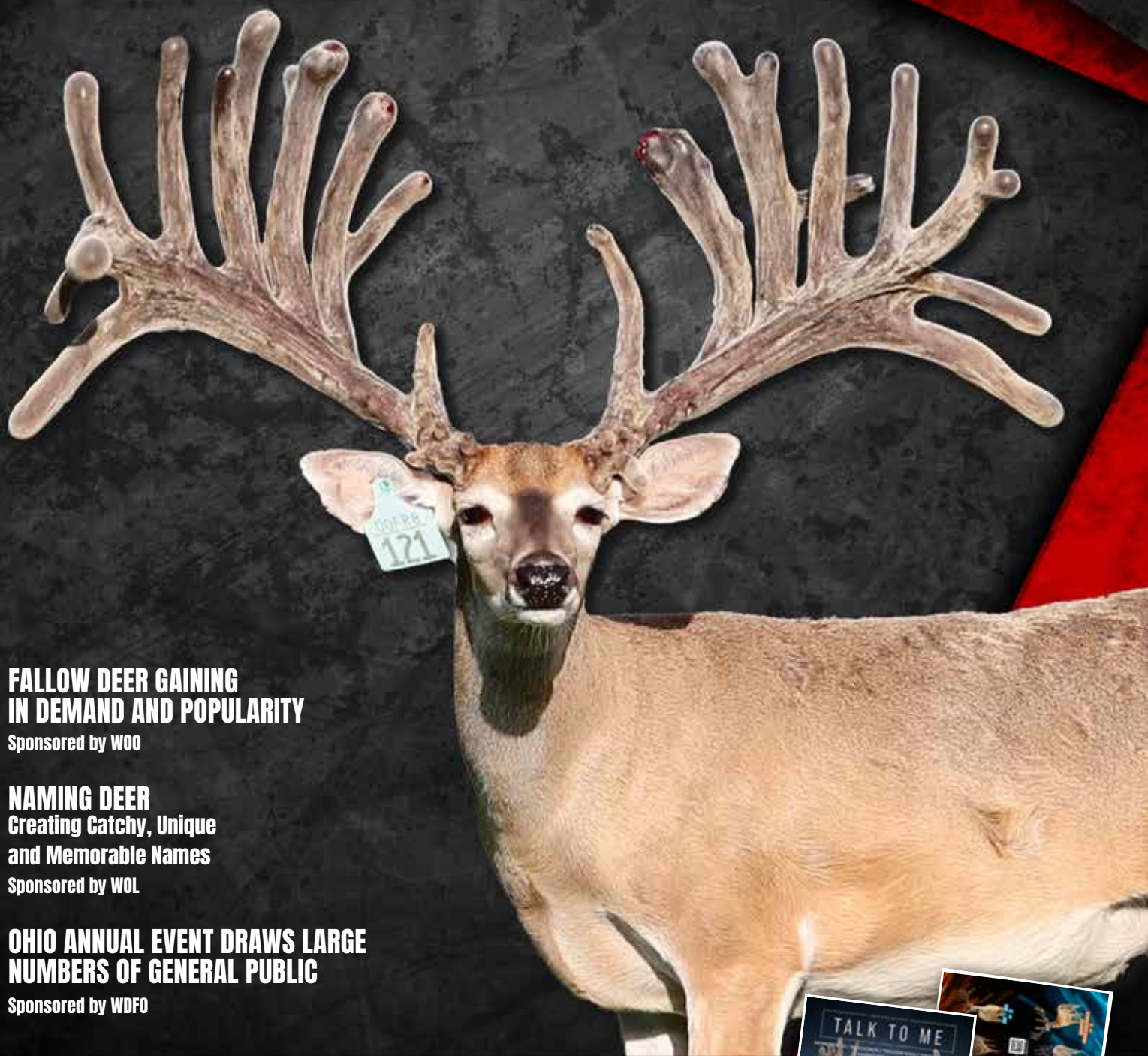




ALABAMA

Spring 2025 | Volume 3 | Issue 1



FALLOW DEER GAINING IN DEMAND AND POPULARITY

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NAMING DEER Creating Catchy, Unique and Memorable Names

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OHIO ANNUAL EVENT DRAWS LARGE NUMBERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC

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Horizon

Unforgiven/Blackjack/Horsepower/
Freeze Frame/G-Hammer/Tasha
Genotype: GS





ARE YOU
READY
AT 2



WANTED
AT 2



BACK
IN
BLACK
AT 3



AC / DC
AT 2



WHERE LEGENDS ARE BORN



Black & white only



BLUE CHIP



MR LEGIT



MONEY
TALKS
AT 1



SIMPLY
IRRESISTIBLE
AT 2

Inside This Issue:



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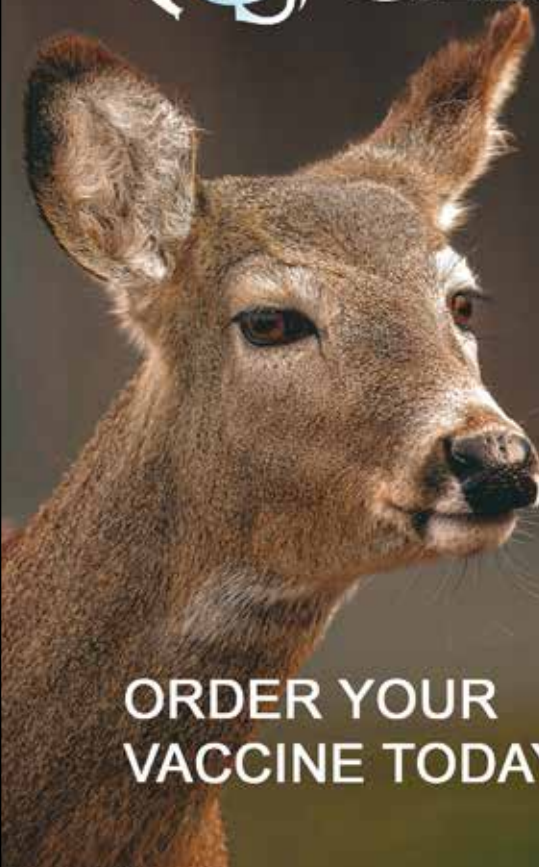


