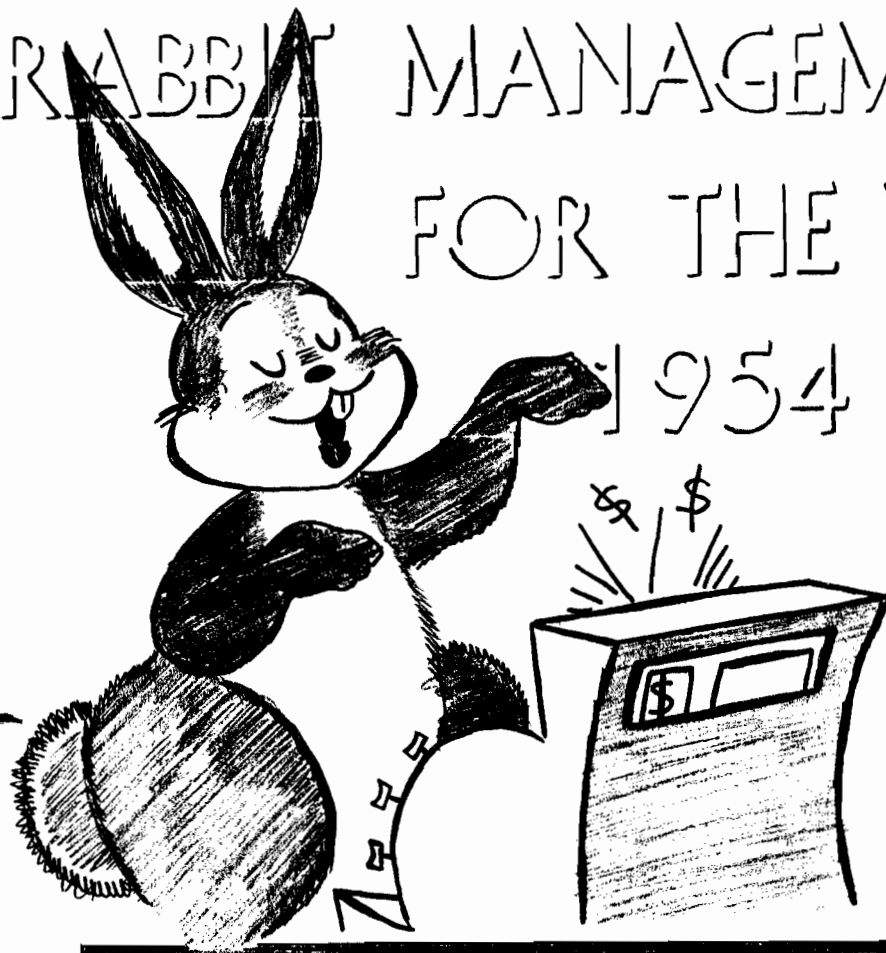


# ALAMEDA COUNTY RABBIT MANAGEMENT STUDY FOR THE YEAR



If this report is studied carefully, it will assist the rabbitman in deciding which management practices to follow and what pitfalls to avoid. The report presents, in the form of an annual summary, many interesting figures and relationships which, if properly interpreted, should lead to better management and greater profits in local rabbitries. It is hoped that everyone will study the factors that influence results in this study and better their 1955 production and profits.

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# INTRODUCTION

This report presents some figures from the summary of five annual records on commercial meat rabbit production. In order to preserve the confidential nature of each individual record we show here only the high and low and average figures. These figures covering a total of 620 breeding does are a small sample from all rabbit production in the county and are probably more typical of the better producers than of the average for the entire industry.

This study is conducted by the Agricultural Extension Service in cooperation with the five progressive rabbit producers in order to learn the inputs, costs, and other vital information about this interesting business. Records are compiled from carefully made opening and closing inventories at the start and end of the calendar year, 1954, and 12 detailed monthly reports of kindlings, death losses, sales and expenses. Each cooperating grower receives in return a detailed record and analysis on his rabbitry which he may compare item by item with the average and hence discover steps or changes which may help him improve his earnings. Other producers would benefit if they would develop such figures as they can from their available records and insert them in the blank column for comparison.

Profit in these records is measured in two ways. Management income is the amount by which income exceeds costs if the value of the operator's labor and interest on investment are included in costs. None of these five records had a plus management income. Prices and income were too low to cover all costs so management income was a loss shown by a minus sign. Farm income however, is income over cash costs and depreciation or profit without considering interest on investment or wages for the operator. All had a plus farm income, the average being \$6.90 per doe.

Profit is influenced by several factors such as production per doe, prices received, prices paid per 100 lbs of feed, and "feed conversion" or pounds of rabbit pellets used to produce a pound of live rabbit. This figure which averaged 4.4 pounds shows overall efficiency including the maintenance and replacement of breeding stock. Chicken fryers require about 3 pounds of chick mash to produce a pound of fryer from the baby chick. Rabbits are remarkably efficient meat producers at only 4.4 of rabbit pellets, which are cheaper and less concentrated than chick mash, to produce a pound of rabbit including the breeding stock and replacement of death losses.

A study of the figures in the two tables should show those interested some important things about rabbit production. High efficient production requires good stock of good health and low death losses. Mortality among young rabbits under 3 months is shown in table to have varied from 16 to 27% with that among breeding does varying from 17 to 76%. Total pounds of rabbit produced per doe varied from 95 up to 143 and averaged 118 which is good as compared to similar records in other areas and other years.

