

## Late summer handling:

tagging; worming; mothering up;  
weaning; care of weaned calves;  
feeding; setting up the rut.

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**Late summer handling:** perhaps the most difficult of all: calves hang back, excitable, most vulnerable. Prepare by feeding through August, get yards ready, let deer become familiar with the yards, handle calves carefully.







## Tagging.

Metal tamperproof tag in right ear here and yellow management tag in left.

Herd numbers allocated by BDFPA or Department.

No legal requirement to tag until deer leave the farm.

# Worming deer..

If using **pour-ons** make sure nozzle is touching the deer from tail to withers to ensure delivery onto skin. When skin is thick (winter) or dirty use injectables or oral.

For all dosing base dose rates on the heaviest in the group.

**Monitoring parasites.** Faecal egg and larval counts are complex – for lungworm need very fresh samples (rectal), only monitoring adults so in rapid build up sampling not helpful.

To be sure of effective control dose every five weeks using moxidectin or more frequently with less persistent drugs. Benzimidazoles eg Panacur are not persistent but will kill adult worms and may be worth using in combination with moxidectin.

**Lungworm** – chief period of challenge is between August and first frosts. Deer develop good immunity at low challenge so may not need to dose adults. Most effective to least in order, probably: moxidectin (Cydectin)> abamectin (Startect)> doramectin (Dectomax)> ivermectin (eg Ivomec)> eprinomectin (Eprinex) . (Macintosh, 2012) . Levamisole ineffective in deer (eg Combinex – good for fluke)

# Copper deficiency.

Copper deficiency in calves is usually first seen in late summer – milk is a poor source of copper.

Swollen (osteochondrosis) of the hocks is pathognomonic. Stiff gait and interference. Staring pale coloured coat.

Treat calves and for future treat pregnant hinds

# ‘Mothering up’

Various options: Tag calves at birth; send hair off for DNA typing; tag calves and turn out with mothers.





**Weaning:** the most stressful procedure;  
Before or after the rut? If before, calves small and young  
-if after, more stress for hinds, poor weather etc etc.  
Consider grazing calves two weeks after weaning?  
Value of early calving.



# Diseases at weaning.

Stress related diseases emerge at weaning:

Yersiniosis: sudden death usually – occasionally scouring, characteristic smell, treat all in contacts urgently with terramycin LA.

Only seen rarely now.

Herpes (HVC-1) : Ulcerated cornea, can progress to blindness – once common now rare.

Avian TB: can be confused with Yersinia. Poor response to antibiotics.

Ruminal acidosis, grain overload. Usually fatal.



Feeding after weaning is critical: introduce to hard feed before weaning and after weaning build up to *ad libitum* over perhaps ten days. Must have good forage. In first days ensure water is being drunk. Spend time with young calves. Good growth rates in autumn very important.



# Setting up the rut...

One stag to forty hinds? No need to single sire mate – groups of hinds with several stags do well, for yearlings use yearling stags at 1:10, remember gestation 231 +/- 3 days thus October 1<sup>st</sup> mating = May 20<sup>th</sup> calving. Turn stags out September  
Remove stags – early November?

