

WORLD RABBIT SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER N°3 – JANUARY 2018

Whishes and greetings for 2018

Dear WRSA officers and members,
Already a year of activity for the new WRSA office...

Exchanges through the "old" **WRSA google forum** have continued, with 10 new members, mainly from African countries. Now, 487 members are registered in our forum. Every member is authorized to send new discussion subject. So, do not hesitate to use this tool for any topic about rabbit science and farming techniques.



But, this past year, two new tools for communications were achieved:

1. Our **WRSA newsletter** is a new tool to improve the link among us. Please give news from your national situation for rabbit farming and science, to be inserted in the newsletter.

2. Our **new WRSA Facebook page**. Visit at: <https://www.facebook.com/wrsaface/>.

Thanks to our secretary, Juanjo Pascual for the edition of our newsletter and Facebook page update.



In our **Website**, you have probably already seen that the proceedings of our 11th World Rabbit Congress (Qingdao, China, June 2016) was online now, with 215 peer reviewed communications. My sincere thanks go to our webmaster François Lebas for this great job, for indexing and formatting each communication.



Also, on line freely, the proceedings of two other symposium held in 2017: in Celle, Germany (20th International Symposium on housing and diseases of rabbits, furproviding animals and pet animals), and in Le Mans, France (17èmes Journées de la Recherche Cunicole).


I hope that our two new branches are developing (Nepal and Côte d'Ivoire). Best wishes for them! This year we receive request for joining WRSA from Jordan and Turkey, hoping they success in developping their national association for rabbit sciences.

Also, a European working group "HERF" start to work on housing and welfare for rabbit farming in 2017. Thanks to Zsolt Szendro to lead this group.

Also, in 2018, do not forget to:

Visit the **WRSA website**: <http://world-rabbit-science.com/>; to use our **discussion forum**: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#forum/world-rabbit-science-asso>; and to publish in the official WRSA journal, **World Rabbit Science** <http://polipapers.upv.es/index.php/wrs>

Have a healthy, peaceful and active new year

Thierry GIDENNE 
WRSA President
Auzeville (France), January 3, 2017



News from the WRSA branches: ADESCU, Spain

The Spanish Association of Rabbit Farming (ADESCU) was founded in 1976, and currently has 324 active members. ADESCU held at Barcelona its first event in 1976, the "I Symposium on Rabbit Farming" and, since then, it has organized an annual edition without interruption. The next edition will be held in May 2018 at Calamocha (Teruel). In 1980, ADESCU organised the 2nd World Rabbit Congress at Barcelona, and in 2000 organised the 7th World Rabbit Congress at Valencia. Among the activities carried out by ADESCU can be highlighted an active website (www.asescu.com) with more than 1,100 monthly page visits, a page in Facebook



(<https://www.facebook.com/ADESCU-Asociación-Española-de-Cunicultura-252452841464877/>) with 650 followers, a Twitter account (@Asescu) with 149 followers and a mailing list. ADESCU publishes the "Boletín de Cunicultura" technical journal since 1978, which is released four times a year. ADESCU organised a discussion meeting on Rabbit farmers' organisations at the 13th International Production Show FIGAN 2017 held at Zaragoza. It also organises training courses for rabbit breeders and technicians. In the last years the association has supported several initiatives aimed at the authorization of drugs for rabbit use and has promoted meetings to reduce the antibiotics use following the EU Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections. In 2017, ADESCU jointly with Pintaluba Laboratories, awarded the 1st Prize for the best communication from a young researcher presented at the Symposium on Rabbit Farming.

Current ADESCU Board:

President: Juan Manuel Corpa - jmcorpa@uchceu.es

Vice President 1 and Treasurer: Ceferino Torres - ctorres@dca.upv.es

Vice President 2: Manuel Marco - m.marco@nutreco.com

Chairpersons: Javier Gómez, Joan Marca, Xabier Arriolabengoa, María José Pitarch, Francisco Abós, Celso Núñez.

Secretary: Pedro González - pedro@us.es

Publications of interest

Popular Articles in World Rabbit Science last 12 months:

1. [The gene expression of weaning age and its effect on productive performance of rabbits](#) 1161 views since: 2017-03-30.
2. [Rabbit meat sector value chain](#) 1014 views since: 2017-03-30.
3. [Effect of gestational and lactational exposure to heat stress on performance in rabbits](#) 800 views since: 2017-03-30.
4. [Effect of feed restriction and feeding plans on performance, slaughter traits and body composition of growing rabbits](#) 601 views since: 2017-06-28.
5. [Progression of rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus 2 upon vaccination in an industrial rabbitry: a laboratorial approach](#) 422 views since: 2017-03-30.

International and National Rabbit Congresses

In the last year, there have been several congresses and meetings of rabbit farming:

- the 8th International Conference of Rabbit Production in Hot Climates in Hurghada City, Egypt, March 8-11, 2017,
- the 42th Symposium in Rabbit Farming of ADESCU in Murcia, Spain, May 11-12, 2017,
- the XIV National Meeting in Rabbit Farming in Ciudad de México, México, May 17-18, 2017,
- the 20th International Symposium on Housing and Diseases of Rabbits, Fur-providing Animals and Pet Animals in Celle, Germany, May 17-18, 2017.
- and , the 17th French Rabbit Days in Le Mans, France, November 21-22, 2017.

This year, today we are aware of the holding of at least two conferences:

In May 2018, 30th-31st will be celebrated the 43th Symposium of Rabbit Farming organised by ADESCU (Spanish branch) in Calamocha (Teruel, Spain). You can get all the information about this event on our website and in the links

<https://asescu.com/symposiums/symposium-asescu/> (general information) and

<https://asescu.com/symposiums/comunicaciones-43-symposium/> (scientific communications).



In August 2018, 27th-29th will take place the VI American Rabbit Congress organised by AB-WRSA (American branch) in Goiânia (Brazil). You can get all the information about this event at the AB-WRSA website (<https://abwrsa.org>). In addition, the current board also announces that it is **receiving registrations** for the **new AB-WRSA**



board of directors which will be elected, and this new board will begin its work on August 30th, 2018. For this board, a president, a vice president and a secretary/treasurer will be needed. Those interested in becoming part of the new board, please contact the current secretary/treasurer of AB-WRSA, Dr. Luiz Carlos Machado (luiz.machado@ifmg.edu.br).

WRSA people portrait

Luc Maertens. Finally, we could not close this volume without dedicating a few words to our colleague and friend Luc Maertens, who is still active as Treasurer of the WRSA, but has retired from his job at the [Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research \(ILVO\)](#). Along his career, Luc became a senior researcher at the ILVO research center (Belgium) and an expert in rabbit feeding and nutrition. He collaborates to establish the feed recommendations for rabbits, and was the main manager of the European tables of raw material feeding value for the rabbit (published in World Rabbit Science in 2002).



He manages European projects and many national projects on rabbit feeding, and he published several hundreds of publications, and several books. Luc also addressed other reaserch fields (see profile on research gate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Luc_Maertens), such: the feeding and the feed efficiency, the outputs of the rabbit farm (nitrogen, minerals), etc. More recently, Luc developped a research activity on the rabbit housing and welfare. Thus, now, Luc is active in the WRSA working group for rabbit housing. From WRSA, we want to thank you for your wonderful work, which has been key to the development of the rabbit science.

Best regards and Happy New Year 2018

Juan José Pascual
WRSA General Secretary



Valencia (Spain), January 3, 2017