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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,
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ANALISYS OF SEASON EFFECTS ON WEIGHT GAIN ON MEAT RABBITS

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ABSTRACT

Rabbit production is highly influenced by weather conditions (Cabrero Saenz *et al.*, 1982). Production parameters such as milk production and reproductive efficiency are often affected. (Baltazar, 2012; Cordiviola *et al.*, 2014). The aim of this research was to evaluate weather factors upon meat rabbit performance. In this study, parameters as weight and age in days for slaughter were analyzed, including temperature measures, averaged temperature, maximum and minimum and relative humidity. Data was analyzed by statistical analysis (ANOVA) and simple regression of temperatures. Also, comparisons of correlation coefficient of temperatures were made. Moreover, months were separated by average temperature according to rabbit comfort temperature in hyperthermic (> 20°C), isothermal (18°C-20°C) and hypothermic (<20°C) and analyzed by ANOVA. This month separation was determinate according to Cervera et al, 1998. Data was recorded at experimental barn of rabbit breeding in Facultad de Ciencias Agrarias y Forestales of Universidad Nacional de La Plata, recording 920 newborn and slaughtered rabbits in one year, mix of breeding between Californian and New Zealand crosses. Weather data was provided by climatic station situated in experimental field “Julio Hirschhorn” of Facultad de Ciencias Agrarias y Forestales of Universidad Nacional de La Plata, located 10 kilometers away from experimental barn.

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Results indicated that average temperature was the most influential than minimum and maximum temperature; relative humidity was not influential. Besides, isothermal and hypothermic months not revealed significant differences. Nonetheless, hyperthermic months revealed significant differences. This study proved that rabbit production is most influenced by weather factors as heat rather than frosting environments. Also, relative humidity resulted not influential due to averaged values and the absence of epidermal diseases. This results are according to local weather conditions in this region (Lat. 34°54'31,09''S Long. 57°55'56,37''W).

Keywords: weather, days to slaughter, averaged temperature, rabbit breeding.



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