



# Alabama

## DEER ASSOCIATION

FALL 2021



**THE LEAGUE @1**



**THE HEAT @2**



**THE ACE @1**

### WHATS INSIDE!!

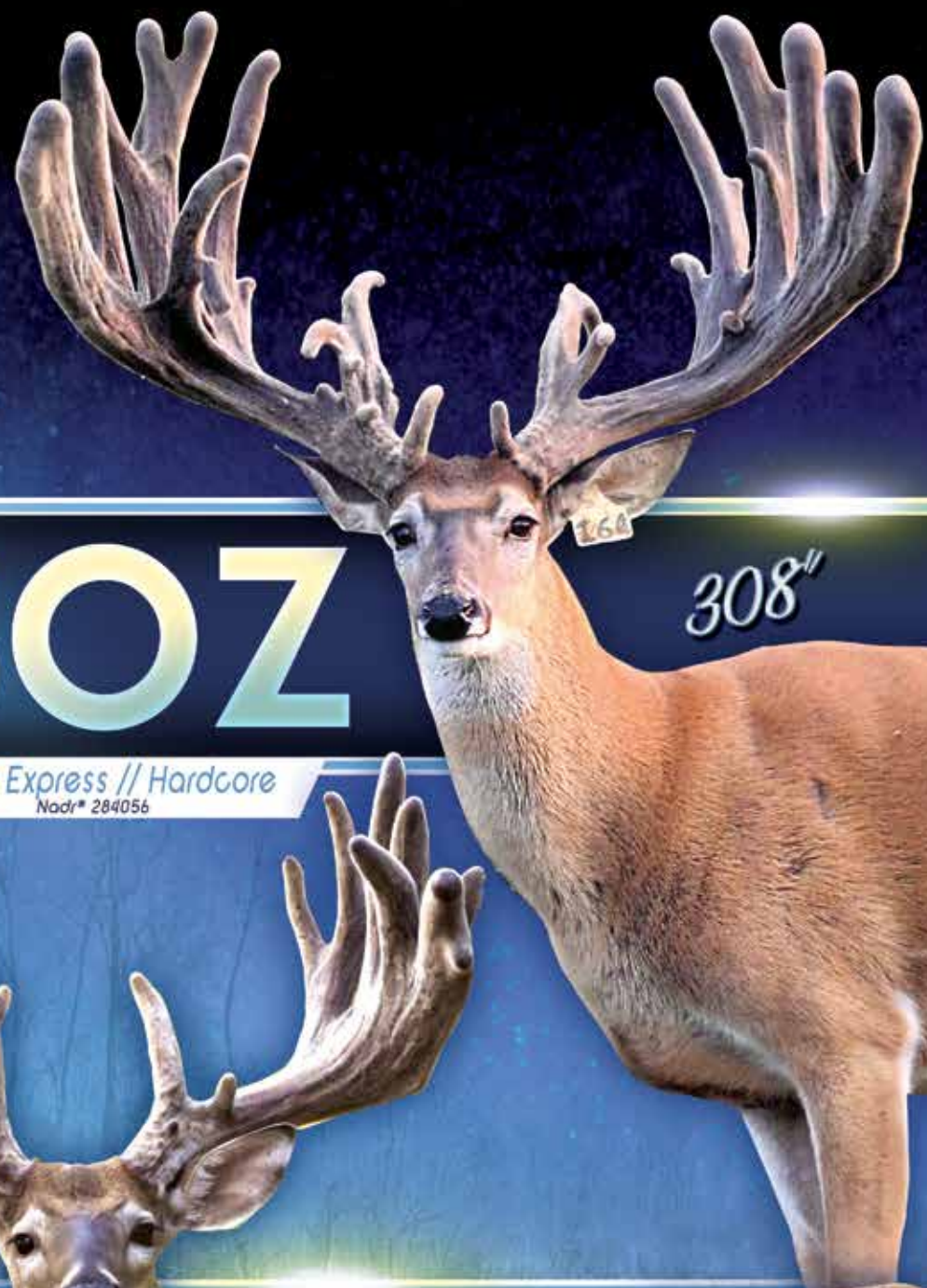
- New ADA Membership Application
- Meet the New ADA Board!!
- Secrets to Antler Growth!!

**....AND MORE!**



# SPRINGFIELD WHITETAILS





**BOZ**

308"

Dream Express // Hardcore  
Nadr# 284056



**T3**

243" @3

Texas Tea // G3 / Gladiator  
Nadr# 284056



Owner Chip & Mistie Burkes 205-908-2111  
Farm Manager Rodney Ragon 256-558-8997  
EMAIL: RODNEY@THESWAMPWHITETAILS.COM  
772 WARD AVE. | BRENT, AL

WWW.THESWAMPWHITETAILS.COM

EXPERIENCE *Big Bucks*



35" Inside Spread

Federal Express  
Jenna  
Gladiator III  
33 Orange  
(Triple Crown Doe)

Shockwave  
LWC  
Calypso

**TEXTRON**  
nadr# 244303



**MOUNTAIN MAN**  
nadr# 244303

Federal Express  
Jenna  
Big Guy  
Dolly  
Updraft  
Foundation  
Dream Rolex  
Dugger Mtn.  
Kristi

**DOE HERD HIGHLIGHTS**

- G-1709 Triple Crown / Sudden Express / Hardcore
- M-609 Triple Crown / Primetime / Yardstick
- P-204 Gladiator III / Triple Crown / Primetime
- P-349 Freightliner / Yardstick



**GLADIATOR IMPACT**  
nadr# 228139

Grid Iron  
811  
Gladiator II  
2-87  
(Gridiron's Dam)  
Sudden Impact  
651  
(Gladiator Doe)



