

Fall 2024 | Volume 2 | Issue 3



EVENT OVERVIEWAlabama Deer Farmers Stand Strong

ALABAMA DEER FARMERS STRIVE FOR EFFECTIVE INSECT CONTROL

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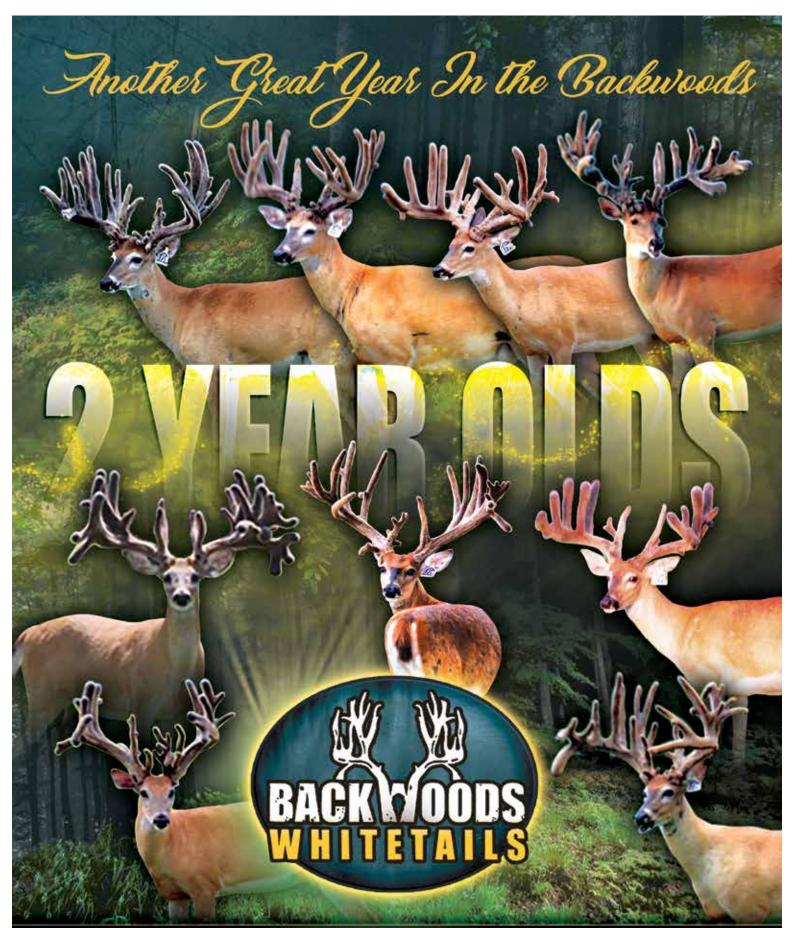
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OCTOBER 2024 | FALL

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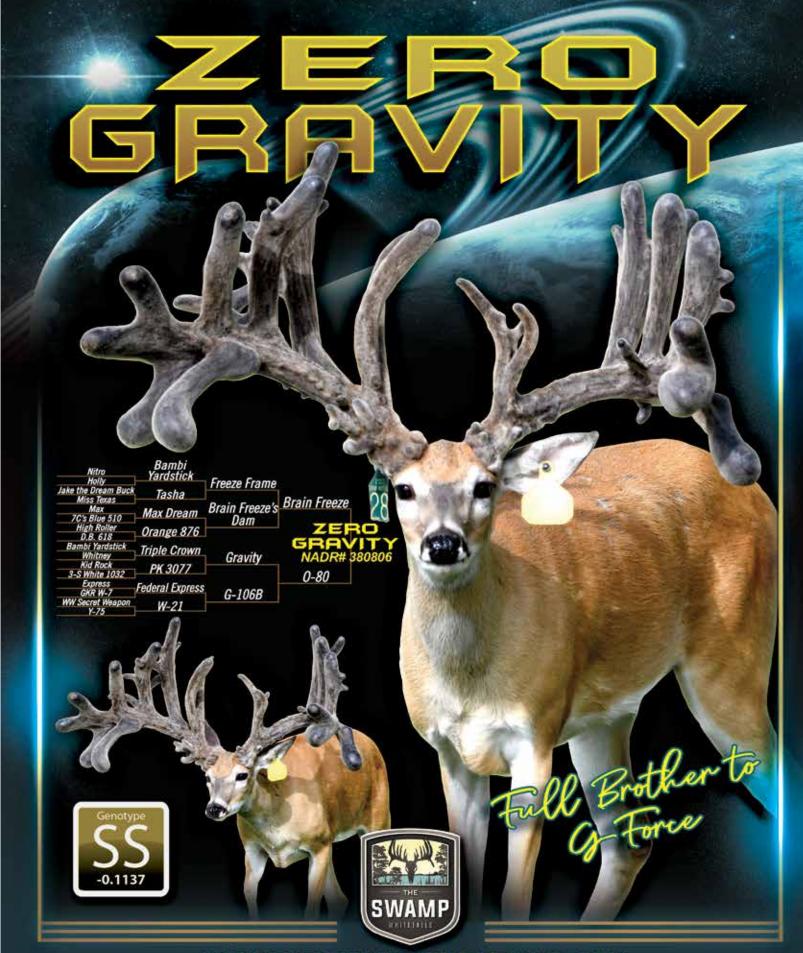


