Rabbitry Observations Check List

A. Feeding

- How long have you been feeding product in question? _____.
- Do you use supplements? Yes / No If yes, what & how much?

- Do you control feed / full feed rabbits?
- If rabbits are control fed how much is fed per day? Adult Males_____. Adult Females_____. Lactating Does _____.
  At what age are kits weaned _____? Kits are full fed to what age _____.
- Are rabbits fed by weight or by volume? Purina feed is formulated for constant nutrition so 6oz of feed can displace various amount of volume. A feeding cup should be checked for correct amount of weight with each lot of feed.

B. Feed Storage Room

- Check for evidence of pests (rodent, spider, flies, bugs, cats, dogs etc). Yes / No
  Comments: _____
- Temperature and humidity of feed room. Record if possible. _____Degrees _____% Humidity
- Any odors of mold and or chemicals in the feed room. Yes / No
- Check for feed mites along sewing edges of feed bags. Yes / No
- Check date codes on bags for freshness and that the oldest feed is stored in a way for proper feed rotation. (First in first out).

C. Rabbitry Confines

- When first entering rabbitry does the air make your eyes burn or cause difficult breath? If so, excess ammonia has built up in the rabbitry and there needs to be more frequent air exchange.
- Remove a few feeders if possible and check for cleanliness on the rabbit side of feeder. Check for moldy feed build up from over feeding rabbits. Mold happens primarily in the hot humid summer months.
- Cage flooring should be free of feces. If feces are not removed daily, it increases the chances of coccidia in the rabbitry and diarrhea problems are likely to develop.
- Check for air blowing directly on rabbits which can cause respiratory problems.

Rabbitry Observations Check List

- Check nest boxes for cleanliness and that they are dry. In winter months, check for adequate bedding material in nest boxes. Nest boxes made of metal should have wooden inserts so kits do not touch the metal bottom causing hyperthermia.
- Lighting should be on a timer allowing for 15 to 16 hours of light for reproduction. Various other recommendations for fur enhancement can be found in the ARBA Raising Better Rabbits Guide Book.

D. Water supply

1) Rabbits watered with open water containers:

- Check for feces and or urine in container.
- Check for mineral buildup of lime, iron, etc. making water container porous and increasing the likely-hood of harboring bad bacteria.
- How are the water containers cleaned and with what frequency?
- How frequently are containers dumped out and fresh water added?

2) Rabbits watered with an automatic watering system:

- Check that there is a way of flushing the water system. If there are dead end lines, bacteria will eventually create problems such as diarrhea in all life stages.
- What kind of water supply is being used (city, private well or cistern.)
- If city water is being used, does the city chlorinate the water supply?
- If private water supply is being used, watering system should be purged with chlorinated water at a rate of one tablespoon per gallon of water. Let chlorinated water stay in water lines for 15 to 20 minutes, then purge lines with fresh clean water. This should be done weekly and more frequently if there is a diarrhea problem in the rabbitry.

E. Rabbits Appearance & Condition

- Check ears for mites torn or missing portions of ears indicate poor management /sanitation.
- Check for nasal discharge or wet and matted fur on inside of front legs. This would indicate respiratory problems.
- Check bottom of front and hind feet for sore hocks and bottom of front feet for sore, infected, or bleeding areas which indicates poor management / sanitation.
- Check fur for cleanliness. Cages may be clean currently, however if cages were dirty previously the fur will still be stained from previous poor management / sanitation.
- Check rabbits for vent disease indicated by a scabby, reddened vent and / or sex organ.

F. Entering a Rabbitry

- Limit rabbitry visits to one rabbitry per day or shower and make a complete change of clothing so as not to transmit a disease from one rabbitry to another.

RABBIT PRODUCTION PRECAUTIONS

"We do the research, so you don't have to"

PURINA MILLS RABBIT CHOW

1. Always take the doe to the buck's cage. He needs to establish dominance, and this is best accomplished on his "own turf."

2. Check condition of rabbits – are they over or under weight, or just right? Use the ARBA book for proper weight range for breed of rabbit.

   A.) Over weight: full feeding or not restricting feed intake will cause rabbits to become fat. We recommend weaning rabbits at 28 days, if weaned later the doe could become overweight, as well.

   B.) Under weight: monitor control feeding in winter months. If feed intake is not increased during these critical months, rabbits could be under recommended weight range. At Gray Summit, we obtain the body weight of the doe at breeding, and record weight on production card. A slight increase in weight as does age, is normal.

   C.) Body weight is just right.

      1.) You need at least 14 light hours each day – some people recommend 16 light hours each day.

      2.) Good air quality is important to the well-being of rabbits. Indoor cages may lead to possible high build-up of ammonia. High moisture in building could cause respiratory problems. If your nose and eyes become irritated, this is the first sign of poor air quality. Clean the rabbitry often to reduce ammonia fumes, and increase the amount of fresh air allowed into rabbitry.

      3.) Water is your most important nutrient. Access to a fresh water supply on a daily basis is important to the well-being of rabbits. If water becomes frozen, it could lead to dehydration. Rabbits drink twice as much as they eat. If they do not drink, they will not eat. Would you drink water that has been sitting around for two days?

      4.) Protect rabbits from cold drafts and wet blowing winds.

   D.) At the Gray Summit Rabbitry, we have produced over 300 # of rabbit meat per year, per doe cage using the Advanced Nutrition Professional Formula diet.

All studies conducted at Purina Mills Research Center located in Gray Summit, MO.

For more information, log onto www.rabbitnutrition.com

RABBIT MANAGEMENT
FIRST AID KIT

PRODUCT	PURPOSE
Safety Glasses	Protection
Face Mask	Protection
Rubber Gloves	Protection
Rubbing Alcohol	Sterilization
Hydrogen Peroxide	Cuts and open wounds
Gauze	Cuts and open wounds
Wound Antiseptic	Cuts and open wounds
Band-Aids	Cuts and open wounds
Antibiotic Ointment	Cuts and open wounds
Medical Tape	Wounds
Surgical Blade	Lancing
Anti-bacterial cloths	Sanitation for hands
Nail Clippers	Trim nails
Wire Cutters	Trim Teeth
Spray Bottles	Apply Liquids
Cotton Balls	Apply Liquids
Tweezers	Apply liquids
Terramycin Ointment	Weepy Eye
Neosporin Ointment	Sore Hocks
Mineral Oil	Ear Mites or Hair Ball
Papaya Tablets	Hairball
Syringes	Mineral oil dosages
Q-Tips	Swab ears or nose
Blue Star Ointment	Ringworm
Instant Cold Packs	Overheating