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Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia, Asociación Científica Mundial de Cunicultura – Rama Americana  
Secretaría de Desarrollo Agropecuario del Gobierno del Estado de México, Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural,  
Pesca y Alimentación, Consejo Mexiquense de Ciencia y Tecnología

**EFFECT OF DIFFERENT MATERIALS FOR BED OF NEST TO PREGNANT  
DOES ON THE NEST BUILDING PATTERN**

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**ABSTRACT**

This research was carried out to evaluate the effect of different bedding nest materials for pregnant does on the nest building pattern. Thirty does were used in a randomized block design with three treatments and 10 replicates each. Treatments consisted of the nest lined with wood shavings (280 g), Tifton hay (220 g) or chopped newspaper (200 g). The nests were put inside the cage three days before the birth and were taken out at 20 days after the birth. The evaluation of the nest status consisted of qualitative analysis, being the mixture level of the material with the fur, the presence of fur in the nest and the preservation of the original material put inside initially. These observations finished at the birth day. Data were submitted to the Spearman correlation, on which was applied the t test at 5 % of probability. Correlations between fur presence, mixture level of fur and material, and amount of material present in the nest at the birth were not significant ( $P>0.05$ ). Since there was no correlation among the used materials and the fur amount, mixture and material amount in the nest, it is possible to infer that there was no difference for the rabbit doe in relation to the comfort obtained with the used materials. There was not a significant correlation ( $P>0.05$ ) between material type and total born number, however there was a correlation between fur presence in the nest and mixture level ( $P<0.001$ ) and between mixture level and amount of material in the nest at the birth ( $P<0.05$ ), what means the higher the fur amount in the nest, the more mixture level with the material placed previously and, in the nests where the rabbit does took the higher material amount out, the doe also placed a higher fur amount, possibly to maintain the comfort in the nest. It was concluded that Tifton hay and

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chopped newspaper may be used as nest bedding for pregnant does replacing the wood shavings with no negative effect on the nest building pattern.

**Keywords:** doe behavior, nest for does, rabbit production.



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