

CARCASS INDEX OF NEW ZEALAND WHITE, CALIFORNIA, CHINCHILLA AND BLACK AZTEC AT CENTRO NACIONAL DE CUNICULTURA, MEXICO.

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ABSTRACT

Rabbit carcass index from animals at the Centro Nacional de Cunicultura (CNC, México) was evaluated comparatively. According to CNC managers, no new breeder animals have been introduced in the last 20 years, due this mainly as a result of sanitary barriers that have occurred during these years. Therefore, it is important to conduct performance evaluations of animals and carcass index evaluations. The evaluated breeds were New Zealand white, California, Chinchilla and Black Aztec; the evaluations were conducted in the CNC, Mexico's premises. 240 just weaned rabbits (35 d) were used, 60 rabbits per breed, 50 % females and 50 % males, which were individually tattooed for identification, all were kept in American traditional type cages (6 specimens per cage). Carcass weight and yield, and quartering hot carcass weight (forelimbs, hind limbs, loin and head) were evaluated. The live weight values for California, New Zealand, Chinchilla and Black Azteca were 1.801 ± 0.023 , 1.800 ± 0.023 , 1.776 ± 0.025 y 1.598 ± 0.024 g (mean \pm SE), respectively. The carcass yield values were for New Zealand 55.40 ± 0.27 %, Chinchilla 55.21 ± 0.27 %, Black Aztec 55.04 ± 0.24 % and 53.47 ± 0.24 % for California. For the quartered, the values by breed were, New Zealand, California, Chinchilla and Black Aztec respectively forelimbs: 315.09 ± 5.04 , 287.45 ± 6.43 , 284.40 ± 6.38 and 284.43 ± 5.39 , hind limbs: 359.09 ± 6.14 , 326.66 ± 6.03 , 314.61 ± 6.92 and 320.66 ± 5.67 . On the loin: 265.00 ± 5.71 , 252.80 ± 5.74 , 239.61 ± 6.12 g and 235.56 ± 4.64 g head weight: 140.72 ± 1.96 , 142.89 ± 2.04 , 129.13 ± 2.17 and 129.05 ± 1.93 g. It is necessary further research on the Black Aztec breed which showed a good carcass index. California breed scored the lowest carcass index data.

Keywords: Carcass yield, hot carcass weight, quartering.