

Operating a Rabbit Enterprise



Daniel Brown
GROWTEC Rabbits



**RABBIT
CENTRAL**

*Essential Rabbit
Management Software*

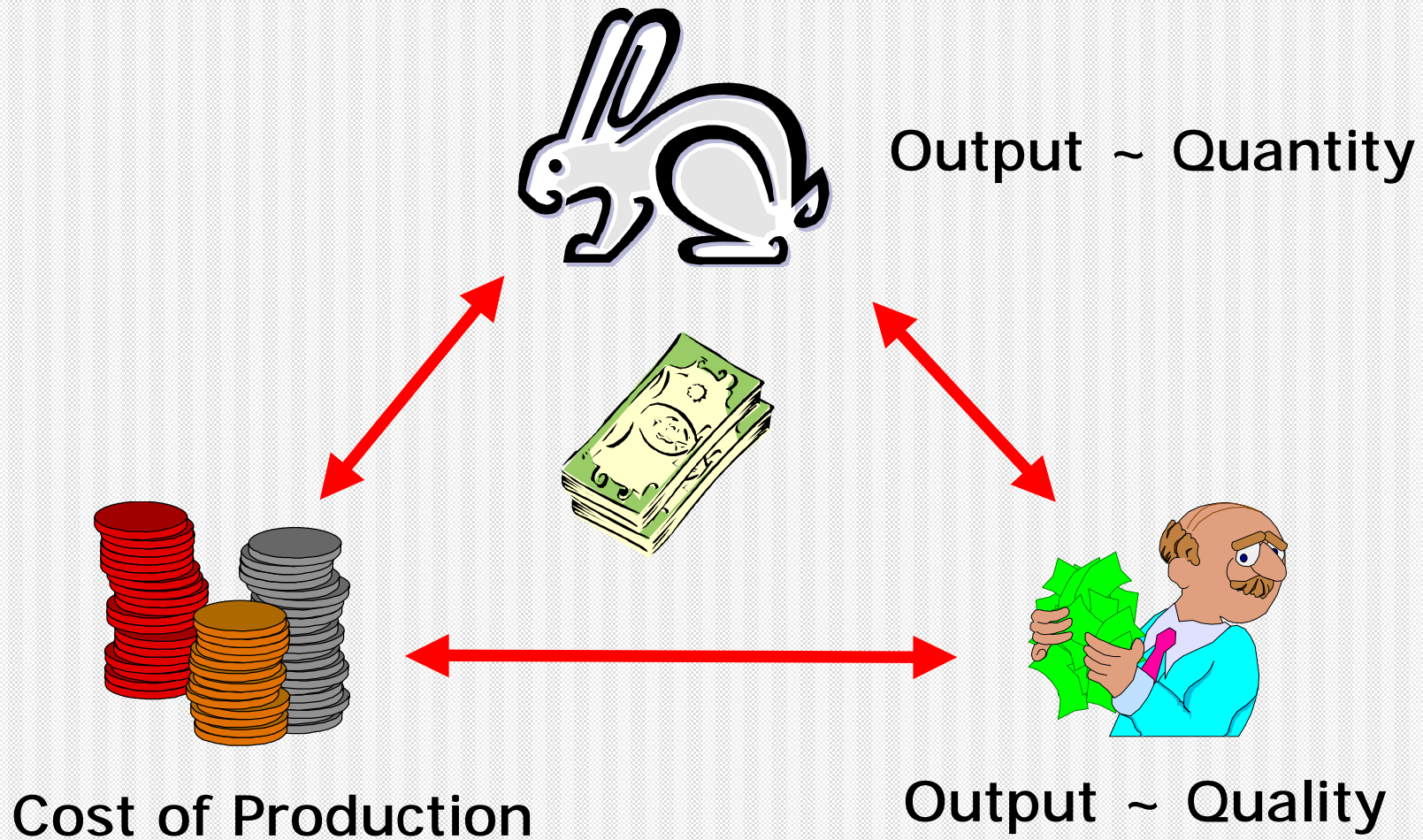
Background

- n Commercial since 1996
- n Major focus on breeding program
- n Labour efficient facilities
- n Designers and distributors of software and equipment
- n Rabbit related publications

GROWTEC Evolves

- n Recently merged forces with QAFR
- n Expand breeding program
- n Further develop existing products
- n New products, techniques and information
- n Vic and NSW breeding centres

Profitability?