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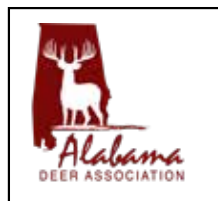
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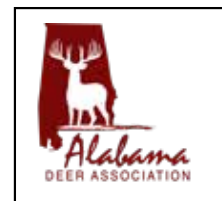
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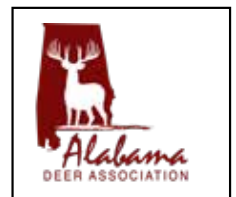
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PK8030
Bambi Express
Yellow 16
Express
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28 Express
Purple 244

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FALLOW DEER GAINING IN DEMAND AND POPULARITY

By: Gail Veley • Sponsored by WOO

Fallow deer, known for their hardiness, adaptability and apparent resistance to contracting CWD and EHD, are gaining popularity as perhaps a more low-risk animal to raise, compared to whitetails. Although whitetails are and always will remain the Number One animal in North America to hunt, producers and hunters alike are increasingly intrigued by fallow deer with their unique paddle or rack with tines. "I've had hunters willing to pay \$50,000 to \$500,000 for the right fallow buck," shared Lance Clawson of Caveman Wildlife in Austin, Texas. Credited as being one of the first in the U.S. to raise high-end pedigreed fallow deer, Clawson maintains a herd of approximately 150 in a partnership with Jason Milligan of Cross Canyon Whitetails. Clawson also partners with Chris Ezell on a herd numbering approximately 160 at Ezell's farm, Dangerous Whitetails of Oklahoma in Adair, Oklahoma.

Originally from Europe, fallow deer were brought to the U.S. during the 19th century as domesticated animals

and as such, no license is currently needed to raise them, said Ezell, who has raised fallow deer for nine years. Having originally bought them to merely help keep the grass "mowed" on his expansive farm, Ezell started appreciating more and more their calmness and their ability to take stressful situations in-stride. Even better was "a combination of three very important things. Their hardiness, they adapt to any environment, are CWD non-susceptible and don't get EHD," Ezell emphasized. "They are very efficient animals and usually have only one fawn in June with an unbelievable success rate."

Clawson, who's efficiently raised fallow deer for 20 years, first promoted them as a viable choice for hunters from his booth at a Texas Deer Breeders Association show in 2015, after CWD started becoming a more prevalent issue for whitetail breeders in Texas. Pleasantly surprised by the response he received, Clawson said he "just kept going with it." He began to work steadfast towards developing a registry and later found support through The Exotic Wildlife Association in Kerrville, Texas. "I feel a strong allegiance toward the EWA for coming through for those of us who raise fallows and want to continuously improve them through quality genetics and pedigrees," Clawson said. More recently, The North American Deer Registry (NADR) began a fallow deer registry as well.

While Clawson, 54, admits he may not be a professional at marketing his fallow deer, he appears to be a professional at producing world-record bucks. "We are creating a species that has never been seen before" said Clawson, whose farm sports



"The 400" Club" with the likes of American Made, Lightening and Bullwinkle, the fallow buck unofficial world record holder. "Everyone who visits our farm immediately wants to go and see Bullwinkle," Clawson said. "They are immediately drawn to him and intrigued by his size and stature."

Under the right setting and super genetics, fallow deer racks (or palmate racks as they are called) can be four to six inches wide, Ezell said. "With superior genetics, they could be 10 to 15 inches wide. Fallow deer can also be a variety of coat colors and look different from each other." Since he began promoting his fallow deer, Ezell has shipped them to states such as Missouri, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Maine, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois. Using embryo transfer, he and Clawson and Milligan have helped improve the genetics on both of their farms in a continuous effort to make a science out of raising fallow deer. "They are also good eating and big for the meat industry," Ezell said. "The future for fallow deer is very bright."





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Bambi 20-28

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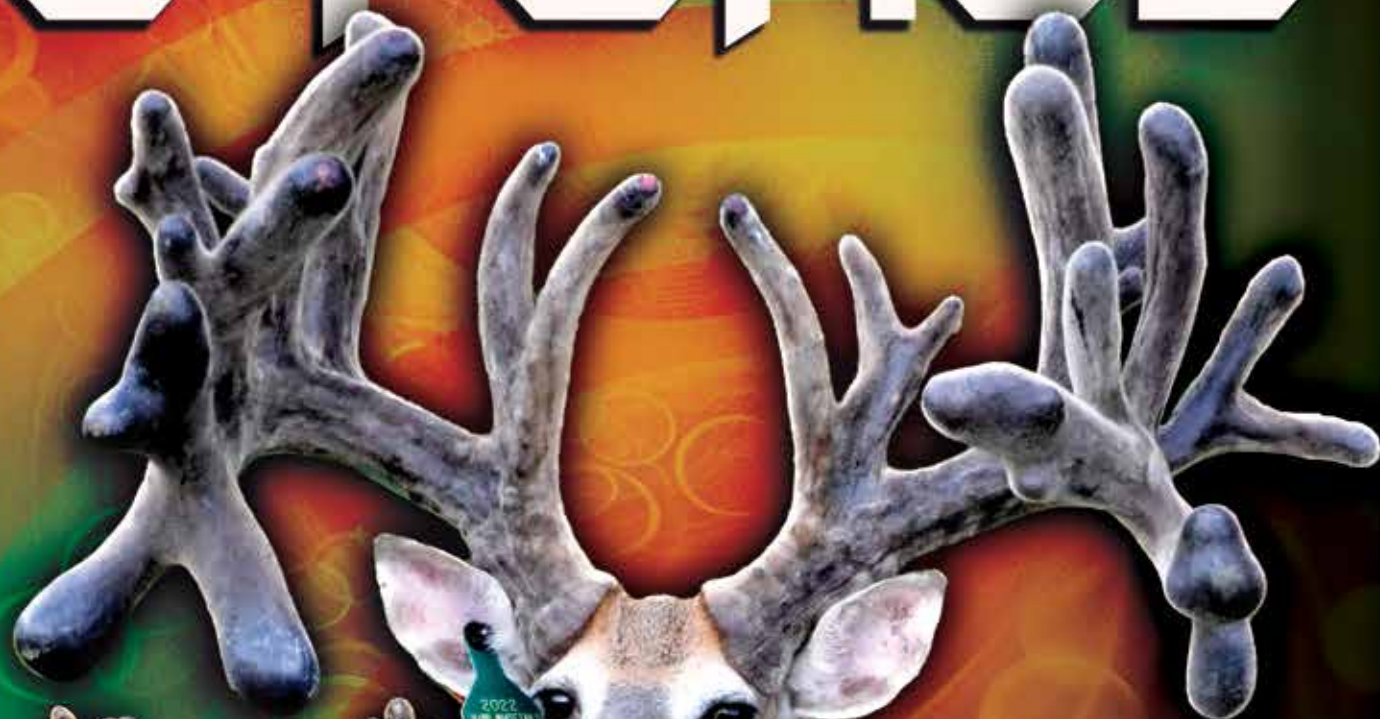
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NAMING DEER

