



## WORLD RABBIT SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER Nº1 – JUNE 2017

Dear WRSA officers and members,

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

### **New working group: Housing for European Rabbit Farming (HERF)**

A “controversial” report, from the scientific point of view, about “standards” for rabbit farming was submitted and adopted on March 14 (2017) during the plenary session the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Parliament. This report includes an additional amendment from the rapporteur, which calls for legislation on minimum standards for rabbit housing (<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2017-0077+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>).

Regardless of the possible regulatory course of that decision, the Commission invited the subject to be discussed within the framework of the new platform on animal welfare, to propose guidelines on best practices. Given these circumstances, WRSA encouraged a debate, among its office members, on the responsibility of our institution to shed light on this subject. From this debate, the creation of a working group of specialists was proposed, which is preparing WRSA recommendations for European Rabbit Farming, which can be used by the Commission as a reference scientific report when developing guidelines on best practices. This WRSA working group "HERF" is managed by Zsolt Szendrő (Hungary) and is composed by Steffen Hoy (Germany), François Lebas (France), Luc Maertens (Belgium), Arantxa Villagrà (Spain) and Gerolamo Xiccato (Italy). WRSA appreciate their willingness to collaborate and work in the development of this action.

### **News from the WRSA branches**

The Rabbit Science Brazilian Association (ACBC) has recently sent us information so we can get to know it better. ACBC began to work in 1996 with the collaboration of professors and researchers in the area of rabbit science, currently having 25 members. ACBC held its first event in 1997 the “I National Seminar of Science and Technology in Rabbit Science, SENACITEC”, whose last edition took place in 2012. In 2006, ACBC organized the III American Rabbit Congress in Maringá city (Parana state). Among the activities carried out by ACBC can



be highlighted their discussion group in *googlegroups* with breeders, students, researchers and professionals, an active website ([www.acbc.org.br](http://www.acbc.org.br)) with 500 daily page views, a page in Facebook ([www.facebook.com/AssociacaoCientificaBrasileiraCunicultura/](http://www.facebook.com/AssociacaoCientificaBrasileiraCunicultura/)) with almost 800 likes, and the edition of the Brazilian Journal of Rabbit Science since 2011

([www.rbc.acbc.org.br](http://www.rbc.acbc.org.br)), as well as a Rabbit Science Bulletin with free access in their website since 2016. Even so, ACBC has new projects in mind, the organization of the VI American Rabbit Congress in 2018 and the creation of training courses for rabbit breeders.

From the WRSA office, we want to congratulate this branch for its good work, which is contributing to the development of rabbit science and breeding in Brazil.

Current ACBC Board (2016-2018)

President: Yuri de Genaro Jaruche - [prof.jaruche@gmail.com](mailto:prof.jaruche@gmail.com)

Vice President: Berilo de Sousa Brum Junior - [berilob@gmail.com](mailto:berilob@gmail.com)

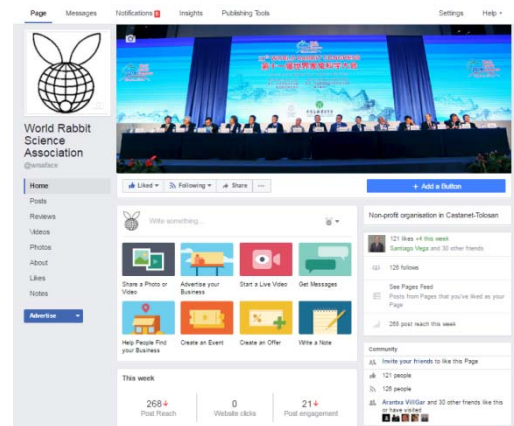
Secretary: Luiz Carlos Machado - [luiz.machado@ifmg.edu.br](mailto:luiz.machado@ifmg.edu.br)

Treasurer: Renata Apocalypse - [renata\\_apocalypse@yahoo.com.br](mailto:renata_apocalypse@yahoo.com.br)

## WRSA office news – Facebook

On April 20, we inaugurated the new WRSA Facebook page, which is available at <https://www.facebook.com/wrsaface/>

The main objective of this page is to use the social networks to inform you, in a more dynamic way, about the coming congresses, events and initiatives of WRSA and its partners, as well as scientific information published by World Rabbit Science (WRS, The Official Journal of the WRSA). That information that you want to spread through our Facebook, send it the General Secretary of the WRSA at [jupascu@dca.upv.es](mailto:jupascu@dca.upv.es)



Follow us and share the news of those events or articles that you think are of interest, to give a greater visibility to the activities of WRSA, as well as our scientific work published in WRS.

## Publications of interest

Popular Articles in World Rabbit Science last 12 months:

1. [Consumer segmentation based on food-related lifestyles and analysis of rabbit meat consumption.](#) 1988 views since: 2016-09-28
2. [Effects of plant extracts and essential oils as feed supplements on quality and microbial traits of rabbit meat.](#) 1865 views since: 2016-06-29
3. [Dietary supplementation of Digestarom® herbal formulation: effect on apparent digestibility, faecal and caecal microbial counts and live performance of growing rabbits.](#) 1600 views since: 2016-06-29
4. [Effect of increased ovulation rate on embryo and foetal survival as a model for selection by ovulation rate in rabbits.](#) 909 views since: 2016-06-29
5. [Effect of turmeric powder \(\*Curcuma longa\* L.\) and ascorbic acid on antioxidant capacity and oxidative status in rabbit burgers after cooking.](#) 902 views since: 2016-06-29

## International and National Rabbit Congresses

In the last 6 months, there have been several congresses and meetings of rabbit farming:

- the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Rabbit Production in Hot Climates in Hurghada City, Egypt, March 8-11, 2017,
- the 42th Symposium in Rabbit Farming of ASESCU in Murcia, Spain, May 11-12, 2017,

- the XIV National Meeting in Rabbit Farming in Ciudad de México, México, May 17-18, 2017,
- and, the 20th International Symposium on Housing and Diseases of Rabbits, Fur-providing Animals and Pet Animals in Celle, Germany, May 17-18, 2017.

On the other hand, and as every two years, by the end of this year will be celebrated the 17<sup>th</sup> French Rabbit Days in Le Mans, France, November 21-22, 2017. You can get all the information about this event on our website and in the link <http://www.itavi.asso.fr/jrc/2017>



## WRSA people portrait

**Zsolt Szendrő.** Finally, we could not close this volume without dedicating a few words to our colleague and friend Zsolt Szendrő, who was one of the Vice Presidents of WRSA between 2000 and 2012, but has retired from his job at the Kaposvár University. Zsolt Szendrő was born in 1947. Graduated from the University of Agricultural Sciences. His first workplace was the Small Animal Breeding Institute in Gödöllő. In 1987 he followed his carrier at Kaposvár University, where he was elected Full Professor and head of department and institute. His research field is rabbit breeding (selection, management, reproduction, housing and welfare, meat quality), and he was the leader of the Hungarian team. Received PhD degree in 1987, and DSc title in 1997. He is member of Scientific Committee of World Rabbit Science. Supervised 14 PhD students. He maintains close connection with several scientists from Italy, France, Belgium, Germany, etc. Although he retired, but is still active, works for Kaposvár University as Professor Emeritus. Participates in different research projects, co-author of several scientific papers. In 2016 he was elected as a member of Hungarian Academy of Sciences, which is the highest scientific title in Hungary, and also member of different scientific and education committees.



Best regards

Juan José Pascual  
WRSA General Secretary

Valencia (Spain), June 5, 2017