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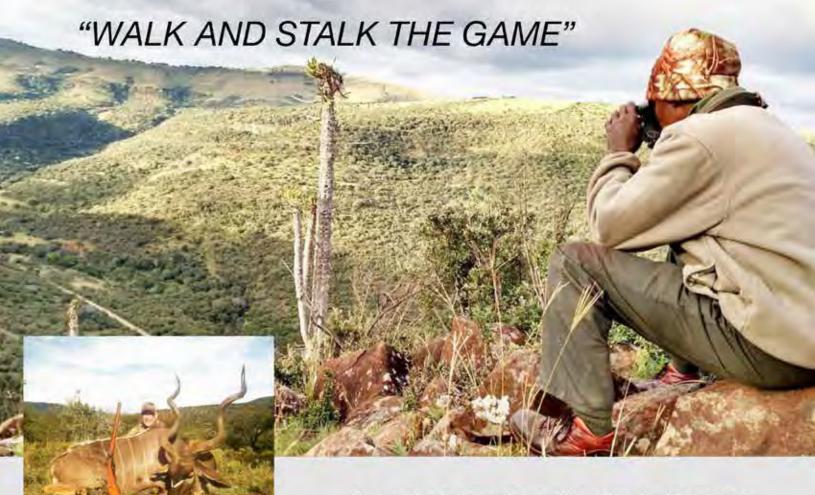


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Event OverviewAlabama Deer Farmers Stand Strong



With Sincere Thanks from ADA President Rodney Ragon

Membership in The Alabama Deer Farmer's Association is at an all-time high. At the time of our annual fundraising event this past February at the Cotton Creek event venue in Cullman, Alabama, we had close to 200 members. We are very thankful for the enthusiasm and support of every member who makes our association great. We are also grateful for those who attend our annual events (always the fourth Saturday in February) to enjoy a catered barbeque meal and reconnecting with friends and fellow deer farmers.

At our last event we had very impressive auction lots including semen straws, six top-producing fallow deer and six whitetails. Funds raised are used to pay our lobbyists, miscellaneous annual expenses and our Executive Director Amy Murphy, without whom we would not function in the smooth and proficient manner that we do. A big thank you to her for all of her continued hard work!

As we look to the future, we are hopeful that our relationships with our state regulatory agencies can grow stronger and more cohesive. We strive for an understanding that will point to greater support and opportunities for deer farmers who, among other things, wish to be the solution to CWD. As your president I am laying the groundwork for a better future for all of us. My gratitude goes out to you, our members, for making our state a great one for deer farming. Together, we will continue to stand strong. I look forward to seeing everyone again next year, same time, same place!

Rodney Ragon Alabama Deer Association President Thank you
Alabama Deer
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Members



"My gratitude goes out to you, our members, for making our state a great one for deer farming." - Rodney Ragon













