

Rabbit Farming: Step by Step

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Outline

- n Background
- n Step by Step
 - n Hobby v Commercial
 - n Sheds
- n Briefly covering major areas
- n More info easily available

Do Your Research!

Small Scale

Commercial

- n There is lots of info available now
- n Internet
 - n Web sites
 - n Australian and International
 - n Forums
- n Purchase information packages
- n Visit local farmers
- n State Departments Agriculture
- n Field Days

Local Processor

Small Scale

Commercial

- n Must do
 - n Need excellent relationship with them
 - n Define their requirements
- n Understanding local issues
- n Normally very experienced
 - n Advice with all aspects of industry
- n Help with relevant contacts

Local Council

Small Scale

Commercial

- n Have some basic research under your belt
- n This needs to be done early
- n Requirements do vary
 - n Design, drainage, waste, smell etc
- n Also consult neighbours early

- n State Departments of Agriculture

Farm Site / Sheds

Small Scale

Commercial

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">n 5 acres or moren Existing Infrastructure<ul style="list-style-type: none">n Insect proofn Waste disposaln Environmental controln Dirt floorn Good drainage | <ul style="list-style-type: none">n 15 ac is bettern Invest up frontn Specialized Infrastructure<ul style="list-style-type: none">n Mechanical Waste disposaln High level of Environmental controln Tunnelsn Concrete floor |
|---|--|

Farm Site / Sheds

Small Scale

Commercial



Cages

Small Scale

Commercial

- n Second Hand
- n Can be home made
 - n Need to meet standards
- n Rust free
- n Manual feeding
- n Nipple drinkers
- n Specialized
- n Automatic feeding
- n Mechanical Waste disposal
- n Nest boxes with doors
- n Nipple drinkers

Cages

Small Scale

Commercial



Waste Removal

Small Scale

Commercial



Feeders

Small Scale

Commercial

n Home made

- n PVC
- n Tin/steel



n High quality



Nest boxes

Small Scale

Commercial

n Home made or Purchased

- n Hygiene
- n Warmth



n High quality

n Slides



Mating

Small Scale

- n AI-la naturalé
- n Cheap and Easy
- n Labour Intensive



Commercial

- n Only Option!
- n Labour efficiency
- n Batching / Disease



Rabbits

Small Scale

- n Source some Does locally
- n But superior bucks
- n Cull poor Does



Commercial

- n Invest up front
- n Introduce superior genes using AI
- n Good records for Doe selection



Nutrition

Small Scale

Commercial

- n Good feed is vital
 - n Don't buy on price alone
- n Rabbits of different ages and stages
 - n Different requirements
- n Avoid
 - n Fines/dust
 - n Sudden changes in diet
- n The mill must get these right!

Health

Small Scale

Commercial

The Most Important Thing To Get Right!

Ø All previous topics are prerequisites

- n Hygiene vital
- n Adequate facilities and environmental control
- n Careful monitoring
- n Batching helps
- n RCD vaccination essential
- n Careful with introductions

Management Routines

Small Scale

- n Daily Tasks
- n Card recording or software
- n Still 365 days a year



Commercial

- n Batching
- n Card recording or software



Other Aspects ~ Efficiency



Palpating



Palpating

- n Production Efficiency
 - n No room for empty Does
- n Easy to learn
- n Takes only a few seconds
- n Feed savings
- n No wasted Nest Boxes
 - n Nor cleaning them!



- n Farming rabbits for about 12 years
- n Breeder Rabbits
- n Software ~ Rabbit Central
 - n Management and Performance Recording Software
 - n Integrated Hand-Held Computer
- n Research and Development
- n Information
 - n Booklets, CDs and DVDs available
 - n Newsletters
 - n www.growtec.com.au
 - n Free information
 - n Discussion forum

Conclusions

Small Scale

Commercial

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">n Council Requirementsn Researchn Facilities and environmental controln Health and Nutrition | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">n Existing infrastructuren Need to maintain a suitable environmentn Less sophistication required | <ul style="list-style-type: none">n Invest up frontn Labour efficiency<ul style="list-style-type: none">n Feedingn Waste removaln AI |



Thank You

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