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Dear WRSA officers and members,

Six months have passed since our eighth Newsletter. As you well know, the worldwide irruption of the COVID-19 has marked all our activity in all aspects over these months, and the world of rabbit science has been no exception. In any case, 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,

At the dawn of this new year, everyone is concerned by the COVID pandemic, and everyone also hope to success in this world fight. However, the world challenge for food security is still present, and we are sure that rabbit farming will contribute to this challenge. In 2020, our community is enlarging with two new branches, from Malaysia and Philippines, that obtain their preliminary registration to our federation. Full registration requires a general meeting, that was postpone as well as our world congress to June 2021. Further branches enter the agreement process: Denmark, Uzbekistan, Russia. We hope that their full registration will also be pronounced during our next general meeting. All national branches are the heart of our federation, and I express my gratitude to WRSA National branches officers for sharing the common effort of increasing the knowledge about rabbit science and the interest in rabbit production.

This year, with the WRSA office, we still have a great job in re-preparing our next World Rabbit Congress (23-25 June, Nantes, France). Already, many tasks have been engaged, and the work is intensifying. We hope your participation and in attending the congress (see below the last information about the 12thWRC).

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

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

Visit and 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/>).

Have a healthy, peaceful and active year.

Thierry GIDENNE  

WRSA President

Auzeville (France), January 28, 2021

Last News of the World Rabbit Congress

Because of COVID pandemic, our 12th World Rabbit Congress is postponed to 23-25 June 2021, Nantes, France). The organising committee has studied several options to organise the congress, to take into account the "impacts" of the COVID pandemic. Obviously, we are dependant of national health regulation. However, the organising committee have decided to propose a **congress using a "hybrid" system**, conjugating "face-to-face" participations AND on-line participations. Details about the concrete organisation will be posted soon on the website of the congress (<https://colloque.inrae.fr/wrc2020>) and on the WRSA website, and our social network (WRSA Facebook, WRSA google forum).

At present, 185 short papers submitted in 2020 have been accepted, and will presented and published, provided the speaking author will be registered. Still 23 short papers (of 2020) remained under review or correction by author, while 20 papers were withdrawn by the authors.

The second period of submission is closed from 17th January 2021, and 38 "new" papers have been submitted. They are now under reviewing process.

All 8 main speakers, main referees, and chairman of sessions and round table have confirmed their participation for our congress next year. Thus, we are confident about the future success of our 12thWRC.

You still have all the information about the communications submission, the organisation, the venue at: <https://colloque.inra.fr/wrc2020/Submission>. All relevant information, such as how to be a sponsor and where it will be held ..., is available on the official website of the congress: <https://colloque.inra.fr/wrc2020>

We look forward to welcoming you to next June.

The scientific and organising committee of the 12th WRC

News from the WRSA branches

During the World Congress of the WRSA in Toulouse, France, in 1996, the members of the North American branch had the idea of organizing a branch of the WRSA that would include North America, Central and South America, as well as the Caribbean countries. The main aim of this branch would be to join the collective interests of rabbit research in America, through the development of a web page, the organization of a congress every four years and the development of an electronic discussion group, among other actions. This organization would be called "The American Branch of the World Scientific Association for Rabbits (AB-WRSA)" and would meet every four years in accordance with the periodic meetings of the WRSA.

Some of the members of the American branch of the 2010-2014 and 2014-2018 Executive Committees.



The AB-WRSA congresses were held every four years in the cities of Montecillo, (Mexico-1998), Havana (Cuba-2002), Maringá (Brazil-2006), Córdoba (Argentina-2010), Toluca (Mexico-2014) and Goiania (Brazil-2018). Many publications generated at these events and other interesting information are available on the American Branch website (<https://abwrsa.org/>).

The AB-WRSA Bbranch also supports other associations and events, such as those recently organized by Venezuela in 2020 (Congress of women interested on rabbit farming). The next AB-WRSA congress for 2022 is also in planning.

The current Executive Committee of the AB-WRSA is made up of President Yazmín Felipe (Mexico), Vice-President Gaby Quagliariello (Argentina), Secretary/Treasurer Luiz Machado (Brazil) and with logistical support of Kassy Gomes da Silva (Brazil). This board has a WhatsApp group and is in constant contact, exchanging substantial information and holding online meetings.

