



ALABAMA

Winter 2025 | Volume 3 | Issue 4



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How is this done with respect to
proven production and marketability?
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POPULARITY AMONG HUNTERS**
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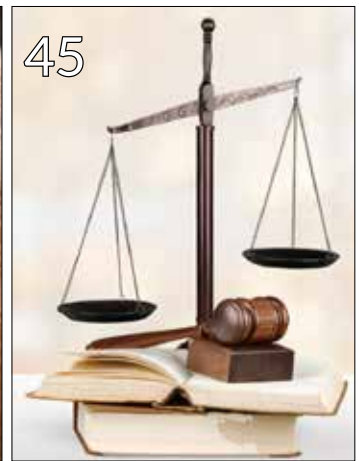
CODON 96: G/S
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piedmontfencing.reid@gmail.com



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Codon 96
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-0.296

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Contact:
Amy Murphy
aldeerassoc@gmail.com
205.928.2906

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Consignment DEADLINE: Nov. 5, 2025

Advertisement DEADLINE: Nov. 10, 2025

NADEFA Spring Open

MARCH 20, 2026

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Amy Nold, Whitetail Sales Business Office
Email: whitetailsalesauction@gmail.com
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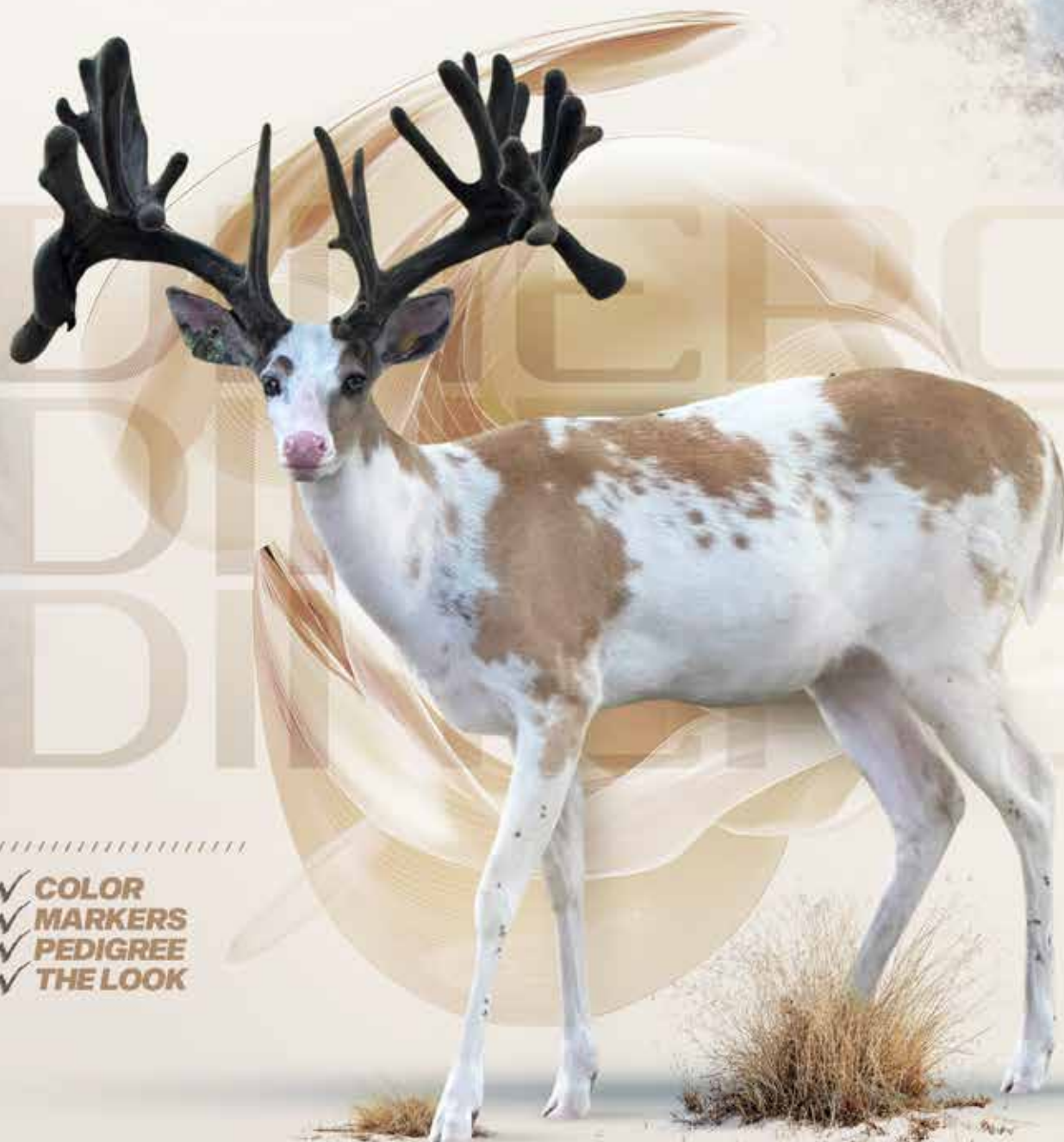
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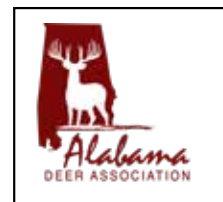
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KIDZ OUTDOORS AND SHARK FISHING – AN INCREDIBLE ADVENTURE!

