

## Background Information

- With increasing numbers of deer wintered on Fodderbeet we need to ensure that we are optimising growth rates while on this winter feed.
- Improved growth rates over winter have significant impact on early spring performance and timing of kill for finishing weaners.
- Heartland feeds had presented a concentrated feed option which appeared to meet our needs as a complimentary feed to Beet and balage.

## Process

We investigated the feeding options and came up with 4 feeding regimes which were measured over the course of the winter;

1. Fodderbeet and Balage
2. Fodderbeet/ Balage/PKE
3. Fodderbeet/ Balage/PKE/ Minerals
4. Fodderbeet/ Balage/ Deer Supreme Mix

Our AP members didn't have input into the initial decision process however we had a full debrief and discussion at our AP field day and it was unanimous that we apply the feeding regime to all weaners wintered on Fodderbeet. We will again measure the pre and post winter results this season to confirm our findings

## What was done

Once we had some growth rate data to hand it was clear that the deer supreme mix was adding significantly to the growth rates of the weaners while on beet. The group analysis/ discussions were focussed on;

- Heavier weaners into peak chilled market 8kg x \$7.50/kgCW less costs
- More weaners into peak chilled market by getting a 65kgCW into the chilled market is worth c. \$32.50/head (schedule drop of \$0.50)
- Better returns from either of the above scenarios from Fodderbeet based diet.

## Outcomes

- The table below clearly shows the increased margin on feeding a complimentary feed with the fodderbeet.

<b>Group</b>	<b>Weight Gain</b>	<b>Feed rate</b>	<b>Cost of feed</b>	<b>Cost of Feed</b>	<b>Yield Gain</b>
<b>Unit</b>	<b>(g/animal/day)</b>	<b>(kg/head/day)</b>	<b>(c per kg)</b>	<b>(c/deer/day)</b>	<b>g/day (54% yield)</b>
Fodder Beet/Baleage	60	0	0	0	32.4
Fodder Beet/Baleage/PKE	90	0.25	20	5	48.6
Fodder Beet/Baleage/PKE/Minerals	110	0.25	31	7.75	59.4
Fodder Beet/Baleage/Deer Supreme	160	0.25	50	12.5	86.4
<b>Group</b>	<b>Carcass gain (100 d winter)</b>	<b>Gain(\$7.50 schedule)</b>	<b>Profit/Loss</b>	<b>Over 100 Day Winter</b>	
<b>Unit</b>	<b>kg carcass weight (54% Yield)</b>	<b>(cents/deer/day)</b>	<b>(c/deer/day)</b>	<b>(c gain per deer)</b>	<b>(\$ gain per deer)</b>
Fodder Beet/Baleage	3.24	24.3	24.3	2430	24.3
Fodder Beet/Baleage/PKE	4.86	36.45	31.45	3145	31.45
Fodder Beet/Baleage/PKE/Minerals	5.94	44.55	36.8	3680	36.8
Fodder Beet/Baleage/Deer Supreme	8.64	64.8	52.3	5230	52.3

## Outcomes # 2

- With clearly defined benefit to feeding a complimentary feed with Fodderbeet the marginal benefit supports using it again this winter.
- On 1,000 weaners finished an extra 8,640kgCW or \$64,800 could be achieved for feeding no more beet and simply adding deer supreme.
- Total cost to get the above benefit is \$13,750 less any costs of feeding out.
- While the results speak for themselves the robust debate about winter growth rates and whether this option is economic was clearly shown above in the trial data.