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# Effect of feed restriction programs and slaughter age on digestive efficiency, growth performance and body composition of growing rabbits

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## Highlights

- A mild feed restriction during the first weeks after weaning improves rabbit digestive health.
- Two weeks of re-feeding are sufficient to recover performance after mild restriction.
- Day-by-day restriction and re-feeding avoids large fluctuations in feeding behaviour.
- One-week delay in slaughter age increases nitrogen excretion in the fattening sector by 32%.

## Abstract

The effects of the feeding system (*ad libitum* vs. restricted) and the restriction programs (daily vs. weekly base) were evaluated on 300 commercial crossbred rabbits housed individually from weaning (37 d) until slaughter (at 73 d and 80 d of age). During the first three weeks, restricted rabbits received

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