By: Gail Veley

The peaceful Gulf of Mexico waters at Cape San Blas, located in the St. Joseph Peninsula in Florida, offered an incredible shark fishing adventure for Rick and Carol Clark, founders of Kidz Outdoors based out of Alabama, and four of their beloved “kidz” and families.

In October, the excited foursome – Will, Jack, Colton and Easton along with their families fished with Dylan and Blaine of Coastal Worldwide LLC, great friends and advocates of Kidz Outdoors. “To say it was successful is a huge understatement,” Carol said. “We stayed in a condo on the beach right where we wanted to fish.”

Activities got started Friday evening and it “was on!” Even before all the baits were out, the first shark hit, a black tip. There was a total of 10 sharks caught between Friday night and Sunday morning. Sharks weighing in at 300 to 500 pounds were reeled in and included black tip, sandbar and bull sharks. Believe it, these four young men persevered while fighting these powerful sharks. They

also stayed out and slept on the beach with Dylan and Blaine, catching fish throughout the night. While they all shared the same fishing reel, they took turns when one would tire out or needed assistance fighting a shark.

Not only was the fishing a great experience, the fellowship with the families and guides was outstanding. “Please take some time out of your busy lives and watch on Carbon TV or YouTube,” Carol said. “As the holiday season continues, Kidz Outdoors feels so blessed to have spent part of our year with these four amazing Kidz. To God be the Glory.”

If anyone knows of a deserving child, please feel free to email Carol and Rick at rcclark107@yahoo.com or call Carol at 205-410-3779. Thank you.

**Donations can
be submitted at:
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**CONTACT: CAROL CLARK
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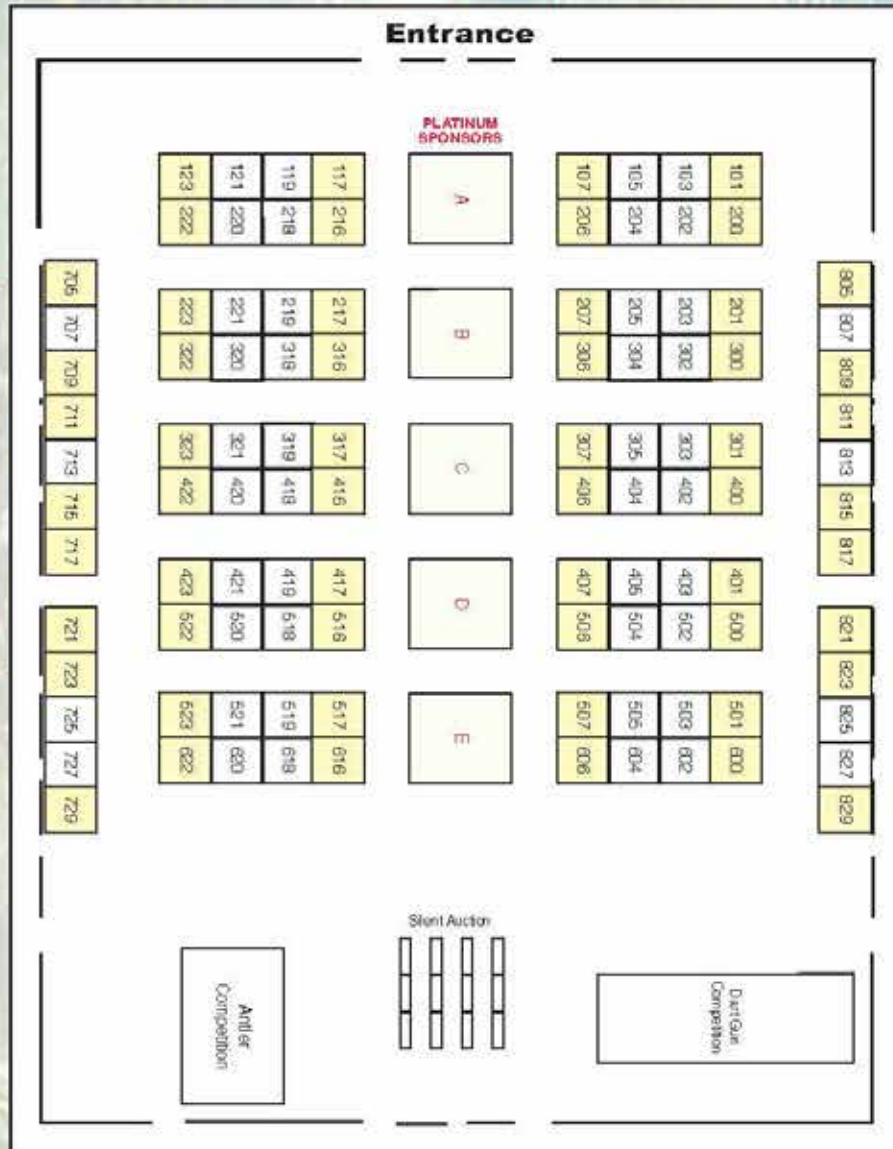
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 SS GEBV - 0.016
 WGR BUDDY / WGR DOE



