

Stress as related to production results and meat quality in rabbits

S u m m a r y

The aim of the study was to check the response of rabbits to stress-stimulating SIH (stress-induced hyperthermia) test and to determine how stress affected rabbit productivity and meat quality. Baseline Cortisol and glucose levels in the animals tested were assumed in the evaluation of welfare. The body's reaction to stress depends on many factors: one of the most important being individual traits. The same situation can be a source of very strong stress for one animal while having no perceptible effect on other animals. It is hypothesized based on the results obtained that some rabbits show poorer adaptation to farm husbandry. Low resistance to stress is reflected in both productive results and meat quality of these animals, therefore, they should be eliminated from the herd.