CREATING CATCHY, UNIQUE AND MEMORABLE NAMES

By: Gail Veley • Sponsored by Whitetails of Louisiana

It was Halloween night a few years ago, and the considerably long and scenic road to Elam Woods Whitetails in Baskin, Louisiana never saw any trick or treaters. A storm was rolling in, dark and rumbling. As crashes of thunder and streaks of lightening illuminated the surroundings, Ben and Krystal, two adult children of Elam Woods Owner Bill Holdman, spotted something moving across the front lawn. "Dad, we have a trick or treater," they both exclaimed. "Finally."

As Holdman opened the front door to investigate, he didn't find a trick or treater, but rather, a five-month-old buck fawn that had wandered out of its pen. "We named him Gray Ghost," Holdman said. While naming deer can have a more lighthearted and humorous side to it, a unique name may help people long remember your farm or the buck. Having bucks with unique names can also "help promote a lineage and genetic line and can even give a real boost to a certain line," said Henry Woodard of Woodard Whitetails in Glasgow, Kentucky.

Woodard, who purchased the infamous buck Gladiator as a mere 63" yearling in 2004, couldn't have known then that the little buck, named so after the movie Gladiator, would "blow up" at two and go on to sire many more great producers with names such as Gladiator II, Gladiator Supreme, Gladiator XL and Gladiator Select. Owning Gladiator proved to be extremely profitable for Woodard and provided the backbone to carry this head-turning lineage forward. Semen straws sold quickly. Later, Gladiator was bought by Lone

Hollow Whitetails where he lived to be 16.

"It was different back then when Gladiator was on the scene," Woodard said. "CWD wasn't the big issue it is now. We had DNA and parentage testing and didn't have to worry about CWD. Still, Gladiator was an 'SK' with a -3.78 GEBV. When you get a buck out there for promotion and give him an iconic name, once they have solid production on the ground you are at whole different level."

Having bucks with unique names "has helped us when placing magazine ads," Holdman explained. "We had an ad with a buck named Kisatchie, after Kisatchie National Forest here in Louisiana. In the ad he was standing in the middle of tall pine trees. We had another buck named Cotton Picker and had him standing in the middle of a cottonfield in his ad. We found it's been an effective way to promote them." At Elam Woods, deer are often named after places in Louisiana, country music legends or songs. Some of their current breeding bucks include Twitty, Easy Touch, Slow hands and Heated Rush. "Those names caught on really well," Holdman said. "Everybody knows who they are."

Patriotic names and names of songs also often work well to do

a deer "justice" and therefore make them more memorable. The best buck ever raised by Woodard, called Louisville Slugger, was impressive even as a yearling, and named after the well-known baseball bat company. "I thought it was iconic and not easily forgotten," Woodard said. "We also have Mr. Incredible after the movie 'The Incredibles' and he had two sons, Dash and Jack." However, no buck, no matter its name, is worth anything unless they are registered with NADR. "If someone is able to look up a buck on NADR, and think that will work on their farm, they will more than likely be interested in him," Holdman said.

In addition, having a buck who will raise the bar for the deer industry and essentially out-produce himself, pass his genes along and also be useful for outcrossing, is what will make him truly great. "You don't see that with every deer," Woodard concluded. "Having that will certainly get you noticed."



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Magazine Deadlines / Event Calendar

Provided by D&K Design, Publisher for State Association Magazines • VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE EVENT DETAILS: DEERSITES.COM

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 MDFA Banquet
2	3	4 Alabama Deer Association Spring Deadline	5	6	7 SETDA Spring Fling! UDFOM Convention!	
	10	11 Tri-State Associations Spring Deadline	12	13	14	15
16		18	 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & FUNDRAISER MARCH 19-22, 2025 • FRENCH LICK RESORT FRENCH LICK, INDIANA 			
23	24	West Virginia Deer Farmers Association / New York Deer & Elk Farmers Association Spring Deadline	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Kentucky Alternative Livestock Association Spring Deadline	2	3	4	5 SDDEBA Annual Meeting
6	7	8 UDFOM Magazine Spring Deadline	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Whitetail Deer Farmers of Ohio Spring Deadline	16	17		19
	21	22 UpperMidwest Spring Deadline	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Summer Quarter Starts Today!	2	3 2nd Annual CRAWFEST
4		6 Southeast Times Summer Deadline	7	8	9	10
	12	13 IDEFA Journal Summer Deadline	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Pennsylvania Deer Farmers Association Summer Deadline	21	22	23	24
25		27 Whitetails of Louisiana Summer Deadline	28	29	30	31

