

(550 g). The animals from these 3 treatments showed absolutely comparable growth performances between 28 and 79 days. As regards the time required to reach the same mean weight, there was a difference of 3-4 1/2 days according to groups but in favour of the control group. Thus, a delay at weaning is not compensated (in absolute value) at the moment of slaughter.

IV. — Genetics

REPEATABILITIES OF BREEDING PERFORMANCES AND CULLING THRESHOLDS IN FEMALE RABBITS

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The variability in the numerical productivity of the doe is very high (number of rabbits weaned per doe and year). We tried to estimate levels of production under which it is economically interesting to cull a doe in a meat production farm.

The levels depend on the repeatability of the components of the numerical productivity. Repeatabilities of « interval between two parturitions » and « litter size at weaning » are discussed. Culling thresholds for litter size are given. It depends on mean litter size of the flock, number of order of the litter and cost of replacement.

The results are not directly applicable if crossbreeding or « all in-all out » system is realized. If such systems are used the culling thresholds are lower. We do not consider the case of sick females which have to be culled whatever their production level.

STUDY OF GENETIC VARIATION IN RABBIT MUSCLE pH MEASURED AFTER SLAUGHTER

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The growth of 590 rabbits (41 sires and 117 dams) was studied in the performance testing Station, Toulouse, from December 1972 to March 1973.