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TABLE 1. MAIN PROFIT FACTORS AND INCOME AND COSTS PER DOE

	Range		Av. 5 Records	Your Record
	Highest	Lowest		
Average number of does for the year	227	72	124	
Average number of bucks	37	9	22	
Average number of young 3-6 mo.	135	4	45	
Av. number of young under 3 months at any time	1324	330	806	
Number of kindlings per doe year	5.0	3.4	4.4	
Total number kindled per doe	46.4	22.6	36.4	
Number of young raised per doe	33.8	21.8	28.0	
Total pounds produced per doe	143.3	95.1	118.2	
Per cent mortality, does	75.8	16.8	41.5	
Per cent mortality, young stock before 3 mo.	27.3	16.0	23.2	
Income per doe				
Young fryer rabbits sold	27.65	21.63	25.29	
Old rabbits sold & rabbits eaten in home	1.32	.58	.87	
Breeding rabbits sold	6.81	.00	1.46	
Total rabbits sold	32.39	25.11	27.62	
Plus closing inventory rabbits	22.13	13.03	16.63	
Less rabbits bought	3.75	.00	.66	
Less opening inventory rabbits	15.44	13.40	14.45	
Net value of rabbit produced	37.29	18.03	29.14	
Expenses per doe				
Pellets	23.15	15.91	20.44	
Grain, salt & misc. feeds	.10	.00	.03	
Total feed cost	23.15	15.93	20.47	
Operators & family labor	22.83	7.06	13.81	
Miscellaneous expenses	1.75	.36	1.16	
Depreciation	6.02	.41	2.65	
Interest on investment	2.15	.91	1.63	
Total all costs	45.18	29.88	39.72	
Less miscellaneous income	4.75	.10	2.04	
Net cost of rabbit produced	44.61	29.00	37.68	
Management Income, Income over all costs	-21.59	-.64	- 8.54	
Net Farm Income includes operator labor and interest on investment	12.08	.53	6.90	

Figures in the first 2 columns are unrelated, being merely the highest and the lowest figures among any of the five records. The average in the third column is a weighted one with the figures applying to the sum of all five records as though it were a single record covering 620 does.

The value of rabbit produced is calculated as shown above by adding the closing inventory to sales and subtracting the opening inventory and purchases of rabbits. Production in pounds per doe is perhaps the most important profit factor varying from 95 to 143 and averaging 118. It is of course influenced by number kindled and percent mortality. Costs are important profit factors too, but pellet expense varies with the quantity used with differences in pounds produced per doe. The value of labor reported showed a wide variation.

TABLE 2 PRICES AND COSTS PER POUND OF RABBIT PRODUCED

	Range		Av. 5 Records	Your Record
	Highest	Lowest		
Pounds of rabbit produced per doe	143	95	118	
Pounds of pellets per doe	595	391	514	
Av. price per cwt. of pellets	4.24	3.81	3.98	
Hours of labor per doe	18.3	4.8	10.5	
Av. value charged for labor	2.00	1.00	1.32	
Pounds of pellets per pound produced	5.2	3.9	4.4	
Hours of labor per pound produced	.18	.03	.09	
Av. weight per fryer sold	4.5	4.0	4.3	
Av. price per pound live weight	26.3¢	23.3¢	24.1¢	
Av. price per fryer sold	\$1.18	\$0.96	\$1.03	
Av. price per old rabbit sold	\$1.19	\$0.93	\$1.01	
Av. price per breeding rabbit sold	4.75	2.92	3.06	
Av. price per pound all rabbits sold	26.7¢	22.4¢	24.3¢	
Feed cost per lb. of rabbit produced	20.8	16.0	17.3	
Value of operators labor	23.2	6.7	11.7	
Miscellaneous costs	1.3	.4	1.0	
Depreciation on buildings and equipment	4.2	.4	2.2	
Interest on investment at 5% percent	2.2	.9	1.4	
Total cost of production per pound	46.0	29.8	33.6	
Less misc. income, manure sacks, etc.	3.3	.1	1.7	
Net cost of rabbit produced	45.4	26.5	31.9	
Av. value per pound of rabbit produced	27.9	18.1	24.7	
Management income per pound (- loss)	-22.0	- .5	- 7.2	
Farm income per pound produced	10.0	.5	5.9	

The important profit factors shown above are the pounds of pellets used per pound of rabbit produced, the hours of labor per pound of rabbit produced, the price received per pound of rabbit sold, and the price per hundred weight paid for pellets. The lowest pounds of pellets per pound of rabbit produced 3.9 was in the rabbitry with the lowest percent mortality in young rabbits, 16%. The highest feed use at 5.2 pounds per pound produced was in the record with next to highest mortality in young at 25%.

The value per pound of rabbit produced is sometimes quite different from the average price per pound of rabbit sold. The value per pound produced is influenced by the opening and closing inventories and by rabbits bought. Hence average selling price is shown above to have varied from 22.4¢ per pound to 26.7¢ while value produced varied from 18.1¢ to 27.9¢. Net cost of production varied from a low of 26.5¢ a pound to a high of 45.4 with labor and interest included in costs.