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Dear WRSA officers and members,

Six months have passed since our fourteen Newsletter. In the new year, when we will come together and celebrate our world congress, 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,

Sorry for the slight delay in the publication of this new volume of WRSANews but this has been a very intense period for the WRSA board.

As you all well know, this year we will celebrate our World Rabbit Congress (13thWRC) from October 2 to 4, 2024 in Tarragona (Spain) <https://www.wrc2024.com>. This involves a great effort and activity for the WRSA. The Organizing Committee of the 13th WRC, made up of the Spanish Rabbit Association (ASESCU) and the Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology of Catalonia (IRTA), are working so that we can enjoy a great event, where we will combine science and technology, with the possibility of enjoying Tarragona city and the relationships with our colleagues. On the other hand, the Scientific Committee of the 13th WRC is organizing a scientific program, with invited presentations, round tables, as well as oral communications and poster sessions, which will ensure we enjoy an event of high scientific interest.

Climate change, the new standards demanded by citizens, new regulations, the development of new areas of knowledge... all of this demand the need to generate new knowledge for rabbit farming, and all of this will be addressed at the 13th WRC. You can't miss it!

From the WRSA we commend you for continuing 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/>

Best wishes

Juan José PASCUAL  

WRSA President

Universitat Politècnica de Valencia (Spain)

Last News of the World Rabbit Congress

As you well know, the 13th World Rabbit Congress (WRC) will take place for three days in Tarragona, Spain, between 2 and 4 October 2024. The organizing committee of the 13th WRC is made up of the Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology of Catalonia (IRTA) and the Spanish Rabbit Association (ASESCU - Spanish branch of the WRSA).

Tarragona, a coastal jewel in northeastern Spain, enchants visitors with its rich historical tapestry and a seamless blend of ancient wonders and modern allure. The city's UNESCO-listed Archaeological Ensemble of Tàrraco showcases remarkably preserved **Roman ruins**, including an amphitheatre and city walls, offering a captivating journey back in time. Tarragona's medieval and Gothic treasures, exemplified by the stunning Cathedral, adorn the charming Old Town's cobblestone streets. Panoramic views from the Roman Amphitheatre, overlooking **the Mediterranean**, add a touch of magic, while the city's vibrant festivals and cultural events provide a lively contemporary backdrop. With inviting **beaches**, a bustling nightlife, and a diverse culinary scene, Tarragona beckons visitors to experience the perfect harmony of history and modern Mediterranean living.



The organizing committee has organized a **guided tour** of the city's most emblematic monuments for those attending the congress.

The 13th WRC will take place at the **Tarragona Exhibition and Congress Center**. In this facility we will have different rooms, of different sizes, to carry out our scientific sessions, and large spaces to enjoy coffee breaks, working lunches, poster sessions, and meetings between groups. All of this is in a modern and technological Congress Palace but built from a **19th-century quarry** that gives it a special charm.



All fields of rabbit sciences, from farming to deep biology will be presented at this congress, with main conferences, round tables, and short papers. This is an excellent opportunity for businesses in the industry to engage with scientists in the rabbit science research field. The Congress will attract a wide range of delegates, including both rabbit research scientists and stakeholders, and will include invited speakers from across the world.

You can find all the information about the congress at: <https://www.wrc2024.com>

On this website, you will have all the information about the congress: the organizing committees, the program, the important dates, a communication management system, fees and registration for the congress, hotel reservations with discounts. We are also working to have an application so that you can manage absolutely everything from your smartphones and other electronic devices.



In addition, WRSA is trying to organize a small but useful course on “**Designing of Experiments in Rabbit Science**” for the afternoon before the congress (October 1, 2024). We will inform you of its progress and conditions for registration.

We have extended until February 7 to send the titles of the communications to the congress, and from February 1 you can now send the communications (the deadline is February 29).

On the website <https://www.wrc2024.com/index.php/communications> you have the guide for authors, a template to prepare your communications and the submission and evaluation system.

We look forward to welcoming you to Tarragona in 2024.

Selected Publications

As you well know, **World Rabbit Science** (WRS) is one of the few indexed journals (IF: 0.800) that remains in the hands of academia (Universitat Politècnica de Valencia) and our scientific association. Thanks to this, WRS is a **free access** journal for readers **with no publication fees** for authors.

Currently, our institutions and PhD students ask us to publish in Q1 open access journals to increase our indexes. Consequently, publishers, that are aware of this situation, make us must **spend a significant amount of money** to publish our knowledge yearly. However, **we have the solution in our hands**, a journal that publishes in open access and without fees. We are completely sure that, if WRSA members send high quality papers to WRS for 2-3 years we would place it in Q1, solving all these problems forever.

