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Deer – part 5

Identifier first line

Second line



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Deer Reproduction



Male reproduction - physiology of the rut

- Neck hypertrophy
- “Roar” - Sound of roar
- Flehmen
- Antler calcification
- Aggression / territory marking
- 30% body weight loss
- March - July



Male reproduction - species differences

- Less photoperiod influence in tropical species
- Reds move with and protect harem
 - be VERY careful with Red stags
- Fallow occupy stationary territory with Harem
- Male: female ratio of 1:30 recommended for most breeds



Female Reproduction

- Seasonally polyoestrus with very distinct photoperiod effects in temperate species
- Puberty reached at 15 months
 - ie second autumn
- Most conceive at first oestrus of the rut
- Fertility peak at 5 yrs
- 2nd and subsequent offspring heavier



Female reproduction

Breed	Oestrus length (average days)	Gestation period (average days)
Red	18.8	233 +/- 4.5
Fallow	21-26	230
Wapiti/elk	21	250
Rusa	18-20	245

<https://www.deerfarming.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/DFH13-Reproduction.pdf>

Breeding manipulation

- Seasonal advancement
 - P4 implants with PMSG
 - Oral or s/c Melatonin
 - Daily yarding to dark pens

Not practical or economical
- A.I.
- Oestrus synchronisation
- Embryo Transfer



Pregnancy Diagnosis

- Trans-rectal ultrasound (early)
- Flank ultrasound (later)
- 30 days onwards +/- 10 days foetal age
- Manually [?? - possible with small hands]



Parturition

- Twins rare
- Calf 'stashed' for first few days.
- Shelter is a good idea



Photo: Amanda Drage

Weaning

Type of weaning	When
Pre-rut weaning	Feb-early March
Mating weaning	Late March
Post-rut weaning	Late May-early June
Soft weaning	Gradually over 1-2 weeks
Fenceline weaning	As above (or longer)

<https://www.deerfarming.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/DFH16-Weaning.pdf>



teara.govt.nz



Genetics - Deer NZ

Reproduction

- Conception date

Growth

- Weaning weight
- Autumn weight
- Weight at 12m
- Mature weight

Meat

- Carcass weight
- Lean yield
- Eye muscle area

Velvet

- Velvet weight at 2years
- Mature velvet weight

Health

- CARLA – (in research – GI parasite antibody response)

Crossbreeding often employed in deer farming also



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