

Food Plot Sizes?

I was excited to see my new copy of *D&DH* contained an article about food plots. Although I've been reading about and making plots for roughly three years now, there is still much to learn.

Question: How much food-plot area is needed to really make a difference in weight and antler size? I have read articles saying that 7 percent to 10 percent of your property is a good goal. I also understand that certain types of forages will produce a higher tonnage, correct?

— Mike Green, Dalton, Pa.

Editor's note: As you mentioned, Mike, devoting roughly 10 percent of a property to food plots is a good guideline. Planting these plots in a variety of sizes and shapes will allow you to use some for hunting and some for strictly feeding deer.

When considering the tonnage of food a specific variety of plant is capable of producing, it is also important to look at other benefits of each plant. Brassicas and clovers green-up quickly and provide high levels of protein. On the other hand, chicory stands up well in late summer when conditions often become dry and other plants struggle to produce.

If resources permit, planting a variety of forages provides deer with the most nutritional options.

Secret Recipe?

When reading Dan Moyer's "Afterglow" article in the August issue, I started to hunger for the Pennsylvania whitetail bologna and kielbasa he was packaging.

Would it be possible for Dan Moyer to send me the recipe he uses to make his bologna and kielbasa? Here in Connecticut, we can harvest some 10 deer a year if we want to, due to overabundance. I would sure enjoy making some of the meat into venison bologna and kielbasa.

— George Roesnbaum, via e-mail

Moyer's response: I must admit that I am more of a dedicated hunter and writer than I am a sausage maker. I do make

kielbasa and bologna, but I don't really have a recipe. I simply buy the packaged kits, casings and butcher string online.

My dad and I did, however, decide to add more garlic last year because it suited our taste.

6,000-Mile Hunt

I was sitting in a tent in Afghanistan reading the June 2007 issue of *Deer & Deer Hunting* when I came across the article, "Including Absent Heroes." I enjoyed reading the article but wondered how many hunters actually took it to heart. Well, I got part of my answer this past turkey season.

The weekend before my deployment, I wanted to spend some quality hunting time with my 9-year-old son. We only had a limited amount of

time, so I hired an outfitter. Unfortunately, we didn't harvest a gobbler that weekend, but the experience and the memories were much more important.

The outfitter we were hunting with e-mailed me a few days later and said he really appreciated what the military does, and to show his support, he wanted to take my son hunting again.

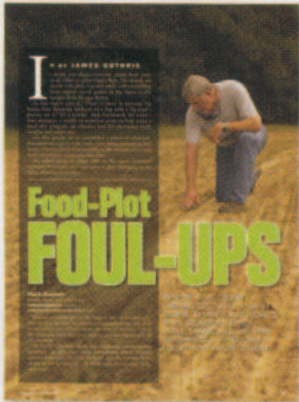
Two months after I left home — after convincing my wife to let our son go hunting with someone she didn't even know — the hunt was on.

Words cannot describe the excitement I felt when the outfitter e-mailed me pictures of my son with his gobbler. If his goal was to say thanks to one soldier, he hit a grand slam.

Other than missing my family, missing hunting season is the hardest part of being away from home. But thanks to Wes at Atkinson Expeditions, I was able to share in an awesome hunt, even though I was 6,000 miles away.

— Major Brian S. Locke, Afghanistan

What's on your mind? E-mail your letter to dan.schmidt@fwpubs.com, or send it to Readers Recoil, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990-0001.



When Do You Shoot Does?

I thought that I had this figured out until this past issue of *D&DH*. My plan was to shoot a doe early in the season with my bow next year. My thoughts were that this would help reduce the deer herd and get some meat early to reduce the pressure, allowing me to wait for a 2^{1/2}-year-old buck.

Then I read Charles Alsheimer's article, which said that it is better to shoot does later after the rut. He listed a few reasons, including one stating that keeping does in your area will help bring in the bucks during the rut.

So, what do you all think?

JPA

Posted: 6/27/2007 7:42:55 AM
deeranddeerhunting.com posts: 134

I think it depends on where you hunt. In my area, there are plenty of deer, so taking some does early wouldn't make much difference. In late November (if it gets cold), I frequently see groups of 15 to 25 does, which makes targeting specific deer much easier.

BVBHAWK

Posted: 6/26/2007 8:46:59 PM
deeranddeerhunting.com posts: 7

Unless your buck to doe ratios are way out of whack in favor of bucks ... I don't think shooting an early-season doe or two will have enough impact on the doe population to alter the amount of buck activity during the rut.

I will try to take as many does as I can this year, regardless of what phase the season is in. We have too many for me to be picky about when I should shoot one.

EIGHT_OAK_ACRES

Posted: 6/27/2007 9:03:52 AM
deeranddeerhunting.com posts: 49

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