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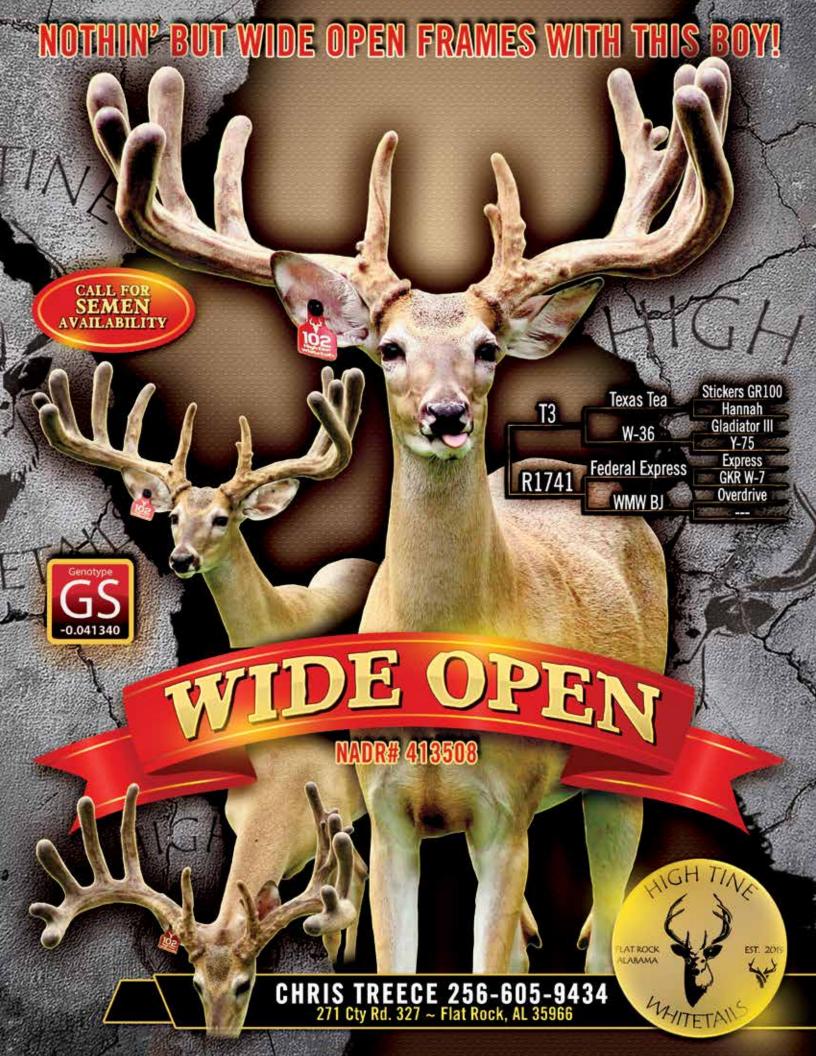
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Introduction

With an increasingly divisive election campaign, Congressional deadlock, and a looming government funding deadline on October 1st, it is clear that 2024 will be a pivotal year for American politics. Congress has so far failed to pass its twelve annual appropriations bills for fiscal year 2025 (FY25), including the Farm bill by the August recess, and debates on immigration and foreign aid are expected to play out as election season begins.

Elections

On November 5th, Vice President Kamala Harris (D) will face former President Donald Trump (R) to decide who will be the 47th President of the United States. At the moment, polling shows the candidates to be statistically tied nationally while Vice President Harris holds a slim lead in most swing states. On July 15th, former President Trump announced his selection for freshman Ohio Senator J.D. Vance while Vice President Harris selected Minnesota Governor Tim Walz. Both VP picks appear intended to bolster their running mate's standing in Midwest battleground states such as Ohio and Michigan. Down-ballot Republicans are broadly expected to gain a majority in the Senate, where the Democrats will be forced to defend eights seats located in swing states and red states. The House of Representatives appears to be in play for either party.

Legislative Outlook

On March 23rd President Biden signed a continuing resolution (CR) for the funding of the federal government through September 30th. The bill passed the House of Representatives with a margin of 286-134 and the Senate by a margin of 74-24. Major provisions included additional funding for the National Institutes of Health, measures to respond to the opioid epidemic and the Low Income Energy Assistance Program. As the October 1st deadline for the FY25 appropriations bills draws closer, the current process is ongoing but it is not expected that a majority of the spending bills will pass before election day.

Farm Bill

On June 11th, the House Appropriations Committee released the initial version of the FY2025 Farm bill. The bill would provide additional funding to safety-net programs for farmers as well as doubling the allocation to support trade promotion efforts. Speciality crop programs also saw funding increases, improved the availability of energy cost reduction programs and implements new measures to track land purchase by foreign entities, particularly those based in China. More controversially, the bill includes two items that have proved extremely unpopular with Democrats, leaving the current bill unlikely to pass the Senate. These provisions are limits placed on future increases in funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the removal of 'climate-smart' requirements for the use of \$13 billion in conservation funding allocated in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) earlier this year. These issues will need to be resolved if the bill is to pass before the September 30th deadline although it is possible that both the Farm bill and National Defence Authorization Act (NDAA) would remain funded until the end of the year, even without an agreement.

Conclusion

It remains unclear how the Farm Bill under consideration will look, after amendments and negotiations between the House and Senate. However, both parties have expressed the desire to pass all major legislation for FY25 before the October 1st deadline. If they fail to meet this target it is likely that funding will be allocated in the form of continuing resolutions (CR) to maintain levels of funding from the last fiscal year until a compromise can be reached or a new government installed. As the election is getting closer, lawmakers are using August and October to campaign for their respective seats and garner support for their preferred presidential candidate. Although it is unclear who the winner will be in the White House and which party will have control of Congress, the country is set for another historic election once again.







