

## Animal Health

- Health and feeding go hand in hand; fewer health issues are seen when deer are well fed
- Managing health issues in deer is about managing the risks – different for every property
- Take a critical look at what you do in terms of deer health – be able to justify what you do, when you do it, why you do it, and with what?
- Doing a health review and plan for the farm is an investment – and is seen as a ‘no-brainer’ by successful farmers
- Parasite management is more than drenching - especially important to manage holistically on finishing land
- Under-dosing is a serious risk factor for drench resistance – ensure you are using the most appropriate products at the most effective dose rates
- Adult stock rarely need drenching, and are a good source of refugia. Don't waste money drenching adult stock if it is not justified, use targeted drenching only.
- Copper supplementation needs to be justified – test and discuss risk with the vet
- Leptospirosis is not just production-limiting, but a human health risk- employers especially need to think about this in terms of farm health and safety
- Identifying and controlling Johne's disease has been hard work and expensive, but worth it financially on properties that have tackled it
- Deer are ruminants – rumen bug health should not be under-estimated- remember when transitioning between feed sources. Deer health can suffer when rumen bugs are disrupted.
- Information is key to making good decisions - growth rates, trace element test results, slaughter data, and many more ways of assessing performance are all going to add value to a health review and plan.
- Vaccination timing is critical – ensure time between shots is correct – and keep chilled
- Managing for low stress is a vital part of keeping deer healthy
- Drench options limited but use existing products to their best potential in mean time
- Time stag health treatments for best effect, not most convenient
- On farms with foot issues, changing to rubber flooring has made a big difference