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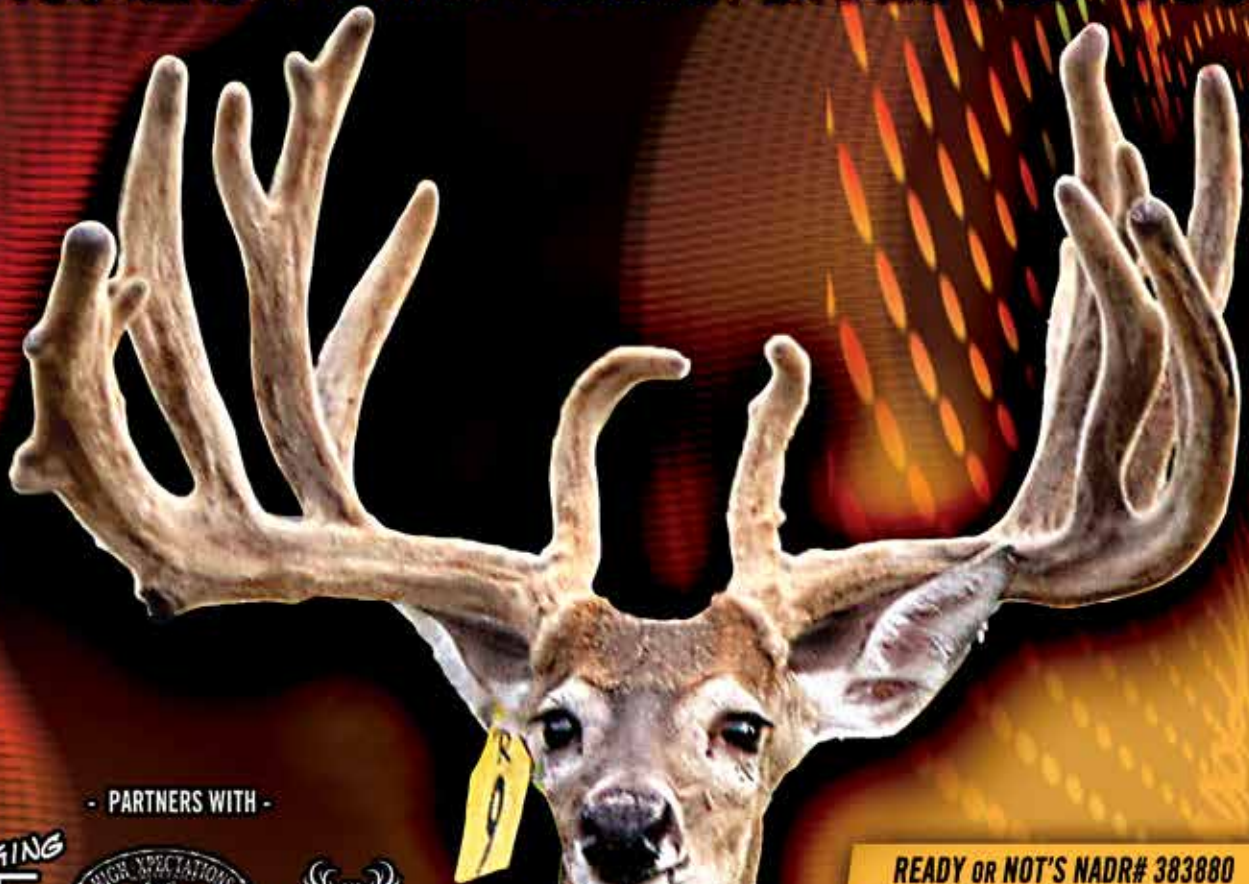


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OHIO ANNUAL EVENT DRAWS LARGE NUMBERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC

By: Gail Veley • Sponsored by the Whitetail Deer Farmers of Ohio

There were close to 1,800 people who attended The Whitetail Deer Farmers of Ohio (WDFO) convention in August of 2024. Approximately half were not deer farmers, but the interested and curious general public. The WDFO, a cornerstone of the deer farming community in the Buckeye State, appears to do a very commendable job of sharing their passion with those outside the industry, including hunters, non-hunters, families and children.

"With a mission to educate, unite and support deer farmers, the WDFO also strives to bring the broader public into the fold, helping them understand the nuances and rewards of this unique agricultural pursuit," said Ivan Hochstetler, owner of Double H Whitetails in Wayne County, Ohio. Hochstetler, who has co-sponsored the annual WDFO event for the last two years, believes their Hallmark Feature and biggest crowd attraction at the annual event is the EXPO, a vibrant gathering Friday evening that includes dinner and a guest speaker. It typically draws both seasoned deer farmers and inquisitive visitors alike. The EXPO also serves as a platform to showcase the industry's achievements with educational seminars, breeder displays and interactive demonstrations. "We sold

107 tables at \$1,000 a table, and at least half were bought by non-deer farmers," Hochstetler explained. "An individual at each table won a gun."

Beyond its focus on deer farming, the event throughout the years has gained a reputation for its community centered activities, including popular gun raffles as well as a special emphasis on honoring the veteran community, who also have their own table at each annual event. Event advertising is done through local newspapers, Facebook and various Ohio sporting goods stores.

"The Expo's success and spirit of outreach can largely be attributed to the vision and dedication of our late Terry Klick, a passionate advocate for deer farming and a gregarious leader with the WDFO." Hochstetler reflected. "Terry championed the EXPO as a way to connect deer farmers and the public, ensuring it became a yearly tradition. Being a veteran himself, Terry made certain they felt welcome, along with all the others. It not only advanced the industry but also fostered community camaraderie and goodwill. We gave a small gift to each and every child who attended the convention, 300 total this past year, along with hosting other family activities and the gun raffle that any adult who attended could potentially

win."

When Terry passed away in January of 2024, he left behind a legacy within the WDFO and the wider deer farming community. His leadership and passion continue to inspire those who knew him, and the EXPO stands as a testament to his enduring vision. As the WDFO moves forward, it remains committed to honoring Terry's memory by growing the EXPO and further strengthening its mission of education, unity and outreach.

"There isn't a minute that goes by that we aren't thinking about or planning for our annual event," said WDFO Executive Director Levi Miller. "As an association, I'd say we are very blessed to live in the great State of Ohio. If anyone reading this hasn't been to one of our events, you owe it to yourself to come. We'd love to see you."

“The Expo's success and spirit of outreach can largely be attributed to the vision and dedication of our late Terry Klick, a passionate advocate for deer farming and a gregarious leader with the WDFO.



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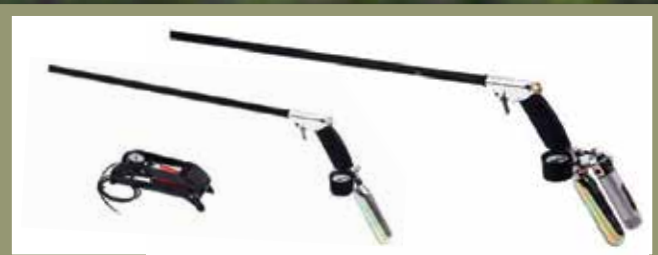


