

Angora Welfare Quality Assessment Programme

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| Farm Assessed: | Feixian Farm, Mazhuang Village, Fei Town, Fei County, Shandong Province, China |
| Date of Last Assessment: (physical visit to farm) | 19 th February 2014 |
| Assessor(s): | William Sichel ROYALANGORA SRL |
| Date Feedback Provided to the Farm: | 21st March 2014 |
| Quality Standards to be improved: | 4.3, 4.4, 5.5, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5 |
| Date of Interim Assessment: (photographs and skype) | 15th October 2014 |
| Date of Next Inspection: (Physical Visit) | 19th February 2016 |

Each of the following standards are reviewed by the Welfare Assessor and the appropriate feedback is supplied. Any areas where the welfare standards have not been achieved have been 'referred' and remedial action will be required before any accreditation can be awarded.

Reasonable time frames will be agreed collaboratively from the date of the assessment to rectify any quality issues that do not meet the required standards. The Welfare Assessor will suggest initiatives to ensure you meet the required level upon your next inspection. These quality standards represent the minimum standards of welfare for angora rabbits reared for commercial purposes. Silver and gold standards are available upon request.

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| Quality Criteria | ✓ x |
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1. Overall Health

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| 1.1 | Rabbit have clear bright eyes. | ✓ |
| 1.2 | Rabbits have a good posture with vigorous movements if unduly disturbed. | ✓ |
| 1.3 | Rabbits are actively feeding and drinking. | ✓ |
| 1.4 | Stools are in the form of firmish dark-coloured pellets. | ✓ |
| 1.5 | Rabbits have clean and healthy wool and skin. | ✓ |
| 1.6 | Rabbits groom themselves on a regular basis. | ✓ |

Assessor Comments: The Assessor was impressed with the overall health and vigour of the rabbits which was evident on entering each building. The small number of rabbits in the 'sick bay' area, understandably, didn't display all the healthy signs listed above.

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| Quality Criteria | ✓ x |
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2. General Housing

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| 2.1 | Building accommodation is designed and maintained so as to avoid injury or distress to the rabbits. | ✓ |
| 2.2 | There is no paint, preservative or residue that will be harmful to the rabbit inside the pens. | ✓ |
| 2.3 | The type and arrangement of accommodation allows for efficient working and for each rabbit to be properly inspected. | ✓ |
| 2.4 | Internal surfaces of housing, pens, hutches or cages are made of materials which can be effectively cleaned and disinfected, or can be easily replaced when necessary. | ✓ |
| 2.5 | Ventilation, heating, lighting, feeding and watering equipment, electrical installation and all other equipment are designed, sited and installed so as to avoid risk of injuring the rabbits. | ✓ |
| 2.6 | Dwarf walls or solid sides are avoided wherever possible. | ✓ |
| 2.7 | Adequate control measures are in place to avoid disturbance by rodents and other animals. | ✓ |
| 2.8 | Rabbits are fully visible during the hours of daylight. | ✓ |
| 2.9 | Lighting is readily available at night to enable inspection. | ✓ |

Assessor Comments:

3. Flooring

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| Wire Flooring: | | |
| 3.1 | Flooring is designed, constructed and maintained so as to avoid injury or distress to the rabbits. | N/A |
| 3.2 | For welded wire floors, mesh of suitable size is used. | N/A |
| 3.3 | Square mesh does not exceed 19mm x 19mm. | N/A |
| 3.4 | Rectangular mesh does not exceed 75mm x 12.5mm. | N/A |
| 3.5 | Wire of not less than 2.64mm diameter is recommended and should not in any case be less than 2.032mm. | N/A |
| 3.6 | Mesh is flat with any rough spots smoothed off. | N/A |
| 3.7 | Any wire used for the pens is galvanised. | N/A |
| 3.8 | Where appropriate there is an artificial hessian pad in place so that the rabbit can stand on it without stress to their feet | N/A |
| Solid Flooring | | |
| 3.9 | An ample supply of clean bedding is provided to ensure a dry lying area. | N/A |
| Bamboo Flooring: | | |
| 3.10 | The bamboo slats are smooth and comfortable for the rabbits | ✓ |
| 3.11 | Where appropriate there is an artificial hessian pad in place so that the rabbit can stand on it without stress to their feet. | ✓ |
| 3.12 | A slat cleaning routine is in place | ✓ |
| Assessor Comments: | | |
| The Assessor considered that the hessian sacking pads worked well in taking pressure off the rabbits' paws. | | |

