



THE UNIVERSITY OF
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Deer – part 4

Identifier first line

Second line



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Stocking rates

Guide Comparative Average Annual DSE Ratings

Species	Live weight	Average Annual DSE Rating
Beef Breeding Cow	500	12.0
Beef Bull	650	14.0
Breeding Ewe	55	1.8
Ram	85	2.0
Fallow Doe	45	1.8
Fallow Buck	95	2.3
Red Hind	100	3.4
Red Stag	160	3.6
Rusa Hind	80	2.8
Rusa Stag	130	3.1
Elk Cow	230	6.3
Elk Bull	400	7.1

<https://www.farmtransparency.org/uploads/documents/2060-000000661-cd5eb4ade9-01-0581.pdf>



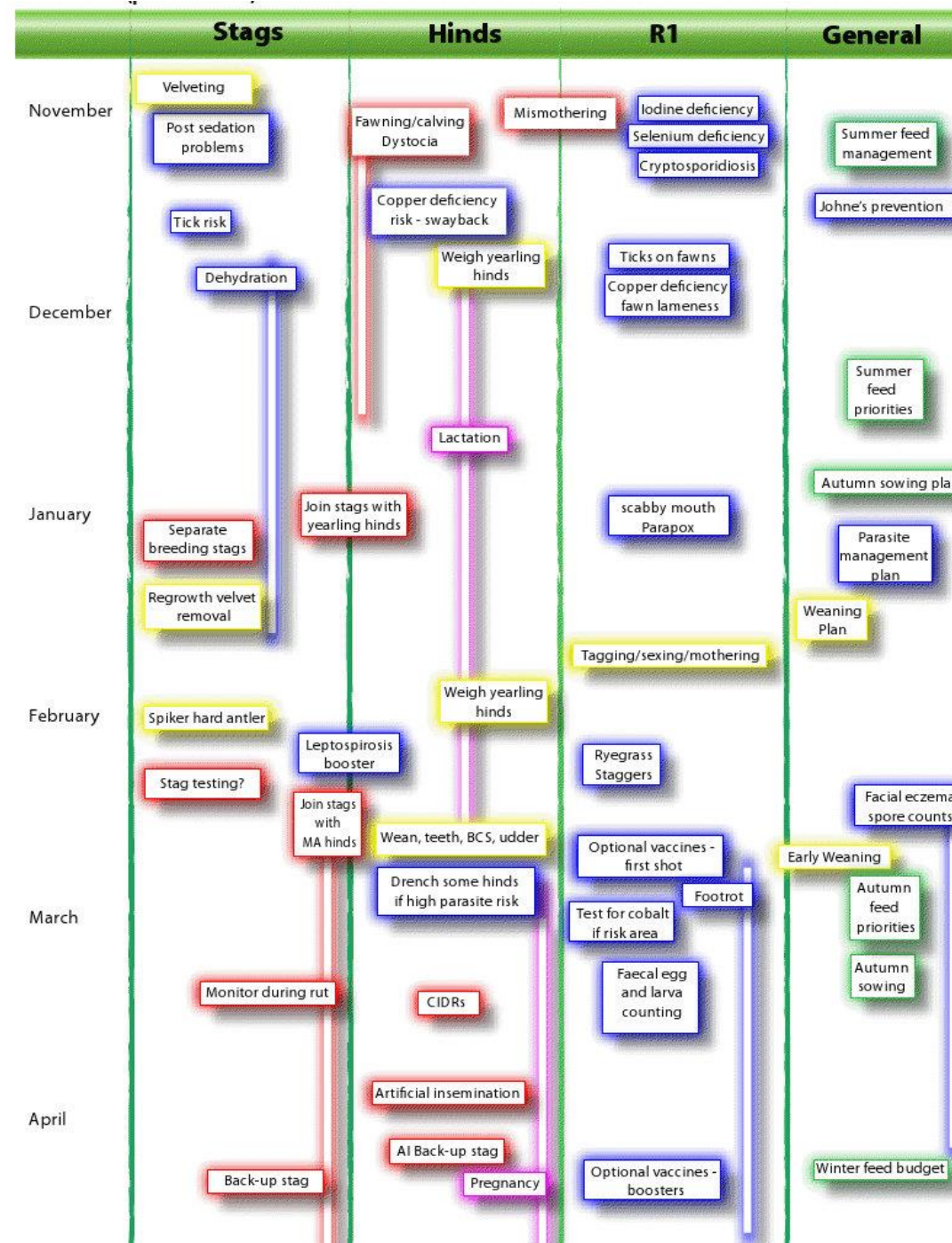
Management calendar

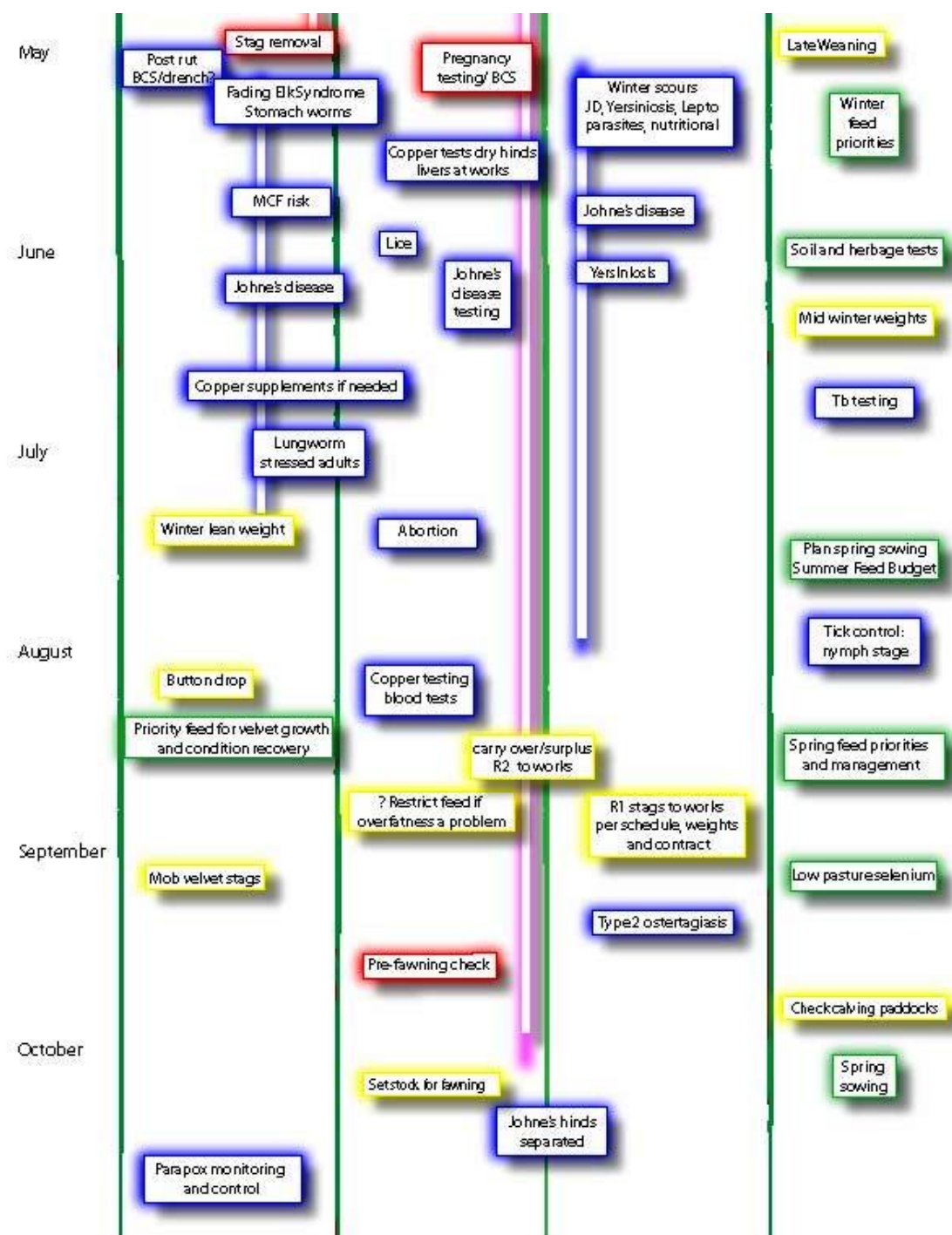
Activity	Red/Elk	Fallow	Rusa
Stags in	Late Feb	March	Year round
Rut	Late Mar / April	April	June to Feb
Stags out	Jul / Sept	Jul / Sept	N/A
Buttons	Sept	Oct	Sept/Mar
Velveting	Nov / Dec	Dec / Jan	Dec / June



