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CERTIFICATE

I certify that this dissertation has been prepared under my supervision by Thiru D. Francis Solomon, B.V.Sc., a candidate for M.V.Sc., Degree (Meat Hygiene and Technology - Main), 1977, and that it incorporates the results of his study.

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ASSESSMENT OF MEAT, BONE AND FAT CONTENT IN RABBIT CARCASSES AND ANALYSIS OF THE PROXIMATE COMPOSITION OF RABBIT MEAT



A Dissertation

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MASTER OF VETERINARY SCIENCE

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SUMMARY

A total of 54 rabbits of both sexes and of weight groups classed as below 1500 gm. and over 1500 gm. was slaughtered and the data on the proportion of wholesale cuts in relation to carcass weight, the percentage yields of meat, bone and fat in carcasses and in wholesale cuts along with the proximate composition of the loin eye muscle were collected and were statistically analysed.

Heavy males showed a higher percentage yield of shoulder and neither sexes nor weight groups nor their combined effects had any influence on the yield of shoulder.

Heavy males yielded the maximum percentage of thorax and weight groups alone had significant influence on the yields.

Heavy females showed the maximum percentage yield of loin and the yield was significantly influenced by sex.

Light males showed the maximum percentage yield of leg and the yield was not influenced by sexes, weight groups or their combined effects.

Heavy males had the maximum percentage yield of meat and the yield was influenced highly significantly by weight groups.

Light females had the maximum percentage yield of bone and the yield was influenced highly significantly by weight groups.

Heavy females had the maximum percentage yield of fat and weight groups and sexes had highly significant influence on the percentage yield of fat.

Of the cuts, the leg of heavy females yielded the maximum per cent of meat, the thorax of light females yielded the maximum per cent of bone and the shoulder of heavy females the maximum per cent of fat.

The maximum percentage content of moisture was in the meat of light females, the maximum content of crude protein was in light males, the maximum percentage content of ether extractives was in heavy females and the maximum percentage content of total ash was in heavy females. The percentage content of ether extractives only was influenced significantly by weight groups.