Here you can find the most Popular Articles in World Rabbit Science (views in the last 180 days):

1. Rabbit production in Nigeria: some aspects of current status and promotional strategies (488 views) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.1999.380>
2. Rabbit milk: A review of quantity, quality and non-dietary affecting factors (319 views) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2006.565>
3. Vitamins in rabbit nutrition: literature review and recommendations (217 views) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2000.438>

Recent publications (last 5 months) in World Rabbit Science with high interest:

1. Preslaughter feed withdrawal time and its effect on rabbit blood measures, gastrointestinal tract parameters and *Longissimus lumborum* glycolytic potential (66 downloads/month) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2023.19177>
2. Growth performance of three paternal rabbit lines with different potential for growth rate and resilience (65 downloads/month) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2023.19841>
3. Extensive husbandry and animal welfare are important for acceptance of rabbit meat production among Swedish youth (49 downloads/month) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2023.19316>
4. Improving indigenous Vietnamese Black Rabbit frozen sperm quality: the role of glycine and sperm selection methods (46 downloads/month) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2023.19690>
5. Survey of the seasonal dependency of Eimeria oocysts and Passalurus ambiguus infections in industrial rabbit farms (40 downloads/month) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2023.19396>
6. Respiratory disorders of farmed rabbits: occurrence and risk factors (27 downloads/month) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2023.18280>
7. Non-cruelty eradication of European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) from a small Mediterranean island (Isola delle Femmine, Italy) (26 downloads/month)

8. Genome wide association study of growth and feed efficiency traits in rabbits (24 downloads/month) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2023.18215>
9. Role of housing system and season on the carcass and meat quality traits of growing rabbits reared in Italian commercial farms (19 downloads/month) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2023.19230>
10. Investigation of significant microRNA-mRNA pairs associated with nonspecific digestive disorder in rabbits (412 views) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2017.6839>

Other publications of interest in the last 6 months:

1. Novel phenotypes of feeding and social behaviour and their relationship with individual rabbit growth and feed efficiency. *Animal* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.animal.2024.101090>
2. Plasma metabolomic profiling in two rabbit lines divergently selected for intramuscular fat content. *Comm Biol* <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-023-05266-3>
3. A trial comparing growing rabbits differing in 18 generations of selection for growth rate reveals a potential lack of effectiveness in the genetic selection progress. *Animals* <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani13233625>
4. Oxytocin antagonist does not disrupt rabbit maternal behavior despite binding to brain oxytocin receptors. *J Neuroendocri* <https://doi.org/10.1111/jne.13236>
5. Can dietary n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids affect apelin and resolvin in testis and sperm of male rabbits? *Molecules* <https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules28176188>
6. Effect of outdoor grazing-area access time and enrichment on space and pasture use, behaviour, health and growth traits of weaned rabbits. *Animal* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.animal.2023.100724>

International and National Congresses

In the last six months, WRSA has news about two events held around the world.

4th Congress of Rabbit Science Branch of CAAV was held in Taiyuan, Shanxi (China)

From August 23 to 25, 2023, The 4th Congress of Rabbit Science Branch of CAAV (Chinese Branch of WRSA) was held in Taiyuan city, Shanxi province, China. This congress focused on academic exchange, which attracted around 300 rabbit scientists and scholars from all over China. The academic committee of the congress organized five sessions, which included an invited speech session, a young researcher session, a conventional oral presentation session, a poster session and a round table discussion.

Totally, five senior scientists were invited to give presentations, four young researchers were invited to present their study, 39 papers were orally presented, 61 papers were posted, and 2 round tables were held at the last. The presentation topic included rabbit breeding, feeding and nutrition, disease control, AI technology of rabbit farming, and rabbit wool processing. Comparing with former congress, beside routine rabbit science topics were discussed, there were two especially important issues were addressed and debated, they were antibiotics ban in feedstuff and RHDV2 prevention and control.



In China, there are two national rabbit science and industry associations, one is Rabbit Science Branch of China Association of Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine(CAAV), also is the Chinese Branch of WRSA, which targets to academic exchange, its members are mainly scientists and scholars; the other is Rabbit Industry Branch of Chinese Animal Agricultural Association (CAAA), which targets to practical experience exchange of rabbit industry, and its members are both practitioners and technicians in Chinese rabbit industry. Professor Yinghe Qin is the president of both branches.

Provided by Dr. Laping Wu, China Agricultural University



Rabbit Congress in Bingen (Germany)

The German branch of the World Rabbit Science Association has restarted its scientific work after four years of inactivity and hosted the 1st Bingen Rabbit Congress in Bingen on October 24th, 2023 with the theme “Challenges in Rabbit Housing – News from Science and Practice”. Bingen is a city near the Rhine River in central Germany. Approximately 50 people attended, including guests from Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Austria. The participants included rabbit breeders, veterinarians, consultants, representatives of the feed industry and authorities as well as scientists.