You need to measure production



Output ~ Quantity

- n Slaughter and Breeder Rabbits
 - n More and heavier weaners and growers
- n Other sales
 - n Equipment
 - n Expertise / Information
 - n By Products
 - Manure
 - Worms / Castings

Weaners are GOLD!



Output ~ Quality

- n Sale Weight and Age
- n Carcase composition
- n Health
- n Value Add
 - n Breeders
 - n Processing
 - n Other products

Making Use of Outputs



Cost of Production

n Know Your Costs

n Variable Costs

- Feed
- Health
- Labour
- Misc

n Fixed Costs

- Interest
- Rates etc

n Feed Prices

n Shop around ~ make sure of quality

- Poor feed can cost you lots more!

n Produce your own feed



How to Achieve these targets

- n Know your situation
 - n What you are producing?
 - n What your real cost of production is?
- n Know what determines your bottom line
 - n What is your most limiting factor?
- n There are tools to help
 - n Management software
 - n CSIRO Farmer Model



Close Report

Daily Work Sheets
Data Entry
View
Tools
Data Inquiry
Data Analysis
Sales
Reports

Zoom 100%

Rabbit Reproductive Performance Evaluation

Report Produced on 12 March, 2002

Scored Traits: 5=Exc, 4=Above Av, 3=Av, 2=Below Av & 1=Poor

ID	NB	NBA	NW	%	LitWt	Awwt	Cnt Milk	Born	Fur	Mother Cnt	IKI
010033	6.2	6.2	1.6	0.3	1179.2	737.0	5				45.3
010034	6.4	6.4	3.4	0.5	2053.4	603.9	5				44.8
010071	7.0	7.0	6.0	0.9	3414.8	569.1	4				51.3
010073	5.6	5.6	4.8	0.9	2908.8	606.0	5				46.3
010079	6.0	6.0	3.8	0.6	2359.0	629.1	4				58.8
010095	5.0	5.0	2.6	0.5	2001.2	769.7	5				35.8
010097	5.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3				35.0
010107	4.0	4.0	1.0	0.3	815.0	815.0	2				92.0
010108	5.0	5.0	2.2	0.4	1520.2	691.0	5				38.8
010129	6.0	6.0	3.5	0.6	2587.0	739.1	4				73.3
010131	5.4	5.4	2.8	0.5	2400.8	857.4	5				56.0
010146	8.2	8.2	0.4	0.0	284.0	710.0	5				45.6
010147	7.5	7.5	4.3	0.6	2689.8	632.9	4				60.3
010149	6.3	6.3	2.5	0.4	1498.0	599.2	4				62.3
Overall	6.0	6.0	2.8	0.5	1836.5	640.0	4.3				53.2