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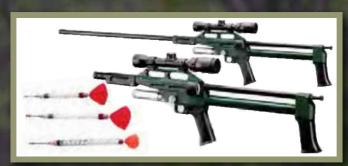
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PREPARING YOUR BUCKS FOR THE HUNT COMMON SENSE ADVICE

By: Gail Veley • Sponsored by WOL

reparing your bucks for the hunt begins long before warm and humid summer months turn into cooler and crisper fall days. Although the feeling of autumn ascending upon the earth makes hunters usually think of only one thing - hunting - preserve owners have begun preparing for those hunts months before. In fact, it may feel as though they are always perpetually preparing in one form or another. However, February can be a crucial month in this overall process. "After the hardest part of the winter is over, I start in February making sure I have enough protein available to my bucks in my preserve who were not harvested the year before," said Brandon Bollinger of 2 Brothers Whitetail in Loranger, Louisiana. "Protein gets them from the rut back into condition. The key is their body condition."

An essential source of protein can be found in clover plots. "You want to make sure those are ready for spring," Bollinger, 47, said. "The key to growing big deer is putting a buffet in front on them and as little amount of stress as possible." Bollinger, who makes a point of closely watching and surveying his bucks all summer, starts rolling his preserve cameras in July, in an effort to ensure those bucks, currently residing inside, are ingesting enough adequate protein to meet size standards for the

upcoming season. Bucks currently residing in pens are also closely monitored as plans progress to stock the preserve. And although Bollinger raises enough of his own bucks to not need to buy more, he feels that selling some of his own while acquiring some from other farms, keeps his inventory varied and perhaps more appealing to hunters.

Bollinger, in addition to knowing how to raise the most appealing buck, has also learned through the years the most appealing circumstances of introducing bucks into a preserve. "I start in August while they are still in velvet," he said. "Don't do it the day before a hunt. Put them in the preserve in August while they are in velvet and learning where they want to be, and they are calm. You also need a 30-day buffer to make sure the medications they need for transport are out of their system." Preceding these precautions is the most valuable advice: Introduce them into the preserve at night. "You have much less of a chance of losing them because it's not as hot." Although some preserve owners prefer a method of introduction referred to as "soft launching" by first placing deer in a large pen inside the preserve, Bollinger finds that "day of" or prompt introductions can work just as well.

In an effort to make this type of introduction as safe as possible,

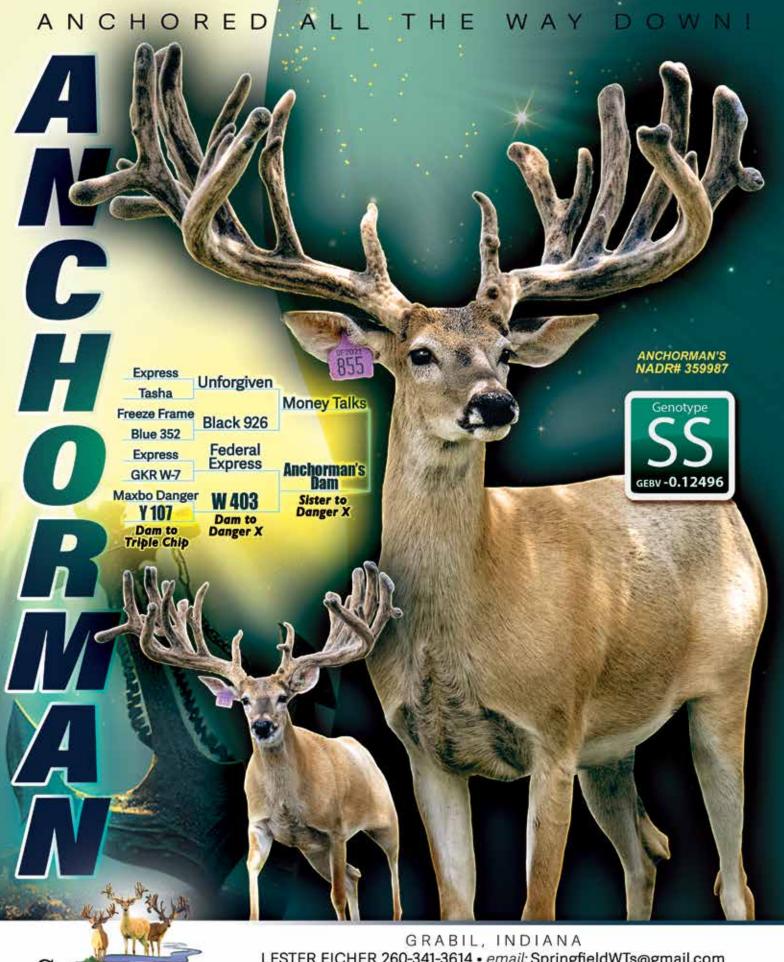
Bollinger also advises to not only have food and water sources located interiorly of your preserve, but all along the fence line as well, as deer tend to gravitate to the fence and pace and without easily accessible water and food, could dehydrate and die. In also realizing that deer learn the sound of an ATV or truck means food is coming, he makes a habit out



of dropping hunters off during hunting season from a vehicle, making it easier for them to slip into advantageous places. Although Bollinger takes every precaution necessary to make sure his deer thrive, fatalities are inevitable. "I always have or carry a 10 buck "buffer" from what I grow compared to what I buy, which is about a 20% buffer overall," he explained. "We hunt about 60 bucks a year."