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 SS GEBV - 0.054
 WGR SHARPER IMAGE / WGR EXHIBIT / JOHN WAYNE



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 SS GEBV - 0.18
 WGR GHOSTLY DREAM / WGR HARD FREEZE / WGR EXHIBIT



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 SS GEBV - 0.043
 WGR EXHIBIT / WGR HARDWOOD / AMERICAN EXPRESS



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 SS GEBV - 0.109
 WGR BONFIRE ELITE / PERFECT DREAM / JESSE JAMES



WGR REDWOOD
 3 YEAR OLD
 SS GEBV - 0.09
 WGR EXCLUSIVE / WGR HARDWOOD / JESSE JAMES



Upcoming Whitetail and Cervid Events

Alabama Deer Association Magazine Deadlines 2026

Spring: March 3rd

Summer: June 2nd

Fall: September 15th

Winter: December 8th

Northern Top 30 - Jan 14-16, 2026 - Shipshewanna, IN

Illinois Deer Farmers Association Fundraiser - Feb 20-21, 2026 - Altamont IL

Alabama Deer Association Spring Auction - Feb 21, 2026 - Cullman, AL

Iowa Whitetail Deer Association Winter Banquet - Feb 21, 2026 - Timberghost Ranch Lodge

Kansas Deer & Elk Association Convention - Feb 28, 2026

United Deer Farmers of Michigan Annual Convention - March 6-7, 2026, Bath Township, Michigan

Southeast Trophy Deer Association Spring Fling - March 6-7, 2026 - Orlando, FL

Whitetails of Wisconsin Annual Banquet & Fundraiser - March 13-14, 2026 - Wisconsin Dells, WI

NADeFA Spring Open - March 20, 2026 - Sandusky, OH

KALA Summer Showcase - Aug 8, 2026

Whitetail Deer Farmers of Ohio Convention - Aug 13-14, 2026

Southern Top 30 - Aug 20-21, 2026 - Louisiana

TDA Annual Convention - Aug 28-29, 2026 - San Antonio, TX

Use this QR Code
or go online to
DeerSites.com for more
deadlines and up to
date event information!



Provided by D&K Design, Publisher for State Association Magazine

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE EVENT DETAILS: [DEERSITES.COM](https://DeerSites.com)

TRANQUILITY SPRINGS WHITETAILS SEMEN AVAILABLE



**TRANQUILITY SPRINGS
TWIX**

YEARLING

S/S -0.1521

NADR# 418400

CC BAR SNICKERS



CC BAR SILVERSTAR

CC BAR 963

TUXEDO

CC BAR TWINKLE

LCR BUGA'S HANK

CC BAR 678



**TRANQUILITY SPRINGS
MAJOR LEAGUE XL**

YEARLING

S/S -0.3406

NADR# 422454

GLADIATOR XL

MAXBO XL

CXL'S DAM

MAXBO

JRV BUDDY DOE

GLADIATOR II

302 GXL G-DAM

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HORSEPOWER

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FED EX

K3 H20'S WOMB SIS

K3 HORIZON'S DAM



**CC BAR
SOONER**

@3

S/S -0.0820

NADR# 368210

CC BAR SILVERSTAR

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CC BAR TWINKLE

SUPER GLADIATOR

G-26

CC BAR PAYDIRT

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Whitetails



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YEARLING
S/S -0.1968
NADR# 422452

K3 BOCHY SS -0.2035



CC BAR SILVERSTAR

TUXEDO

CC BAR TWINKLE

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PR 54

FED EX

K3 H20 SS -0.1470

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K3 PRETTY BOY'S
DAM

K3 HIGHTOWER'S DAM

K3 WHITE 94



TEXOMA XL
YEARLING
S/S -0.3201
NADR# 422435

GLADIATOR XL

MAXBO XL

MAXBO

JRV BUDDY DOE

GLADIATOR II

302 GXL G-DAM



CC BAR SILVER STAR

TUXEDO

CC BAR TWINKLE 767 SS

35 WD-40

MAY

K3 PINK 80

L13 WHITE

OWNED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



ARCTIC

Yearling

GS
-0.4363



Max	Maxbo	Maxbo XL	Gladiator
Yellow 27	JRV Buddy Doe		XL
Buddy			
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G-26	CC Bar Twinkle	S/S	K3 Wh 104
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FLORIDA GRIT MEETS ALABAMA TIMBER

LOGAN MATHEWS' UNFORGETTABLE SOLO DEBUT

For Logan Mathews, the whisper of the wind through the pines isn't just a sound, it's a soundtrack to her life. Though raised among the citrus groves of Central Florida, her true roots were set deep in the outdoors, forged by countless days with her father and observing her Papa. These were the patient lessons that shaped her skill and composure, long before she was ready to take up a rifle at all.

On November 28th, at 1:00 p.m., Logan made it official, purchasing her Alabama hunting license. Just two hours later, she was trading Florida sand for Alabama soil. She climbed into a stand on 280 acres of private land in Henry County, alone. No coach, no whispered advice, and not even her personal rifle, as she



borrowed one for the hunt. It was just Logan, borrowed gear, and the quiet, hard earned confidence of a lifetime outdoors.

The woods of Henry County weren't quiet for long. At 3:00 p.m., the afternoon stillness broke. A mature doe stepped out at a challenging 142 yards. Logan's composure, a testament to her upbringing, held steady. **She took a breath, centered the scope, and squeezed.** The clean shot rang true, and her first Alabama harvest was on the ground.

