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Dear WRSA officers and members,

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

News from the WRSA branches

The French Branch of World Rabbit Science Association known as ASFC (*Association Scientifique Française de Cuniculture*, in English "French Association of Rabbit Science"). The French association was founded in 1974, and usually has around 50 active members. Historically, the ASFC has been the first national rabbit science association in the world. It was the support for the foundation of the WRSA in January 1976 in Paris and as consequence became the first national branch of the new international body. Many more details are available in the ASFC website:

Index page of the ASFC Website <http://www.asfc-lapin.com>

Association Scientifique Française de Cuniculture

Branche française de la WRSA



Le 31 janvier 2017, l'ASFC a organisé la journée «*Qingdao Ombres et Lumières*»
«*Analyse des communications du 11e Congrès Mondial de Cuniculture*»
Le Compte rendu de la réunion est disponible en ligne : texte et exposés. Pour y accéder directement cliquer ici ■

Dans le cadre des 17e JRC en novembre 2017, l'ASFC a organisé la séance d'actualité sur le thème
«*Comment répondre à la demande sociétale sur le Bien Être*» En attendant le CR final , quelques informations ici ■

En prévision de l'organisation du 12e Congrès Mondial qui se tiendra à Nantes en juillet 2020
l'ASFC lance un **Concours pour la création du logo de ce Congrès** info ici ■ (date butoir 31/01/2018)

	la WRSA WRS le journal	Activités de l'ASFC	Liens vers d'autres sites	Devenir Membre	Entrer en Contact
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Under responsibility of F. Lebas (1st president of the ASFC and of the WRSA), the ASFC organised the first World Rabbit Congress in France (1976, Dijon), and then the 6th World Rabbit Congress (1996, Toulouse). Missions of the ASFC are very diverse: formation for the people who are interested in rabbit production, organisation of a meeting every two years included in the JRC program (French Rabbit Days) with 2 hours devoted to current topics like antibiotic resistance, breeding & welfare, *etc.* Every 4 years, few months after each World Rabbit Congress, the ASFC organises a one-day seminar to present in French 7-8 synthesis of the different communications presented during the last Congress. Each synthesis is written by one scientist + one professional at the intention of people involved in the French rabbit industry (production, research, etc)

News of the next World rabbit Congress

The ASFC team is very happy to organize the next World Rabbit Congress (the 12th), it's an important challenge.

The congress will be organized from 1st to 3rd July 2020 in the city of Nantes, on the French Atlantic coast.

The reference persons for the local organization of the Congress will be Chantal DAVOUST (ASFC president) together with Sylvie COMBES (INRA senior scientist, and executive director of the 12th WRC), and Thierry GIDENNE (INRA senior scientist and WRSA president). Under their management and under the ASFC flag the local committee includes several scientists of different Universities and Research Centres, representatives of various institutions and commercial companies, all deeply interested in the 12th World Rabbit Congress success.

Composition of the executive bureau of the ASFC:

- 1) Chantal DAVOUST, INZO, President
- 2) Emmanuel FOURNIER, Hyla-Hypharm, Vice president
- 3) François Xavier MENINI Mixscience, Secretary
- 4) François LEBAS, senior scientist, Cuniculture, Deputy Secretary
- 5) Samuel BOUCHER, Labovet, Treasurer
and Marie BOURIN, ITAVI, Deputy Treasurer of ASFC



Selected publications

Popular Articles in World Rabbit Science last 12 months:

1. [Effect of restricted feeding under rearing on reproduction, body condition and blood metabolites of rabbit does selected for growth rate](#) 1725 views since: 2017-12-28
2. [Effect of tropical green forage Pueraria phaseoloides addition to a pelleted complete feed on rabbit growth performance and digestion](#) 1593 views since: 2017-09-28
3. [Dried brewers grains in growing rabbits: nutritional value and effects on performance](#) 1479 views since: 2017-09-28
4. [Clinical chemistry, haematology, immune response and histological evaluation of rabbits after immunisation and challenge with rabbit haemorrhagic disease \(RHD\) virus](#) 1253 views since: 2017-12-28
5. [Biostimulation and reproductive performance of artificially inseminated rabbit does \(Oryctolagus cuniculus\)](#) 1176 views since: 2017-12-28

International and National Congresses

In the last six months, there have been a congress and a meeting of rabbit farming:

43rd Symposium on Cuniculture, ADESCU

The 43rd Congress of the Spanish Association of Cuniculture (ADESCU) was held in Calamocha (Teruel, Aragon, Spain) from 30th to 31st May 2018, hosted by the Cooperative Society “Esperanza del Jiloca” (CEJI). The three main talks focused on the strategies against antibiotic resistance in rabbit farming (Dr Bruno González-Zorn, Dr Sara Sacristán and Dr Manuel Marco). Specific sessions were devoted to explaining the results of the three research projects supported by the partnership between INIA and INTERCUN (Dr Concha Cervera, Dr Francisco Parra, and Dr Ignacio Badiola). In addition, it was presented the role and operation of INTERCUN (María Luz De Santos, INTERCUN), the role of ADESCU in the IDCURA project (Dr Juan Manuel Corpa) and the operation of the last market for reference prices LONCUN (Dr Alonso García, AELMO). Moreover, a total of 20 communications were presented both in working sessions with oral communications and posters (nutrition, pathology, biosecurity and sustainability, housing and welfare, and reproduction and genetics).



