

# Supplementary Feeding

## Benefits of feeding well

- Increased milk supply – therefore increased weaner weights – better performance
- Increased BCS for hinds can lead to better conception rates
- Survivability of fawn
- Less health problems
- Education of fawn to supplementary feed
- Introduce fawns to mustering/farm
- Help with rumen development pf fawns/weaners
- Concentrate on feeding stock classes better to ensure they get all the help they can to get back in fawn
- Capturing genetic potential
- Controlling pasture – rotational grazing compared to set stocking
- Timing of specific feeds
- Natural grazing – better balance of diet leads to better performance
- More \$\$\$ and better return on investment

## Reaching a target BCS of 3.5-4

- 1) 15ha Rape/Plantain for 250 deer  
Sell stock to increase paddock area for hinds  
Foetal aging of hinds  
Grazing strategies eg decrease Stocking Rate in fawn area  
Chemical topping early/mid October  
Weaner >4kg on crop of grass post rut
- 2) Supplementary feed/PKE  
Check for trace element deficiencies
- 3) Crops
- 4) Advantage Feeders

## Supplementary Feeding over Lactation – Grazing strategies

- Length – 2500-3000kgdm/ha
- Decrease stocking rate – 6 hind/ha
- Specialist pasture for when fawns are up and running – ideally the paddock next door
- Using other classes of stock to control feed
- Use supplementary feed while on Mum so fawn gets used to it
- Crop needs to last long enough to get a benefit from it
- Can integrate mobs of hinds

### Cons of Supplementary feeding over Lactation:

- \$\$\$ - Monitor/Measure – build knowledge/trends.
- Rumen adjustment factors.

### Supplementary Feeds – Pros and Cons

	Pros	Cons
<b>Maize</b>	High ME, high palatability, low protein?	Low protein, Not best for stags in August
<b>PK</b>	Alter fat composition of product.	
<b>PK + Maize</b>	Good for lactating hinds. Stags in August	
<b>Baleage + Maize</b>	For wintering stags. Good storage.	Cost
<b>Peas</b>		
<b>Barley</b>	Crushed vs Not? Look in faeces	
<b>Nuts</b>	Digestibility. Utilisation. Less wastage. Can balance ration.	Unknown ingredients? Added cost of palletising. Variable quality. Seed dressings/imported ingredients.

### General Principles

- Need to balance protein/ME in diet
- Need idea of what pasture quality is
- Look at faeces for undigested grain

### Supplementary Feeding of Fawns and Weaners

Summer: Protein – 15%, Energy, Fibre, Good milk, Baleage (tested).

Autumn: ME, protein, palatability egs barley (crushed vs not), maize, nuts

Winter: Beet – protein, Kale – sugars, Grass. Consider cost of grain.

Spring