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**PERFORMANCE OF RABBITS BORN IN NESTS LINED WITH DIFFERENT
MATERIALS**

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ABSTRACT

This study was carried out to evaluate the performance of rabbits reared in nest lined with different materials from birth to weaning. Thirty rabbit does were used in a randomized block design, with three treatments and ten replicates each. The treatments consisted of the nest lining with wood shaving (280 g), Tifton hay (220 g) and chopped newspaper (200 g). Body weight, daily weight gain and survival rate were weekly evaluated from the birth to the weaning. There was no effect ($P>0.05$) of the material type used as nest bedding on the body weight, daily weight gain and survival rate. It suggest that both, Tifton hay and chopped newspaper, may be used for replacing the wood shavings for bedding nest, by offering similar comfort to the kits, from birth up to their weaning. The survival rate was not affected ($P>0.05$) by the treatments, but it was observed that the mortality occurred until the third week of life in the nests lined with wood shavings and Tifton hay, and until the second week of life in the nests lined with chopped newspaper, possibly because the chopped newspaper provided a more comfortable and warmer environment for the kits. It was concluded that the Tifton hay and the chopped newspaper may be used replacing the wood shaving with no negative effect on the litter performance.

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Keywords: building nest, doe in lactation, kit growth.