**DUSTIN & CHERYL REID**  
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Nodr# 284057



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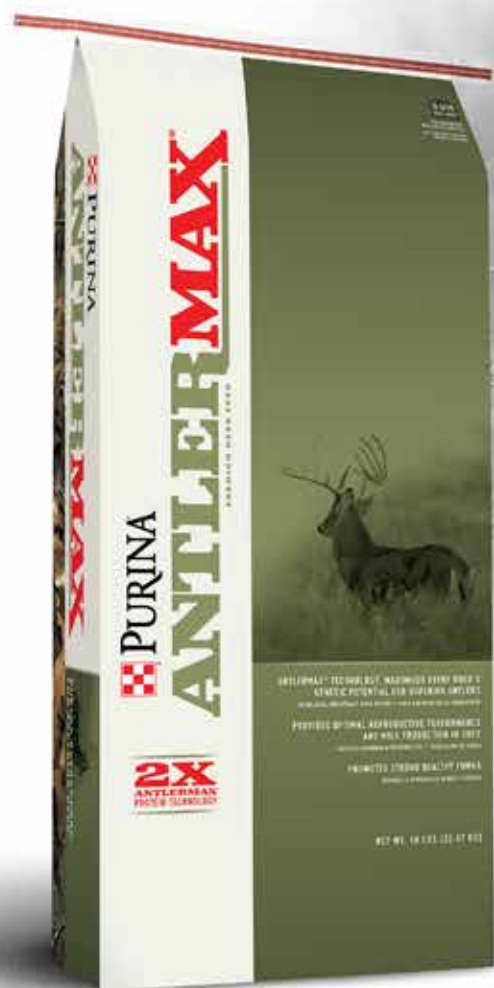
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**CONSIDER JOINING THE ALABAMA DEER ASSOCIATION**  
 & see what great benefits ADA has to offer with your membership commitment!  
 There are two memberships available, Platinum Membership & Diamond Membership.

*Everyone Benefits from Healthier Deer & Better Harvests.*

Give us a call for more info!  
 Contact Amy Murphy at 205-928-2906  
 or email at Amy@TheSwampWhitetails.com



@ALABAMA DEER ASSOCIATION





ALABAMA DEER ASSOCIATION  
2 Industrial Rd. • Brent, AL 35034  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**



ADA 2021-2022 Board of Directors

Rodney Ragon, Cameron Odom, Billy Norris, Casey Mitchell

Troy Zachini, Dane Dorsett, Matt Watts, Chris Wigley, Jason Edmondson, Mark Long, Joe Headley, Jeff Beaver, Terry Kennedy

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Partner/Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm or Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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Business #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Ph#: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**CODE OF ETHICS**

I hereby make application for membership in the ALABAMA DEER ASSOCIATION agreeing to conform to the ALABAMA DEER ASSOCIATION CODE OF ETHICS and BYLAWS governing this Association.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CLASSIFICATIONS** (Please check one)

**Bronze Member:** Annual Dues Amount: **\$35.00**  
Each Bronze Member shall be entitled to receive quarterly ADA magazine. Bronze Memberships renew every year at the Annual Membership Meeting. NO VOTING RIGHTS

**Silver Member:** Annual Dues Amount: **\$50.00**  
Each Silver Member is understood to provide goods and/or services to the industry. Silver Members shall be entitled to receive quarterly ADA magazine. Silver Memberships renew every year at the Annual Membership Meeting. NO VOTING RIGHTS

**Gold Member:** Annual Dues Amount: **\$100.00**  
Each Gold Member shall be entitled to attend all ADA meetings and receive quarterly ADA magazine. Gold Memberships renew every year at the Annual Membership Meeting. VOTING RIGHTS IN STATE MEMBERS ONLY.

**Diamond Member: 5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP** Dues for 5 Years Amount: **\$500.00**  
Each Diamond Member shall be entitled to attend all ADA meetings and receive quarterly ADA magazine. VOTING RIGHTS IN STATE MEMBERS ONLY. DIAMOND MEMBERS WILL BE RECOGNIZED ON THE ADA WEBSITE AND IN ALL MAGAZINES FOR 5 YEARS

**Lifetime Member: LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP** One-Time Dues Amount: **\$1,000.00**  
Each Platinum Member shall be entitled to attend all ADA meetings and receive quarterly ADA magazine. VOTING RIGHTS IN STATE MEMBERS ONLY. PLATINUM MEMBERS WILL BE RECOGNIZED ON THE ADA WEBSITE AND IN ALL MAGAZINES AND TRADESHOWS FOR THE LIFE OF THE MEMBER

The Board may change dues from time to time.

Payment method:  Paid with Enclosed Check  
 Visa  Mastercard  Discover  American Express

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CW \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Return by Mail to ADA: 2 Industrial Rd. • Brent, AL 35034



NEXT AD DEADLINE  
ALABAMA DEER PUBLICATION  
Winter Issue  
NOV. 1

**ADA MAGAZINE AD RATES**

**ANNUAL AD PRICING**

2 Page Spread (All Four Issues) \$2,500.00  
Full Page (All Four Issues) \$1,500.00  
Half Page (All Four Issues) \$750.00

**PER ISSUE PRICING**

2 Page Spread (One Issue) \$650.00  
Full Page (One Issue) \$350.00  
Half Page (One Issue) \$175.00

The Alabama Deer Association  
2 Industrial Rd. | Brent, AL 35034

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The Publications Committee and the ADA do not guarantee nor accept liability for the accuracy or correctness of this publication. We will however do our best to provide you with good usable information.

**The ADA Publications Values Your Input!**

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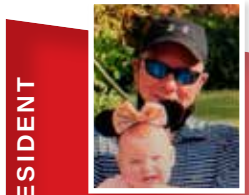
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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MEET THE ADA 2021-22 TEAM



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cmitchell455@gmail.com

**BOARD ELECTIONS**

Election for the ADA 2022-23 Board Members will be at the **2022 SPRING AUCTION...** ADA MEMBERS ONLY are Welcome to Vote!

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Stay Current & Up to Date in the State!  
Don't forget to Renew your Annual ADA Membership!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT ADA!!



# 2021-2022 MEDIA KIT

## AD SPECS & RATES

### FULL PAGE AD

Final Ad Size w/ Bleed  
8.75" x 11.25"  
Live Area  
8" x 10.5"

#### LIVE AREA

Keep All Important Elements (type, logos, etc.) inside this area.

