Fact No. 5.1

# The renewal management

A regular renewal to each group is necessary to maintain optimal performances and a good sanitary status.

## 1) Renewal rate

The renewal rate of a herd is the ratio between **the number of females introduced into production over a year and the average number females of the breeding.**

*Objective of annual renewal rate of a herd:* **105-110 % per year**.

The introduction of young females (nulliparous) in each cycle compensates for the females out. Whatever the method of renewal, the number of female introduced must be adapted to the exit rate of females (mortality and culling).

*In a target of 105-110 % of annual renewal, the young females represent 13% of AI / group.*

In case of renewal with parental females (P.) aged from 1 day, plan to introduce 2% more animals / group (mortality and sorting).

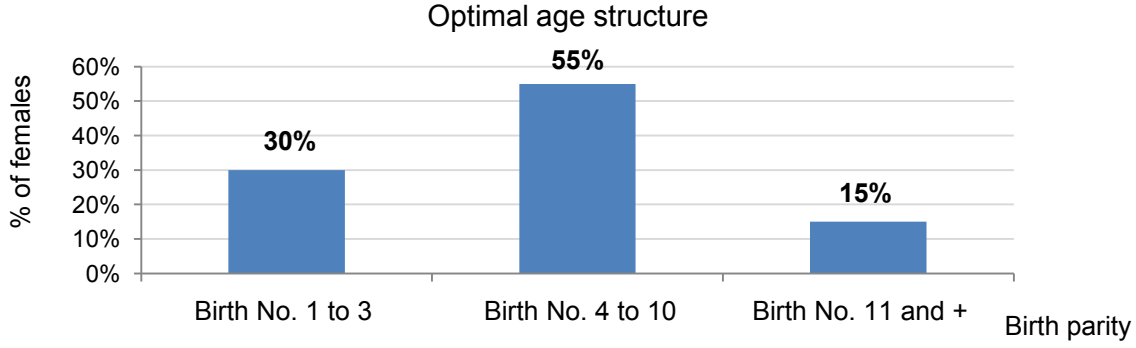
*Introduce 15% of the number of AI of the group in 1 day P. females → that is for a single group of 500 A.I., an introduction of 75 P. females aged from 1 day / group.*

For a breeding with a Grand-Parental (G.P.) nucleus refer to Fact No. 5.3.

The rate of introduction of the renewal females is determined by a schedule specifying the date of delivery, the type and quantity of animals (Doc-cial-012).

## 2) A balanced herd

The age structure diagram ensures to observe the status of the herd in terms of renewal.



**Birth No. 1 to 3 > 30%** = mortality or/and culling too important → Analyse the major(s) cause(s) of mortality or culling (poor preparation of the pre-stock, unfavourable sanitary conditions).

**Birth No. 11 and more > 15%** = ageing herd and risk of performance degradation. Validate the number of new females introduced by cycle and the quality of pre-stock preparation.

## 3) The reasons for removal of animals

### → Mortality

- **Key indicator** to define the health status of the breeding → Record the number of dead females in each cycle.
- **Females mortality target < 3% / cycle**

**If mortality > 3%** during 1 cycle **> 25%** over a year → Identify the main source of this mortality excess in order to remedy this situation.

- The most of female mortality is observed around birth (+/- 1 week) and mainly on females on 1st and 2nd birth.

### → Culling

This is the adjustment variable between the number of young females available (nulliparous) and dead females. More a breeder has the possibility to cull; more the situation is favourable to a good expression of the animals' potential.

- **The sanitary culling**, elimination with one or more pathologies: *foot injuries, abscesses, mastitis, general status ...*

The sanitary culling is essential to maintain good sanitary status of the breeding. It is the observation of animals (palpation or control before A.I.), which allows to detect the animals to cull.

It has priority over technical culling.

- **The technical culling** eliminates animals with lower performance as well as animals too old.

# Fact No. 5.1

When choosing the females to inseminate, animal can be culled in order of priority:

- *Fertility :*
  - Non-pregnant females 2 times in a row or alternating positive and negative A.I.
  - Renewal female non-pregnant at the first A.I.
- *Prolificacy:* Females with less than 25 rabbits born alive during 3 births or with a number of stillborn rabbits too important.
- *Weaning results.*
- *Irregular results.*
- *Number of births:* more than 15 births (to adapt according to the herd). The performance begins to decrease from 10 births.

Computer programs for management of individual performance are very effective tools for the selection of females to cull and to analyze the causes of culling.

The monitoring of the main causes of culling, more particularly sanitary causes, ensure to adapt the programs of disease prevention, preparation and feeding.