While the thrill of the hunt is the most compelling part of deer farming, feeling compelled to create understood payment terms between seller and buyer is what may keep a deer farmer in business. "When you are buying stockers, you should have a very clear warranty period. This is very important. The general rule is seven days. Should deer purchased not survive beyond seven days, the seller usually compensates the buyer in some form or another, Bollinger said. "Make sure you have an agreement in place."





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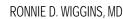
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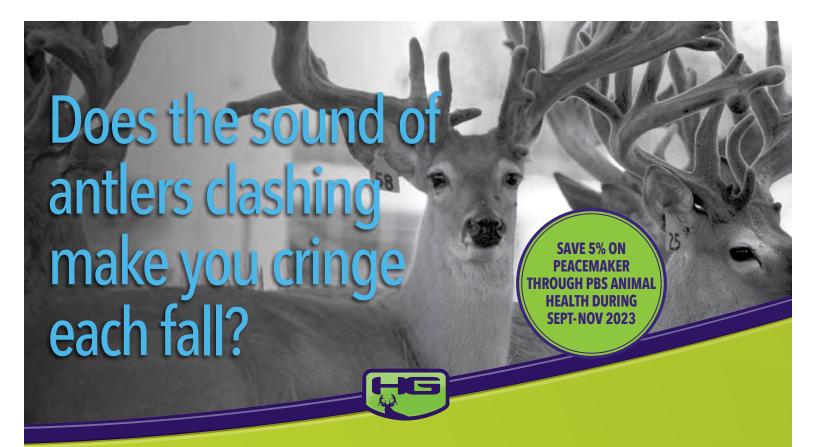
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October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Alabama Fall Deadline	10	11	12
13	Colimbus	15	-Bosss	17	18	19
20	21	22	Michigan Fall Deadline 23 Upper Midwest Fall Deadline	24	25	26
27	28	29	New York / West Virginia Fall Deadline	Happy Halloween		

November 2024

Sunday	Sunday Monday		Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
					1 Winter Quarter Begins	2	
3 Daylight Saving	4	FLACTICAL DAT	6 SeTDA Winker Desidline	7	8	9	
10	VETERANS DAY	12	13 IDEFA Winter Deedline	14	15	16	
17	18	19	Pennsylvania Winter Deadline	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	HAPPY	29	30	

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	.3	4 Louisina Winter Deadline	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor
8	9	10	11 Tri-State Winter Deadline	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Kentucky Winter Deadline	19	20	21
22	23	24	Merry) Christmas	Hänukkah	27	28
29	30	Happy	6.2			

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RAISING AND KEEPING EXOTICS KANSAS FARMERS OFFER INSIGHT

By: Gail Veley • Sponsored by KEDA

olding a homemade plywood shield in one hand and several peanuts in the other, red deer farmer Kevin Constant walks out to his deer pens in the spring to tag newborn red deer calves. A fiercely protective hind (female) stands ready in an instant to defend her baby. Constant, who is also ready to defend himself, tosses peanuts on the ground and then with hyper-focused precision, gets the job done as quickly as possible. While red deer may be heartier and perhaps easier to raise then whitetails, they can also be very aggressive when it comes to protecting their young.

Raising red deer is akin to raising "big cows with big antlers," said Constant, who, along with his wife Delores, own K & D Wildlife in Meriden, Kansas. "Red deer are very disease resistant and not as flighty as whitetails and are more adaptable to situations. They are more curious than cautious by nature. If you have a pair of gloves in your back pocket, they'll try to steal them. If they grab them and take off and you chase them, it's like 'game on!" he said. "They'll even climb into your vehicle if you let them." Started in 2019, Constant, 61, was looking to raise livestock on their 80-acre sprawl. When a local farmer decided to part with his red deer herd, the Constants purchased it and have



been raising red deer ever since. While they appreciate their hardiness, they are also grateful for the low mortality rate the farm has experienced in keeping them. "We only lose about 10% of our babies a year," he said. "We lost one from sickness that died four years ago, and we might lose one or two a year from new inexperienced mothers or if one comes out backwards."