#### MARGIN (1/4" Margin on all 4 sides)

Safety Zone between the advertisement live area and the page trim. Paper may move while cutting and this area may be trimmed from the page.

#### BLEED (1/8" Bleed on all 4 sides)

Outside of the page trim, necessary to prevent a white line around the advertisement. All elements in this area will be cut off.

### FILE REQUIREMENTS

Resolution: 300 dpi  
Color Format: cmyk  
File Type: .jpg or .pdf  
(file saved as Company Name)

### HALF PAGE HORIZONTAL

Final Ad Size w/ Bleed  
8.75" x 5.625"  
Live Area  
8" x 4.875"

### 2 PAGE SPREAD

Final Ad Size w/ Bleed  
17.25" x 11.25"  
Live Area  
16.5" x 10.5"

## ADA MAGAZINE

| Winter | Spring | Summer | Fall |
|--------|--------|--------|------|
|--------|--------|--------|------|

To Advertise in the ADA Quarterly Magazine please call for additional information.

### WINTER ISSUE

Ad Deadline: November 1

### SPRING AUCTION CATALOG

Ad & Consignment Deadline: December 31  
This is a FIRM DEADLINE No Extensions, No Exceptions

### SUMMER ISSUE

Ad Deadline: April 15

### FALL ISSUE

Ad Deadline: September 1

## ADA MAGAZINE AD RATES

| Ad Size      | 4X      | 1X    |
|--------------|---------|-------|
| 2 Pg. Spread | \$2,500 | \$650 |
| Full Page    | \$1,500 | \$350 |
| Half Page    | \$750   | \$175 |

## RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

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Informative articles on current topics  
& news can be found in each issue  
and will benefit you.

## Don't Miss Out!

These pages are **ONLY** offered  
to the highest bidder at the  
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- Front Cover
- Inside Back
- Inside Front
- Back Cover
- Centerfold
- Spotlight Articles



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Dr. Jason Coe, Veterinarian



Dr. Mike Bringans, Consultant

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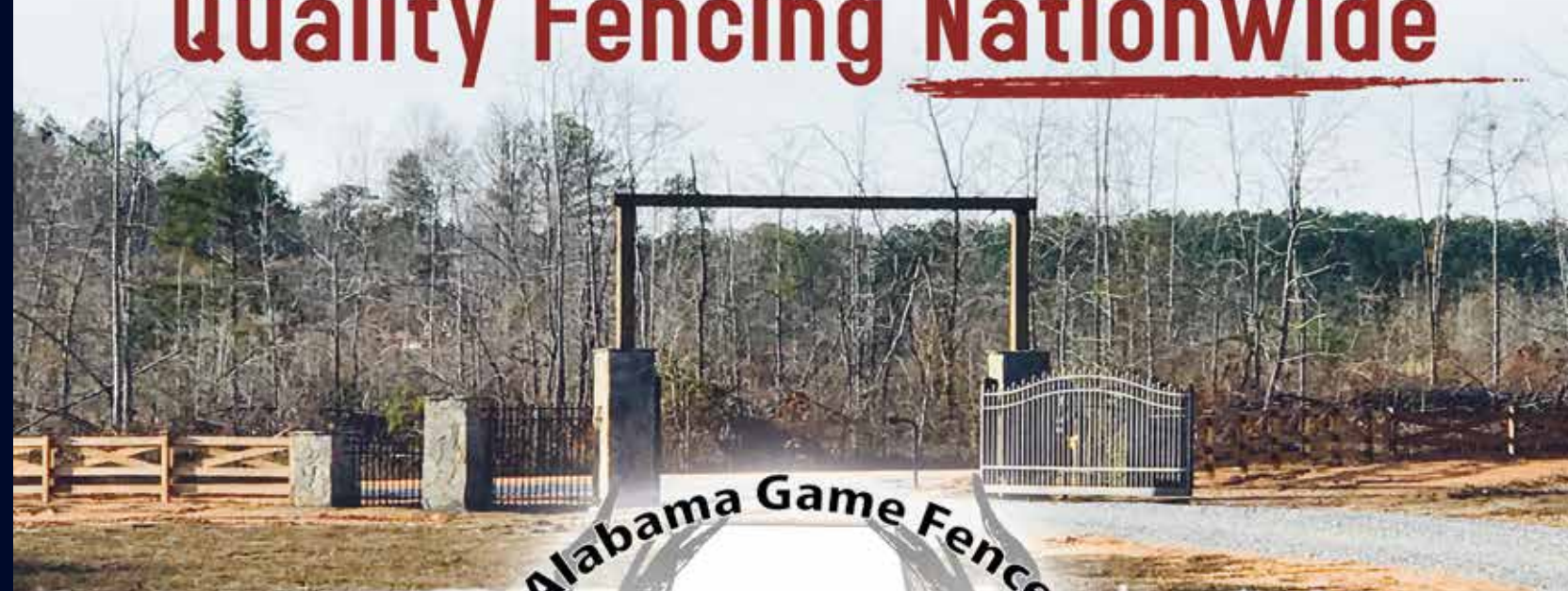
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FIVE ORANCH WHITETAILS

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Phone: 251-689-7321



Want to Be Part of the Lifetime Club...  
-CONTACT-  
Amy Murphy  
205-928-2906  
Amy@TheSwampWhitetails.com

# LIFETIME MEMBERS

## RECOGNIZED ADA LIFETIME MEMBERS

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TY ASHBERRY

LEE HUSLEY  
JOEY GILLILAND  
JOE HEADLEY

WES HOLLINGSWORTH  
TIM LIGHTSEY  
JASON COE





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WHITETAILS

WE OFFER BUCKS, DOES, BREEDERS & STOCKERS



29"  
INSIDE

251<sup>3/8</sup>

BIG DALLAS



34"  
INSIDE

248<sup>3/8</sup>

BIG BROADHEAD



31"  
INSIDE

232<sup>1/2</sup>

BIG DAVE



27"  
INSIDE

230<sup>3/4</sup>

BLACK BELT EXPRESS



23"  
INSIDE

220

BIG DOUBLE DROP



24"  
INSIDE

223<sup>3/8</sup>

BLACK BELT TEA



28"  
INSIDE

218

BLACK BELT HAMMER

### OUR 2020 LINEUP

- Big Dallas 29" inches inside @3 years
- Big Dave 31" inches inside @3 years
- Black Belt Express 27" inside @3 years
- Black Belt Hammer 28" inside @3 years
- Big Hickory 29" inside @2 years
- BIG Broadhead 34" inside @3 years
- Big Double Drop 23" inside @2 years
- Black Belt Tea 24" inside @2 years



