

Special Issue

Feeding and Management Strategies for Improving Health, Welfare, Efficiency and Sustainability in Rabbit Production

Message from the Guest Editors

Feeding and managing strategies play major roles in determining the health, welfare, and performance of farmed rabbits and thus the profitability of farmers. In growing rabbits, the main challenge is to find solutions which reduce the incidence of digestive diseases and the use of antimicrobials while maintaining highly productive performances and feed efficiency. On the other hand, the development of alternative rearing and housing systems is urgently required in view of the upcoming proposal of the European Commission for the gradual overcoming of cage farming systems. The main purpose of the present Special Issue is to provide reliable information regarding feeding and managing strategies for: i) improving gut health and feed efficiency in growing fattening rabbits; ii) improving welfare of growing rabbits and rabbit does in alternative housing systems; iii) evaluating and reducing the environmental footprint (life cycle assessment approaches are welcome) of rabbit farms; iv) mitigating the impact of heat stress in rabbit production; and v) enhancing the meat quality traits. Researchers are welcome to submit both original papers and reviews.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Animals is an on-line open access journal that was first published in 2011. *Animals* adheres to rigorous peerreview and editorial processes and publishes only high quality manuscripts that address important issues in the many varied disciplines that involve animals, with a focus on animal science, animal welfare and animal ethics. *Animals* is covered in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) in Web of Science, with the latest Impact Factor: 2.7 (2024, ranks 15/86 (Q1) in 'Agriculture, Dairy & Animal Science'; 21/170 (Q1) in 'Veterinary Sciences'), 5-Year Impact Factor: 3.2.

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