

Deer Nutrition Study Evaluates Food Supply

Physical condition of white-tailed deer reflect the food supply of the area, experiments at Penn State University indicate. The most recent findings, by graduate students James B. Whelan and Jan E. Riffe, show that captive females (does) on well-balanced rations produce more fawns than wild does of the same age.

In nutrition experiments at Penn State, all does produced fawns. Of 951 wild does examined by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, 90 percent were carrying fawns.

Moreover, losses of fawns in the wild may amount to 40 percent or more, the research team reports, due to nutritional deficiencies in does and fawns in oversized herds on overbrowsed ranges.

Average weights of deer on good versus poor quality range show the effect of nutrition. Whelan and Riffe pointed out in a recent article in "Science for the Farmer," the quarterly publication of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State Females two to four years old, fed well-balanced rations, weighed an average of 134 pounds in the Fall Wild does of the same age average about 98 pounds.

From their experiments, Whelan and Riffe find that 100 well-fed does produce about 190 fawns. Game Commission figures from 1960 to 1965, they say, show that five counties in the extreme northwest averaged 198 fawns per 100 females. In five northcentral counties, the comparative figures were 151 fawns for 100 does. In five northeastern counties the figures were 162 fawns for 100 does.

They point out a fact known to many hunters, that antler development among bucks also reflects the quality and quantity of browse on a deer range. Low body weight and poor antler development, especially among yearling bucks, indicate poorly fed deer.

OCT. EGG PRODUCTION UNCHANGED FROM 1965

Following the fall seasonal pattern, egg production for Pennsylvania increased during October, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. Pennsylvania egg production of 255 million eggs increased 1 percent from September, but was about the same as a year ago.

The number of layers in Pennsylvania flocks during October increased 1 percent from September. In comparison with October last year there were 3 percent fewer layers in flocks.

The average price received for all eggs in mid-October was 45 cents per dozen, a cent less than the September price but 6 cents more than the October 1965 price.

STORAGE STOCKS DOWN

Stocks of all types of eggs in cold storage on September 30, 1966 in the United States totaled 1,438,000 cases. This is 9 percent less than a month earlier, 47 percent less than September 30, 1965, and 52 percent less than the 1960-64 average for the date.

Borazon, a material invented in 1957, is the only known substance hard enough to scratch a diamond.

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