

COST OF RABBIT MEAT PRODUCTION

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The main variable involved in costs of rabbit meat production is the number of pounds produced per mature producing doe per year.

A study conducted during 1954 to 1958 provides data to show the variations in production rate and feed consumption which occur on rabbit meat producing farms.

The sample costs of production established for this report are based on results from this five-year study. It should be considered that actual costs for feed and results will vary considerably from this average and that individual costs will be in relation to results obtained.

Included in this report is a summary of the five-year rabbit production efficiency study. Results are reported and ranked according to pounds of meat produced per year per working doe on the ranches participating in the study. Sample costs of production are based on these results using 1975 costs.

Investment costs have practically doubled in the last decade. A comparison of investment costs in the 1962 and 1963 San Bernardino Rabbit Cost Study with 1975 estimated costs are shown below. An extension of the 1975 estimate of costs indicates a basis for interest and depreciation allowances in the sample costs for 1975.

COMPARISON OF INVESTMENT COST WITH
 INTEREST AND DEPRECIATION DATA
 FOR 1975 SAMPLE COSTS

<u>Investments</u>	<u>1962-1963 Study San Bernardino County</u>	<u>1975 Estimate</u>	<u>1975 Interest 10%*</u>	<u>1975 Est. Depreciation Allowance **</u>
Land	\$11.48	\$12.00	\$1.20	\$----
Buildings	8.39	20.00	1.00	1.00
Equipment	4.11	10.00	.50	1.00
Cages	5.07	13.00	.65	1.30
Stock	<u>5.67</u>	<u>10.00</u>	<u>1.00</u>	<u>----</u>
Totals Per Working Doe	\$34.72	\$65.00	\$4.35	\$3.30

*Interest - 10% on average value (50% of original cost) for buildings, cages, and equipment.

**Depreciation - 20-year basis on buildings, 10 years on cages and equipment.

TABLE 1-MEAT PRODUCTION AND FEED EFFICIENCY*

GROUP	A	B	C	D	E	F	STUDY AV.
NUMBER RECORDS	7	6	12	7	9	7	48
DOES PER RANCH	423	328	201	126	122	108	128
Meat Prod./Doe Range in Pounds	160-173	150-159	140-149	120-139	100-119	70-99	70-173
Average Pounds	166	153	144	129	109	81	131
Number Fryers Sold/Doe/Year	32	30	29	25	24	18	26
Average Weight/ Fryer Sold	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.5
Pounds Fryer Sold/Doe/Year	150	141	134	113	102	77	120
Other (Culls)	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>
Total Pounds Meat	<u>159</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>123</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>128</u>
Pounds Feed (Pellet Equiv.) Per/Doe/Year	655	657	618	568	495	404	567
Feed/Pound Meat Produced	3.96	4.28	4.28	4.40	4.50	4.86	4.37

TABLE 2-BREEDING AND PRODUCTION NUMBERS*
% Mortality and Replacement During Year

Doe Per Buck	9	10	8	7	7	6	8
No. Kindlings Per Doe/Year	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.1	3.2	4.4
No. Left With Doe/Kindling	8.5	8.6	8.2	8.0	8.0	7.7	8.1
No. Raised Doe/Year	35	32	31	27	24	18	28
% Fryers Raised	87	81	81	77	74	78	79
% of Working Does							
Mortality %	31	37	34	26	27	34	31
Sold (Culls) %	<u>61</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>54</u>
Total Died & Sold %	<u>92</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>85</u>
Replaced %	116	117	110	108	81	80	102

*Data from 1954-1958 San Diego County Rabbit Efficiency Study.

TABLE 3-SAMPLE COSTS OF RABBIT MEAT PRODUCTION

Example using study average. Costs based on production of 120 pounds of fryer meat per average working doe.

<u>Cost Items</u>	<u>Per Doe Per Year</u>	<u>Per Pound Fryer Meat Produced</u>
Feed - 567 lbs. per doe @ 7.5¢ per lb.	\$42.53	35.4¢
Labor - 4 hrs. per doe per year @ \$2.50 per hr.	10.00	8.3
Cash costs including taxes, utilities, repair, maintenance, stock purchases, etc.	5.00	4.2
Depreciation 1975 investment estimate	3.30	2.8
Interest based on 1975 estimated data	<u>4.35</u>	<u>3.6</u>
TOTAL COSTS	\$65.18	54.3¢

Example using most efficient group in efficiency study. Costs using feed data and production rate of 150 pounds of fryer meat per doe per year.

Feed - 655 lbs. per doe @ 7.5¢ per lb.	\$49.13	32.7¢
All other costs as above	<u>22.65</u>	<u>15.1</u>
TOTAL COSTS	\$71.78	47.8¢

Example using most inefficient group in efficiency study. Costs using feed data and production rate of 77 pounds of fryer meat per doe per year.

Feed - 404 lbs. per doe @ 7.5¢ per lb.	\$30.30	39.4¢
All other costs as above	<u>22.65</u>	<u>29.4</u>
TOTAL COSTS	\$52.95	68.8¢

TABLE 4-SUMMARY 1975 ESTIMATE OF COSTS
Using Pellet Feed Cost @ 7.5 Cents Per Pound

	<u>Lbs. Fryer/ Doe/Yr.</u>	<u>Lbs. Feed/ Doe/Yr.</u>	<u>Costs/ Doe/Yr.</u>	<u>Cost of Fryer Meat Per Pound Sold</u>
Study Average Data	120	567	\$65.18	54.3¢
Hi Efficiency Group	150	655	\$71.78	47.8¢
Lo Efficiency Group	77	404	\$52.95	68.8¢