1949 RABBIT MANAGEMENT STUDY

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

An Analysis and Summary of 13 Rabbitry Records

HIGH PRODUCTION = PROFITS

	Pounds Produced per Doe	Farm Income per Doe
High Profit Group	119.2	$10.36
Low Profit Group	100.0	-.14
Average All Records	111.0	6.36

A. T. Dietz
Farm Advisor, Los Angeles County

Wallace Sullivan,
Extension Specialist in Farm Management

TABLE 1.

PROFITS (THE PAYOFF) = INCOME – COST.

1. INCOME per Doe = Rabbit Sales + Fur and Pelts + Increase in Stock and Miscellaneous

	Income	Management Income	
Record # 1	$31.63	$ 4.10	)
Record #12	21.43	-16.37	) HIGH PRODUCTION PER UNIT MAKES FOR HIGH PROFITS
Average All	28.14	- 4.01	)

2. COSTS = Feed 58.6% + Labor 28.4% + Interest and Depreciation 8% + All other 5%

	Total Costs	Management Income	
Record # 1	$27.53	$ 4.10	)
Record #12	37.80	-16.37	) LOW COSTS PER UNIT MAKE HIGH PROFITS
Average All	32.15	- 4.01	)

THE DOE IS THE UNIT OF PRODUCTION

MAXIMUM PROFITS DEPEND UPON: –

High output per unit

Low cost per unit

MAKE EACH UNIT PAY

TABLE 1. GENERAL SUMMARY OF INCOME AND COSTS PER DOE

Rank	Income					Expenses							Management Income	Farm Income*
	Rabbit Sales	Pelts, Fur & Wool	Manure, Sacks, etc.	Change in Stock Inv.	Total Income	Feed	Labor	Rabbits Bought	Misc.	Depreciation	Interest @ 5%	Total Expense		
#	$29.62	$ .77	$1.95	$ 5.08	$37.42	$16.20	$ 7.12	$1.74	$5.13	$1.81	$1.28	$33.28	$ 4.14	$12.54
1	31.50	.16	.19	-.22	31.63	19.16	6.20	.65	.25	.45	.82	27.53	4.10	11.12
2	31.03	-	1.01	.72	32.76	18.02	10.24	.26	.95	1.25	1.28	32.00	.76	12.20
3	29.21	.19	1.58	.43	31.41	16.93	9.68	1.90	.22	1.51	1.18	31.42	-.01	10.85
4	26.21	.13	.71	-.54	26.51	16.85	7.45	.04	2.00	1.04	.97	28.35	-1.84	5.01
5	25.62	.04	.62	-.89	25.39	17.13	5.87	.29	1.89	1.36	1.31	27.85	-2.46	4.66
6	26.63	.23	.67	1.45	28.98	19.14	8.23	.07	1.40	1.51	1.86	32.21	-3.23	6.47
7	26.93	.39	.28	.03	27.63	19.99	9.48	.18	.33	.63	1.16	31.77	-4.14	6.50
8	9.71	.16	.43	16.75	27.05	12.34	18.75	-	.73	.94	1.16	33.92	-6.87	13.04
9	26.22	.20	1.00	5.73	33.15	21.04	11.34	.63	2.03	1.89	3.61	40.54	-7.39	7.56
10	26.71	.02	.73	-4.54	22.92	16.23	9.54	.84	1.48	3.08	2.65	33.82	-10.90	1.29
11	24.48	.18	1.07	-1.45	24.28	23.51	11.70	-	1.45	1.55	1.98	40.19	-15.91	-2.23
12	21.82	.15	.76	-1.30	21.43	18.18	12.89	3.70	.43	1.24	1.36	37.80	-16.37	-2.16
High 4	30.18	.10	.69	.09	31.06	18.15	8.08	.56	.77	.92	1.03	29.51	1.55	10.36
Low 4	24.33	.15	.90	-.97	24.41	20.15	11.61	1.38	1.22	1.79	2.15	38.30	-13.89	-.14
Av.All	27.33	.16	.67	-.02	28.14	18.84	9.12	.65	.96	1.17	1.41	32.15	-4.01	6.36

*Farm income includes management income plus value of family labor and interest on investment.

