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Dear WRSA officers and members,

Six months have passed since our fifth Newsletter. Over the course of these months, many interesting things have happened in the rabbit world, that next we will try to summarize.

Letter from the WRSA President

Dear WRSA members and followers,

WRSA becomes stronger with a new branch from Malaysia (after Nepal and Ivory Coast). This branch organises within one month an international conference on Rabbit production in tropical climates (see below for details). This "new" activities in the east part of our globe is very encouraging. Other new branches are also under construction, such in Denmark and Zambia.

Do not forget to use our discussion forum for every question to our community:
<https://groups.google.com/forum/world-rabbit-science-asso>

I wish you a summer all at once relaxing and rewarding

Thierry Gidenne

News from the WRSA branches

The German group of the World Rabbit Science Association (WRSA) was founded in 1976 and has set itself the goal of promoting progress in the entire field of rabbit breeding and housing, maintaining scientific work and supporting young scientists. Members of our association are scientists, rabbit breeders and rabbit keepers with interest in scientific questions "around the rabbit", breeding and trade organization as well as associations. The president of the Central Association of German Breeders of Rabbits and the chairman of the Federal Association of German Rabbit Meat and Wool Producers have a firm place in the extended board in order to make clear the close connection between science and practice of both breed and intensive rabbit breeding and housing. The board itself consists of a chairman, the deputy chairman and the treasurer as well as an extended board with four members. At least once every two years (in connection with the International Conference) the general meeting takes place. The chairmen of the group were (in chronological order): Prof. Dr. H.C. Scholaut (1976-1988), Prof. Dr. J. Petersen (1993-1997), Prof. Dr. W. Bessei (1997-2005), Prof. Dr. St. Hoy (2005-2017) and Prof. Dr. P. Wolf (since 2017). In 2009, the association was re-established as a registered association.

As a German group of the WRSA we are at the same time part of the world organization. Our association organizes every two years (in the odd years) an international conference, which was held until 2017 in Celle at the Institute for Animal Welfare and Animal Husbandry of the Friedrich Löffler Institute (FLI). Due to a rebuilding of the FLI in Celle, we were forced to look for a new venue in 2019. This was found at

the Foundation of the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, where from now on the international conferences will be held every 2 years. Abstracts will be published in both German and English at the conferences. Following the conferences, a conference book with the written versions of the lectures and posters will be published under the title "International Conference on Husbandry and Diseases of Rabbits, Fur Animals and Pets".

In addition, there is a preparation and execution of national and regional conferences to breeding, attitude, feeding, marketing and health of the rabbits. To promote young scientists in the field of rabbit science, we award prizes for outstanding master's and diploma theses and doctoral theses. The awards ceremony takes place at the conferences (see photo). Prof. Dr. Petra Wolf (1st chairman, centre) honours Mr. Masthoff (right) for the best dissertation, which was supervised by Prof. S. Hoy (former 1st chairman, left).



The German group of the WRSA e. V. participates actively in the improvement of the attitude conditions above all the intensively held rabbits. We have developed guidelines for minimum standards as a contribution to the welfare of rabbits (these can be viewed under the link http://www.wrsa-deutschland.de/uploads/media/Leitlinien_Kaninchen). A special request is in this connection the switching between practice and politics. The new attitude regulations in Germany proved themselves in practice as partially not convertible and go occasionally with an impairment of the well-being of the rabbits along.

We organize together with the committee for rabbit breeding and - attitude of the German agricultural society registered association in the two-yearly rhythm a rabbit forum on the international fair euro animal in Hanover, which takes place in each case in November.

On the homepage of the group, general questions about animal welfare and national and international conferences are pointed out. There is also a page with references to current literature (publications, books, doctoral theses, etc.).

Persons or organisations who want to participate in an active promotion of rabbit breeding and housing in science and practice are cordially invited to become a member of the German Group.

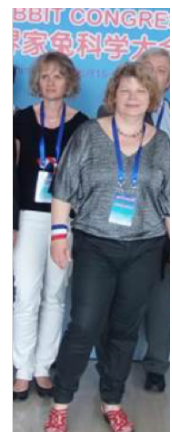
Contact can be established via the first chairperson (petra.wolf@uni-rostock.de) of the German WRSA (e.V.).

Last News from 2020 World Rabbit Congress

Our next WRC is progressing in its preparation. Now the refereeing system and chairing of session is organised and will be published soon in the WRC website (: <https://colloque.inra.fr/wrc2020>). Eight main conferences with high scientific standard have been attributed (see the website too) and cover a high diversity in topics. Now, we are working on the list of the round tables, and we are open to propositions. Then, the scientific committee will work on the scholarship attribution for several young scientists of developing countries. The procedure will be launch in september.

The WRC website is developping and will be filled progressively according to the agenda.

You can already pre-submit a scientific communication. This will help us in preparing our scientific program.



Look at several information, such the global scientific program:

<https://colloque.inra.fr/wrc2020>

Early registration: 15th September 2019 – 15th May 2020; Late: 15th May -24th June 2020

We look forward to welcoming you to Nantes in 2020.

