

THE DEER FARM & PARK DEMONSTRATION PROJECT



DAY 5: 11 November 2014



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Summary of monthly management and disease treatments

John Fletcher and Alan Sneddon
Venison Advisory Service Ltd

Early November

- Remove stags from rutting groups to prevent late calves and put in sheltered paddock. Feed *ad lib* silage or hay and 1.0 -1.5kg concentrate/head/day.
- Post-rut wean calves if this is the preferred policy as above.
- Set up wintering mobs in selected paddocks and feed *ad lib* quality (10.5 plus ME) silage or hay to mature hinds or winter on crop such as turnips/swedes/rape allowing 2kg *dry matter*/head/day along with baleage or good quality barley straw.
- Winter rising 2 year replacement hinds separately on *ad lib* silage or hay or crop as above and 250 – 500gms concentrate.

December - February

- Reduce concentrates for in-wintered calves to reduce costs during mid-winter low growth rate period. Continue to offer high quality forage *ad lib*.
- Monitor stock and adjust feeding according to weather.

March - April

- Increase concentrates for in-wintered calves and separate any that are being bullied.
- Monitor pasture and apply spring fertiliser. Turn out calves onto set up pastures late April/May.
- Reduce hind feeding as grass growth starts.
- Check fences in preparation for calving.

April - August

- Stock turned out: calves tight (up to 20 – 30/ha on top quality grazing) to utilise spring growth, then reduce stocking density to maintain 8 – 12cm leafy sward for optimum growth. Rotational grazing will increase pasture utilisation and intakes/growth rates.
- Monitor worm burdens and drench/inject accordingly.
- Graze hinds tight to utilise spring growth, then set stock (up to 10 hinds/ha on quality grazing) by early May for calving. Ensure calving paddocks have areas of cover for calves to hide. Hinds may be rotationally grazed from mid-July onwards to ensure adequate pasture quality for lactation.
- Top or cut paddocks post calving to improve summer grazing quality.

Mid August

- Breeding stags de-antlered as soon as velvet is shed. Worm (drench or inject) and give copper bolus if required.
- Yearling stags de-antlered in batches as soon as velvet is shed. Weigh and sort for slaughter. Target 100 - 120kg live weight for stags; 80 - 90kg for hinds..
- Set up quality pastures for rut (silage/hay aftermaths are ideal).

Mid September

- Wean calves if pre-rut weaning is preferred (this can result in earlier conception).
- Worm, sex, tag and sample weigh calves, then house in groups according to size and sex.
- Turn out after 10 days onto high quality grazing or house for entire winter on good silage/barley concentrate ration. Crop wintering also an option.
- Identify hinds with no udders and record. Cull hinds that are dry on successive years.
- Sort hinds into rutting groups and introduce stags at ratio of 1 to 40 mob sizes to suit paddocks at 6 - 10 hinds/ha (multi sire mating works well with deer).
- Worm drench if required.
- Monitor grazing and introduce supplements if required.

Note

- If yearling hinds are purchased in-calf as initial stock, then a realistic weaning percentage would be 70% for the first year, and carcass weights may well be 10 – 15% lower. Thereafter, weaning percentages should be 90% or better.
- High conception rates can be achieved by mating yearling hinds with yearling stags at a ratio of 1 to 10.
- Yearling hinds calve later than mature hinds and should not be allowed to become over fat before calving to avoid calving problems.

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James Withers
Scotland Food and Drink



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Rob Bunn – Dovecote Park



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Christian Nissen
Highland Game



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Jan Jacob Baak – Great Glen Charcuterie



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Great Glen Charcuterie