#Not included in averages in any table. Not typical fryer production herd.

The above table shows the main factors of income and expenses for each record in the study with averages for the four high and four low and all records. Each record is given a serial number and they are arranged in descending management income per doe and are kept in the same order in subsequent tables.

The breeding doe is the individual producing unit and total effort should be made to obtain the maximum output at the lowest cost per doe. To get high net income, low producing does and unnecessary costs must be eliminated.

Note the wide variation in income, $21.43 to $33.15; also costs $27.53 to $40.54. Management income (the payoff) varied from $4.10 to a loss of $16.37. Why this great difference?

Subsequent tables will analyze in greater detail these major factors in search for the answer.

TABLE 2.

PROFITS DEPEND UPON:

1. HIGH OUTPUT PER DOE

NUMBER KINDLINGS × NUMBER PER KINDLING — DEATH LOSSES = NUMBER PRODUCED

	No.Kindlings	No.Kindled	Death Losses	No.Raised	Management Income
Record # 1	4.3	8.1	9.3	25.5	$ 4.10
Record #12	4.2	7.2	11.9	18.3	-16.37
Average All	4.3	7.9	9.3	24.7	- 4.01

CUT DOWN DEATH LOSSES

2. POUNDS OF MEAT SOLD

	Number Produced	Average Weight Fryers Sold	Total Pounds Produced
Record # 1	25.5	4.6	124.5
Record #12	18.3	4.5	74.6
Average All	24.7	4.4	111.0

SAVE THE YOUNG

TABLE 2. PRODUCTION AND OUTPUT PER DOE

Rank	Breeding Does				Kindlings per Doe**	No. per Kindling	Young Raised per Doe	% Raised of Kindled	Pounds Produced per Doe	Pounds Fryers Sold per Doe	Avg. Weight of Fryers Sold	Management Income	Farm Income
	Avg. No.*	% Mortality	% Sold	% Added									
#	35.6	8.4	112.4	143.3	4.0	6.8	21.4	78.0	96.2	69	4.3	$ 4.14	$12.54
1	260.0	36.9	105.8	141.5	4.3	8.1	25.5	71.9	124.5	115	4.6	4.10	11.12
2	206.3	22.3	134.8	170.1	4.4	8.0	26.9	76.2	122.8	105	4.3	.76	12.20
3	70.7	75.0	31.1	106.1	3.9	7.5	24.0	82.5	107.0	111	4.4	-.01	10.85
4	114.7	22.7	47.1	52.3	4.6	7.3	26.1	77.3	107.9	103	4.0	-1.84	5.01
5	141.5	39.6	58.0	81.3	4.2	8.3	24.6	71.5	100.0	95	4.1	-2.46	4.66
6	86.1	47.6	65.0	133.5	4.1	8.0	24.9	76.6	107.2	99	4.5	-3.23	6.47
7	231.1	49.8	100.8	144.5	4.3	8.0	24.1	70.1	117.7	106	4.6	-4.14	6.50
8	16.8	17.9	59.5	357.1	2.4	5.7	11.7	84.1	63.6	26	4.4	-6.87	13.04
9	55.3	32.5	99.5	173.6	5.3	7.7	27.6	68.4	122.7	100	4.3	-7.39	7.56
10	73.1	35.6	94.4	87.6	4.0	7.7	22.7	74.0	95.2	98	4.0	-10.90	1.29
11	140.3	47.8	116.2	177.5	4.8	8.7	27.2	64.4	115.2	98	4.1	-15.91	-2.23
12	119.1	105.8	59.6	146.1	4.2	7.2	18.3	61.4	74.6	84	4.5	-16.37	-2.16
High 4	162.9	33.9	96.5	131.0	4.4	7.9	25.9	75.2	119.2	109	4.4	1.55	10.36
Low 4	97.0	61.1	92.3	150.3	4.5	7.9	23.7	65.9	100.0	94	4.2	-13.89	- .14
Av.All	126.3	44.4	90.3	136.0	4.3	7.9	24.7	71.7	111.0	102	4.4	-4.01	6.36

*Average number on hand at beginning of each month.