The following lectures were held:

1. Conception for commercial rabbit farming in Luxembourg – comparison of the legal regulations in D, L, B and F (Jan Friedrich, L)
2. Conservation of rare breeds of rabbits – what to do? (Bernd Graf, D)
3. Anomalies in lop rabbits – really a problem? (Harry Arts, NL)
4. Keeping fattening rabbits in animal welfare level 3 – presentation of the EIP project (Thomas Bauer, D)
5. Coccidiostats in compound feed for young rabbits – always necessary and useful? Is oregano an effective alternative? (Florian Lohkamp, D)
6. Influence of the pelleting process on the structure of the pelleted feed (Juergen Vedder, D)
7. Housing does with kits in groups – a curse or a blessing? (Steffen Hoy, Germany)



The conference was very well organized by the local organizers at the Bingen Applied University of Technology.

All lectures were held in German. Most presentations can be obtained as PDF (in German – see www.wrsa-deutschland.de).

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UPCOMING 2024 CONGRESSES:

ASIC Conference 2024 in Naples (Italy)

Scientific literature defines the term "sustainability" as "the need to take care of the ecological, economic and sociological consequences of development choices for present and future generations" (Gibon et al., 1999). The United Nations Agenda 2030 focuses on a program of actions in 17 sustainable development goals to be achieved within the next 10 years. Consistent with the policies of the European Commission, in the context of rabbit production, the sustainability objectives include in the first instance the correct quantification and reduction of the environmental impact of farming, the development of low-impact food strategies, as well as health management that reduce the problem of antibiotic resistance. The objective of the next ASIC 2024 conference is therefore to examine different strategies to increase the sustainability of rabbit production through an integrated approach, as broad as possible, to respond to global and European objectives. On the occasion of the conference, there will also be a session of scientific communications on the topics of Sustainability in the broad sense (environmental impact, food and nutritional strategies, health management, breeding systems).



For scientific communications, the abstract submission procedure is open until 01/31/2024 at the following link <https://forms.gle/yDc66xSrAHVA9JqD8>. Among the abstracts presented, the ASIC Board of Directors will select a communication for publication at its expense in an open-access journal.

More information at <https://www.asic-wrsa.it>

48th Symposium of Rabbit Farming ADESCU, Cordoba (Spain)

The 48th edition of the ADESCU Rabbit Farming Symposium will be held on April 23 and 24, 2024 in Córdoba. It will be co-organized by the Department of Animal Production of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Córdoba. The headquarters of the Symposium will be the building of the Rectorate of the University of Córdoba, former Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, an incomparable setting in a neo-Mudejar regionalist style building with a central location.

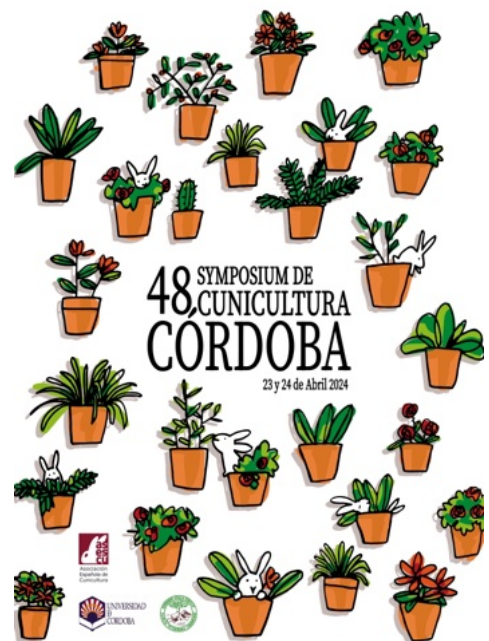
The 48th Rabbit Farming Symposium will be an excellent opportunity to bring together the sector, its technicians and researchers to update the current situation and advances in the field of rabbit farming, and will also provide an approach to rabbit farming in southern Spain.

From ADESCU and the Department of Animal Production of the University of Córdoba we invite the entire sector to meet in the Califal City.

Information about the Symposium will be updated on the website:

<https://asescu.com/symposiumcordoba2024/>

It is an exceptional opportunity to be able to present the research work you are developing. We ask that you send us the texts before February 9, 2024. Works delivered on later dates will not have a guarantee of being included in the Symposium minutes book.



New WRSA branches

Finally, we did not want to close this newsletter without informing you that WRSA board has provided the preliminary acceptance to the “Southern African Branch of the World Rabbit Science Association” (SA-WRSA) as a regional Branch of WRSA from January 17th, 2024.

The association, promoted by Dr Idowu Kolawole Odubote (Lusaka, Zambia), has already been established and includes scientists and technicians from the rabbit sector from Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Association will receive the final acceptance in the next General Assembly of the WRSA (to be held in the 13th WRC, Tarragona, Spain).

From the WRSA we just want to congratulate and welcome you.



Best regards and wishing you a great year 2024

Juan José Pascual
President of WRSA



Valencia (Spain), February 5, 2024