The sensible thing might have been to climb down and begin the recovery, but the adrenaline and excitement kept her anchored. She stayed put, surveying the timberline. **Just fifteen minutes later, the woods offered a rare second chance.** A sleek spike eased into view at a tight 78 yards. With the same focus and lethal patience, she made her second successful shot of the afternoon.

Two deer, her first doe and her first spike, taken minutes apart, in the same sit, on her absolute first solo hunt with a borrowed rifle. It was a spectacular and unexpected display of skill.

However, the field dressing and haul out are just as critical as the shot.

Locating both deer in the rapidly darkening, dense Alabama brush proved difficult. That's when the real hero of the evening stepped into the spotlight, the remarkable tracking dog, Lulubelle Pate.

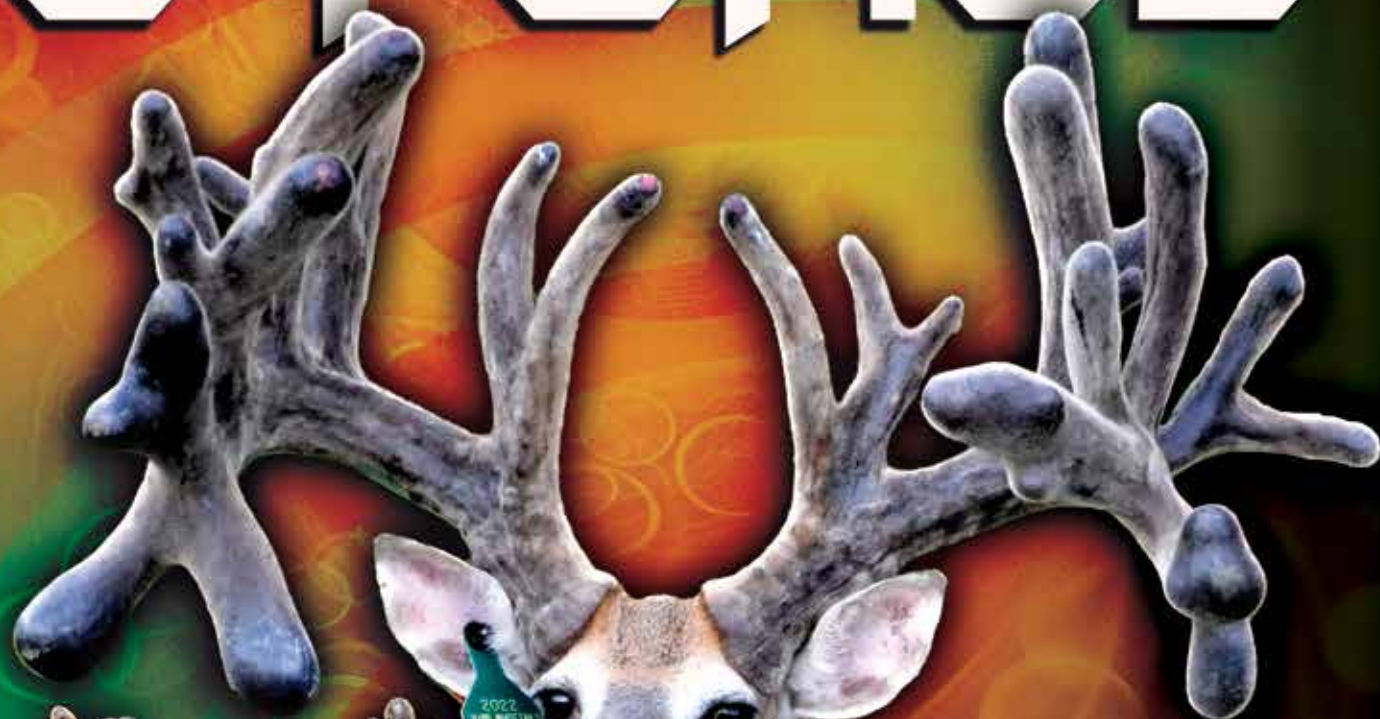
Lulubelle is a beautiful Teddy Roosevelt Terrier and long-haired Dachshund mix. Don't let her soft, fluffy coat fool you; this dog is pure working lineage, tenacious, sturdy, and bred for the hunt, which she proved decisively that evening!

Lulubelle got right to work, her keen nose and natural instincts taking over the moment she hit the scent. *"I have to give Lulubelle Pate a huge thank you," Logan shared. "It only took her several minutes to locate each of the deers! Her speed and efficiency saved us so much time and ensured a swift recovery. She truly made all of the difference on this successful trip!"*

Now settled in Dothan, Alabama, Logan Mathews proved that the countless hours spent learning the wilderness truly prepared her for this independent challenge. This double-header wasn't beginner's luck. It was instinct, composure, and a lifetime of readiness coming together in one unforgettable afternoon. **This is a hunt she'll be telling for years to come.**



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Vegas

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ATM

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Triple Ex

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Express

GKR W-7

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Weapon

Y-75

Shadow

7C's Blue 510

Bambi 20-28

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MULE DEER GAINING IN POPULARITY AMONG HUNTERS

By: Gail Veley • Sponsored by the South Dakota Deer and Elk Breeders Association

Greg and Laura Leenderts of Whitetail Farms in Garretson, South Dakota have a hard time keeping up with the demand for mule deer. Since they started raising them close to five years ago, they get calls all winter long from interested preserve owners. Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), known for their unique, black-tipped tail and stotting or pronging gait in which all four feet bounce up and down together off the ground as they take flight, are indigenous to the western United States where the climate is warmer and more arid.