**Breeding programs usually call for 5 kindlings in 12-14 months. Averages may be affected by the mortality and replacement practices, however.

This table analyzes rabbit production and shows the results of certain management practices used by cooperators in this study. Breeding does' statistics are determined by dividing the total of each by the average number of does in the herd during the year.

There is a wide variation in the size of the herd in this study. A family sized operation is usually 200-300 working does or larger, depending on the income requirements of the family. The high profit group averaged larger herds than the low profit group indicating that layer operations are more efficient.

TABLE 3.

PROFITS WILL DEPEND UPON:

1. REDUCING FEED COST – 58.6% of all costs

FEED COSTS = POUNDS OF FEED X PRICE PER CWT.

	Pounds	Price per Cwt.	Total Cost	Management Income
Record # 1	561	$3.42	$19.16	$ 4.10
Record #11	668	3.52	23.51	-15.91
Average All	536	3.52	18.84	- 4.01

Reduce Quantity By:
a. Prevent waste - Above and below feed trough
b. Reduce death losses
c. Feed only necessary replacements and bucks

Reduce Price By:
a. Buying in quantity
b. Utilizing low cost feedstuffs

2. REDUCE LABOR COSTS – 28.4% of all costs

LABOR COSTS = NUMBER OF HOURS X RATE PER HOUR

	Hours	Rate	Total
Record # 1	8.3	$ .75	$ 6.20
Record #11	15.6	.75	11.70
Average All	12.2	.75	9.12

USE LABOR SAVING DEVICES – GOOD LAYOUT – REDUCE DEATH LOSSES

TABLE 3. ANALYSIS OF LABOR AND FEED COSTS, SALES AND PRICES

Rank	Hours Labor per Doe	Pounds Feed per Doe*	Per Cent Pellets*	Avg. Price Pellets	Avg. Price All Feed**	Average Price per Lb.			Sales per Doe			
						Young Fryers	Old Meat Rabbits	Breeding Stock	Young Meat Rabbits	Old Meat Rabbits	Breeding Stock	Total Sales
#	9.5	477	99	$3.38	$3.39	25.9¢	14.6¢	97.8¢	$18.07	$1.61	$9.94	$29.62
1	8.3	561	75	3.73	3.42	25.8	13.0	48.2	29.76	1.51	.23	31.50
2	13.6	514	87	3.62	3.51	26.4	18.0	51.8	27.61	2.65	.77	31.03
3	12.9	464	90	3.77	3.65	25.1	18.7	37.9	27.98	.55	.68	29.21
4	9.9	484	97	3.46	3.50	24.0	15.1	47.3	24.91	.85	.45	26.21
5	7.8	488	99	3.51	3.51	25.3	14.1	83.7	24.13	.93	.56	25.62
6	11.2	499	84	4.00	3.83	25.7	13.3	44.6	25.31	.98	.34	26.63
7	12.6	547	79	3.66	3.65	23.9	13.1	52.9	25.25	1.47	.21	26.93
8	25.0	302	100	4.04	4.09	25.7	23.6	25.2	6.71	2.22	.78	9.71
9	15.1	616	100	3.42	3.42	24.0	12.2	50.2	24.04	1.19	.99	26.22
10	12.7	450	91	3.58	3.60	25.5	17.9	-	24.93	1.78	-	26.71
11	15.6	668	100	3.52	3.52	23.4	12.7	-	22.84	1.64	-	24.48
12	17.2	455	100	3.99	3.99	24.3	12.1	47.5	20.38	.81	.63	21.82
High 4	10.8	522	84	3.65	3.48	25.6	15.5	47.8	28.04	1.65	.49	30.18
Low 4	15.5	554	99	3.63	3.64	24.1	13.4	48.6	22.65	1.35	.33	24.33
Av.All	12.2	536	87	3.65	3.52	25.0	14.4	50.0	25.48	1.44	.41	27.33

* Feed converted to a pellet equivalent on the basis of total digestible nutrients. Conversion factors used: Grain 123, Manna and other supplemental feed 125, Pellets 100, Greens 23, Hay 78. By doing this, more accurate comparisons may be made between different types of feeding practices.

