

CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLOBAL WARMING

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A review of heat stroke and its complications in rabbit's productivity and performance

Still, there is a wide gap between meat demand and production in Egypt. Moreover, the cost of feed stuff is very high due to the land-locked situation which leads to an increase in the cost of livestock production. In this context; rabbits provide a new avenue for meat production and could play a major role in enhancing the supply of animal protein. In Egypt, rabbit breeding farms is expanding; this is mainly attributable to the rabbit's high rate of reproduction, genetic selection potentials, rapid growth rate, early maturity, efficient feed utilization and high value of meat. However, the most obvious limitation to rabbit production in Egypt as an example for south Mediterranean region is hot waves during the summer time, especially during the last two decades. Another limitation is the susceptibility of this species to acclimate with environmental stress. Heat stress mainly occurs when animals are exposed to high ambient temperatures, high humidity, low wind speed, and high direct and indirect solar radiation. The thermo-neutral zone (TNZ) temperature for rabbits is around 18–21°C. Therefore, in south Mediterranean region, the high temperature or heat stress, hinder the success of rabbit farming, as it leads to a significant reduction in the daily weight gain, daily feed intake and feed efficiency. Similarly, the milk yield of does maximized at 15°C ambient temperature was reduced substantially. The critical temperature for heat stress in rabbits is around 28°C. The critical temperature for heat stress in rabbits is around 28°C. The critical temperature for heat stress in rabbits is around 28°C.

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