

Productive, reproductive, behavioral and sanitary aspects of rabbit does from different genotypes

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Context: In developing countries new genotypes need to be evaluated and applied to farm conditions. The Botucatu rabbits are the only Brazilian genotype and its crossings with other breeds need to be evaluated.

The question: Are botucatu rabbit does better than New Zealand White (NZW) does or than their crossbreeds?

Methods : 9 botucatu does, 9 NZW does and 9 crossbreeds, during three 42 days reproductive cycles (a total of 62 kindlings). NZW received NZW semen and the others received botucatu semen, using artificial insemination.

Results : 10 does were eliminated or lost (six from botucatu)

we need to look for a **better longevity**

Traits	Genotypes					
	NZW	se	BOT	se	CRO	se
Insemination attempts	1,10a	0,10	1,50b	0,15	1,42b	0,10
Average weight of alive born kits (g)	54,4ab	2,70	62,6ab	3,97	63,0b	2,57
Weight of does after kindling (g)	4190,6a	59,8	4290,0ab	87,3	4407,7b	58,7
Weight of does at 18 th day of lactation (g)	4520,2a	80,6	4849,0b	109,1	4898,9b	70,5
Weight of does at 32 th day of lactation (g)	4451,6a	82,4	4704,3b	107,2	4703,3b	70,72
Does feed intake in the period 0-18 days (g)	322,9ab	10,55	299,3a	13,59	343,9b	8,78
Does feed intake in the period 18-32 days (g)	424,1a	18,82	499,8b	24,48	453,6ab	15,65

Qualitative traits*	Genotypes		
	NZW	BOT	CRO
Aggressiveness	0,2	0,7	0,2

WEANED KITS:

141, 112 and 87 for CRO, NZW and BOT respectively

In general

- NZW does: less insemination attempts but lighter kits
- Botucatu does: higher aggressiveness and high lost rate
- Crossbreed: more kits, better feed intake and good growing rate

Take home message : Brazilian rabbit breeding needs to use crossbreed does to improve the rabbits performance