** Pellet equivalent

TABLE 4.

THE PAYOFF:-

POUNDS OF MEAT X PRICE PER POUND — COSTS PER POUND = PROFITS

	Income per Lb.	Costs per Lb.	Management Income	Farm Income
Record # 1	25.3¢	22.0¢	3.3¢	8.9¢
Record #12	29.2	51.1	-21.9	-2.9
Average All	24.6	28.2	- 3.6	5.8

Costs per pound can be reduced by:

1. High output per unit (doe)

   a. Total fixed cost - Divided over more units
   b. Reducing death losses - Live ones pay cost of dead ones
   c. Culling out non-producing stock

2. Efficient feeding

   a. Use balanced rations
   b. Buy in quantity
   c. Prevent waste - Feed on the ground does not fatten rabbits
      Feed eaten by culls is wasted

3. Save labor

   a. Good layout
   b. Labor-saving devices

4. Good management practices

EVERY INPUT AND COST SHOULD BE TESTED BY:

WILL IT PAY?
WILL INCREASED YIELDS MORE THAN COVER THE COST?

TABLE 4. ANALYSIS OF COSTS, SALES AND INCOME PER POUND OF MEAT PRODUCED

Rank	Feed	Labor	Rabbits Bought	Misc.	Depreciation	Interest	Total Expense	Misc. Income*	Net Cost	Avg. Value per Lb. Sold	Management Income	Farm Income	Hours Labor	Pounds Feed
#	16.8¢	7.4¢	1.8¢	5.4¢	1.9¢	1.3¢	34.6¢	8.1¢	26.5¢	30.8¢	4.3¢	13.0¢	.10	4.9
1	15.4	5.0	.5	.2	.4	.6	22.1	.1	22.0	25.3	3.3	8.9	.07	4.5
2	14.6	8.4	.2	.8	1.0	1.0	26.0	1.4	24.6	25.2	.6	9.9	.11	4.1
3	15.8	9.1	1.8	.2	1.4	1.1	29.4	2.1	27.3	27.3	-	10.2	.12	4.3
4	15.6	6.9	-	1.8	1.0	.9	26.2	.2	26.0	24.3	-1.7	4.7	.09	4.5
5	17.1	5.9	.3	1.9	1.3	1.3	27.8	-.2	28.0	25.6	-2.4	4.7	.08	4.9
6	17.9	7.6	.1	1.3	1.4	1.8	30.1	2.3	27.8	24.8	-3.0	6.1	.10	4.7
7	17.0	8.0	.1	.3	.5	1.0	26.9	.5	26.4	22.9	-3.5	5.5	.11	4.7
8	19.4	29.5	-	1.2	1.5	1.8	53.4	27.3	26.1	15.3	-10.8	20.5	.39	4.7
9	17.2	9.2	.5	1.7	1.5	2.9	33.0	5.7	27.3	21.3	-6.0	6.1	.12	5.0
10	17.1	10.0	.9	1.6	3.2	2.8	35.6	-4.0	39.6	28.1	-11.5	1.3	.13	4.7
11	20.4	10.2	-	1.3	1.3	1.7	34.9	- .1	35.0	21.2	-13.8	- 1.9	.14	5.8
12	24.3	17.3	4.9	.6	1.7	1.8	50.6	- .5	51.1	29.2	-21.9	- 2.9	.23	6.1
High 4	15.2	6.8	.5	.6	.8	.9	24.8	.8	24.0	25.3	1.3	8.7	.09	4.4
Low 4	20.1	11.6	1.4	1.2	1.8	2.2	38.3	.1	38.2	24.3	-13.9	-.1	.15	5.5
Av.All	17.0	8.2	.6	.9	1.0	1.3	29.0	.8	28.2	24.6	-3.6	5.8	.11	4.8

* Includes fur, pelts, manure, sacks, and change in stock inventory.

This study on costs, returns and management practices was conducted in cooperation with 13 cooperating rabbit producers in Los Angeles County in the calendar year, 1949. The analyses shown in these tables represent only the records of these rabbitries as reported by the cooperators and is not intended to represent the industry.

A. T. Dietz
Farm Advisor, Los Angeles County