

Renewal with one day old rabbits

This section indicates the different stages of the program for the adoption, the feeding and the preparation of future breeders received at the age of one day. These recommendations are for Parental females (P.) and Grand Parental females (G.P.).

1) The selection of adoptive females

→ Define the number of females required for the adoption according to the number of rabbits batches to be received (8/9 rabbits per female). This number is indicated on your renewal schedule (Doc-cial-012).



Allow 1 or 2 extra females to replace a female which does not suckle the adopted litter.

→ No females in the 1st or the 2nd birth, prefer females between the 3rd and the 8th birth.

→ The adoptive female must have weaned all its rabbits during the previous birth and showed good maternal qualities during its career.

→ The female must not have health problems: respiratory problems, foot injuries, mastitis...

2) The preparation of adoptive females

→ The day before delivery, remove all the young rabbits from the selected females and maintain the structure of the nest (hair, chips).

→ Close access to the nest


3) The receipt of rabbits

→ The young rabbits were suckled before departure.

→ Upon receipt of the animals, put each batch (8 or 9 rabbits) in the nest box of the adoptive female and maintain **the access to the nest closed**.

→ Feed the young rabbits **30 minutes after their introduction**.

→ Check that all rabbits have been drinking.

 If one rabbit does not drink, let it alone a few moments with the adoptive female in the nest box. Then remove the female and put back the other rabbits maintaining access to the nest closed.

→ Make a lactation control during at least 3 or 4 days.

4) The weaning of rabbits

→ At the weaning, sort the future breeders on their health aspect.

→ Vaccinate animals against myxomatosis and variant form of V.H.D. (Fact No. 6.2).


→ Transfer the animals in breeding cages.

→ Follow the feeding program fitted to the meat rabbits (Fact n°. 4.1).

5) The individualization of stockers at 10 weeks of age

→ Before meat rabbits go to the slaughter house, control the sex of the future breeders and sort them on their health aspect (respiratory, abscess....) as well as their weight.

→ Transfer these animals in individual cages.

 **At 11 weeks of age**, perform the 2nd vaccination against myxomatosis and variant form of V.H.D. and the 1st vaccination against the classic form of V.H.D. (Fact No. 6.2).

6) From individualization to reproduction starting

→ It is better to distribute a feed type « maternity » (for lactation) for the preparation of the young females because it is well balanced in vitamins, amino acids and minerals.

 **The recommendations are set out in digestible energy / day:**

➤ **From 10 to 14 weeks : 400 kcal / day,**

➤ **From 14 weeks to 1 week before 1st A.I.: 350 kcal / day.**

The growth curve for P. and G.P. females is on page 3 (Fi-cial-009).

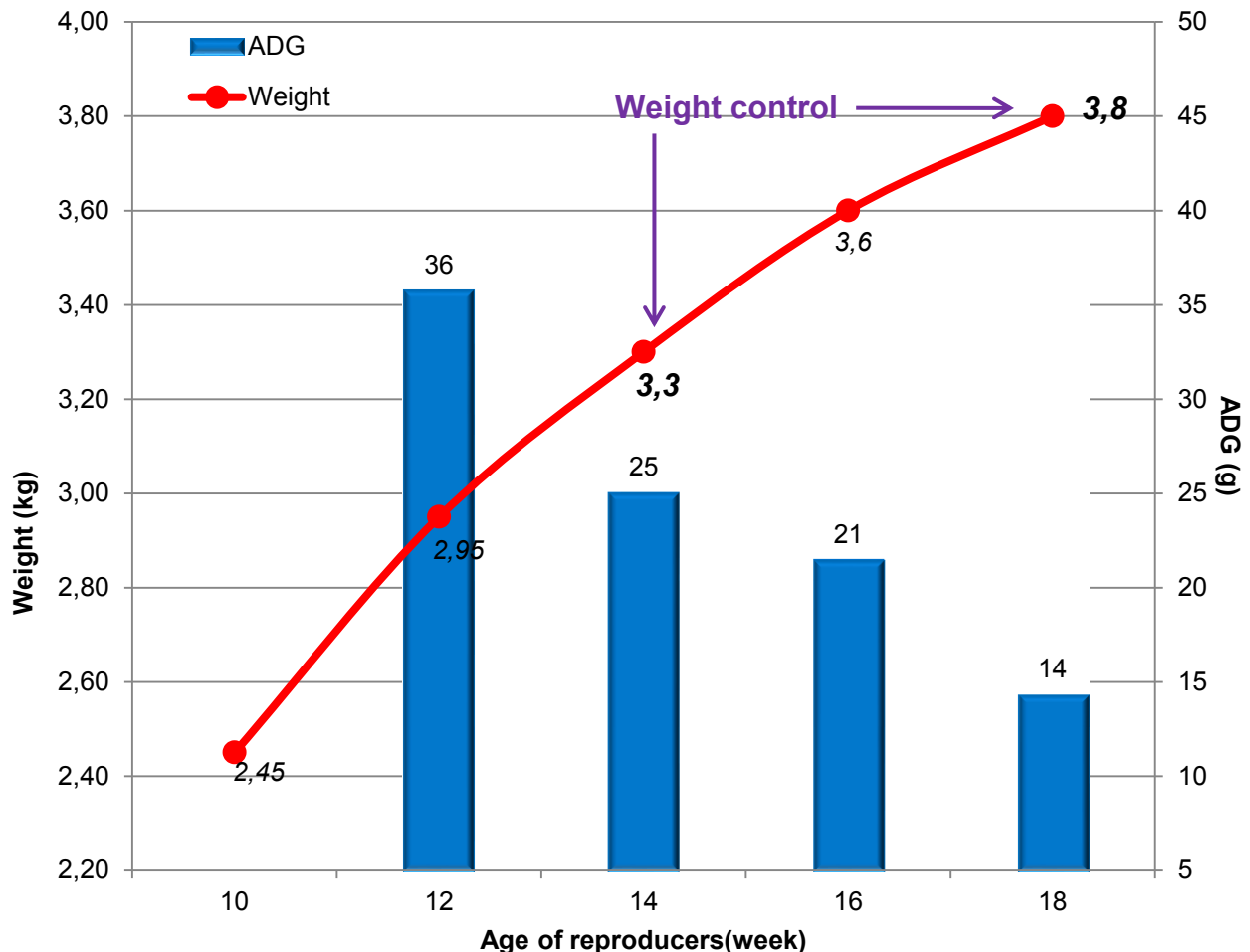
For a good preparation of the animals, it is advisable to realize two weight controls:

➤ **at 14 weeks:** objective of **3.3 / 3.4 kg**. The feeding program will be adjusted according to the average weight of the animals compared with the objective.

Eliminate animals too light.

➤ **1 week before A.I.,** objective of **3.7 / 3.9 kg**. At this stage, it is better to have an average weight lighter (3.7 kg) than a too heavy group (4.0 kg or more).

Growth curve for P. and GP. females



This curve is given as an indication. The feeding program (type of feed, rationing) should be adjusted to be as close as possible to objective weights (Objective at A.I.: 3.7 to 3.9 kg).

7) One week before A.I.

→ Follow the procedure in the Fact No. 3.1.

→ In 42 days cycle, the first A.I. is made at 19 weeks of age.



Regular monitoring of the average weight of the group and right follow-up of rationing program during the preparation of future stockers are cornerstones for the successful technical and economic performance of livestock.