

## Efficient Rabbit Farming



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## Outline

- n Growtec ~ Who are we?
- n Genetics
- n AI Update
- n Out Top Five Tips
  - n Genetics
  - n Nutrition
  - n AI
  - n Palpation
  - n Facilities (Environment, Cages, Nest boxes, Waste Disposal)



- n Farming rabbits for about 11 years
- n Breeder Rabbits
- n 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](http://www.growtec.com.au)
  - n Free information
  - n Discussion forum

## Genetics

- n Set the potential production level
- n Huge variation exists
  - n sire averages ~ last 11 years
    - ADG
      - 24 g/d - 41 g/d or 1.8 kg - 3.2 kg
    - NBA
      - 2.7 - 11.7 kits per litter
    - NW
      - 0 - 9.5 kits per litter



## Mating

- n Natural Mating is inefficient
  - n Labour / time
  - n Doe accepting buck?
- n AI
  - n Greater labour and management efficiency
  - n Importing high quality genetics
  - n Disease control
  - n Batching
  - n No bucks needed

## Mating ~ AI



## Mating ~ AI



## AI Results

- n 8,423 inseminations
- n 3 years
- n Average conception of 65%
  - n Of all rabbits served
  - n With natural mating
    - n 75% accept buck
    - n Then 80% conception
    - n = 60%
- n No significant affect on litter size
- n Huge labour and efficiency savings

## My Top 5

- n Genetics
- n Nutrition
- n AI
- n Palpation
- n Facilities (Environment, Cages, Nest boxes, Waste Disposal)

Where is Health?

## Genetics



## Nutrition

- 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!

## AI



## 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!

## Facilities

- n Invest up front
- n Shed – Environmental Control
  - n Most important
- n Feeders
- n Cages
- n Nest boxes
- n Waste Disposal



## Waste Disposal

- n Who likes shoveling?
- n Much time and labour cost
- n Disease control benefits
- n Workplace health and safety
- n Better use of outputs



## Information

- n Information
  - n Booklets, CDs and DVDs
- n Web Site – [www.growtec.com.au](http://www.growtec.com.au)
- n Newsletters (Email or Normal Mail)
- n Research Reports
- n Forum (see web)
- n Information Articles
- n Basic StartUp Advice
- n Industry Contacts and Web Links

## Contact

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## Thank You



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