Exotic wildlife in general enjoy a more stress-free existence as collectively they are known for their hardiness and inquisitive, laid-back nature. However, curiosity can also prove deadly, as Brad Farmer of Farmer's Fallow Deer in Viola, Kansas accidentally found out. While he has successfully and diligently raised fallow deer since 1990, he learned early on how much they like to chew on things. "I would caution people to take off the plastic twine and net wrap around hay bales," Farmer, 63, said. "If ingested, it forms a calcified mass or "rim" around their rumen and fills it up, causing them to starve to death. But, you don't know it until they are dead." Shade cloth is another item that exotic deer farmers may want to avoid using as it often gets caught around antlers of curious bucks. "As long as you practice safety measures, fallow deer do really well and adapt to a wide variety of climates," Farmer added.



Credited for bringing fallow deer to the United States is NADeFA Founder Josef Kerckerinck, who started Lucky Star Ranch in 1979 in Chaumont, New York after immigrating from Germany. Upon establishing his farm, he became steadfast in his desire to promote the venison market, his main motivation for establishing NADeFA. Soon, fallow deer became viable livestock on numerous farms throughout the U.S. and highly sought-after for their meat value. Fallow deer, the most popular exotic species to raise, are either of Mesopotamian descent (larger bodied with wide-base antlers) or European descent (smaller bodied and narrow-base antlers.)

Profit margins for selling exotics such as red deer and fallow can be very reasonable, as both Constant and Farmer feel the market value for their deer makes their efforts worthwhile. While both feed their herds hay, grain and silage (green fodder stored in a silo and fed throughout the winter), they also do quite well with naturally foraging. Raising exotics also requires farmers to obtain a state license. As with Farmer, Constant feels blessed to be able to raise exotics. For this opportunity "thanks be to God," Constant said. "We believe in the promise of blessings and have seen it over and over in the success of our herd."

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A WORD OF SINCERE APPRECIATION FROM CO-FOUNDER CAROL CLARK

By: Gail Veley

We were all a bit worried you might say when one of our beloved children, 16-year-old Ty Barrett, said one of his lifelong wishes was to ride a bull in a rodeo. But the rodeo staff for the 3 R Rodeo in Pelham, Alabama July 18th – 20th this year, was prepared. Rather than a bull, they chose a steer for Ty to ride. As their staff surrounded the chute and it's exit from a reasonable distance. Tv came flying out on a steer that didn't hold back, leaping and twisting as his young, determined mount hung on. With one and then both arms high in the air, Ty lasted four jumps. The crowd went absolutely wild!! Later that evening Ty was awarded a belt buckle that he has not stopped proudly wearing ever since.

We had close to 60 of our children participate in the rodeo, sponsored in part by The Alabama Deer Association. We couldn't be more grateful to them and for the opportunity to provide these types of lasting memories for our "Kidz" and their families. From "mutton busting" to "pull the ribbon off a calf's tail," everyone has a great time. One of my favorite sayings is "oh girl (or oh boy) you just don't know" in reference to

This rodeo was such an immense community effort, and Rick and I can't say enough good things about the way it all came together, and for the support we received from the wonderful city administration in Pelham. We had participants from Texas, Mississippi, Georgia, Tennessee, Arkansas, Florida and Alabama. And every single Kidz Outdoors child received a monogramed shirt and a cowboy hat. Plans are in the works for another rodeo next year and we can't wait!! One of our kids, Zachary Wedgeworth, is on board to be our official Rodeo Clown!!

If anyone would like to contact us about a possible event or a child in need, please call me at 205-410-3779 or email us at rcclark107@yahoo.com. Thank you so much and God Bless!