Selected Publications

Popular Articles in World Rabbit Science last 12 months:

1. [Relative growth in rabbits: the effects of genetic line, diet and gender](#) 818 views since: 2018-09-28
2. [The effect of carob \(*Ceratonia siliqua*\) bean extract on male New Zealand White rabbit semen](#) 696 views since: 2018-09-28
3. [The effect of different dietary zinc sources on mineral deposition and antioxidant indices in rabbit tissues](#) 463 views since: 2018-09-28
4. [A review of recent research outcomes on the housing of farmed domestic rabbits: reproducing does](#) 461 views since: 2019-03-29
5. [Consumer behaviour related to rabbit meat as functional food](#) 441 views since: 2018-12-27

International and National Congresses

In the last six months, there have been an annual conference and two national congresses.

Annual ASIC Conference (Italian Scientific Association of Rabbit Farming) in Forlì (Italy)

At a time when the European Parliament has requested an update of the guidelines on rabbit welfare, and EFSA has established two working groups with a focus on breeding and slaughter, the round table promoted by the ASIC last 28th March 2019, did want to take stock of the actions put into act in the main producing countries in Europe. In the traditional headquarters of the Fiera di Forlì, the speakers were asked to illustrate the ways in which the theme of rabbit welfare has been declined by research and by the operators of the chain. The prospects for change were also discussed in relation to the specificities of production in the different countries. Furthermore, the principles of the guidelines drawn up by the Italian Ministry of Health and the other actions undertaken for the tunnel sector will be illustrated.



Different experts from different countries presented the current situation of the research projects on rabbit welfare and national political actions: Juan José Pascual (Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain), Laurence Fortun-Lamothe (INRA, France), and Angela Trocino (University of Padova, Italy).

In addition, guidelines of the Italian Ministry of Health on rabbit welfare, a system for the registration of the rabbit farms and an the preliminary results of a social survey were also presented by Antonio Lavazza (Centro di Referenza Nazionale per le Malattie Virali dei Lagomorfi, Italy), Walter Di Donato (Centro Servizi Nazionale Anagrafi degli Animali dell'IZSAM, Italy) and Stefania Crovato (Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, Italy), respectively.

The documents presented are available at <http://www.asic-wrsa.it/atti2019.php>

Photos from this event can be accessed at: <http://www.asic-wrsa.it/gallery2019.php>

44th Symposium of the Spanish Association of Cuniculture (ASESCU) in Aranda de Duero, Spain

The 44th Congress of the Spanish Association of Cuniculture (ASESCU) was held in Aranda de Duero (Burgos province, Castile and Leon region, Spain) from 5th to 6th June 2019, hosted by the trade union 'Unión de Campesinos de Burgos'.

The six main talks largely focused on the reasons behind rabbit meat consumption and how to promote it. The first explained the evolution of meat consumption by humans, another analysed the environmental impact of livestock and the third showed efficient advertising strategies. Another talk explained the strategic approach of the rabbit meat promotion campaigns carried out in Spain in recent years. Finally, the Director of the Rabbit Meat Marketing Board (INTERCUN) spoke about the need for research, development and innovation in rabbit farming. The closing speech proposed what to do to achieve better rabbit meat sales based on current food market trends. Moreover, a total of 22 communications were presented in working sessions with oral communications and posters (nutrition, pathology, housing and welfare, and reproduction and genetics).

Around 170 participants from several European, American and African countries attended the meeting. Abstracts of the works are available in the last issue of the World Rabbit Science at:

<https://polipapers.upv.es/index.php/wrs/article/view/11963>



18th Journées de la Recherche Cunicole in Nantes (France)

With the support of INRA and the CBSA, the Cuniculture Association organized in Nantes, the 18th Journées de la Recherche Cunicole on May 27th and 28th, 2019. A total of 32 peer-reviewed papers, including 3 summaries, were presented orally to approximately 90 participants. Two important topics can be selected: study and possibilities of control of viral haemorrhagic disease (HDV) caused by the new variant of RHDV2 virus, and control of digestive disorders, in particular coccidiosis, with non-chemical food additives or via food formulation. Part of the communication was also devoted to the efforts made to promote rabbit meat in France and to consumer behavior with regard to rabbit meat.

The 32 communications are the result of the work of 46 mainly French teams (11 public sector teams, 4 associative sector teams and 19 commercial private sector teams) but also 8 Algerian teams, 2 Spanish teams, a Tunisian team and a team from France. Italian. The papers were divided into 5 sections according to their main theme.

The communications (in French) with their abstracts (in English) are at:

<http://www.cuniculture.info/Docs/Magazine/Magazine2019/mag46-04-JRC-Textes.html>



Congresses just around the corner:

In 4th to 6th of August 2019 will take place the International Conference on Rabbit Production in Tropical Climate, as well as the 4th Asian Rabbit Production Association Conference. Malaysia Rabbit Breeders Association organizes the conference, in collaboration with Asian Rabbit Production Association and University Putra Malaysia. The overall theme of the conference is "Rabbit as Future Livestock for Sustainable Development".

Registration/Submission/Payment: <https://submit.confbay.com/conf/RPTC2019>

You can visit the official website at: <https://marba.org.my/RPTC2019>





Best regards and wishing you a great summer

Juan José Pascual
WRSA General Secretary



Valencia (Spain), July 15, 2019