And while they are in the same family genus as whitetail deer, share similar breeding behaviors, habits and birthing cycles as well as grow sizable antlers, mule deer antlers “bifurcate” or fork as they grow, rather than branching or ascending from a single main beam as they do in whitetails, giving mule deer racks a very unique look and appeal. Yet unlike whitetails, mule deer do not handle humidity well and currently are being raised on only a handful of farms west of the Mississippi. “For stocker buck purposes, if you can successfully put a little whitetail in them, they do a lot better with weather conditions,” Greg explained. “If you do it correctly, you can produce a hybrid cross that will still

look 100 percent like a mule deer.” Although hybrid crosses have a low survival rate in the wild, they tend to thrive better in a farm setting, where heartiness and trophy size (up to 460 pounds in body weight) could also be realized.

While mule deer have proven to be less flighty than whitetails, they can be prone to getting more parasites as they tend to forage right down to the roots of anything they eat, making parasite management a top priority among those that raise them. Taking that into consideration, “raising mule deer has been a very good decision for our farm,” Greg said. When he realized so few farms raised them and the demand was ever increasing, he started both a breeding and stocking herd, producing bucks that today measure 180-plus inches, with the goal of perhaps someday becoming as large as the notable “Blackhawk,” thought by some to be one of the largest mule deer to ever live, and who was featured on an Instagram hunting expedition.

Recognition for the popularity and demand for mule deer has not gone unnoticed by The North American Deer Registry (NADR), who started a mule deer registry in mid-2022. Every year since, more mule deer

have been added. In 2022, 882 mule deer were registered followed by 923 in 2023, 990 in 2024 and thus far in 2025, close to 700. “As the demand increases and time and schedules allow, we may be able to provide GEBV’s for non-hybrid mule deer in the future,” said NADR Executive Director Gary Cook “We also recently created registries for axis and fallow deer. In addition, we acquired the GMS software platform and converted the software to a web application ensuring deer farmers have the latest technology to manage their operations. As the deer industry expands, NADR wants to continue to use technology to meet the demands and needs of producers as well as move the industry forward.”





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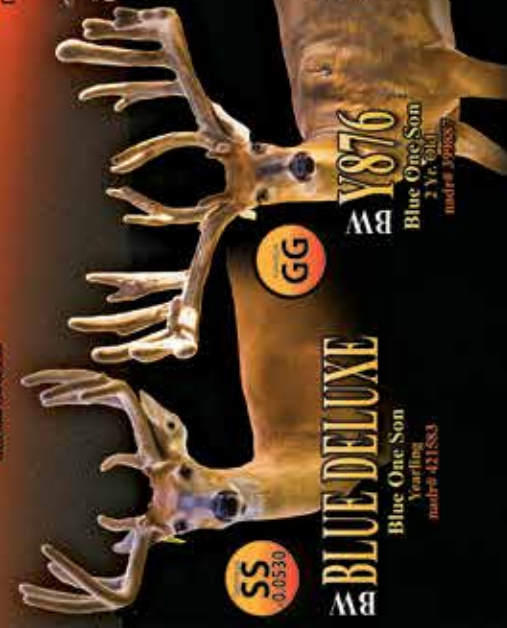
Navigator / Cruiser / Jumbo Classic's Sister
nude# 353191



SS
0.2434

SUPER SONIC

Cruiser / Navigator's Sister
nude# 353242



SS
0.0530

BLUE-DELUXE

Blue One Son
Yearling
nude# 421883



GG

Y876

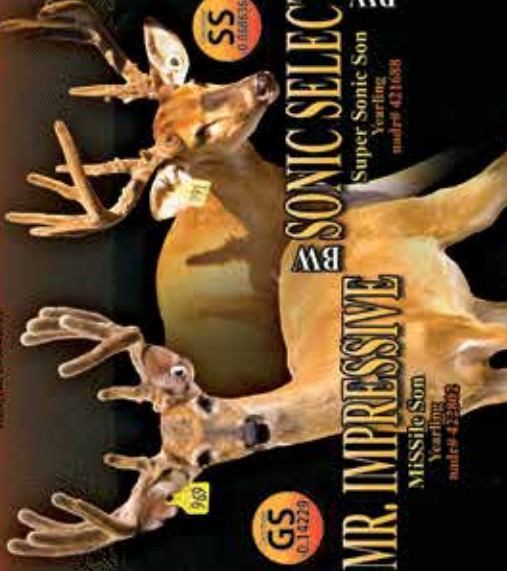
Blue One Son
2 Yr. Old
nude# 339857



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0.02955

SUNSET STAR

Blue One Son
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nude# 339983



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BREEDING FOR CWD RESISTANCE

HOW IS THIS DONE WITH RESPECT TO PROVEN PRODUCTION AND MARKETABILITY?

