

Deer Antler Development Depends on Food Supply

If we didn't have so many hunters in Pennsylvania, we would have more White-tailed deer. With a larger herd of greater average age, we should have more bucks that might bear trophy antlers. But, if we had more deer, feed for each one would be less and probably buck hunting would be less rewarding in terms of big racks.

This is about the way T. A. Long and R. L. Cowan of the Department of Animal Nutrition of the Agricultural Experiment Station, Pennsylvania State University, sum up the situation.

Deer nutrition studies at the Pennsylvania State University reconfirm the viewpoint that plenty of good deer browse is necessary

during the period of antler development if bucks are to bear large antlers.

Mature bucks do not need to be quite as well fed as yearlings to grow good racks, the newest information indicates in Progress Report 209, published by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State.

Drs. Long and Cowan point out that most of the deer shot by hunters are yearlings and two-year olds, according to Game Commission records. Since young bucks still are growing, body growth takes precedence over antler development. The young age of bucks, plus the large deer herds in the State and lack of adequate browse, account for small antlers.

The claim made by hunters

Hot Lunch in a Hurry



Crisp coated sandwiches, hot and golden brown, make a hearty hurry-up lunch. Secret of the beautiful coating is a quick dip in evaporated milk and egg. Make your sandwiches as usual with ham and cheese or luncheon meat. Then dip the whole sandwich in the milk and egg mixture. One-third cup milk and one egg makes enough dip for two or three grilled sandwiches, and the dip can be increased accordingly for the number of sandwiches to be made.

Evaporated milk is double rich in milk nutrients. It not only steps up the food value of the sandwiches but gives them their golden crust when hot off the grill. Serve the sandwiches with broiled tomatoes and a perky green salad.

Golden Dipwiches

- 1 can (12 ounces) luncheon meat or chopped ham
- 2 eggs
- 12 slices bread
- 1 tablespoon prepared mustard
- 6 slices processed American Cheese
- 1 teaspoon poppy seeds, optional
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup evaporated milk

Cut luncheon meat into 6 slices. Place one slice on each of 6 bread slices; top with cheese and remaining bread slices. In a shallow pan, beat together evaporated milk, eggs, mustard, and poppy seeds. Dip each sandwich into this mixture turning to coat both sides. Brown on both sides in a small amount of butter in skillet, or on grill.

YIELD: 6 servings.



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EXHIBITING THEIR TROPHIES at the annual awards banquet of the Dairy clubs at the Strasburg fire hall on October 9 are the four high scorers keeping Representing the four dairy breeds, these club members were recognized by Assistant County Agent, Victor Plasto as having the most complete and accurate for the year. Left to right they are as follows:

Donald Trimble, Quarryville R1, representing the Holstein breed; Dorothy Willow Street R2, Guernseys; Lucille Kreider, Quarryville R2, Jersey, and O. Krantz, New Providence R1, Ayrshire. Approximately 200 members, parents and leaders attended.

that buck deer sometimes shed their antlers during the open season in early December probably is true, in light of newer research findings. In experiments, however, early antler shedding was by bucks on restricted rations. Well-fed bucks not only grow the largest racks, Long and Cowan say, but sometimes these bucks did not shed their antlers until early spring.

Deer on restricted rations during the winter, but well-fed in April or May, started antler development late but made rapid progress. These deer produced as large racks and rubbed off the velvet about the same time, as bucks full-fed throughout the year.

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Feed Grain To Dairy Cattle At Calving Time

Feeding relatively large amounts of grain immediately before or after freshening will not increase the incidence or severity of udder congestion in dairy cows, says Associate Chester County Agent Joseph H. Way. This, he adds, has been clearly demonstrated in studies at the New York and Illinois Agricultural Experiment Stations.

Some dairymen have discontinued or drastically reduced grain feeding to prevent congested or swollen udders. Way suggests such a practice be discarded as the cow's needs for nutrients are great immediately before and after calving. He recommends most cows be fed 8 to 12 pounds of grain daily for at least one week before freshening. Increase the amount of grain fed by about one pound daily until her peak production needs are met.

Studies show low blood protein levels are associated with udder edema or congest-

ion. Heifers often have lower blood protein than older cows at freshening. Thus, they are susceptible to udder congestion, swelling may occur in the abdomen as well.

The swelling noted in strains of heifers and older cows results in accumulation of fluid, which has escaped the blood stream. It possibly weakens attachments in some udder congestion or little or no adverse effect on the cow.

Udder edema may be relieved to some degree by certain diuretic drugs which can be administered by a veterinarian.

Mr. Way explains that his research at Illinois indicates that feeding pounds of soybean meal daily for six weeks before calving may reduce the severity of udder congestion in susceptible animals.

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