Value of improvements

n Increase of 1 kitten weaned / litter

n Genetics

n Management / Environment

➔ 100 does = \$9,200 more sales / year

n Increase of 1 gram per day in growth rate

n Genetics

n Management / Environment

➔ 100 does = \$1,300 more at sale

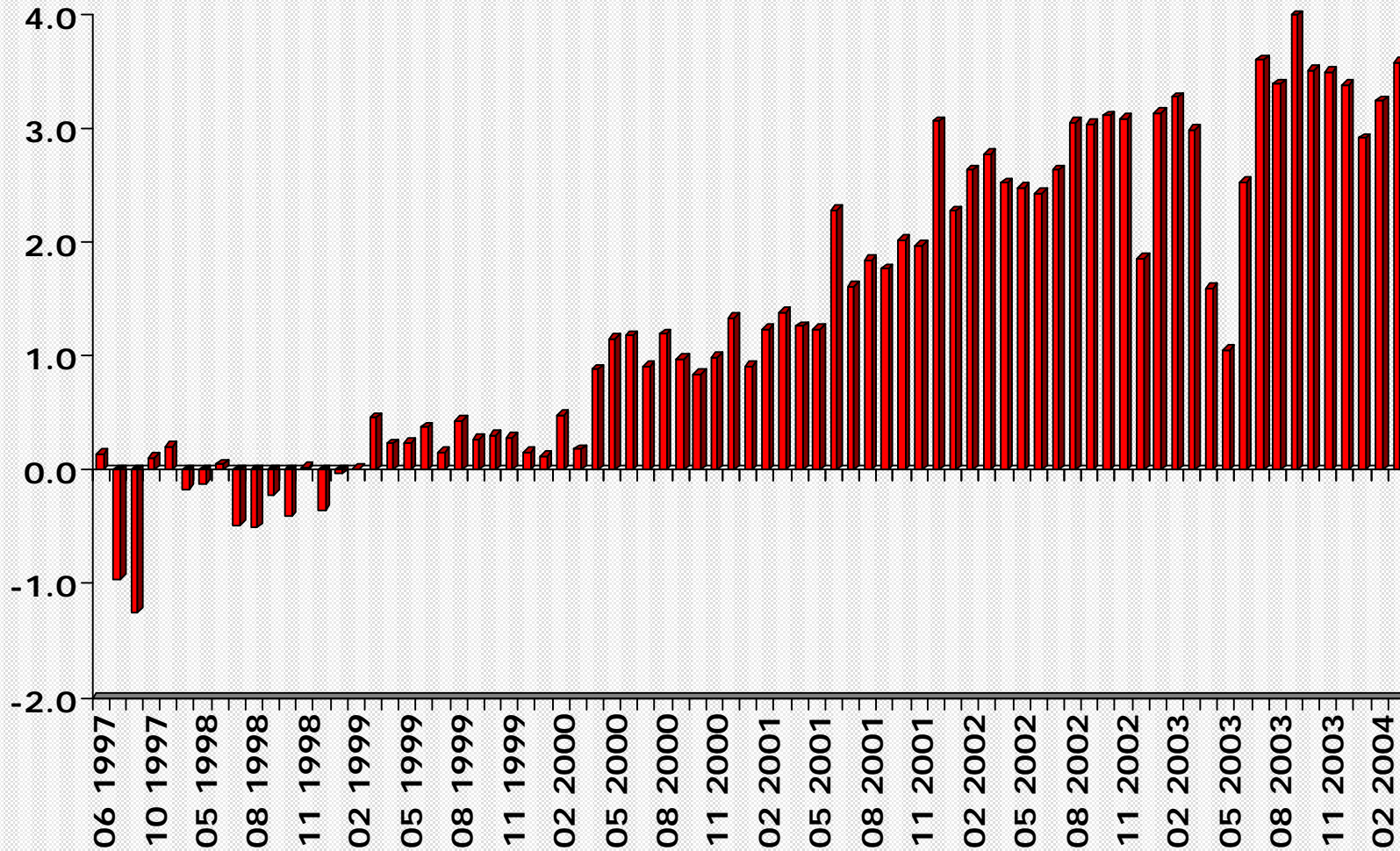
Labour Efficiency



Establish a support network

- n Nutrition
- n Health
- n Breeding Stock
- n Processors
- n Equipment

Genetic Trend for Growth Rate



Use good Equipment

- n Cages
- n Feeders
- n Water Supply
- n Nest boxes and nesting material
- n Record Management



Shed Design

- n Drainage
- n Ventilation
- n Heating
- n Cooling
- n Access
 - n Cleaning
 - n Feeding
- n Expansion