29"  
INSIDE

223

BIG HICKORY

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|                    |                       |  |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--|
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| NADR# 314953       | Maxbo Danger B-102    | Maxbo O#2 CR02K Maxbo Dream              |
| R-7113             |                       |  |



268"@3



214"@2



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256-339-6003  
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# ANTLERS!

...by Mickey W. Hellickson, Ph.D.

## GROWTH PROCESS

### ANTLERS...

*There is something magical and mystical about deer antlers. Part of their allure is that every antler is different and unique. However, our fascination with deer antlers has its roots in our ancestors, who have hunted antlered game since mans' existence! Our ancestors used antlers for tools and in religious ceremonies. Today, we are still captivated by antlers.*



HOW ANTLERS GROW AND WHY THEY ARE SHED each year is a source of wonder and curiosity. Antlers are one of nature's most remarkable accomplishments. Deer, which are capable of regrowing antlers every year, are the only mammals with this capacity to regenerate these complex appendages. The speed at which antlers grow, also makes them the fastest growing structure in the animal kingdom.

Antler growth in bucks begins when they are fawns. However, buck fawns never grow antlers larger than short "buttons", or pedicles, which on rare occasions become hardened. These pedicles then develop into the buck's first spike or branched antlers when he is a yearling (1.5 years old). Antler

size then continues to increase each additional year until peaking at age 6.5.

Deer farmers first discovered that if buck fawns were castrated before pedicle formation, they would never grow antlers. If females are given testosterone, small pedicles develop on their forehead that occasionally further develop into hardened antlers. Scientists have even succeeded in growing antlers on the legs and hips of deer by grafting a portion of the skull bone, where the pedicle forms, to these areas!

Bucks begin growing their antlers in late-winter or early spring, within weeks of when the previous year's antler are shed. Antlers grow very slowly at

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# BIG JAKE



|                |                    |                     |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
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| JACKIE         | SUDDEN EXPRESS DAM | SUDDEN IMPACT SALLY |
|                | BEYOND CONTROL     | MAXBO JEWELL        |
|                | SHR 1017           | 20 / 28 PK 9021     |

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BRAD HASSIG



JAMES BUTLER



JERRY BURCH



ANTLERS!

first, but by late-May, antlers are rapidly growing. Antler growth is usually complete by the end of August. The velvet then hardens and falls off during September. The hardened, polished antlers remain until they are shed during January through March.

physiology and behavior to these seasonal changes, including antler growth.

The environmental cue that regulates antler growth is the amount of day length or photoperiod. The physiological cue is the male hormone testosterone.



The way this works is complicated, but changing day lengths are sensed by the eyes, which send this message, via the optic nerve, to the pineal gland. The pineal gland, a pea-sized organ at the back of the brain, produces many different hormones. One hormone produced is the luteinizing hormone, which controls the amount of testosterone produced in the testes.

The pineal gland also produces a hormone called melatonin, which acts to suppress the production of luteinizing hormone, holding back production of testosterone. Melatonin is produced in higher and higher quantities as the amount of darkness during each day increases. During early summer, as the nights get shorter and day lengths increase, the production of melatonin decreases, allowing the pituitary to produce luteinizing hormone. Increasing amounts of this hormone then result in increased testosterone production, which triggers the

velveted antler to harden and the velvet to shed. Unlike antler shedding, velvet shedding usually occurs within a 24-hour period.

### WHY ARE THERE ANNUAL CYCLES IN ANTLER GROWTH?

Believe it or not, the 23 degree tilt of the earth's axis is the ultimate cause for the annual cycles in deer antlers. If the earth were perpendicular in its orbit around the sun, there would be no changes in temperature and day length and no need for calendars. This tilt is what causes earth's annually recurring seasons. Deer have adapted their

The antler cycle lags several months behind the changes in day length because the hormonal changes take time. During fall, decreasing day lengths cause melatonin production to increase, resulting in decreased production of both luteinizing hormone and testosterone. Decreasing testosterone levels then cause the antlers to shed.





**CAN THE CYCLES BE ALTERED?**

When the day length cycles are artificially changed, deer grow antlers according to the new cycle. Scientists have shortened day length cycles to six months instead of one year. This doubling of the annual cycle caused deer to grow two separate sets of antlers in the same year! When scientists tripled the annual cycle (one annual cycle completed every three months), bucks grew three sets of antlers in one year, but the antlers only grew to about half of normal size. Scientists have also lengthened day length cycles, causing deer to grow antlers only every other year. These antlers still only grow to normal size, but the length of time bucks are in velvet increases.

In the past, scientists have also relocated deer from one hemisphere to another, such as the transplants of different deer species from North America and Europe (northern hemisphere) to New Zealand (southern hemisphere). These transplanted deer adapt their antler cycles to the opposite day length cycles of the new hemisphere, even though temperatures at the new location decrease as day length increases. Deer that live on the equator, where there are no seasonal fluctuations in day length, are able to breed year-round. However, breeding and antler growth in individual animals still occur on 12-month cycles that depend on the animal's birth date.

**WHEN DOES ANTLER SIZE PEAK?**

We have very conclusive data when it comes to knowing when antler size peaks for bucks in south Texas. We have now randomly live-captured over 4,000 bucks from the wild of south Texas. We have aged all of these buck by tooth wear and measured all of the racks according to Boone and Crockett Club (BCC) guidelines. On average, antler size and gross BCC score does not reach its maximum until a buck is at least five-and-a-half years old. In fact, many bucks do not peak in antler size until they are six-and-a-half or seven-and-a-half years old. Many of the body characteristics we have measured during past buck captures have also indicated that several body measurements do not peak until these same ages.