4. Space Allowance

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| 4.1 | The total floor area is sufficient to enable the rabbits to move around and to feed and drink without difficulty. | ✓ |
| 4.2 | Minimum floor area for a single adult rabbit, up 4.5kg in weight, is not less than 0.42m ² . | ✓ |
| 4.3 | For rabbits heavier than 4.5kg , minimum floor area is 0.54m ² | x |
| 4.4 | Accommodation allows sufficient area so that all rabbits can lie on their sides other than at times when nesting boxes are used. | x |
| 4.5 | Account is taken of the height of the pens so that rabbits can demonstrate their natural behaviours, which include hopping and sitting with ears erect. | ✓ |
| 4.6 | Minimum height of 45cm for a single adult rabbit, up 4.5kg in weight. | ✓ |
| 4.7 | Minimum height of 50cm for a single adult rabbit, heavier than 4.5kg in weight. | ✓ |
| <p>Assessor Comments: The Assessor noted a number of rabbits over 4.5kg in weight which require a larger floor area. The owner indicated that they were investing in 7000 new pens, with a floor area of 0.54m². These would be used for rabbits heavier than 4.5kg. The farm manager confirmed in writing that the bigger pens would be in place by 30th April 2014. This will be confirmed at the next assessment.</p> <p>Follow up notes from interim inspection: During September and October 2014 points 4.3 and 4.4 were followed up by email correspondence with the Feixian Farm. On October 13th the assessor received photos, forwarded from the farm, of the larger cage size, as promised – 70cm across the front as opposed to 60cm – photo showed cage, rabbit and tape measure. The farm further stated that 95% of the planned larger cages had been installed by the beginning of October 2014. The veracity of this statement will be followed up at the next inspection in February 2016</p> | | |

5. Ventilation and Temperature

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| 5.1 | Ventilation rates and house conditions are at all times adequate to provide sufficient fresh air for the rabbits. | ✓ |
| 5.2 | The accumulations of ammonia, hydrogen sulphide, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and dust should be avoided at all costs. | ✓ |
| 5.3 | Care is taken to ensure that the ventilation system allowed adequate air flow below cages. | ✓ |
| 5.4 | Extremes of temperature are avoided. | ✓ |
| 5.5 | Excessive heat loss is prevented by the structural insulation of external walls and roof of the building, or by the provision of adequate bedding. | ✗ |
| 5.6 | There is an alarm system to warn the stockman of failure of any automated equipment. | N/A |
| 5.7 | Care is taken to protect confined rabbits from draughts in cold conditions. | ✓ |
| 5.8 | Conditions are avoided which could cause chilling in young rabbits just leaving the nest. | ✓ |
| 5.9 | Appropriate measures are taken to prevent temperatures rising to the point where heat stress, indicated by prolonged panting, occurs. | ✓ |
| <p>Assessor Notes: The geographic area of this farm experiences temperature extremes from winter to summer. The Assessor did not see any roof or wall insulation or any additional bedding. However, he observed that the volume of livestock and lack of wind seemed to prevent internal temperatures dropping too low. In summer it was confirmed that a section of wall is removed on the west side of each building and a water cooled material is hung up. The prevailing westerly winds then blow through this thereby cooling the incoming air. This will be reviewed at the next assessment.</p> <p>Follow up notes: This will be followed up during the assessment in February</p> | | |

6. Cleaning Routines

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| 6.1 | Frequent checks are made on the state of the bedding, if used. | N/A |
| 6.2 | A written cleaning rota is in place and clearly visible. | x |
| 6.3 | The cleaning rota details how deep-cleaning and thorough drying is to be undertaken before restocking. | x |
| 6.4 | The cleaning rota details frequency of deep-cleaning for all equipment. | x |
| 6.5 | The cleaning rota details frequency of thorough disinfection at suitable times to reduce the danger of continuing infection. | x |
| Assessor Notes: The Assessor was told that a cleaning rota was in place but didn't see this in writing. A cleaning rota will ensure that cleaning is done regularly. This will be reviewed at the next assessment. | | |