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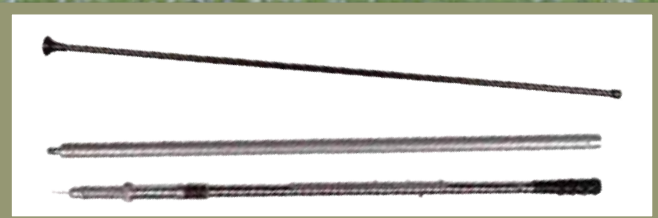
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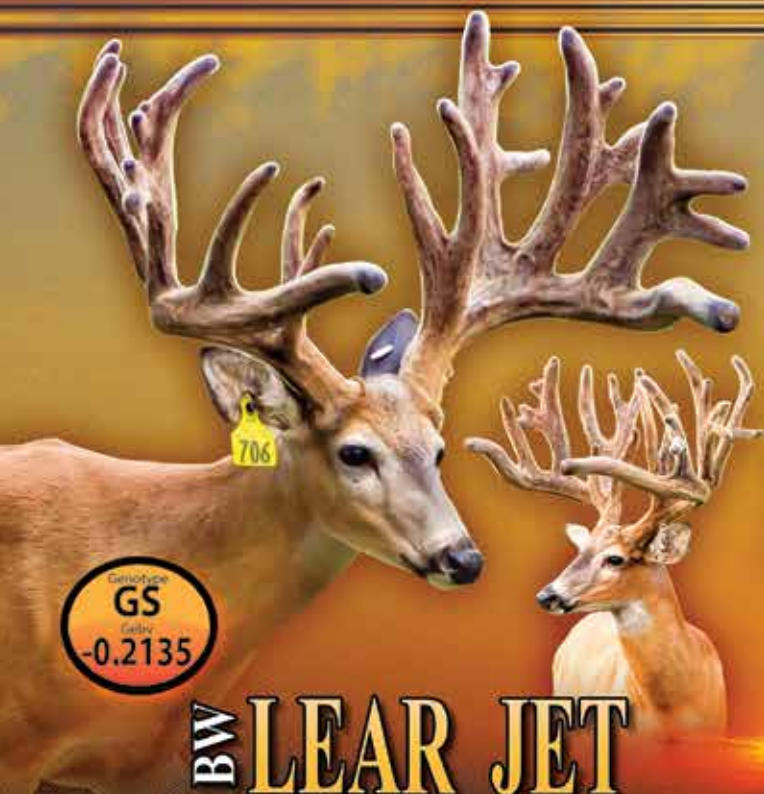
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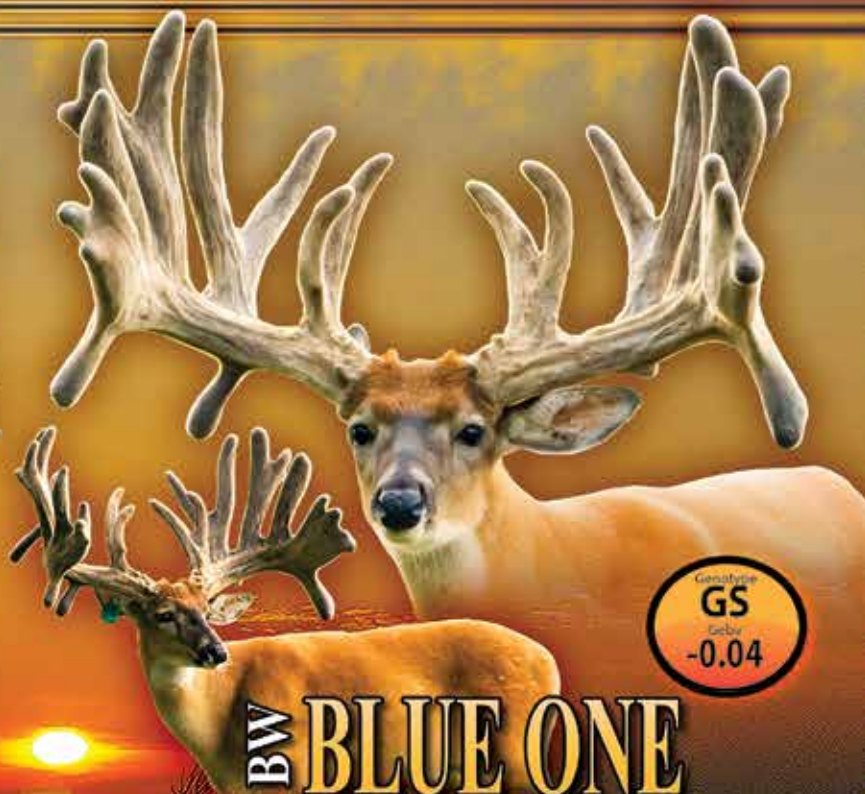
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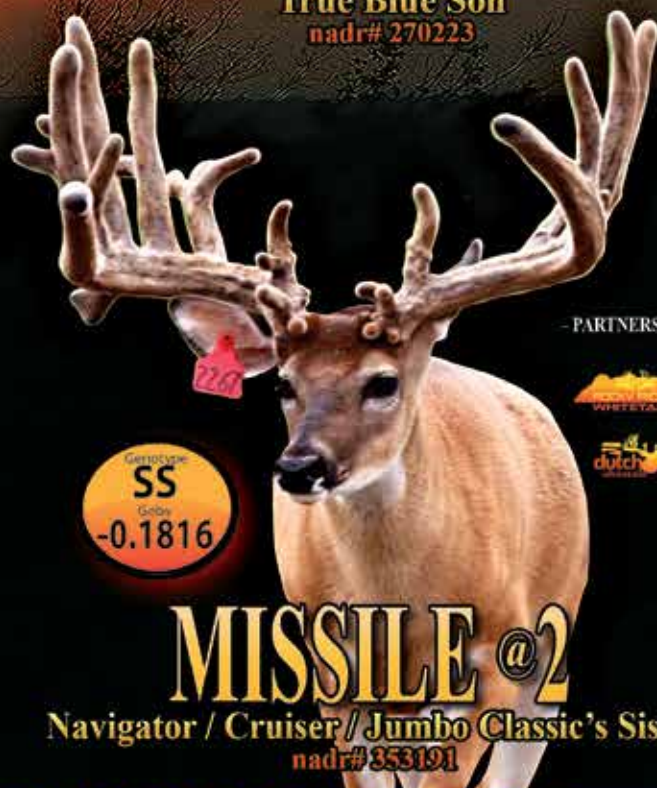
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INGREDIENTS