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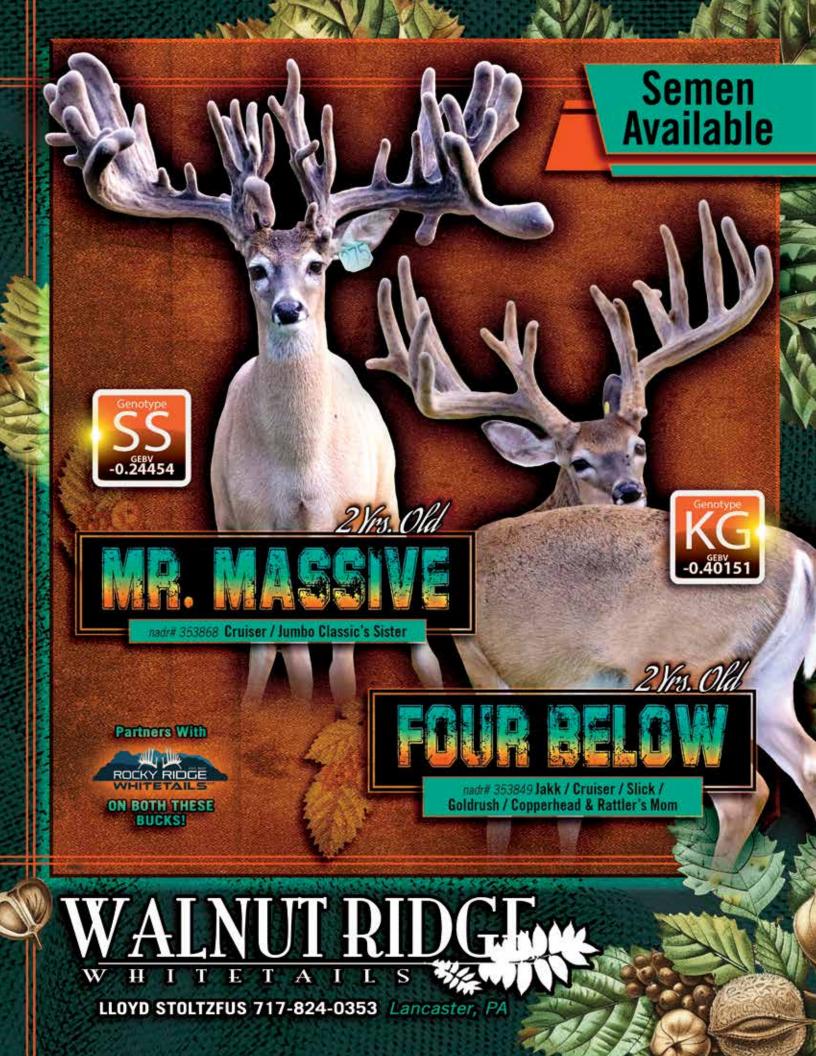
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ALABAMA DEER FARMERS STRIVE FOR EFFECTIVE INSECT CONTROL

By: Gail Veley • Sponsored by The Alabama Deer Farmers Association

Without a doubt, "insect infestation affects the growth of deer antlers," offers Dr. Dan Moore, DVM and owner of The Natural Vet, a supplement supply company based out of Unicoi, Tennessee. As a recent attendee of the 2024 Alabama Deer Farmers Association annual convention, Dr. Moore is well-versed in the types of insects that plague deer farmers in southern states such as Alabama and Tennessee. Insects such as mosquitoes, ticks and midge flies "also carry the threat of disease in deer, leading to stress, weight loss, deficient antler growth, anemia and even death in more severe cases," added Dr. Moore, 68, a retired veterinarian and former owner of two vet practices.

For deer farmers, protecting their deer from disease is akin to protecting their very own families, Dr. Moore has learned. "This is how much deer farmers love their deer. I even knew a farmer once who had two fawns at his wedding just for the sake of having them there," he said. For the sake of running a successful operation, prevention is the main focus in disease management. While Alabama itself is home to several predatory animals that can harm adult deer and fawns

such as opossums, hawks, coyotes, alligators, raccoons and feral hogs, to name a few, insects cannot be held back by sturdier fences, traps or legal, seasonal hunting practices.

In the warmer, moist and more humid climate found in Alabama "insects must be managed yearround," Dr. Moore said. These insects predominately include midge flies which can carry Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD), horse flies which live on host blood and deliver painful and stressful bites, ticks which can carry Lyme Disease and mosquitoes which can carry a vast amount of diseases such as Eastern Equine Encephalitis, West Nile virus and other diseases that can also affect both deer and humans. Alabama is home to approximately 60 species of mosquitoes that are attracted to water puddles, watering holes, ditches and other waterways.

Eradication methods include fogging with misting systems, insect deterrent sprays such as fly spray and supplements added to feed to make livestock unpalatable to preying insects who depend on their host blood for survival. Understanding which insects

> are most prevalent at your deer farm can help guide decisions such as which time of day is most effective for fogging, or when to mow or not now grass, or simply leave



it as grazing land. However, without careful scrutiny and monitoring, these practices could cause misfortune to other wildlife species, floral and fauna that are not harmful to deer.

Many deer supplement products, available from a wide variety of local and on-line feed stores, were primarily derived from Dr. Moore's horse products after it was discovered that deer found them appealing. "They can provide deer farmers with natural solutions to common problems," Dr. Moore said. "My father went through threeyear illness during which I lost faith in traditional medicine. I felt that there could be better and more natural ways to propagate health for ourselves and our domestic animals."

"I highly recommend that all deer farmers investigate natural solutions for the dilemmas they face in raising their deer," Dr. Moore. "This can also include more natural dewormers, insect sprays and feed management practices. Considering the big picture, I think this is the best thing to do."