Management calendar

Activity	Red/Elk	Fallow	Rusa
Calving	Late Nov / Dec	Dec/Jan	Year round
Weaning	Dec/Mar	Dec/Mar	Self /3 months
Venison sales	Dec/Mar	Dec/Mar	Year round





Body Condition Score Chart For Deer

Visual assessment of the body condition of live deer is difficult. A thick coat can disguise actual body condition.

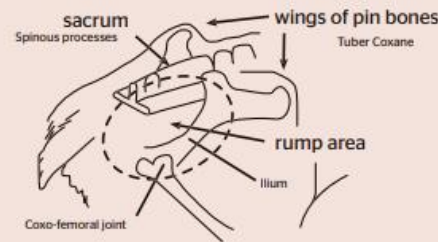
The only reliable method of assessing a live animal's body condition is by hands-on palpation. Ideally, deer should be standing straight and quiet.

Landmarks used for body conditioning scoring are:

- **Wings of pelvis/ pin bone:** estimation of depth of tissue over the tuber coxae (pin bone).
- **Sacrum:** appraisal of the sharpness of spinous process on top of the sacrum,
- **Rump areas:** appraisal of muscle mass and fat cover beside the sacrum,
- **Spine:** muscle along the spine (L. dorsi) becomes concave in poor condition deer.

If deer bend their back legs under palpation pressure, the assessment of the wings of the pelvis should be ignored. Scores range from 1 to 5 as described below with half unit increments.

If the body condition score of any deer falls below 2 immediate action must be taken to prevent further deterioration and any risk to animal health and welfare. Farmers must comply with this requirement of the Deer Code of Welfare.



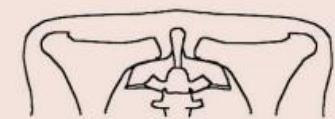
Score 1: Very Poor Condition (Cachexia)

Wings of pin bones are extremely prominent and sharp. Sacral spinous processes are very sharp. There is little muscle in the rump and no fat cover; the rump areas are very concave at palpation.



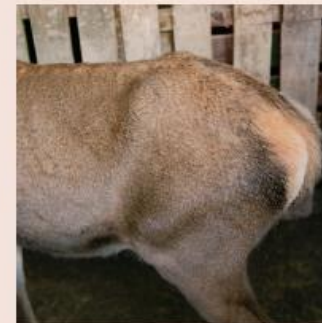
Score 2: Poor Condition (Leaness)

Wings of pin bones are prominent and very easily felt by palpation without finger pressure. Sacral spinous processes are also prominent. The rump areas are slightly concave.



Score 3: Moderate Condition

Wings of pin bones are prominent, but rounded and can be easily felt by palpation with slight finger pressure. Sacral spinous processes are slightly enveloped and not prominent. The rump areas are flat.



Score 4: Good Condition

Wings of pin bones are rounded and can be felt by palpation under a thin layer of fat. Sacral spinous processes are enveloped and are felt by palpation only with firm finger pressure. The rump areas are slightly rounded.



Score 5: Very Good Condition (Fat)

Wings of pin bones are concealed under a thick layer of fat and cannot be felt by palpation with firm finger pressure. Sacral spinous processes are well developed and not felt at palpation. The rump areas are rounded.

Drenching



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WITHHOLDING PERIODS/ESI

Cattle

- Meat: NIL
- Milk: NIL
- ESI: NIL

Red Deer

- Meat: 7 days
- Milk: NIL
- ESI: 7 days

Vaccination





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