Annual ASIC Meeting and Round Table

“Technical and management innovations in the rabbit sector: practical implications”

The annual meeting of the Italian Rabbit Scientific Association (ASIC) took place on 6th April within the national livestock agricultural and food trade show AgriUmbria in the city of Bastia Umbra (Perugia, Italy). The talks covered the most recent aspects in the rabbit sector such as the Italian actions to improve animal welfare in commercial farms, the reduction plan of the antibiotic use promoted by the Italian Health Ministry, the electronic veterinary prescription, and the current situation of research in Europe. In this regard, the event counted with the participation of high-level and leading speakers from health research organizations (Dr. Fabrizio Agnoletti and Antonio Lavazza), universities (Prof. Cesare Castellini and Gerolamo Xiccato) and the national veterinary federation (FNOVI - Dr. Francesco Dorigo) as well as a representative of the Animal Welfare Office of the Health Italian Ministry (Dr. Domenico Castelluccio). A total of about 100 participants attended this event, which gathered the productive, industrial, research and university sectors coming from multiple regions. The discussion was very active with animal welfare and alternative housing being one of the main subjects. The event was supported by FNOVI and sponsored by Ceva, Grimaud Italia, Huvepharma, Martini, Progeo Mangimi, Unaitalia, and Veronesi.



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>).

WRSA grants

WRSA has awarded two grants for young scientists to attend the 6th American Rabbit Congress in Goiânia (Brazil) next 27-29 August 2018.

The amount for each grant was 800 € and the selection criteria were:

1. The applicant must be a member of the corresponding WRSA local branch. If there is no local branch, the candidate may join an existing branch that best suits his/her needs.
2. The applicant must be under 35 years of age at the date of the congress.
3. The applicant must have not received a previous grant from the WRSA.
4. Candidates' nationality must be outside Brazil (place of the congress).
5. The applicant must have submitted a research paper (3-4 pages) that has been accepted by the scientific committee either as oral communication or poster presentation.
6. The applicant must participate actively during the congress by presenting a submitted and accepted paper as an oral and/or poster presentation.

After the evaluation of the candidates by a commission of the WRSA, the scholarships have been for:



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Animal and Veterinary Research Center
University of Trás-os-Montes and
Alto Douro (CECAV/UTAD,)
5000-801 - Vila Real - Portugal



Ibikunele Funso OlalerHj
Farming System Research Program,
National Root Crop Research Institute,
Umudike, Abia State,
P.M.B 7006 Umuahia - Nigeria

WRSA people portrait

Steffen Hoy. Finally, we could not close this volume without dedicating a few words to our colleague and friend Steffen Hoy, who has retired from his job at Institute for Animal Breeding and Genetics. Steffen was born 1952. He studied Agriculture with the focus on Animal Production at the University of Leipzig (Germany). After the study, he worked as PhD student at the Institute for Animal Hygiene (University Leipzig) and received PhD degree in 1979 and DSc degree in 1987. In 1988, he continued his career at the Research Centre for Animal Production in Dummerstorf/Rostock as leader of the research group pig housing. In 1990, he was called as Docent for Animal Hygiene and Animal Housing at the Leipzig University. There he started with investigations on nursing behaviour in wild and domesticated rabbits. He was appointed as Full Professor for Animal Housing and Biology at the Institute for Animal Breeding and Genetics of the Justus Liebig University Giessen in 1995 and continued his



research work with rabbits (housing, behaviour, animal protection). He supervised 2 DSc and 55 PhD students until now including 6 PhD students with focus on rabbits. Steffen Hoy was chairperson of working group “Housing and welfare” of Cost action 848. From 1995 to 2007 he was Secretary of German branch of WRSA and from 2007 to 2017 Chairman. He organized with his team six International Rabbit Congresses in Celle and was responsible for some rabbit research projects including the international ANIHWA project RABHO with partners from Hungary, Italy and Spain. He will retire at the end of summer semester 2017.

Best regards and wishing you a great summer

Juan José Pascual
WRSA General Secretary



Valencia (Spain), June 30, 2018