- 3 tbsp olive oil or as needed
- 2 lb (950g) venison cubed
- 1 large onion peeled and finely diced
- 1 ½ cups (200g) mushrooms sliced
- 3 garlic cloves minced
- 2 tsp brown sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp tomato paste
- 1 tbsp cranberry sauce or redcurrant jelly
- 1 cup (120g) cooked chestnuts (optional)
- ½ cup (65g) fresh or frozen cranberries
- 1 cup (240 ml) red wine or ruby port
- ½ cup (120 ml) beef broth (stock cube is fine too)
- 2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- salt and pepper to season



Recipe shared by:

Supergolden Bakes
BY LUCY PARISSI

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat the oil in your slow cooker if it allows for searing or in a separate pan. Brown the meat over medium-high heat, in batches, until nicely browned. Use a slotted spoon to transfer to a bowl.
2. Add a splash more oil if needed and reduce the heat. Sauté the onion and mushrooms for 5-7 minutes, stirring, or until softened.
3. Stir in the garlic then the sugar, salt, pepper, tomato paste and cranberry sauce. (If you have been using a separate pan transfer everything to your slow cooker now).
4. Add the meat, chestnuts, cranberries, beef broth, wine and Worcester Sauce and stir to combine.
5. Cover and cook on HIGH for 4-5 hours or LOW for 7-8 hours or until the venison is tender.
6. Check the seasoning and add salt and pepper if needed.
7. Serve over mashed potatoes sprinkled with fresh thyme.

Notes:

To cook in a Dutch Oven, follow the steps to brown and sauté on the hob. Double the amount of beef broth and red wine then transfer to the oven, preheated at 160°C (325°F), for 1 ½ – 2 hours or until the venison is tender. Keep any leftovers in the fridge for up to three days or freeze for up to three months.

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What is a genetically estimated breeding value (GEBV)?

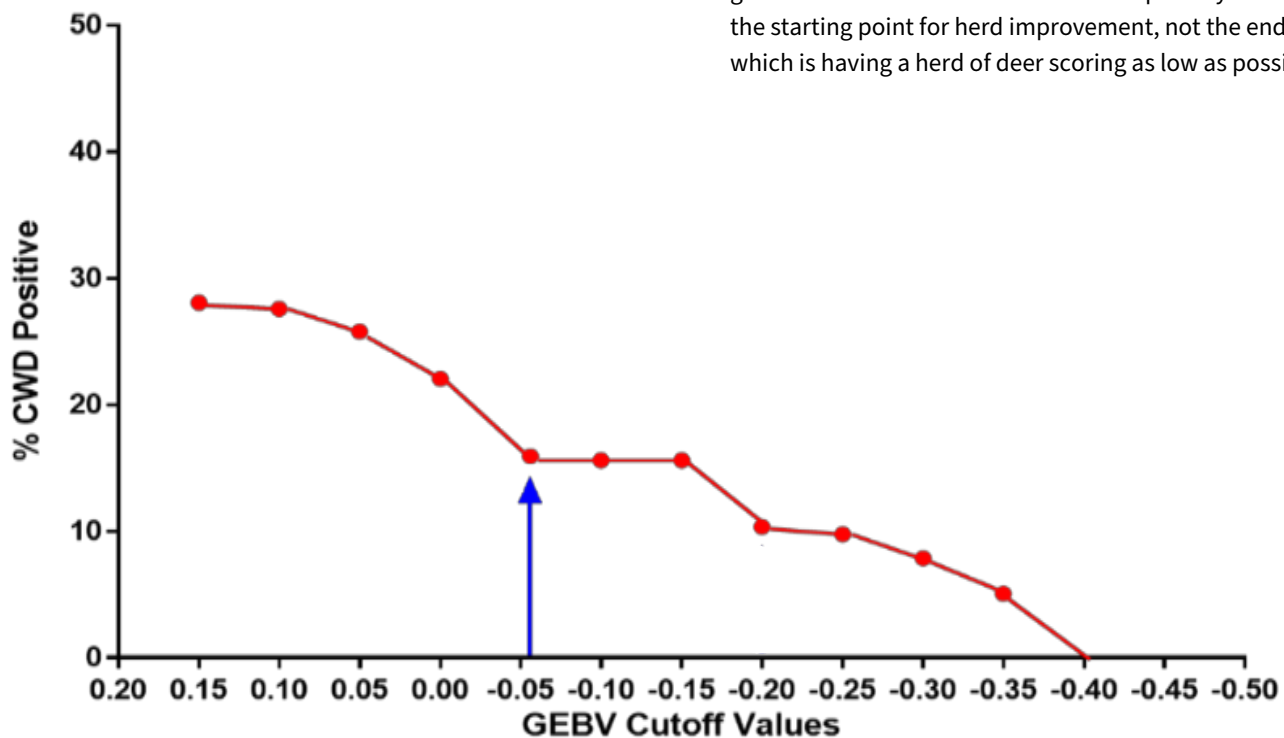
A GEBV is a statistically generated number or score that estimates the total genetic potential of an animal with respect to a heritable trait. Traits are influenced and controlled by many different genetic regions, or loci, across the genome. In this situation the trait is susceptibility of white-tailed deer (WTD) to chronic wasting disease (CWD). The regions of interest are those that have a role in the CWD disease process, which is stated more simply as susceptibility. Seabury et al.^{1,2} found over 120,000 different regions that have a role in the CWD disease process. Each region provides a small contribution to the overall CWD disease process. However, some regions provide a greater contribution than others, and those are the genetic regions used in the current commercially available GEBV testing through the North American Deer Registry (NADR).

How is the GEBV for CWD susceptibility determined?

The GEBV is produced by comparing and analyzing the effects of genetic regions from deer that have CWD to those that do not have CWD.

What does the score mean?

The score, which is presented as either a positive or negative number, reflects the potential for that deer to get CWD. The higher the number (on the positive side of zero) the greater the potential for that deer to become CWD positive if exposed to the disease. The graph below shows the percentage of 1,554 farmed WTD found to be CWD positive at various GEBV scores, ranging from the worst on the left (0.20) to best on the right (-0.40). The percentage of WTD with CWD decreases as the GEBV score decreases (becomes more negative). The arrow indicates the highest GEBV score (-0.056) animals should have to begin to generate a herd that has reduced susceptibility to CWD. This is the starting point for herd improvement, not the end goal, which is having a herd of deer scoring as low as possible.



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What about variations in the prion gene like codon 95, 96 and others?