The greatest difficulties encountered in recent years are involved with the different languages of the continent as well as its great extension. For this reason, the coordination process of rabbit farming in the American continent has had a certain degree of difficulty. However, we strongly believe that the most important thing is to improve the dialogue between researchers and breeders in general, as well as with the different associations of each country. For this reason, towards the end of 2020, we have worked to prepare an online survey, in order to bring the needs of producers closer to researchers to establish research priorities and to generate innovation in the field of American rabbit breeding.



Round table in 2018 with the Executive Committee of the AB-WRSA and breeders from Brazil, talking about the strengths, problems and solutions for rabbit farming in the America.



Participants of the VI AB-WRSA Congress, Goiania, Brazil, 2018.

Selected Publications

Popular Articles in World Rabbit Science last 12 months:

1. [Impact of quercetin supplementation on testicular functions in summer heat-stressed rabbits](#) 1782 views since: 2020-03-31
2. [Prevalence of post mortem lesions recorded in the largest Italian rabbit slaughterhouse over a fifteen-years period \(2003-2017\)](#) 1508 views since: 2020-03-31

3. [Reliability of acid-insoluble ash as internal marker for the measurement of digestibility in rabbits](#) 1469 views since: 2020-03-31
4. [Association of Melanophilin \(MLPH\) gene polymorphism with coat colour in Rex rabbits](#) 1375 views since: 2020-03-31
5. [Seasonal variations in furs of Gabaly and New Zealand white rabbits and their crossbred under Egyptian semi-arid conditions](#) 999 views since: 2020-03-31

Other publications in the last 6 months (the 10 first in function of the cites and position in Google Scholar):

1. [Energy homeostasis in rabbit does during pregnancy and pseudopregnancy](#). Anim. Reprod. Sci. 218, 106505.
2. [Recombination at the emergence of the pathogenic rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus Lagovirus europaeus/GI.2](#). Sci. Rep., 10, 14502.
3. [Using oxidation kinetic models to predict the quality indices of rabbit meat under different storage temperatures](#). Meat Sci., 162, 108042.
4. [Impact of dietary supplementation with goji berries \(Lycium barbarum\) on microbiological quality, physico-chemical, and sensory characteristics of rabbit meat](#). Foods, 9, 1480.
5. [Long-term and transgenerational phenotypic, transcriptional and metabolic effects in rabbit males born following vitrified embryo transfer](#). Sci. Rep., 10, 11313.
6. [Consumers' Attitude to consumption of rabbit meat in eight countries depending on the production method and its purchase form](#). Foods, 9, 654.
7. [Effect of two different stunning methods on the quality traits of rabbit meat](#). Animals, 10, 700.
8. [Plasma urea nitrogen as an indicator of amino acid imbalance in rabbit diets](#). World Rabbit Sci., 28, 63-72.
9. [Characterization of HTATIP2 and its role during hair follicle cycles in Angora rabbit](#). Genome, 63, 0132.
10. [NF-κB and Keap1 interaction represses Nrf2-mediated antioxidant response in rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus infection](#). J Virol., 94, e00016-20.

International and National Congresses

In the last six months, WRSA has news about two events held on-line due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I International Congress of Women of Latin America and the Caribbean interested on Rabbit Farming (Venezuela)

The Rabbit Center for Rural Organization FAGRO-UCV of Venezuela in collaboration with AB-WRSA organized the 1st International Congress of Women from Latin America and the Caribbean Interested in Rabbit Farming on October 16-18, 2020. As a consequence of the pandemic, and in order to reach all interested women from all over America, a new online system accessible to everyone was used, such as the WhatsApp application.

Ten WhatsApp groups were created, where the organization was synchronously uploading the presentations of the invited speakers, slide by slide, each one accompanied by a voice message. In this way, the speakers were able to reach more than 1500 people who followed the congress through their WhatsApp application.



A total of 27 invited speakers from 9 countries participated in the Congress (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Spain, Venezuela and Uruguay). Among the speakers participated researchers, technicians, rabbit producers, associations, trainers, furriers, chefs, publicists... The WRSA was present at the congress through the Secretary General (Juan José Pascual) who presented the current state of rabbit farming in the world and in developing countries, and the Vice President of AB-WRSA (Gaby Quagliariello) who presented an experience of rabbit farming development in Mendoza (Argentina).