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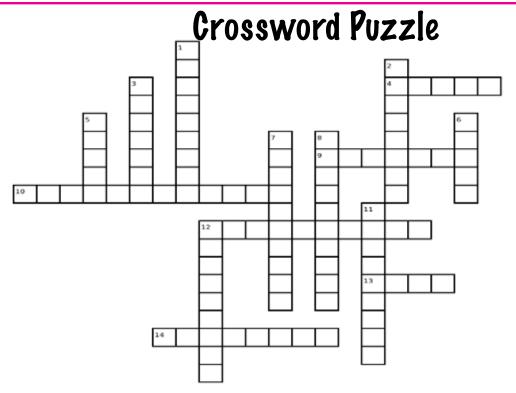
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Down:

- 1. large steep hill
- circular device used for protection against rain
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- 7. season or period of summer
- 8. activity done for enjoyment
- 11. natural electrical discharge
- device that sprays water

Across:

- 4. unpleasantly warm and humid
- 9. traveling in or through to learn about
- 10. violent and short-lived weather disturbance
- 12. observing the night sky
- 13. portable cloth shelter
- time of year the sun reaches its maximum declination

SUPOKU

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.

				8		9		
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Easy Venison Pie

Make a venison pie packed with pancetta, mushrooms and red wine, topped with golden puff pastry. It's cooked low and slow for beautifully tender meat.

Ingredients

- 2½ tbsp sunflower oil
- 2lbs diced venison
- 3.5oz smoked bacon lardons, pancetta or chopped smoked streaky bacon
- 2 onions, roughly chopped
- 2 bay leaves
- 7oz chestnut mushrooms, quartered, or baby chestnut mushrooms, halved
- 3 tbsp plain flour
- 1 tbsp ketchup
- 5oz red wine or dark ale (optional)
- 2 beef stock cubes mixed with 20oz boiling water
- 1 egg yolk, beaten (freeze the white for another recipe)
- 13oz sheet of ready-rolled puff pastry

Instructions

- 1. Heat the oven to 320F. Heat half the oil in a large flameproof casserole, brown the venison well in batches for 10 mins over a high heat, then set aside. Scatter the bacon into the pan with another ½ tbsp oil and sizzle for 8-10 mins until golden. Stir through the onions and bay leaves, drizzling with the remaining oil, and cook over a low heat for 5 mins until browned. Lower the heat to medium, then add the mushrooms and cook for a few minutes more until softened.
- 2. Scatter over the flour, stirring until the flour turns brown. Tip the meat and any juices back into the pan along with the ketchup and give it all a good stir. Pour over the wine or ale, if using, and bring to the boil. Bubble for a few minutes, then pour over the stock. Season and bring to a simmer. Cover with a lid and put in the oven for about 2 hrs until the meat is tender. Will keep chilled for three days or frozen for up to three months. Leave to cool completely first. Defrost in a fridge overnight before reheating thoroughly in a microwave or pan until the meat is piping hot.
- 3. To make the pie, heat the oven to 425F. Tip the filling into a 24-26cm rimmed pie dish and brush the rim of the dish with some of the egg yolk. Unravel the pastry, drape it over the dish and use a knife to trim and press against the rim. Re-roll the trimmings to make a decoration, if you like. Will keep covered and frozen for up to three months. Defrost fully before continuing with step three.
- 4. Brush the pie with the remaining egg yolk and season with sea salt flakes, if you like. Make a few little slits in the centre of the pie to allow the steam to escape, and bake for 30-35 mins until deep golden.







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

Coloring pages can be mailed to:

"Samantha Uchytil, 19291 59th St NE, New London, MN 56273" or emailed to "deerassociations@gmail.com" for a chance to be featured in the next issue!

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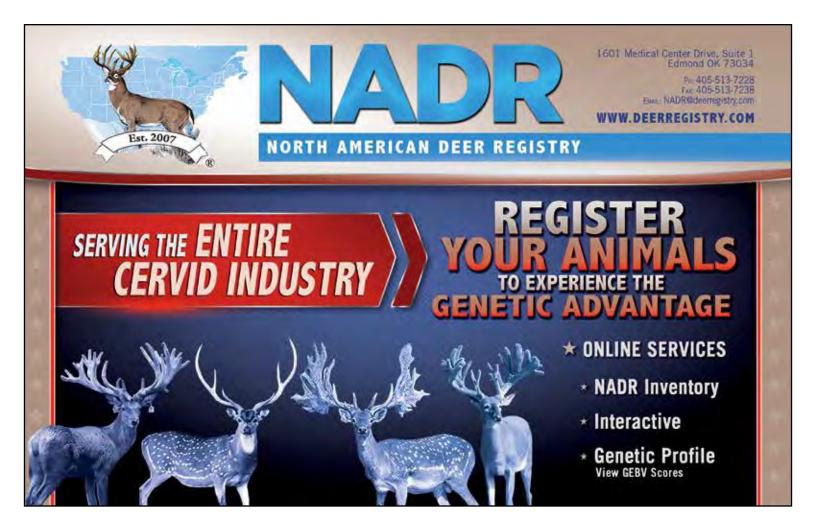


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