Hygiene is vital



GROWTEC Products

- n Breeder Rabbits
- n Rabbit Central
 - n Management and Performance Recording Software
 - n Designed for Australian Rabbit Farmers
 - n Integrated Hand-Held Computer
- n Nest Boxes
 - n Research and Development
 - n Commercial Production
- n Information
 - n Booklet available
 - n Newsletters
 - n www.growtec.com.au

Rabbit Central Software



Enter Joining Details

ID: 011039 Joined To: 010882 Date: 08 March 2002

No Services: 3

Mate Weight (g):

Remarks: First Join for this buck

Buttons: Add this joining to database, Close

Calendar: March 2002. Today: 12-Mar-02

Rabbit Central - (Mating List Report)

File Database Setup Database Window Help

Zoom: 100%

Current Matings Required Printed: 12-Mar-02 8:38:51 PM

Matings Due between 01-Feb-02 and 10-Feb-02

Wednesday 30 January 2002

Cage ID	Date	ID	Back ID	Does Sire	Does Dam	Type	Join Date	Buck ID	Services	Mate Weight
A1	30-Jan-02	010520	010690	000371	000728	Mixed				
A4	30-Jan-02	010704	010674	000829	000906	Mixed				

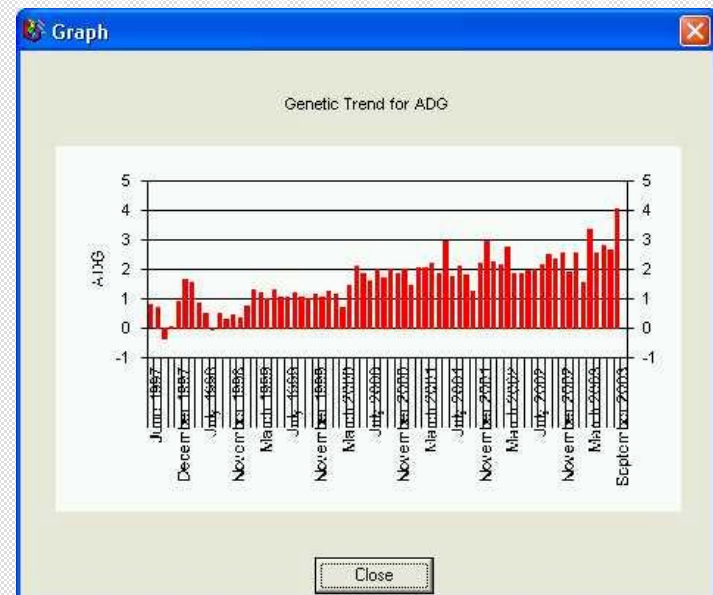
Friday 01 February 2002

Cage ID	Date	ID	Back ID	Does Sire	Does Dam	Type	Join Date	Buck ID	Services	Mate Weight
F14	01-Feb-02	920013	010178	H	13	Prog_Test				

