

WRSA News

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Dear WRSA officers and members,

Six months have passed since our seventeenth 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,

We have arrived at a new solstice following the inertia of the last years: the imminent development of Artificial Intelligence, that brings us great opportunities in precision livestock farming. A new horizon that is already deeply helping us in the application of the three R's that we already defined several years ago to increase animal welfare and reduce the environmental impact. The precision livestock farming applied to rabbit production was already presented by Tomás Norton in the last World Rabbit Congress in Tarragona, and this month we can see a complete review by him and Maria Cambra published in the latest issue of our journal, World Rabbit Science.

During this last six months of 2025, the spread of the rabbit science has continued through the action of our branches around the world, which held their national meetings and informed about the new knowledge presented in the WRC2024. One main actor in the transference of knowledge is our webpage "<http://world-rabbit-science.com>", that is presently in a process of updating, and in few months, we will have a new webpage.

Meanwhile, please remember that all news related to rabbit farming that you would like to see featured in our newsletters is welcome. 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/>

or our new page in LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/world-rabbit-science-association/posts/>

Best wishes

Mariam PASCUAL  

WRSA President

Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries, IRTA (Spain)

Welfarecun Project

The WELFARECUN operational group research project to improve the welfare of rabbits

The WELFARECUN Operational Group (OG), represented by the Spanish interprofessional organisation, INTERCUN, is carrying out a project to improve animal welfare throughout the rabbit meat production chain.

The project, entitled 'New processes for fattening, transport and slaughter in rabbit farming to improve animal welfare', covers the three main areas that make up the production chain: farm, transport and slaughterhouse.



For the farm welfare phase, the optimal density in the housing, the most appropriate flooring and different enrichment elements are being studied. To improve the transport of fattening animals to the slaughterhouse, the space required for proper welfare in different climatic conditions is being evaluated, defining the height required for the containers and the animal stocking density that provides greater safety and comfort. Finally, for the slaughter process at the slaughterhouse, the project aims to study a new method of stunning by gas mixture that reduces the handling of animals and, therefore, stress.

To carry out the project, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain has awarded a grant for the preparation and implementation of innovation projects of general interest by supra-regional operational groups of the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI), within the framework of Spain's CAP Strategic Plan (PEPAC) for 2023. 80% of the funding for this subsidy comes from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and 20% from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The total funding requested amounts to €598,908.89. The organisation responsible for the content of this Innovative Project are the beneficiary partners of GO WELFARECUN.

If you are interested in this project, you have all the information at <https://www.gowelfarecun.es>

Selected Publications

As you well know, **World Rabbit Science** (WRS) is one of the few indexed journals (JIF 2023: 1.30) 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 three most Popular Articles in World Rabbit Science in the last 180 days:

1. Vitamins in rabbit nutrition: literature review and recommendations (10930 views and 4307 downloads) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2000.438>

2. Rabbit production in Nigeria: some aspects of current status and promotional strategies (10119 views and 4977 downloads) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.1999.380>
3. Petits projets cunicoles et developpement rural en Tunisie: possibilités et limites (1084 views and 2354 downloads) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2001.463>

Recent publications (last 6 months) in World Rabbit Science with high number of downloads:

1. Challenges and opportunities for precision livestock farming applications in the rabbit production sector (104 downloads/month) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2025.22701>
2. Core gut microbiota in rabbit: opportunities to strengthen the intestinal barrier (90 downloads/month) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2025.23465>
3. Enhancing the sustainability of rabbit production from the perspective of animal genetics (60 downloads/month) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2025.22655>
4. Rabbit meat quality with an approach to its processing using spices or specific ingredients as antioxidants (59 downloads/month) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2025.22656>
5. Utilization of rabbit skin as edible film for environmentally friendly food packaging using glycerol as plasticizer (53 downloads/month) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2025.23032>
6. Alternative methods to animal experimentation in rabbit nutrition trials integrating the 3Rs principles (48 downloads/month) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2025.22669>
7. Study on novel vaccines and adjuvants for rabbit infectious diseases (47 downloads/month) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2025.21259>
8. Exploring rabbit semen cryopreservation and the crucial role of cryobank: unveiling advantages and promising perspectives (41 downloads/month) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2025.22667>
9. Nutritional evaluation of two composite linseed-based ingredients for growing rabbits (40 downloads/month) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2025.20829>
10. Orally added black maca (*Lepidium Meyenii* Walp.) Nano-emulsion meliorates fresh semen quality, testosterone level and fertilising ability of chilled and cryopreserved rabbit buck spermatozoa (40 downloads/month) <https://doi.org/10.4995/wrs.2025.22511>