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

The fastest way to get to negative GEBV's such as $-.3$ or $-.2$ or better, is to use deer that have SS markers and negative GEBV values, offers Ivan Hochstetler of Double H Whitetails, 25-acre deer farm in Mt. Eaton, Ohio. However, proven production and pedigree can also play a huge part in exactly how you arrive at having such a herd. Many deer farmers simply do not own (at this point) quality breeding bucks that are SS with negative GEBV breeding values. Yet it seems "every year a good buck comes out with good markers," Hochstetler said. "For us, we buy SS semen with negative GEBV values from privately owned farms."

The push to breed for SS markers and negative values and the realization that it was going to become necessary, began about five years ago, Hochstetler believes. Three years ago, things got more



Black Widow @ 4

serious. For Hochstetler and his herd of powerhouse GG does, he knew he needed a strategy. In breeding his proven and very valuable GG does to SS bucks with negative GEBV values, he is now producing GS deer and some SS negative breeding values. He has also not culled any deer but rather has sold some to hunting preserves. If all goes according to plan, in five years Double H Whitetails will see a huge impact as a result of their breeding decisions and have their very own SS bucks for breeding. "We've tested our offspring, and they are more and more resistant with each breeding cycle," Hochstetler said.

Utilizing your current herd while working towards resistance breeding is a strategy that Joe and Crissy Johnson, owners of 7-acre Whiskey River Whitetails in East Sparta, Ohio are also abiding by. "We are doing a mix and not giving up proven production and pedigree," Joe Johnson said. "Ninety-five percent of our deer are foundation deer to Ms. Patrick, a line that has proven itself for decades and decades." When Whiskey River Whitetails first got started three years ago, they acquired GG deer as starting stock for raising typical deer. Today, they use semen from SS bucks and have subsequently acquired GS offspring. "In a couple years we hoping to have phased out the GGs and have our very own SS big clean typical breeding bucks," Johnson added.

While solid scientific proof points to the understandable justification for SS production, things can and often do change quickly in the deer industry. Therefore, Johnson, 47,



Daybreak @ 3

believes his decision to preserve pedigree and proven production is a solid one, no matter what the latest trends may be or could become. "At this point I say 'to each his own' in finding what works for you and your farm," he said. "Everyone has their own opinion on what is best for them."

Going forward, Hochstetler feels that currently, "there's not enough people selling markeded does, but as that begins to happen it might be harder to afford to acquire them, especially for the new deer farmer," he explained. However, while this may or may not prove to be a stumbling block "deer farmers are the solution to CWD and I feel having a reliable markeded herd is what we're all going to need, along with the indisputable proof from NADR that it's real."

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CEREE LEDBETTER PHOTOGRAPHY EAGER TO PROMOTE DEER FARMS AND PRESERVES

By: Gail Veley • Sponsored by the West Virginia Deer Farmers Association, Inc.

Early dawn brings soft light to a landscape silhouetted with rolling green and shadowed hills, along with deer who seem to welcome, if not rejoice, at the start of a new day. Cereë Ledbetter quietly kneels, her camera fixed on a large buck stretching high for the treasures found in oak trees. With the touch of her finger, click. The image is permanently captured.

"I knew from the moment I was in fifth grade and held my first blue digital camera that I wanted to be a photographer," Cereë said, reflecting back on her most treasured birthday gift. "I was so excited and thought at first that it would just be some hobby I would do after school. But when I started showing people my photos and getting their reactions, I realized maybe I had a knack for

this. That this could be something I could do professionally,"

While Cereë may be a mere 20 years old, her love of photography and her experiences are akin to someone well-entrenched and well-versed in their craft. While taking a picture may seem like a simple task "the raw lighting and the angles of the photo contribute heavily to the overall structure of it before editing," Cereë, a Sandyville, West Virginia native and stepdaughter of Mark Cobb, explained. "Editing is also a substantial part of the process. Developing your eye for a great photo is also key. I'd love to travel to any state and shoot photos on both deer farms and preserves. I'm absolutely not nervous about being in a preserve. I've even photographed bison up close."





Her base fee is \$250 per day, not including travelling and lodging fees. "If I could stay in the lodge at someone's preserve, I wouldn't need hotel lodging," Ceree explained. "It would probably take one to two days to shoot all the photos we would need. I would especially love to travel to Texas, Ohio and Florida and take photographs. I enjoy meeting new people. I would just really love to expand my business."

Ceree's passion for photographing livestock and nature began to flourish in 2020 when she moved to Mark's farm and "he had so many animals like red deer, elk, horses and chickens and emus," she said. "People loved seeing the photos I posted on Facebook. I also interned at Woodard Whitetails taking care of fawns, which allowed my love for the 'veterinarian side' of the industry to grow."

Anyone interested in hiring Ceree as their photographer can call or text her at 304-531-7515 or email her at cereelphotography@gmail.com. While Ceree is open to photographing any livestock you'd prefer, her favorite thing to photograph are bucks in hard antler. "That time of year is one of my favorites," she said. "So, make sure to give me a call."

“I realized maybe I had a knack for this. That this could be something I could do professionally,”



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302 GXL G-Dam			
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Y0655			
Maxbo			
W-47			
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MINNESOTA DEER FARMERS FACE TOUGHER FUTURES

By: Gail Veley • Sponsored by the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association

A dismissal of a lawsuit on August 7th, 2025, that was filed by Minnesota deer farmers in the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, is causing considerable angst for deer farmers statewide and also for those deer farmers currently not in compliance with the recently enforced regulations. The court upheld the stricter regulations set forth in Statute 35.155, that were made into law by the state legislature on July 1st, 2023. The court also found that there is no fundamental right to farm deer. The court stated that the regulations, which also prohibit new registrations for deer farms, are a rational government measure to protect public health and wild deer populations against CWD.

