

THE DEER FARM & PARK DEMONSTRATION PROJECT



Day 1 – 15 April 2014



The funding is being made available through the SRDP Skills Development Scheme which is jointly funded by the Scottish Government and the European Union





The Background to the Deer farm and Park Demonstration ProjectDays

With production of venison from the wild sector static or declining and the consumption of venison increasing steadily there is an opportunity for the expansion of farmed or enclosed deer herds in Scotland to supply this demand .There is a need to create awareness and develop a skill base to enable this to happen



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The deer farm and park demonstration project has received funding through the SRDP Skills development Scheme and will focus on a deer farm in year 1 and a deer park in year 2 with 5 demonstration days on each respective unit throughout years 1 and 2. It is hoped that up to 50 prospective new deer farmers/park managers will attend each day

Objective

To provide a real time opportunity for farmers or other land based businesses interested in either diversifying into deer or developing a deer unit from scratch to see one in action through a structured programme over a 12 month period

What's the difference between a Park and a Farm?

Park

- Extensive enclosed herd. Whole herd set stocked
- Managed by culling
- Limited animal health inputs and winter feeding
- Venison sold as wild game through game dealer by trained hunter
- Wild Game Handling facility
- Must adhere to statutory close seasons for respective species

Farm

- More intensive enclosed herd with subdivided areas. Different classes of animals grazed separately
- Handling facility for drenching etc
- Weaning ,live sales
- Venison sold as farmed game
- Ante mortem inspection required
- Farmed game handling facility/ abattoir
- Does not have to adhere to close seasons

Deer Park



Deer Farm



Farm Selection Process for Year 1 (2014)

- 8 applicants
- Applications scored by Scotland Food and Drink, NFUS, SFQC
- 3 finalists selected
- Farm visit by SFQC, Venison Advisory Service
- Ali Loder, Culquoich Farm Selected as Demo farm

Why choose Culquoich?

- Commercial deer farm of some scale
- Farming deer for over 10 yrs
- Venison and breeding stock production
- Innovative and forward thinking management approach
- Excellent facilities and stock
- Enthusiastic about the project with first class communication skills

Dates for Demo Days at Culquoich

- 15th April
- 10th June
- 15th July
- 26th Aug
- 11th Nov

What we hope to cover over this coming year.....

Stock

Mating

Calving

Sire Stag

Selection

Genetics

Finishing



Grassland Management

Stocking densities

Grazing Regimes

Pasture species

Forage crops

Silage making

Pasture renovation





Health and safety

Finance

Income projections

Grants and subsidies

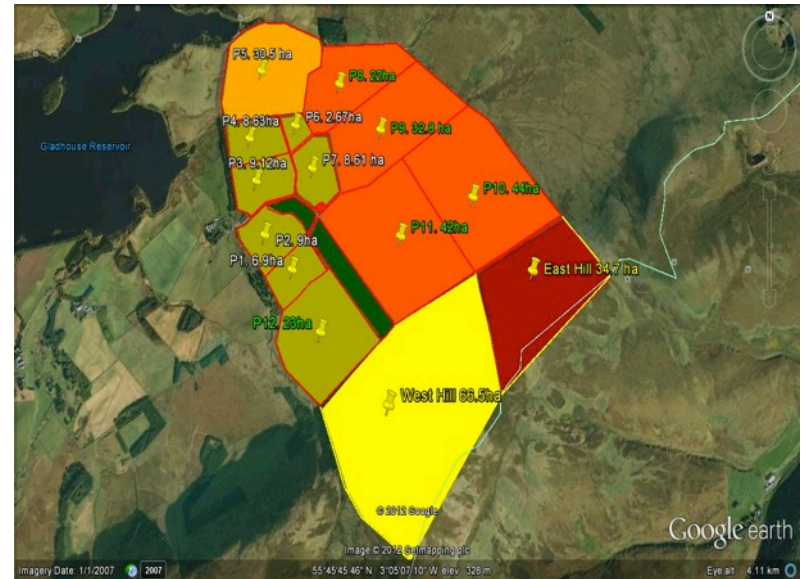
Farm finance options



Feeding

Feeding systems, Housed calves , yearling hinds ,
yearling stags, adult hinds , adult stags

Fencing and farm design



Deer Handling

Weighing

Tagging

Drenching

De-antlering

Transport



Carcase preparation/Butchery



Cooking (and eating!)



The potential... 1000 hind units!