Other publications of interest in the last 6 months:

1. Improving quality and consumer acceptance of rabbit meat: Prospects and challenges. *Meat Sci.* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.meatsci.2024.109660>
2. Enhancing rabbit farming efficiency with integrated genomics and nutritional strategies. *Front. Anim. Sci.* <https://doi.org/10.3389/fanim.2024.1514923>
3. Enhancing growing rabbit heat stress resilience through dietary supplementation with natural antioxidants. *BMC Vet. Res.* <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12917-024-04466-1>
4. Serological data indicate a widespread presence of rabbit haemorrhagic disease in rabbit farms in Algeria. *Sci. Rep.* <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-95945-4>
5. Temporal action localisation in video data containing rabbit behavioural patterns. *Sci. Rep.* <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-89687-6>
6. Effects of Diets Containing Extruded Linseed and *Padina pavonica* Algae on Meat Rabbit: Carcass Performance and Meat Quality. *Foods*. <https://doi.org/10.3390/foods14020274>
7. Cellular distribution of estrogen receptors alpha in the rabbit ovary during pregnancy and lactation. *Sci. Rep.* <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-99582-9>
8. The surface proteome of rabbit spermatozoa. *Anim. Rep. Sci.* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anireprosci.2025.107834>
9. Evaluation of dried blood spots for serological surveys of myxoma and rabbit hemorrhagic disease viruses in their wild reservoir. *Prev. Vet. Med.* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.prevetmed.2024.106369>
10. Environmental impact of rabbit production systems: a farm-based cradle-to-gate analysis. *Animal*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.animal.2025.101488>

International and National Congresses

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

Scientific Advances and Innovation in Rabbit Farming at the ASESCU 2025 Congress.

ASESCU, Spanish branch of the WRSA, held its annual national congress on May 28–29, 2025, in the city of Burgos (Spain). In this occasion, the congress was co-organized with the Unión de Pequeños Agricultores y Ganaderos (UPA). The main presentations and round tables focused on topics such as the use of pheromones in animal production, emerging diseases, and new housing systems in rabbit farming, considering possible new regulations in this area. During the congress, as in the last seven years, the Andrés Pintaluba Awards were also celebrated, recognizing the scientific excellence of young researchers. It is worth highlighting that a new format of interactive round tables was also tested during the coffee break: four speakers placed at different points around the room spoke simultaneously about processed rabbit products, the comprehensive health plan, good livestock practices, and the use of feed additives in rabbit nutrition. As usual, ASESCU held its annual assembly during the congress, and approved the appointment of Virginia Resconi and Iván Alcalá as new board members. From WRSA, we congratulate the new members and wish them success in their work in the coming years. It is also important to note that during the assembly, it was decided that the next national congress will be held in Valencia (Spain).



You can find more information about the Burgos 2025 event at: <https://asescu.com/symposiumburgos2025/>

The 20th Journées de la Recherche Cunicole were conducted in Rennes on May 14 and 15, 2025

The Journées de la Recherche Cunicole have been organized since 1973 by ITAVI and INRAE, with the participation of ASFC (french branch of WRSA). These meetings provide an opportunity for all stakeholders in the rabbit farming sector—breeders, producer groups, cooperatives, feed and equipment manufacturers, slaughterhouses. During the event the most recent research results are discussed. The topics cover all major areas of rabbit breeding and meat production: nutrition, genetics, pathology, reproduction, farming techniques, growth, carcass and meat quality, and economic aspects. In this edition, the main topics discussed included the risks and future prospects of group housing for breeding does, and the use of rabbit intestinal organoids as an innovative in vitro tool to explore digestive health solutions. Other focus where genotype-by-environment interactions in rabbit and pig farming to support new production systems, how to make jobs in the rabbit farming sector more attractive, and the effects of outdoor access and returning rabbits to ground contact on their health.