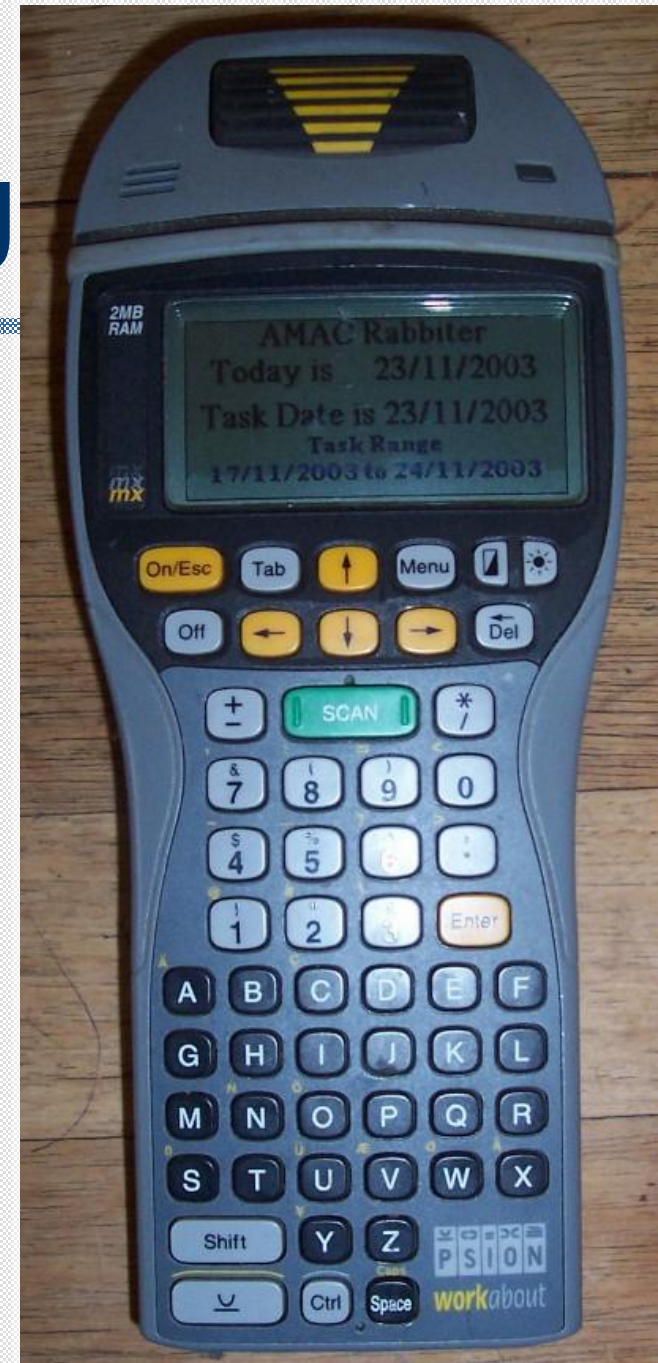
Saturday 02 February 2002

Cage ID	Date	ID	Back ID	Does Sire	Does Dam	Type	Join Date	Buck ID	Services	Mate Weight
B15	02-Feb-02	000182	000183	Q	24	Re-Join				

User: Lucas Brown Welcome Tue, 12 March 2002 09:34:24 PM



In Shed Recording



Information

n Information Packages

n Please See Examples

n Web Site ~ www.growtec.com.au

n Newsletters (Email or Normal Mail)

