

Summary

Two hundred and nineteen Baladi rabbits of different ages were used throughout 6 experiments, obtained from a commercial grower in Assiut. The experiments were on feeding cottonseed meal; berseem with and without salt, and with and without water; berseem hay as a summer ration; comparison between berseem and a dry ration containing cottonseed meal; and supplementing minerals and vitamins. The following was concluded.

- 1- Cottonseed meal proved to be highly poisonous for rabbits. Mixing the CSM with 3.4% ferrous sulfate proved to be useful protein-rich food in rabbit rations at 10 and 20% of diet.
- 2- Addition of salt to berseem rations diminished the variability in the growth rate and improved the meat quality.
- 3- Rabbits have free water with green berseem need less TDNs per certain live weight increase and stimulated fat deposition in lean meat.
- 4- Female rabbits can breed on a dry ration containing 20% CSM treated with ferrous sulfate.
- 5- Females fed berseem breed less efficiently.
- 6- Summer breeding was not successful.
- 7- Rabbits fed on diets deficient in minerals and vitamins showed nervous seizure and convulsions and deaths.
- 8- Berseem hardly suffices the rabbits with Ca & P.