7. Emergencies

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| 7.1 | There are adequate plans in place for dealing with emergencies such as fire, flood or disruption of supplies. | ✓ |
| 7.2 | Arrangements are in place to exit the rabbits and house them in the event of a fire. | ✓ |
| 7.3 | All staff are familiar with the appropriate emergency action. | ✓ |
| 7.4 | At least one responsible member of the staff is always available to take the necessary action. | ✓ |
| 7.5 | Arrangements are in place if supplies of rabbit food or water are disrupted. | ✓ |
| 7.6 | Arrangements are in place to ensure that electrical services are restored if there are power outages. | ✓ |
| Assessor Notes: The above assessment was a retrospective verbal one. | | |

8. Food

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| 8.1 | Whether hoppers troughs or bowls are used, all rabbits receive a daily diet which is adequate to maintain health. | ✓ |
| 8.2 | Any new type of feed is introduced over a period of a few days. | ✓ |
| 8.3 | Appropriate food is supplied to maintain the angora rabbit in full health and vigour. | ✓ |
| 8.4 | There is no evidence of stale or contaminated food accumulating. | ✓ |
| 8.5 | If bowls are used they are designed so they cannot be knocked over. | |
| 8.6 | Hoppers, troughs and bowls are designed so that they can be cleaned easily. | ✓ |
| 8.7 | Feeders are easily accessible for all rabbits. | ✓ |
| 8.8 | When fed by any system which does not allow continuous and unrestricted access to feed, all rabbits in the group are able to feed at the same time. | N/A |
| Assessor Notes: | | |

9. Water

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| 9.1 | Water supply is fresh and continuous. | ✓ |
| 9.2 | Drinkers are easily accessible for the rabbits. | ✓ |
| 9.3 | To enable rabbits to drink satisfactorily the nipple drinker is approximately 25 cm from the bottom of the pen. | ✓ |
| 9.4 | Drinkers are clean. | ✓ |
| 9.5 | Efforts are made to minimise the risk of drinking water freezing. | ✓ |
| 9.6 | If water bowls are used, they are designed so they cannot be knocked over. | N/A |
| 9.7 | If water bowls are used, they are designed so that they can be cleaned easily. | N/A |
| Assessor Notes: | | |

10. Socialising and Exercise

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| 10.1 | Rabbits are able to see other rabbits either through side walls or in opposite pens. | ✓ |
| 10.2 | Wherever possible, rabbits of the same sex and from the same litter are housed together for companionship. | ✓ |
| 10.3 | To provide mental stimulation and preventing boredom, rabbits are given access to a communal exercise pen at least twice a week for periods of no less than one hour. | ✓ |
| 10.4 | Exercise pens are no smaller than 1820mm by 1210mm. | ✓ |
| Assessor Notes: | | |
| <p>The Assessor noted that the rabbits are given access to a communal exercise pen once a week, for a whole day, thus surpassing the minimum recommendations. The Assessor saw one of the pens but it wasn't being used on the day of the Assessment due to the snowy weather conditions. Socialising will be reviewed at the next assessment.</p> | | |

11. Toe nail trimming

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| 11.1 | Toe nail trimming of confined adult rabbits is conducted on a regular basis | ✓ |
| 11.2 | Care is taken when trimming to avoid damage to sensitive tissue. | ✓ |
| 11.3 | There is no evidence of rabbits with over-grown toe nails | ✓ |
| Assessor Notes: | | |

12. Marking

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| 12.1 | Where it is necessary to mark rabbits for permanent identification, marking is carried out by competent operators taking care to avoid unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress to the rabbits. | ✓ |
| 12.2 | All marking methods are painless. | ✓ |
| 12.3 | Stock are marked by tattoo, leg rings or marker pen. | ✓ |
| 12.4 | Ear tagging is not visible. | ✓ |
| 12.5 | Where a ring above the hock is used it is checked regularly to ensure it does not become tight, causing injury. | N/A |
| Assessor Notes: | | |