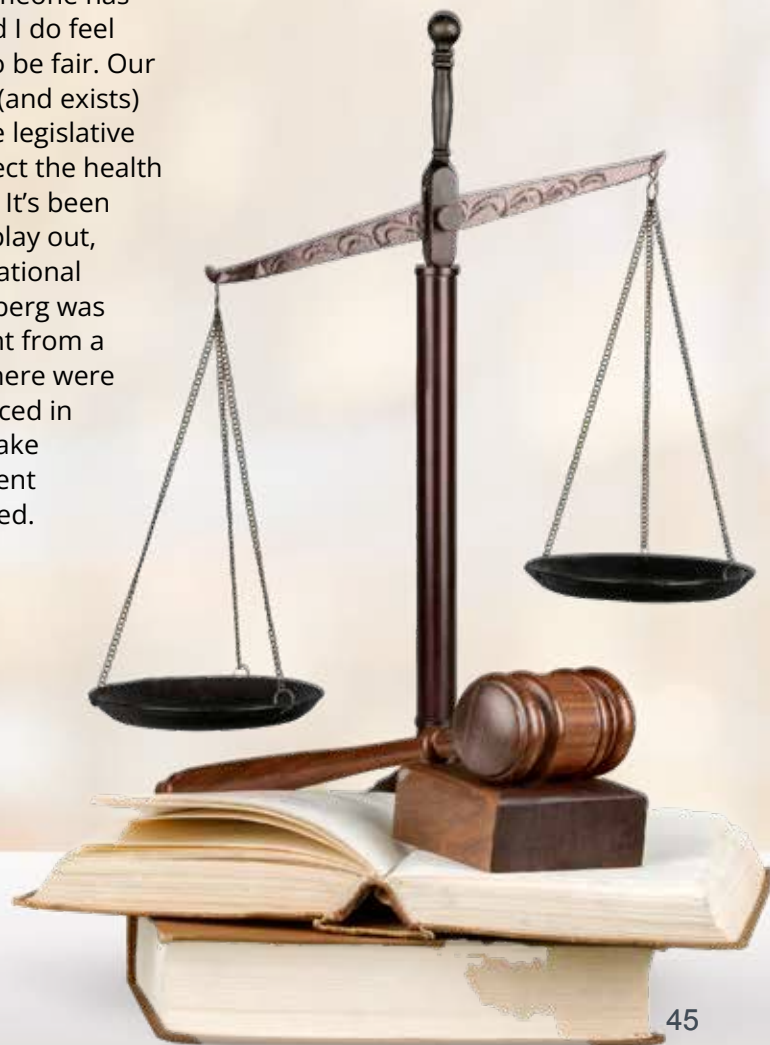
"They are trying to steal our farms from us," said MDFA President Scott Fier, of Buffalo Ridge Whitetails in Porter, Minnesota. "This is about our constitutional rights. We are challenging this ruling at the U.S. Supreme Court." Statute 31.155 dictates that all Minnesota deer farms erect fencing such as to prevent any contact between wild cervids and farmed cervids. Acceptable forms of fencing could include a "mirror image" fence, an electric, mesh or wooden fence or shade cloth. The statute also dictates that should a deer farm property be sold, it can only remain a deer farm if it is sold (in a one-time transfer) to immediate family members such as cousins, siblings, children or even grandparents. Statute 31.155 also enforces the placement of biohazard signage every 50 feet on any existing deer farm found with a CWD positive deer.

Overseeing Statute 31.155 as it relates to whitetail deer, is the job of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). Of the 79 or so remaining deer farms in Minnesota, close to 90% of them have complied with the new regulations, said Todd Froberg, Farmed Deer and Captive Species Coordinator for the MDNR. "Of those that haven't, we are working with them on a case-by-case basis and making determinations from there," he added. Penalties for non-compliance could include a "step-up" fee scale and perhaps the eventual revoking of a farm's license. "We really aren't trying to put deer farmers out of business," Froberg, 40, emphasized.

"Personally, I totally understand the passion that someone has for raising deer. And I do feel that we are trying to be fair. Our agency is obligated (and exists) to comply with state legislative measures and protect the health of wild populations. It's been difficult to see this play out, especially for generational farmers." While Froberg was not able to comment from a legal perspective "there were several bills introduced in the legislature to make changes to the current legislation," he shared. "It may not be out of the question that in the future things could look different."

Support for Minnesota's woes has been acted upon by deer farmers across all states. "We truly

appreciate every state that has contributed to our cause," Fier, 46, said. "We have not been able to expand our operations due to the regulations. Why would we when they are trying to regulate us out of business? How can we afford an exclusionary fence when income is being taken away from us? It's very frustrating as a legal, federally monitored livestock business, when you look at what the industry has done as a whole on a scientific level in breeding for CWD resistance."