While some codons (the parts of DNA that code for a specific amino acid) in the prion gene, particularly codon 96, can strongly influence incubation period, the contribution of any codon to the total genetic merit (GEBV score) is rather low. While codon 96 contributes more to susceptibility than any other individual region elsewhere in the genome, most of the overall susceptibility is due to the cumulative genetic contributions of these other regions. In other words, breeding for specific codon 96 genetics (GS or SS) alone is insufficient to significantly reduce herd susceptibility. That said, there is a role for codon 96 in reducing herd susceptibility, just not on its own.

How can you use GEBV Scores and Predictive Genetics to Reduce Herd Susceptibility to CWD?

The primary goal of predictive genetics using GEBV scores is to generate herds that are less susceptible to CWD, either avoiding the establishment of CWD after an exposure, or limiting the spread within the herd if infected. Additionally, predictive genetics can be used in certain circumstances to clean up CWD-infected herds within and/or beyond a quarantine period.

The generation of herds with reduced susceptibility to CWD is only achievable when the steps below are diligently followed. Leaving poor scoring, highly susceptible animals within a herd allows CWD to rapidly spread and contaminate the environment. Even good scoring deer may not be able to withstand infection in highly contaminated environments or in herds with a high CWD prevalence.

Steps to using GEBV scores for herd improvement:

Get GEB scores which include codon 96 genetics on all animals within the herd, regardless of age. Good scoring animals can be GG, GS, or SS. Do not cull a good scoring animal simply because it is a GG!

- Identify all animals with scores above the minimum cutoff value of -0.056 (i.e., above means less negative; and those that are closer to zero, or that are positive numbers).
- Keep meticulous herd and breeding records that includes GEBV scores and codon 96 data.
- Determine if the herd has a sufficient number of deer with scores below the cutoff to sustain a viable breeding population without breeding too tightly. Tight breeding to get desired scores is not recommended. Tight breeding will unmask negative recessive traits.
- Develop a culling plan to remove as many deer above the cutoff as possible. Some herds may not contain a sufficient number of deer below the cutoff to sustain the herd. In this situation purchasing good scoring animals or semen straws from good scoring bucks is recommended to selectively breed with best scoring does on site. With careful breeding over several generations, the overall GEBV scores can be significantly improved, and the herd susceptibility reduced over time.
- Good scoring deer with GS and SS at codon 96 in the prion gene are ultimately the goal. However, good scoring GG and GS deer can be bred with good scoring mates to generate desirable offspring with GS or SS at codon 96. This allows for genetic improvement without tight breeding.

For More Information

Ask for professional help at CWD@usda.gov when circumstances are unusual or complicated. This will save time, money, and perhaps even your herd in the long run.

¹ Accurate Genomic Predictions for Chronic Wasting Disease in U.S. White-Tailed Deer. 2020. [Seabury et al.](#)

² Genotype by Environment Interactions for Chronic Wasting Disease in Farmed US White-Tailed Deer. 2022. [Seabury et al.](#)

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H	R	I	O	C	B	P	F	X	Y	N	U	X	F	F
I	N	F	B	C	A	L	O	B	E	L	U	S	I	F
P	J	E	S	B	T	T	I	N	B	J	F	A	P	L
P	T	S	V	A	E	O	T	O	F	O	Q	J	P	A
E	I	T	Q	E	L	R	T	Y	K	J	W	P	L	B
R	T	O	F	M	R	O	T	H	W	L	M	P	E	B
S	T	O	O	E	Z	Y	P	I	O	A	E	N	S	E
N	E	N	P	L	Y	M	W	E	G	R	M	P	D	R
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P	V	O	S	O	D	Q	I	D	D	N	E	B	L	S
E	B	Q	H	P	U	L	C	R	J	K	F	S	E	T
R	E	E	H	Q	R	N	G	O	L	N	E	F	W	T

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All of these are real words!
Look them up in the dictionary
for a good laugh!

SUDOKU

The rules for sudoku are simple:

A 9x9 square must be filled in
with numbers from 1-9 with no
repeated numbers in each line,
horizontally or vertically.

To challenge you more, there
are 3x3 squares marked out
in the grid, and each of these
squares can't have any repeat
numbers either.

Skill Level: Difficult

			8	6	1		3	9
	3					5		
			7	3		1	2	
6				8		9		
	2			1	7			3
	8		6	4				
	4							
						7		
3		5			6			

7	8	6	5	4	9	3	2	1
4	2	5	3	6	1	8	9	7
3	1	9	2	7	8	5	4	6
6	3	8	7	1	4	9	5	2
9	4	1	8	5	2	7	6	3
5	7	2	9	3	6	1	8	4
1	5	4	6	8	7	2	3	9
8	9	7	4	2	3	6	1	5
2	6	3	1	9	5	4	7	8

Answers to puzzles will be available in the next
issue, or can be found on our website:
www.deersites.com

Last Issues Puzzles
~ Answer Keys ~

O	H	L	K	T	B	E	R	V	D	O	C	W	Q
X	P	G	B	S	E	A	S	O	N	N	O	F	S
S	W	O	O	Q	M	M	P	A	D	R	R	K	W
J	F	U	B	I	Y	C	O	E	K	F	N	O	X
K	D	R	S	G	D	A	P	V	V	R	U	S	E
C	H	D	Z	J	A	R	Z	E	N	Z	C	T	B
L	H	A	T	D	O	A	W	R	E	A	O	L	N
M	S	E	R	K	Y	M	G	G	F	L	P	U	U
S	I	P	S	V	F	E	Q	R	R	S	I	A	T
B	H	M	S	T	E	L	H	E	I	I	A	U	M
W	P	T	J	G	N	S	T	E	G	U	H	T	E
X	E	K	G	F	N	U	T	N	I	T	W	U	G
K	M	U	T	V	Z	O	T	T	D	N	Z	M	K
Y	X	U	B	Q	T	K	K	S	Q	H	I	N	R
Z	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	E	Q	U	I	N	O

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SHARED MEMORIES WITH JAKE ANDERSON

By: Gail Veley • Sponsored by KALA

The clock was close to striking midnight when Jake Anderson set out for an eastern Kentucky elk hunt in September of 2013. This trip would be one of several he would take in an effort to not waste the coveted elk tag he had drawn from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife lottery earlier that summer. His plan, along with packing his hunting bow and camping gear, was to arrive at daybreak to scope out promising areas for the harvest.