The presentations were about successful experiences, organizational systems, the role of women and their empowerment through rabbit farming, technical aspects (genetics, reproduction, pathology, nutrition...) and economic management, gastronomy, sustainable production and marketing.

The WRSA has access to all the contents of the congress, which are available to its users.

WebiAsescu (Spain)

As you all know, this year we had to suspend our annual appointment at the Symposium of ASESCU (Spain). However, rabbit production continues, as well as all its challenges, and the sector can only cope with these with the help of knowledge. For this, it is essential to know the opinion of the experts on the issues that concern us, and to know how the research has evolved in the last year. That is why ASESCU launched the **WebiAsescu trilogy**. In each WebiAsescu, of 1h and 30min each, two experts in the field presented the current situation of three current challenges:

11/11/20 - The marketing of rabbit meat and new consumer trends

How to improve the marketing of rabbit meat. María Luz de Santos Martín. INTERCUN

Analysis of the current situation and future perspectives of the rabbit production and meat industry in Spain. Luis Montero de Vicente. Universitat Politècnica de València.

11/24/20 - Pathology: Coronavirus and control of myxomatosis and viral hemorrhagic disease.

Coronavirus and rabbit farming. Francisco Parra Fernández. Institute of Biotechnology of Asturias. Oviedo University

Myxomatosis and viral hemorrhagic disease: key aspects of its control. Juan Rosell Pujol. Cunivetservice. Tarragona

12/16/20 - Present and future of the sector: legislation, certification and animal welfare.



17 OCTUBRE

WRSA
Estado actual de la cunicultura en el mundo y en países en desarrollo
08.00 a.m. España

Juan José Pascual
SECRETARIO GENERAL DE LA WORLD RABBIT SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (WRSA).
PRESIDENTE DE LA ASOCIACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE CUNICULTURA (ASESCU, ESPAÑA)
CATEDRÁTICO DE UNIVERSIDAD DE LA UPV (VALENCIA, ESPAÑA)

Argentina
Experiencia de desarrollo de la Cunicultura en Mendoza, Argentina (2002-2016)
09.30 a.m. Argentina

MSc. Gaby Quagliariello
LICENCIADA EN GESTIÓN DE AGROEMPRESAS
MAGISTER EN PROCESOS LOCALES DE INNOVACIÓN Y DESARROLLO RURAL.
VICE PRESIDENTA DE LA RAMA AMERICANA DE WORLD RABBIT SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (WRSA).




PATOLOGÍA: CORONAVIRUS Y CONTROL DE MIXOMATOSIS Y ENFERMEDAD HEMORRÁGICA VÍRICA

INTERCUN

Francisco Parra Fernández

CORONAVIRUS Y CUNICULTURA

Francisco Parra
Instituto de Biología de Asturias
MÁS VÍDEOS - Oviedo

ORGANIZADOR PRINCIPAL: INTERCUN
ORGANIZADOR SECUNDARIO: Henar, Biotecnología, ASESCU
PATROCINADOR PRINCIPAL: INTERCUN
PATROCINADOR SECUNDARIO: COREN, Elanco, HEMAR, HILFEPHARMIA, MSD, AZAV, zoetis

Conclusions and recommendations EFSA: Health and welfare of rabbits on farms. Angela Trocino. Dipartimento di Biomedicina Comparata e Alimentazione. Università degli Studi di Padova (Italy)

Indicators of animal welfare in rabbits. How to do a full evaluation. Antoni Dalmau Good. Researcher at the IRTA Animal Welfare Program.

The WebiAsescu were a follow-up success, with more than 300 people registered for each event, and with more than 2000 views on ADESCU's YouTube channel where you can still view them.

Between the two daily presentations there were also short communications from the most relevant research teams (5 minutes) that have been collected in a minute book that you can consult at <https://asescu.com/webiasescu/>



Best regards and wishing you a great, healthy and hopeful 2021

Juan José Pascual
WRSA General Secretary



Valencia (Spain), January 28, 2021