13. Wool Harvesting

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| 13.1 | All harvesting is conducted by clipping/shearing only. | ✓ |
| 13.2 | There is no evidence of any other harvesting methods. | ✓ |
| 13.3 | The shearing location is clean, calm and well set-up and designed to be low-stress for rabbits and shearer. | ✓ |
| 13.4 | Equipment used is safe and suitable. | ✓ |
| 13.5 | All shearers are fully trained in shearing a rabbit and can demonstrate their competence | ✓ |
| 13.6 | All necessary precautions are taken to avoid any nicks or cuts to the rabbit during shearing. | ✓ |
| 13.7 | In colder conditions a longer stubble is left on the rabbit to keep them warm. | ✓ |
| Assessor Notes: | | |
| The Assessor was impressed with the cool, calm and unhurried demeanour of the shearing staff. The rabbits were clearly used to being handled and were only lightly restrained by the shearer, holding the ears gently with one hand, whilst shearing with electric shears held in the other. Rabbits are sheared 4-5 times a year. | | |

14. Diagnosis and Treatment of Illness

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| 14.1 | Each rabbit is inspected frequently during the day. | ✓ |
| 14.2 | There is one Supervisor on duty at all times responsible for the overall welfare of the rabbits. | ✓ |
| 14.3 | There is one stockman per 5000 rabbits at any one time responsible for diagnosis and treatment of disease. | ✓ |
| 14.4 | Ailing rabbits receive medical assistance within 2 hours of being diagnosed. | ✓ |
| 14.5 | Stockmen are fully trained in the rapid diagnosis of distress or disease. | ✓ |
| 14.6 | Stockmen are trained to treat basic injuries, disease and parasitic infestations. | ✓ |
| 14.7 | Vaccinations, injections and similar procedures are undertaken by competent, trained operators. | ✓ |
| 14.8 | Some staff have veterinary training. | ✓ |
| 14.9 | There is no evidence of over-grown incisors. | ✓ |
| 14.10 | Where tooth-trimming is necessary, it is performed by a veterinary surgeon or by a competent trained operator. | ✓ |
| 14.11 | Where tooth trimming is necessary a wooden gnawing block is made available. | N/A |
| 14.12 | Ailing or injured rabbits should be segregated wherever possible and treated or, if necessary, be killed humanely without delay. | ✓ |
| Assessor Notes: | | |
| The Assessor inspected the 'sick bay' area where any 'off colour' rabbits were segregated and treated. There were signs of medication and droppers near to each rabbit. | | |

15. Breeding

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| 15.1 | Mating is supervised, and the possibility of fighting minimised. | ✓ |
| 15.2 | Does are to be taken to the buck. | ✓ |
| 15.3 | All care is taken to avoid injury and unnecessary disturbance of the rabbits during this process. | ✓ |
| 15.4 | Artificial insemination (AI) if used is carried out with the advice of a veterinary surgeon by competent, trained personnel | N/A |
| 15.5 | A high standard of hygiene is in place for the AI procedure. | N/A |
| Nest Box Method | | |
| 15.6 | The nest box is a minimum length of 300mm, with a minimum floor area of 150mm. | N/A |
| 15.7 | The nest has an entrance of not less than 0.023 m ² and is sufficiently large for the doe to pass through without difficulty or risk of injury. | N/A |
| 15.8 | The lowest side or end of an open-topped nest is not less than 15cm and every care is taken to ensure young rabbits cannot get out. | N/A |
| 15.9 | Litters under a week of age are disturbed as little as possible and young rabbits are not weaned before four weeks of age. | N/A |
| Basket Method | | |
| 15.10 | Baskets are large enough for the doe to move around without harming the young rabbits. | ✓ |
| 15.11 | Young rabbits are fed once a day by hand for the first 10 days. | ✓ |
| 15.12 | After 10 days the doe is encouraged to suckle her young unassisted in the basket | ✓ |
| 15.13 | Young rabbits are kept warm to ensure they thrive. | ✓ |
| 15.14 | Young rabbits are not weaned before four weeks of age. | ✓ |
| 15.15 | Sufficient staff are on hand to properly manage the processes involved. | ✓ |
| Assessor Notes: The innovative basket method, although labour intensive, resulted in fewer losses of very young rabbits. | | |

Overall Recommendations:

The Assessor was impressed with the attitude of the management, the overall clean and tidy appearance of the farm and outbuildings and the inside of the sheds. The staff quietly went about their business with no impression of being rushed or under any kind of time pressure. Shearing was well managed and the basket method used for breeding was very innovative.

Pen size and cleaning rotas were of concern but if these are addressed before the next assessment it is the view of the assessor that this farm will achieve the Bronze Standard at that point.