

1. INTRODUCTION

The rabbit is considered as a good animal for meat production not only because of its early sexual maturity, sizable number of progeny kindled per doe and rapid growth, but also because the good quality of its meat. Also, rabbits can utilize forages and agriculture by-products high in fiber and convert it into high quality low fat meat, they are more efficient in feed conversion than other livestock animals (**Rao *et al.*, 1977; Taylor, 1980; Cheeke *et al.*, 1982 and Lebas, 1983**).

In Egypt, the gap between available and required animal feeds is wide. Moreover, the competition between humans and livestock animals for concentrates is quite visible. Feed shortage and the continuous increase in the price of the traditional feed stuffs are acute especially with regard to protein. In order to correct the feed balance in Egypt, all potential agriculture by-products must be utilized and recycled in animal feeding. The use of by-products for animal feeding, in addition to reducing feed shortage, decreased the cost of feeding and consequently the sale price of animal products. The use of by-products can also alleviate pollution problems (**Osman *et al.*, 2002 and Helaly *et al.*, 2002**). Generally, feeding cost in animal production is considered mainly the most expensive item, it nearly represents about 60-70% of the total costs.

The processing of potatoes produced a wide range of waste products such as culls of potatoes, potato trimining, pulp, peeling, off-colour parts of French fries and potato chips and potato sludge from waste water purification (**El-Boushy and**

Van der Poel, 2000). Potato waste has a total annual world production estimated to be 12.9 million ton (**FAO, 1991**).

Coffee pulp obtained during the processing of raw coffee beans had high percentage of hulls (fiber and lignin) which subsequently lowered its nutritive value. However, coffee pulp may be used as source of fiber in rations of ruminants, but little information is known about its use in poultry and rabbit feeding (**Mazzafera, 2002**).

The aim of the present work was to investigate the effect of using different levels of potato peel and coffee pulp on growth performance, feed utilization, nutrients digestibility, nitrogen utilization, carcass traits and some blood biochemical parameters of growing New Zealand White rabbits.