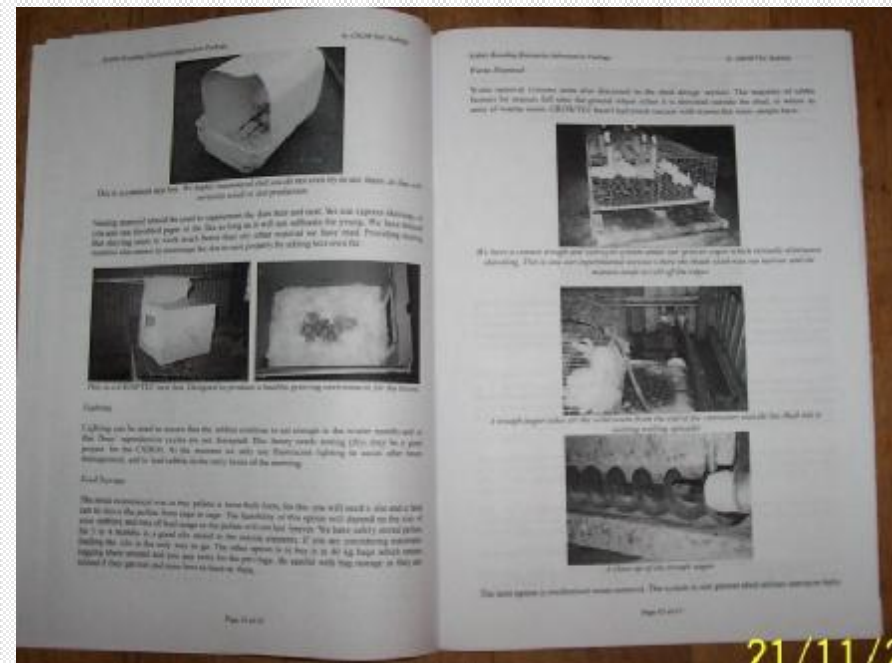
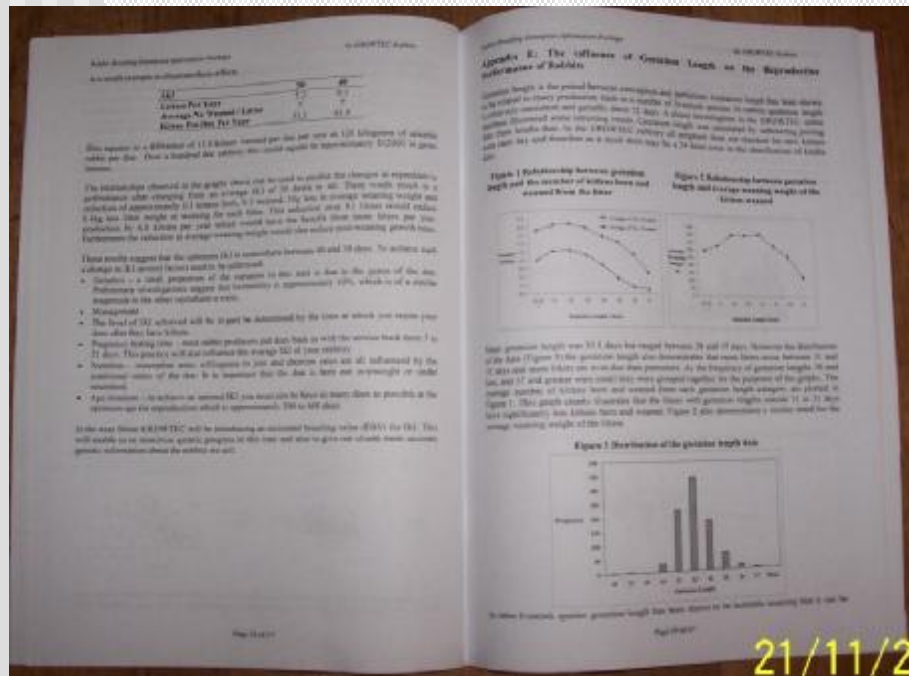
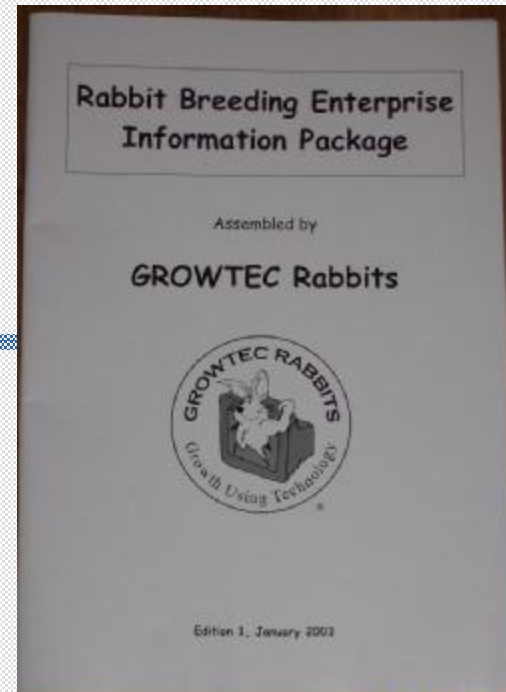
n Research Reports

n Information Articles

n Basic StartUp Advice

n Links

Information Packs



Our Final Tips

- n Start with good quality rabbits
- n Labour efficient facilities
- n Excellent hygiene
- n Establish a good relationship with your processor
- n Make good use of a computer
- n Use the best feed you can
- n Keep a close eye on breeder performance

Contact

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Thank You



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