Clearly then, if you wish to allow bucks the opportunity to reach their full antler growth potential, they need to be allowed to live until at least five-and-a-half years old. However, many bucks will die of natural causes before reaching full maturity.

*Dr. Mickey Hellickson is an internationally recognized expert on white-tailed deer and has given countless public presentations throughout the eastern and central U.S. and northern Mexico. He is a staff writer for the Journal of the Texas Trophy Hunter and past contributor to Quality Whitetails and Deer and Deer Hunting. He is an avid outdoorsman and has hunted big game on three continents.*

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| Maxbo        | Amish Ranger | Outstanding |         |
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# SEMEN STORAGE & HANDLING



...by Al Diversified, Inc.

## GENERAL CARE

*There has been many questions asked about semen handling and shipping, general care of a semen tank. I hope to clear up some of your questions today.*

There have been many strides made in the semen collection and handling over the years. The most important is the straw, freezing and thawing process has led to improved sperm cell recovery if we can avoid the mistake of mishandling the straws.

We now have a huge increase in direct sales from producer to animal owner and inseminators. Recommendations for handling semen vary among inseminators and handling facilities so I will try to hit the highlights and give a general understanding of the semen tank and straw handling methods. By education, understanding and ending some confusion, the end result may be higher conception rates.

Semen tanks are available with six to eight month liquid nitrogen holding times. The maintenance of very low liquid nitrogen temperatures in the inside chamber is due to the high quality of solid insulation material and vacuum in the outer chamber. Any tank is susceptible to damage from mishandling. Accumulation of frost at the top of the tank indicates a rapid evaporation of liquid nitrogen. When I am

traveling from breeder to breeder and my tank has been jostled by the travel, I notice this from time to time. I check my levels of nitrogen every day and if I find a place to fill up with nitrogen I will stop and top off my tank.

There have been several field studies that have indicated there is no significant damage to semen stored in properly managed farm tanks. However, the State of Washington discovered during a field study liquid nitrogen completely evaporated in 3 of 60 tanks. This may not seem significant unless you are the producer with a significant amount of semen stored in this tank.



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To help avoid this, follow some simple management practices:

- 1** Avoid excessive movement or abuse of the tank.
- 2** Routinely check nitrogen levels and keep records of levels (dates and depth). You can purchase a handy measuring stick made just for this.
- 3** Store semen tank in area with good light but not in direct sunlight. I also recommend a room that is not too hot, like the barn in summertime. Once a semen tank fails, it goes quickly. Have an alternate plan!
- 4** Always keep tank elevated above concrete floor or other wet surfaces. I find a wood pallet works great. Corrosion of the outer tank will shorten the life and possibly cause failure of the tank!
- 5** Store only the amount of semen needed for six months or one breeding season.

In a typical farm semen tank, dangerous temperatures exist in the upper half of the neck tube. See following:

| Location in Neck Tube | Range in Temp (F) |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Top                   | +36 to +54        |
| 1 inch from top       | +5 to -8          |
| 2 inches from top     | -40 to -51        |
| 4 inches from top     | -148 to -184      |
| 6 inches from top     | -292 to -313      |

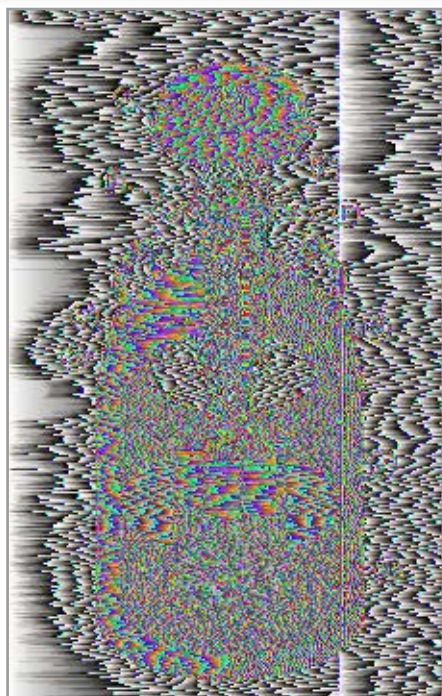
Exposure to these differences in temperature can occur when semen is transferred from tank to tank or when handling semen within the neck while trying to locate a particular unit. Once the thermal injury is done to a straw it is permanent and cannot be corrected by returning semen to liquid nitrogen.

*Following semen handling practices are recommended to minimize thermal damage.*

- 1** Transfer of semen between tanks must be coordinated and rapid. Two people should be involved, and tanks sitting side by side. Try to have tanks filled before transfer. Raise canisters only to a level necessary to locate and appropriate the cane of semen you require.

- 2** Keep a semen inventory system and mount it on the wall or attach it to the tank. Try to cover the inventory and keep it from being destroyed. **I like to see the cane code, bull name and which canister it is stored in along with the number of straws you have in it.** As it is used, change the inventory.

- 3** When pulling a straw of semen for thawing raise the canister into the lower portion of the neck, identify the cane where straw is located. Lower the canister further into the neck to protect other straws from thermal damage. You may need to bend the top tab of the cane to a 45 degree angle to reduce the chance of bending the straw. Use tweezers to transfer straw to bath and quickly lower the cane back into canister and lower into tank.