"The maps provided by fish and wildlife were terrible," Anderson, who was 25 at the time, said. And even though he stopped at several places to ask the locals about elk sightings "no one could tell me anything," he added. "This was all on public land with no guide." It took five trips. The first was with one of his hunting friends. Although on that trip Anderson squarely landed an arrow into a really sizable bull, the big elk was completely unfazed by the shot and continued on chasings cows, until completely disappearing from sight. His fifth trip found him shooting a fatal arrow into what Anderson still considers

his "once-in-a-lifetime" free-range elk. Luckily, the elk had expired on a dirt road on land formerly used for mining, and Anderson was able to bring his truck into the exact location and load the entire body into his truck bed.

Ironically, as he arrived to this particular spot to gather his elk, he found five elk standing right there, all bigger than the one he had just taken down. "I thought 'you gotta be kidding me. This is just my luck,'" Anderson said, even though he was really happy with his hunted treasure. During another hunt, a whitetail hunt in Kansas, both Anderson and his uncle had shot an arrow at a buck. Anderson, however, had taken and landed the first shot. Both men, upon searching for their deer, thought that their arrow had certainly been the fatal one. However, when they found the buck, only one arrow was in it. "That was another memorable hunt that really stands out for me," Anderson said.

Yet, in all the hunting adventures he's enjoyed throughout the years, Anderson has noticed one thing. Public land for hunting decreases every year.

According to internet research, rapid urban sprawl has been responsible for close to 14,000 square miles of land development between 2001 and 2019, which comparatively is an area roughly five times the size of the State of Delaware. Real estate values for farmland have also increased substantially throughout recent years, making selling the land more enticing particularly in states such as Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Florida. Other states experiencing the most accelerated urban growth have included Texas, Illinois and North Dakota. "Unless you own land or are leasing it, our opportunities to hunt in open range are going to be gone," Anderson, owner of Anderson Whitetails in Guston, Kentucky, said. "There is less and less land to hunt and we are going to get to a point where there will be no place left to hunt. This is where we are lucky to have high fence hunting. You could hunt your whole life and never have the opportunity to shoot one like you have in a preserve."

"Without high fence hunting, it is so hard for an individual to find somewhere to hunt that's not developed or leased out," Anderson emphasized. "If I visited a preserve, I'd like to get another elk. Same for other hunters. It wouldn't have to be just a whitetail. You might be sitting in a deer stand an elk goes walking by and you change your mind and want one of them instead. And you wouldn't have to go through the hassle of entering a lottery and getting a special tag. Preserve owners are playing a vital role in current and future land conservation, and in providing the sustained opportunities to enjoy unforgettable hunts."



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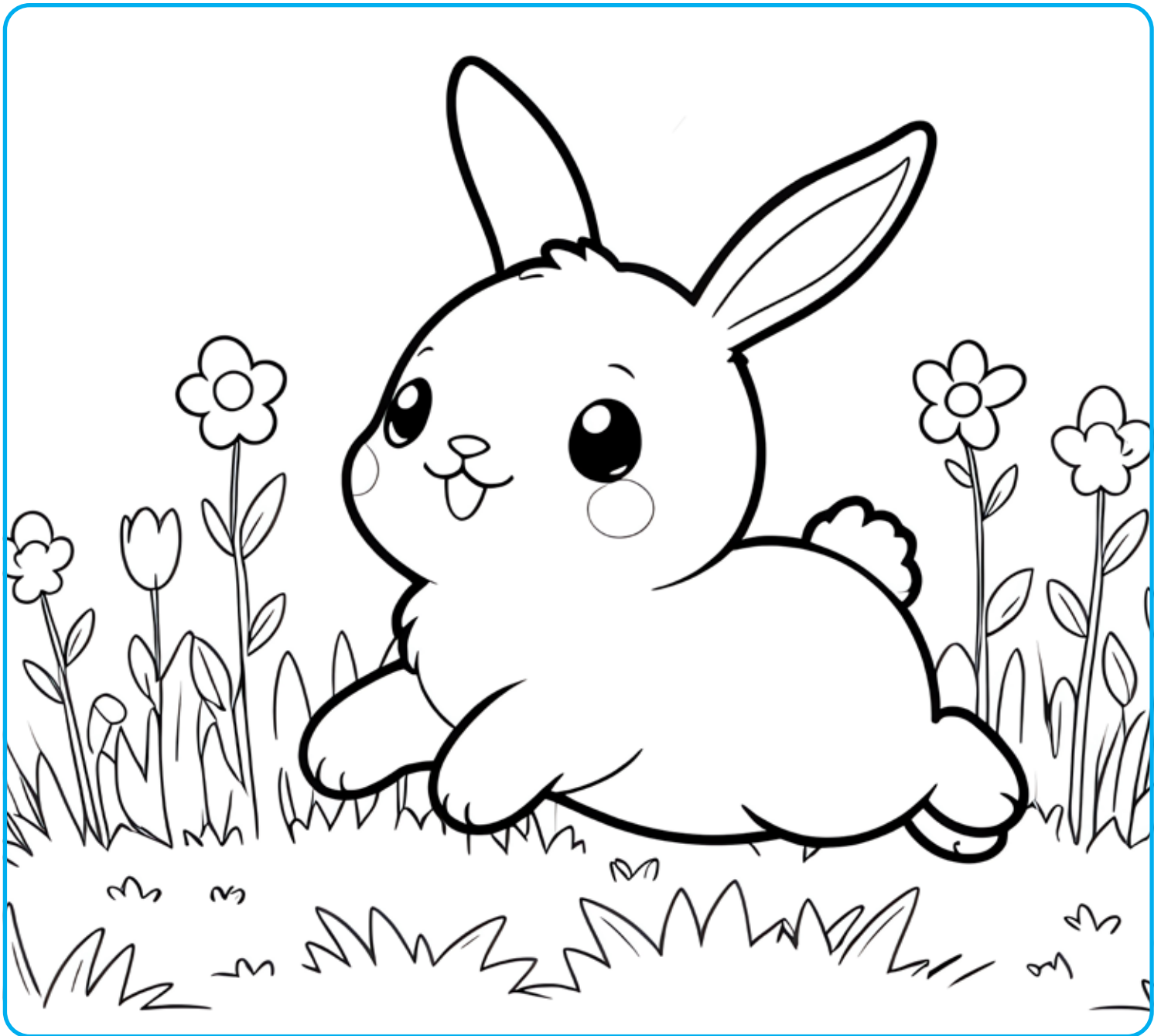
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