A special session on recent developments in the rabbit production chain was organized by ASFC, focusing on "alternative housing systems." Use this link to view the documents: www.asfc-lapin.fr/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/ASFC_Session_actualite-JRC-2025.pdf On the other hand, at the Annual General Meeting of the ASFC, the Board of Directors proceeded with the election of the new executive committee. The newly appointed members are as follows: Chantal Davoust as President, Claude Barré as Vice President, François Xavier Ménini as Secretary, Thierry Gidenne as Assistant Secretary Webmaster, Samuel Boucher as Treasurer, and Marie Bourin as Assistant Treasurer. The WRSA extends its congratulations to the new executive team and looks forward to a productive time ahead. All the information about the JRC can be found at <https://evenements.itavi.asso.fr/evenement/20emes-journees-de-la-recherche-cunicole>

Disseminating knowledge from the 13th World Rabbit Congress across countries

The World Rabbit Congress (WRC) is the event we all have to meet and exchange the knowledge generated over the past four years. After this main congress, it is always important to disseminate this knowledge through the WRSA branches, in a way that the new advances in rabbit production could reach other persons, especially technicians and farmers. In this case, both France and Spain organized sessions to spread this information. In that way, at least three branches celebrated conferences focused in the WRC:



First, on 27th March 2025, the French branch "Association Scientifique Française de Cuniculture" (ASFC: (<https://www.asfc-lapin.fr/>)) presented the main advances in rabbit science in the session "Tarragone 13eWRC – Ombres et lumieres", in the VetAgroBio Campus from Gachet (Nantes, France).

Exactly the same day (just by chance - a great coincidence!) the Spanish branch "Asociación Española de Cunicultura" (ASESCU) hold another event with the same theme, as part of the 17th International Fair of Animal Production, held every two years in Zaragoza (Spain). Both events were focused on the same way: different speakers explained the main advances communicated in the different sections of the WRC – this is, reproduction, pathology and hygiene, quality of products, ethology and welfare, breeding and genetics, farming systems and economy, biology, and physiology.

And on 8th May 2025, the Italian branch held its ASIC Conference at the Fieravicola Fair in Rimini. There, among other things, a comprehensive review of key themes from the WRC was explained, covering reproduction, ethology and welfare, pathology, and nutrition.

UPCOMING 2025 CONGRESSES:

The Czech Rabbit Science Association will hold the 18th National Conference next autumn

This event will take place on 26 November, 2025, at the Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague. The conference, in Czech, will be titled "New Trends in Commercial and Pet Rabbit Breeding" and is dedicated to breeders, feed manufacturers, extension services, students, teachers, and members of the state administration. You will have more information will be available at the webpage of the Czech Rabbit Science Association <http://cvka.cz/>



The Brazilian Seminar on Science and Technology in Rabbit Farming

The Brazilian Seminar on Science and Technology in Rabbit Farming is a prominent event in Brazil. It has been held in different states of the country since 1997, promoting the exchange of knowledge and experiences in the area. This year, for the first time in the Northeast region, the seminar will feature expert speakers from renowned institutions and will bring together professionals and academics from all over Brazil.



The 9th National Seminar on Science and Technology in Rabbit Farming (9th SENACINTEC) is a traveling event that began in 1997 in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, and has been held in several Brazilian states, such as São Paulo, Santa Catarina, Rio de Janeiro, Paraná, among others. After eight editions, it will be held for the first time in the northeast region of Brazil, in the city of São Cristóvão, Sergipe State, from August 15th to 17th, 2025. The guest speakers are experts in the area of rabbit farming, who are self-employed professionals and/or come from renowned educational institutions in several Brazilian states.

You can find full information here: <https://www.ixsenacitec2025.com.br/>

New WRSA LinkedIn

Finally, we did not want to close this newsletter without informing you that WRSA has a new social networking resource on LinkedIn. <https://www.linkedin.com/company/world-rabbit-science-association/posts/>

Please mention the WRSA in everything you publish on LinkedIn related to rabbit science by using [@World Rabbit Science Association \(WRSA\)](#) so that we become better known every day and so that we can share your news and reach more colleagues, institutions, and companies interested in your scientific work.



Best regards,



Mariam Pascual
President of WRSA

Caldes de Montbui (Spain), July 29, 2025

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