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Newsletter No. 1

Economy

Qualitätsgemeinschaft Kaninchen

(Quality Rabbit Union)

- Current status GGE- certification, Status quo- report

With today's letter we would like to inform about the status quo of the activities of "Quality Rabbit Union".

Already a great many of companies have applied for participation in the GGE- system. This pertains slaughterhouses, rabbit farms (breeding/growing rabbits), cutting and processing plants, feed stuff companies as well as business concerns/brokers within Europe (Germany, France, Belgium, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary...)

Hereunto also companies from China and Argentina belong.

Certification process has already been in full activity.

Towards GGE the Animal Welfare organisations have accentuated that no further measures/campaigns are planned. This shall be expressed in a common formulation in the form of a "Wording".

Together with Animal Protection organisations a research project shall demonstrate which form of keeping rabbits could be implemented in the future.

The further process is observed however critically.

A clear structure for the conversion of the demanded measures in the context of GGE is indispensable therefore.

For this it is necessary that all companies participating in the system – independently of their respective certification condition - have to submit a concept from which emanates, to which temporal periods the stables for rabbit keeping will be reequipped according to the GGE requirements.

According to resolution of last discussions within the "Rabbit Research Group" the following procedure can be specified:

1. Registration of all „Rabbit Farms“, which are intended for supplies to German food retail.
2. All those measures, which can be accomplished without structural changes and larger expenditure, like e.g. adjustment of stocking rate, lying surface for breeding animals as well as activity material, have to be converted immediately.
3. Within 12 months 15 % of he announced rabbit breeding and growing farms have to fulfil the GGE requirements, i.e. also concerning the cage sizes.
4. For the remaining companies a plan of concept has to be submitted to GGE head office that indicates temporal periods concerning the re- equipment measures. The concept plan can extend over 7 years, 15 % of the companies have to be annually reequipped.
5. All announced companies have to be audited and certified in a kind of first stocktaking
6. Increased stocking rates, absence of activity material and lying surfaces lead to reauditing of the accordant company. If, in context of the reaudit, no corrective measures concerning the above mentioned points are adjusted, the company will be inhibited for the GGE- system with immediate effect.
7. Cage sizes will be controlled according to the concept plan submitted by the company.

8. If auditing of the companies was accomplished successfully, this concerns also the control of slaughterhouses, cutting and processing plants, feed stuff companies as well as of business concerns/brokers and all the companies that have been registered by stocktaking, the approval for the GGE- system will occur.
9. In this case all announced companies can deliver German food retail as a GGE- participant.

About certification status the list published on our internet web site informs: „Systemteilnehmer“, column „Freigabe“.

GGE objective is the immediate conversion of defaults/requirements by directly accomplished certifying, in order and in the interest of all to bring rabbit furthermore to German food retail market.