

Use of straw treated with sodium hydroxide in rabbit feeding

F. LEBAS⁽¹⁾, M. COLIN⁽²⁾, P. MERCIER⁽³⁾ et E. TREMOLIÈRES⁽⁴⁾

⁽¹⁾ *Laboratoire de Recherches sur l'élevage du Lapin, Centre de Recherches de Toulouse, I.N.R.A. 31320 Castanet-Tolosan (France)*

⁽²⁾ *Ets Sanders, 17, quai de l'Industrie, 91201 Athis-Mons Cedex (France)*

⁽³⁾ *U.F.A.C., Service technique, 95450 Vigny (France)*

⁽⁴⁾ *U.C.A.A.B., Service technique, Chierry, 02400 Château-Thierry (France)*

The possibilities of using NaOH treated straw in the feeding of rabbits were studied simultaneously by the experimentation departments of four organizations on the basis of six experiments. The treatment of the straws by sodium hydroxide did not lead to any alteration in the performances of the fattening young rabbits, contrary to what was expected by some people, because of the sodium residues. According to the 5 experiments on growth, the presence of NaOH had no unfavourable effect. On the contrary, it had a beneficial effect in one case and in two others a non significant improvement was noticed.

Raped oil-meal, a source of proteins for breeding doe-rabbits

F. LEBAS

Laboratoire de Recherches sur l'Élevage du Lapin, Centre de Recherches de Toulouse, I.N.R.A., 31320 Castanet-Tolosan (France)

A total of 69 Californian doe rabbits were fed during two consecutive trials with one of the three isonitrogenous, isocellulosic diets containing 15 to 16 p. 100 rapeseed oil-meal (toasted or non toasted) or 16 p. 100 sunflower oil-meal.

In the first trial lasting 6 months (a total of 127 kindlings) as in the second one lasting only 4 months (a total of 57 kindlings) the doe rabbits were sired 3 or 4 days after parturition.

Roughly, we did not notice any unfavourable results in the doe rabbits fed with rapeseed oil-meal either in absolute value, or relative to the sunflower control diet.

On the contrary, in the second trial including the non toasted rapeseed oil-meal we even obtained a slightly higher fertility (8.00 weaned/litter born versus 7.50 for the sunflower control and 6.81 for the toasted rapeseed group). No difference was noticed in the gestation rate.