Liquid Nitrogen Semen Tank

- A. Durable, tamper-proof lid design
- B. Easy maintenance lid design
- C. Superior strength, lightweight aluminum construction
- D. High strength neck tube reduces liquid nitrogen loss
- E. Locking tab
- F. Color-coded canister/lid numbering system
- G. Advanced Chemical Vacuum Retention System - Designed for superior vacuum performance over the life of the product
- H. Spider design - for easy retrieval and insertion of product canisters
- J. Insulation - MVE's advanced insulation system provides maximum thermal performance





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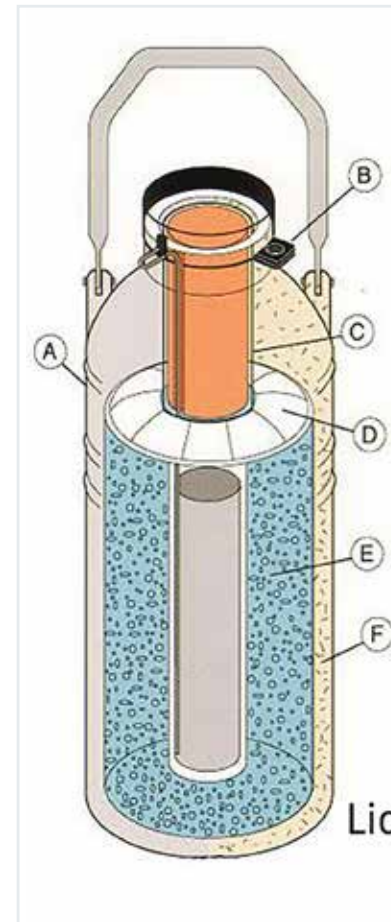
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- C. Neck tube
- D. Chemical vacuum retention
- E. Absorbent
- F. Insulation



*I strongly recommend if you are purchasing semen from another producer and are transferring semen from their tank to yours you follow these safe practices from beginning to end. Each time a tank is opened, a canister raised and a straw handled the semen has a risk of being compromised. This could very well damage your conception results.*

Next is the problem of private producers shipping semen. This is called a dry shipper and is generally sent by UPS. These have a super absorbent material inside. These have to be "charged" with liquid nitrogen and are supposed to be able to hold a -150 F temperature for 14 days. I never plan on 14 days!!! Once again, the same semen transfer rules apply from storage to shipper. But for shipping please make sure you get the tank charged properly and sent in a very timely manner. I have been on a breeder's farm when we opened the tank and there was NO vapor and it was dry and all semen ruined. When you receive a shipper your best bet is to just leave it in a cool place until your ai time is close. If it will be a few days, open the shipper, check for vapor and if you have a place you can get nitrogen you can go fill it. The semen shipping companies usually send a 3 day call tag. You just follow the directions to close and lock the tank and set it back where UPS can pick it up.

I hope I have helped with some understanding of the semen tank. I highly recommend finding a storage facility if you have large amounts of units to be stored. When

needed you make a call and they ship semen for you and take care of the professional work. They can then transfer semen UNDER liquid nitrogen and reduce the percentage of lost viability. I have used the same facility for 25 years and my loss has been so minimal I recommend this to all of my clients.







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# SECRETS TO ANTLER GROWTH



...by Joe A. Ables, DVM

## INDUSTRY BEST KEPT

Do you want to know the secret to growing monster antlers? We will give insight on the mysterious secrets on how to grow monster antlers in deer in this article. Now, do I have your attention? Everyone is looking for the secret pill or ingredient to maximize antler growth. The answers are simple and obvious but we are going to have to go on a little journey in order to turn all the secrets into common daily practice.

First things first, we need to understand some key concepts. We have to start out with how to create and maintain a healthy deer herd. What is a healthy deer? Webster's 21st Century Dictionary defines healthy as "well-being", a lack of negative effectors

*Webster's 21st Century Dictionary defines healthy as "well-being", a lack of negative effectors on the immune system.*

on the immune system. Deer remain classified as "wild animals" even though we are still trying to domesticate them. Naturally, in captivity, deer are always under attack from stress. But what does stress have to do with healthy animals? STRESS causes many negative biochemical processes (cortisol) in the body which attacks the body's normal

daily maintenance. Eventually, stress (cortisol) knocks out the immune system. The immune system simply stated is the body's defense system against foreign invaders such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, cancers and more. Some of these "foreign invaders" are naturally occurring in the body. By establishing a strong immune system, we can combat the stressors to the body more readily and thus allow deer to attain 100% health. Ok, it sounds easy, right?? What if we could then implement positive factors to further boost the immune system? We could reduce the negatives and increase the positives for the immune system. Unfortunately, our deer do not live in a "bubble world". So what can we do?

Secondly, we need to know the enemies we are dealing with. We need to understand first of all, do we have a bacterial, viral, fungal infection or is it congenital (defect from birth), cancer and more. Will these stressors cause individual sickness or affect an entire

herd (Communicable)? These are the true daily negative effectors on the body's defense system. Then we need to know how they affect the body's organs and the immune system and the mechanisms by which they succeed to cause illness. By the time we discover a problem in our herds, it is usually too late for treatments to be effective, which can be



costly. It becomes more difficult to say with each death, "well, we learned from this one, but we will be ready for the next one with what we learned." But what if that lesson was learned with your herd sire? Would it not be best to know prior to an animal getting sick in order for us to have an excellent treatment plan and antibiotics ready to fight at the first signs of an illness? I hope you answered NO! We need to now implement the phrase, "preventative medicine is better than treatment medicine." If we could prevent disease, then we would not have to stress ourselves on how to try to see the future and treat. Unfortunately, we cannot predict the future. Therefore, if we could just concentrate on "preventing" problems, we would not have to stress ourselves over all the knowledge and we could focus on naturally achieving our healthy herd status, instead of making pharmaceutical companies wealthy.

There are many ways we can naturally increase the health status of our herds and ultimately allow them to reach 100% of their genetic potential. The most common practice to enhance the immune system is to vaccinate. Vaccinations work by building up antibodies ("soldiers") to prepare the body to go to war and increase the chance to win. For example, when a vaccinated deer comes in contact with a *Pasturella* bacterial (pneumonia), the immune system prepares to battle the enemy (antigen) because of the production of memory cell antibodies ("reserve soldiers"). The vaccine prevents the surprise attack by the bacteria which allows the immune system to fight more affectively, more efficiently, and more quickly. The antibodies ("soldiers") bind to the foreign bodies and activate the antigens. This increases the health of the deer and allows it to continue in a positive direction and the deer can then continue its day to day activity (growing).



