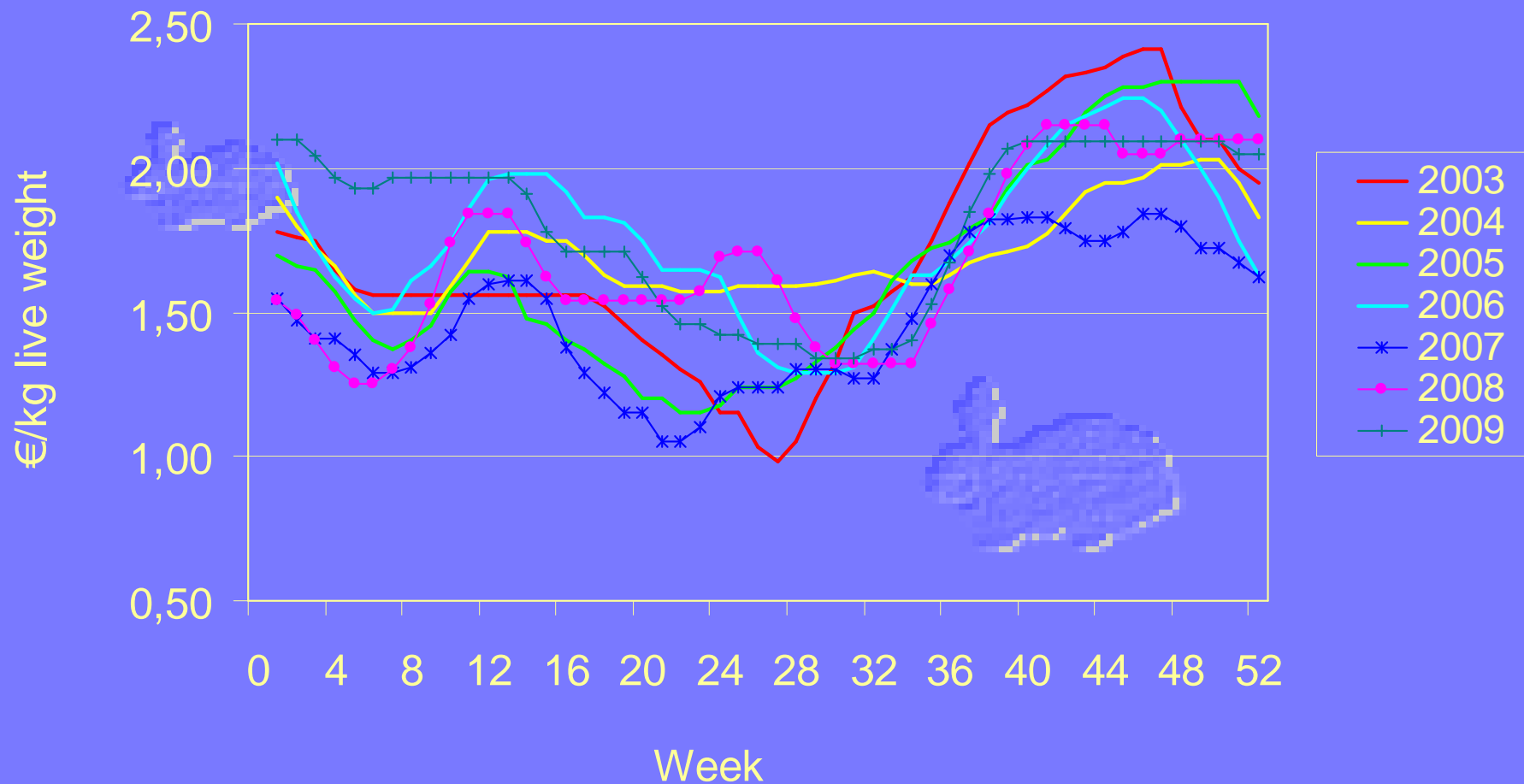


Price of rabbits in Italy (market of Verona)



The price (live weight) is highly variable and represents the major problem of the rabbit production

The average production cost is 1.80 €/kg



Contracts of full integration (vertical)

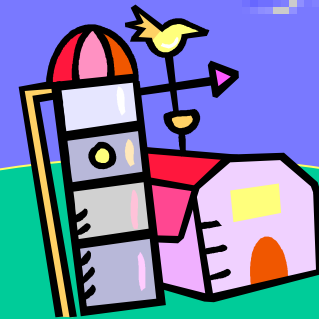


Compound diets,
reproducing animals,
medications, technical
assistance
Withdrawal of animals is
guaranteed

Period: 1-3 years or more

Price of meat/kg: based on the
work and energy cost and
equipment annual costs.

Changes in feed intake, health
status, live weight, dressing out
percentage.



Building, equipment,
energy, work and
management of the farm

Contract of product withdrawal



Withdrawal of animals is guaranteed (by industries both controlling or not slaughterhouses)

Period: 1 year

Price of meat/kg: week average value at the market of Verona. Possible negative or positive corrections



Compound diets, reproducing animals, medications, environmental control, animal losses

Conditions: all diets, or at least the fattening diet, from the feed industry in contract

Organizations of rabbit breeders

Coniglio Veneto:

400 associates, 20% of the national production;

Others associations:

in different Regions, to improve the technical level and to get better conditions for selling the product (too small)

Avitalia: guarantees the interest of poultry and rabbit breeders through various actions



Conclusions



- x Few official information available on the Italian rabbit production system
- x Great individualism and weak integration of the production chain, with several individual rather than collective agreements
- x Increasing integration of the Italian production chain with different contracts between feed companies and breeders (full integration, withdrawal)
- x The lack of cross-professional agreements (especially with mass retailers - superstore) fails to reduce variation of the market price

Acknowledges

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