

## Weaners: Feeding for Growth

Participants: Bob, Brent, Hamish C, Mark, Paddy, Lyndsay, Michael, Simone

Initial ideas:

- Drench
- Yersiniavax
- Breeder recorded
- Supplementary feed
- Weaning target – 55kg – 80kg in June for Red deer.

**Key point:** Autumn represents the biggest opportunity – need to feed to genetic potential. Examples of feed: Lucerne/Prairie Grass/Advantage Feeder. Crops can vary from year to year. Fodder Beet can lack protein, good for older animals. Take pressure off farm by condensing stock to a certain area – therefore free up land for young stock.

Opportunity prior to weaning, whilst on Mum – target 450-500g/day from birth to weaning.

Also aim for an early condensed calving – 1:23 stag ratio

### Gestation length varies according to nutrition

Autumn feed ideas: Pasja, Lucerne, Chicory, Red clover/white clover with or without plantain post weaning

Tips for annual ryegrass: Prohibb + N Liquid. Soil Temp >8 °C, leave 18 Days. Graze.

**Suggested Annual Feeding:**

[illegible]

### Data from the group – LWG g/d

	Autumn	Winter	Spring
1. Bob	171	123	205
2. Brent	164	88	
3. Hamish C			
4. Mark			
5. Paddy	66-85		
6. Lyndsay	139	120	
7. Michael	200	110	
8. Simone	280 (263)	165 (220)	375 (356)

### Notes from each group member:

8 New ground for deer – low parasite risk

7 Add barley feeder in autumn, still in weaning groups (may box up).(tetraploid ryegrass new) - u pto 1kg/d. 1800kgDM/ha – 1300 later.

7 Feed high protein supplements + soy meal hulls (22% protein) and minerals with fodder beet (200g+ /day)

7 Fodder beet not strip grazed, baleage after 3 weeks. Achieved 11g/d in winter

6 Pre rut weaning, animal health key at weaning. Clover content lacking in pastures.

6 Early April started on grain – in trailer. Prior to this rotated pastures with no supplement. Supplement (silage and grain) increases as pasture covers reduce going in to winter. 2200KDM/ha ideal pasture cover going through till June.

6 Kale and bet crops for winter this year look disappointing.

6. Habit of daily grain feeding keeps deer happy.

5. Zero winter growth, so aim to not go backwards. Autumn growth is critical and dictates Spring kill.

5 Feed fawns on Mums 50d Jan – Feb with Lucerne baleage and barley 38c/d cost per hind with fawn at foot. Fawns were 5kg heavier at weaning. \$20.hd cost. Hinds BCS + 1 at pre-rut weaning.

5 Bring hinds and fawns off hill onto 2<sup>nd</sup> cut Lucerne prior to weaning. Then wean onto new grass pastures under irrigation. Logistically can't do "Aitken" technique for weaning.

4 Hill country HB "KISS" principle all grass system. Breeder, sells weaners. Maize grain in silo with grain feeder used for feed pinches. Spray and pray crops looked at eg plantain..looking at turnips.

4 Strategic use of flown on N to kick pasture.

3 Invest in weighing system, soil fertility, fencing etc to renovate run-down deer unit.

3 Crops, maize, grain supplement pre-rut. Crops for pasture renovation. Maize silage for dairy cows and for pasture renovation.

2. Lease blocks – trying to stick to grass. Barley fed during dry autumn. Need enough paddocks for a rotation – therefore not too many mobs.

1. Winter in swedes and good baleage, don't wean until Spring. Red clovers/plantain/tetraploid.