One so-called "secret" is putting "CTC" (chlortetracycline) in the feed. Can an antibiotic additive actually increase antler growth? The answer is no. Then how do we see its effect on increased antler growth? The definition of antibiotic is "against life". That is against the life of bacteria. In herd situations, there are many subclinical (underlying, unknown, unobserved) infections occurring daily. CTC in feed, at the correct concentrations, fights these "unobserved" daily battles and prevents the immune system from being drug down to the point that we can begin to see clinical signs (weight loss, coughing, etc.). CTC treats the infections that my never show clinical signs of disease. These infections simply wear down the individual immune system which decreases the deer's health thus preventing its body from concentrating on what the body should be doing; growing. Feeding antibiotics creates a lot of questions. How long and when do we feed antibiotics in the feed? How long do the tissue residues last in the meat? Is the antibiotic harmful to humans? Will the deer build a resistance to the antibiotic over time? These are many questions that are difficult to answer with 100% accuracy.

PARASITES are another method by which the enemy can flank the immune system. Parasites wage a side war on the immune system by creating new battles while the body is fighting other daily wars. While the deer are coping with daily struggles, parasites require the body to remove troops from the daily battles and spread the immune system thin. These parasites include but are not limited to intestinal worms, external biting flies, ants, and more. Proper dewormers in the feed, injectable products pour-ons, and misting systems can keep these parasites under control. It has been stated that parasites can reduce the growth potential of an animal by over 25%. Parasites not only decrease the nutrition provided to the deer, they also promote the feudal war against the immune system thereby calling more "reserve troops" (antibodies) to a new fight

and further weaken the immune system. Some of these parasites can also cause subclinical infections and will prevent bucks from reaching their true



genetic growth potential and it may not even be realized by most producers. Parasites are not responsive to antibiotics.

THE ENVIRONMENT can also negatively affect the growth potential of the herd as well. Extreme temperatures will decrease fluid intake by deer which turns into a vicious cycle. As the deer stop drinking, they become more and more dehydrated. After dehydration sets in, deer do not want to drink and thus the spiraling vicious cycle continues. Dehydration is the physiological process by which the body loses fluids either by decreased intake or loss of fluid itself. Dehydration causes decreased blood flow while conserving blood flow to vital organs. Our immune system travels in the circulatory system (blood) and if an area is deprived of blood flow, it is also deprived of the immune protection and oxygen to the cells, thus decreasing growth and allowing a breach in the body's protective defenses. For example, dehydration will conserve blood flow to the vital organs (brain, kidneys, heart, liver, etc.) that the body needs in order to survive thus decreasing blood flow to the extremities (antlers). Since the velvet is the fastest growing tissue known to mankind, any decrease in oxygen support and nutrition via decrease circulation can negatively impact the immune system thus decreasing growth potential.

There are many other factors that can negatively

affect the deer's immune system and it can be exhaustive on how to try and deal with each single battle in order to try to achieve a 100% healthy herd therefore allowing ultimate antler development. We have reviewed many negative stressors on the body and there are many unmentioned ones in this article. So how do we implement a comprehensive plan to help our deer? Nutrition is obviously important and a majority of the feed companies have this topic dealt with already. Therefore,

PROPER VACCINATION PROTOCOLS, DEWORMING PROTOCOLS, MISTING SYSTEMS AND PROPER ANTIBIOTIC TREATMENT PLANS ARE CRITICAL. But is there anything else we have missed?

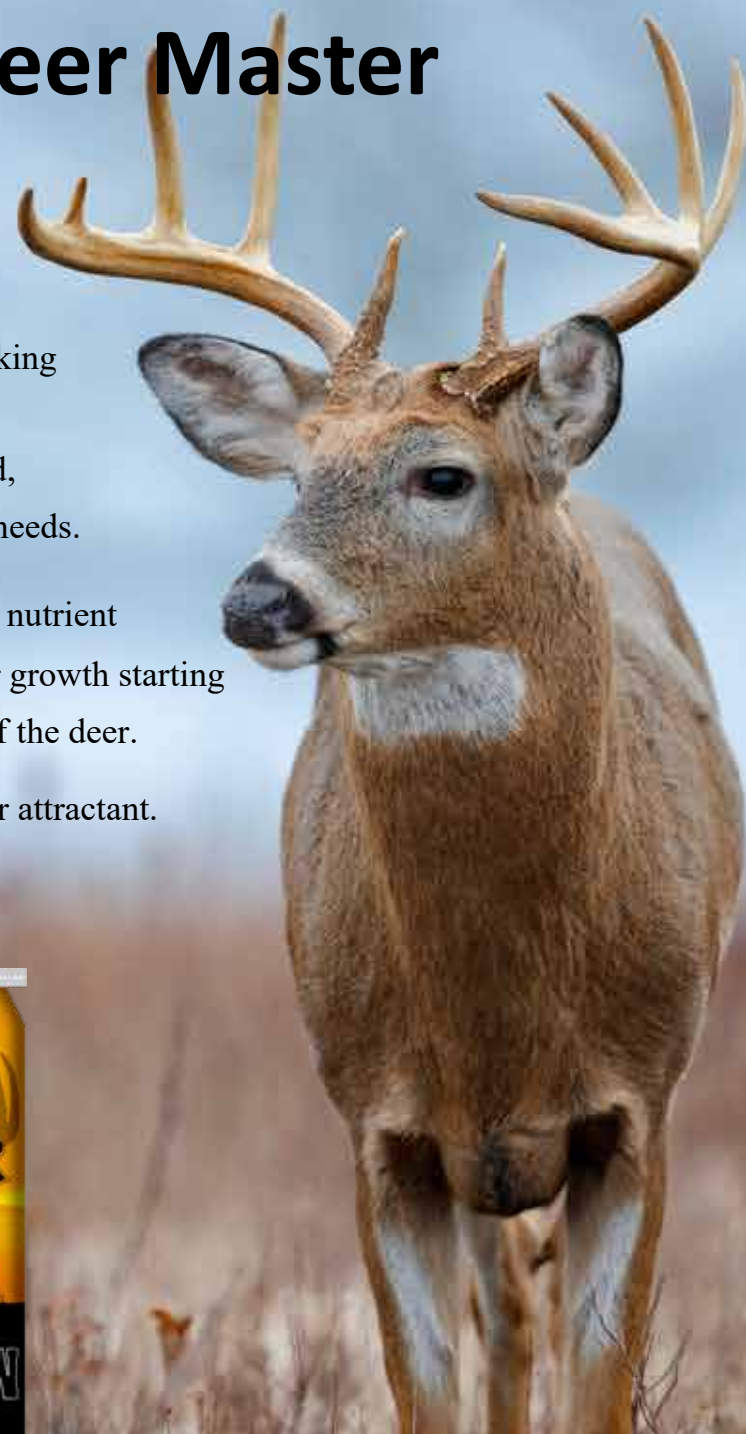
Supplements are currently impacting our industry more and more every day. They are natural products that act naturally by stimulating the immune system by providing "food and energy" to the troops and to the body to help the body fight the war more effectively and efficiently. Electrolytes are supplements that maintain fluid/hydration status by enhancing water intake and maintain proper levels of fluid in the body thus effectively decreasing the chance of dehydration.