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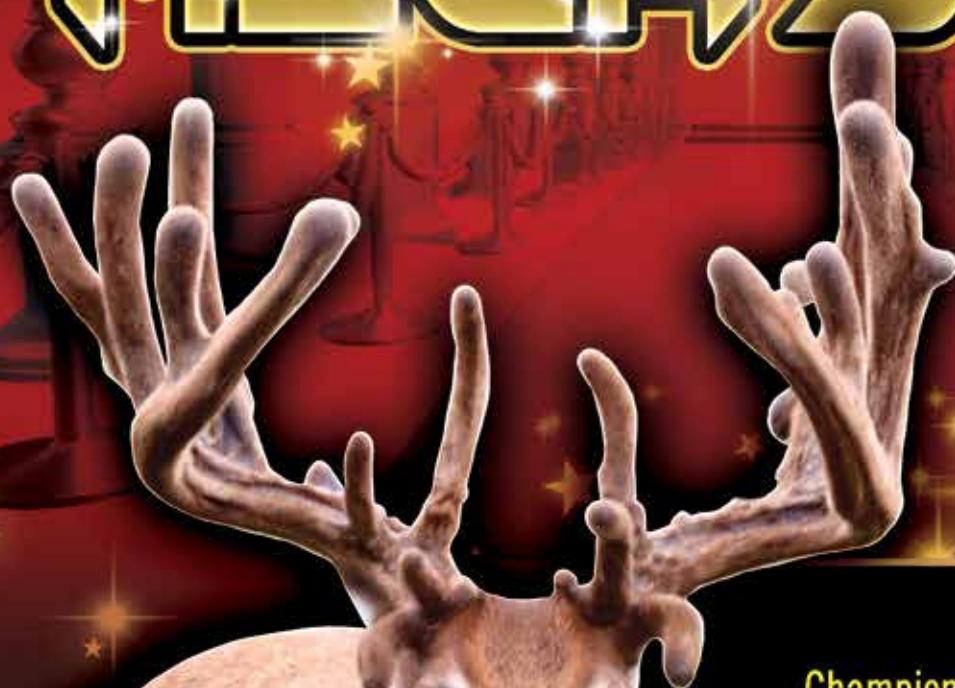
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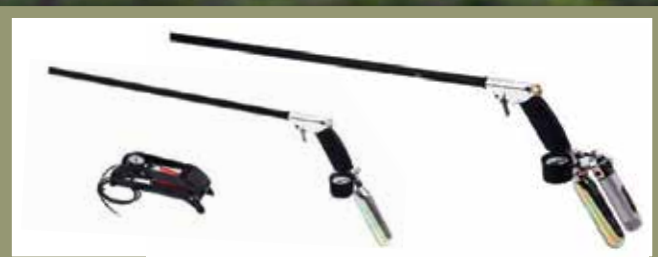


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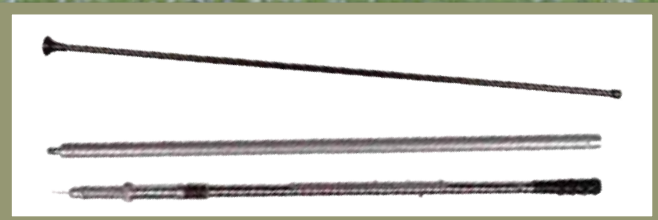
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This thick, hearty and healthy slow cooker venison stew is made in the crockpot with tender hunks of deer meat, vegetables, and a rich & flavorful broth.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 lbs. venison stew meat (or elk, antelope, moose, beef, bear – really any red meat)
- ¼ cup all purpose flour
- 2 tsp. salt, divided
- 1 tsp. pepper
- 1–2 Tbsp. high heat tolerant oil or fat (duck/deer/beef fat, avocado oil, clarified butter)
- 1 lb. baby, gold potatoes, quartered
- 3–4 large carrots, diced
- 3 celery stalks, diced
- 1 onion, diced
- 4–5 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tsp. Herbs de Provence
- 1 (15oz.) can diced tomatoes, drained
- 4 cups beef or venison stock
- ½ cup red wine (dry red like a Cabernet or Bordeaux is lovely)
- 5–10 dashes Worcestershire sauce
- Optional: 3 Tbsp. corn starch, arrowroot powder or tapioca starch



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Mix together the flour, 1 teaspoon of the salt, and 1/2 teaspoon of the pepper in a medium bowl. Pat the venison very dry with a towel to remove any liquid. Toss the venison chunks in the flour mixture until everything is coated and the flour is absorbed.
2. Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat and add the oil or fat. Once hot, sear the venison on all sides. You may need to work in batches to avoid overcrowding the meat.
3. Once seared, transfer the meat to the bottom of a slow cooker with the potatoes.
4. Then layer in the carrots, celery, onion, garlic, Herbs de Provence, the remaining 1 teaspoon of salt, the remaining 1/2 teaspoon of pepper, tomatoes, stock, wine, and Worcestershire sauce.
5. Set your slow cooker on low for 8-9 hours.
6. Optional (for thick stew) – After about 6 hours, remove a few spoonfuls of the broth and pour into a bowl or cup. Stir in the starch until the starch dissolves making a slurry. Pour the slurry into the stew, stir well and skew the lid for the remaining cook time.
7. Serve with crusty bread & get cozy!



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(Editorial Provided by Contributing Writers)

Meet Our Team



Customer Care / Sales / Design
Samantha Uchtyl
deerassociations@gmail.com



Editor / Publisher
Kathy Giesen
advertising4@mac.com



Journalist
Gail Veley
gbveley@live.com



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