PROBIOTICS are natural supplements that provide above normal levels of protective bacteria, protozoa, and yeast to the digestive system that will allow better digestion and absorption of nutrients and fight unwanted bacteria from invading the body through the digestive system. Probiotics are "for life" and are an inexpensive and excellent way to supplement deer to naturally enhance the overall health of the deer. Probiotics are critical for animals that are on antibiotics. Since antibiotics kill bacteria, many of the normally occurring microbial flora are affected by antibiotics as well. Therefore, probiotics are crucial in maintaining above normal levels of naturally occurring bacteria that help in digestion of feed and protecting the surface immunity of the gastrointestinal tract. Prebiotics have been utilized to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of Probiotics.

There are many different supplements on the market for just about every species known. So how do we choose? Some choose which products to use by word of mouth, past experiences in livestock



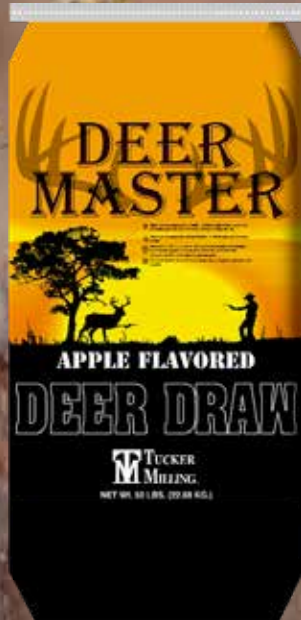
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production, and individual research. But, who can you trust? Who has the knowledge? Who has the unlimited research information on white-tailed deer? Ok, get ready, here comes a commercial. I have used many products but I have been using a specific product in my own animals for the past 4 years. I am just as skeptical as the next person these days, but this product has proven itself to me by allowing me to see a healthier herd, naturally. I have decreased my antibiotic usage. I have seen increased pregnancy rates and healthier doe and fawns in the spring. I have seen bucks increase in antler size. I have seen increased water intake. I have also seen fewer death losses to subclinical infections. I do implement a wellness plan to my animals as we have mentioned earlier and I have observed positive proof of supplementation programs over the past 4 years. Ok, if this is some miracle product, how does it work?



There are many key ingredients in Enable-Izer Gold which positively affect the animals beginning at the cellular level. The increased energy production from the mitochondria of the cells works from the ground floor and

its positive effects increase exponentially from the cellular level. If the body can initially produce an abundant amount of energy (fuel) for the cells, the cells do not experience limiting factors for growth and they can continue to produce abundant energy for the remainder of the body. In essence, when cells can operate at 100% efficiency, they can produce abundant amounts of energy for the entire body. Cells make up tissues, tissues make up organs, and organs make up the body. Supplements act like refineries that never run out of resources and continuously produces energy. Understanding nutrition at the cellular level takes us to an entirely new professional level. There are many critical factors in the energy production produced by the cell. Lysine is a limiting amino acid in the Krebb's cycle, which has a responsibility to produce ATP (energy) within the mitochondria of the cell. Therefore, if this product is never limiting, the cycle continues at maximum energy production. Now, compound this energy production in one cell to millions upon millions of cells in the body and one can continue to see that if we can achieve

100% energy production from the cellular level, we could experience an increased healthy herd and naturally increase antler production by allowing bucks to get ever so closer to meeting their genetic potential

*A wellness plan is crucial in the establishment of a healthy herd.*

We need to understand what a healthy herd is and how to maintain it. We have also learned that it is imperative to know the enemy so we can attack them before the enemy attacks our deer. We have experienced numerous enemies that attack the immune system on a daily basis. It is critical to understand the mechanism by which the enemy attacks the immune system because it will enlighten us on how to prepare and prevent disease in our herds which will ultimately help us acquire a "super immune" healthy deer herd. Implementing vaccinations protocols, proper nutrition, proper antibiotic use, parasite control, and addressing environmental concerns before they become a treatment concern in our herds is critical to the success of our wellness plan. Supplements including pre and probiotics provide positive additive effects which help boost the immune system and aid in the prevention of sub-clinical infections. Supplements bridge the gap of the daily requirement from the cellular level by providing an abundant supply of the elements that can limit efficient cellular energy production. By providing an abundant supply of these essential elements, we can see increased and prolonged antler development, increased conception rates and increase fawn survival naturally. Preventative medicine is better than treatment medicine. The cornerstone to our wellness plan is to promote a healthy immune system. Let's continue from here to be "pro-aggressive" with preventative medicine and attack the enemy before they establish a foot-hold in our herds.

Joe Ables, DVM, MA is located in Decatur, TX. Dr. Ables is the founder of Enable USA, a health and reproductive supplement, offering Enable-izer, Enable-izer Gold and Veterinary Consultation/Treatment. He can be reached at 940.389.1738 or 940-255-4483 or drjoeables@yahoo.com. www.enable-usa.com





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