

# BK Whitetails Fawn Season Guidelines

Get your pens ready for fawn season. Treat for and kill all fire ants in the pens and around the pens. Have high manure areas and feed areas cleaned and limed in advance of fawns being born. Remove any abnormal hazards from your pens. Put fawn shelters in the pens in advance, your deer in the pen need to get used to the new item in the pen.

Check your fence for gaps; fawns don't need much of a gap to go into adjacent pen or out of the pens. Secure the gaps around your gates; you would be amazed at what they can get thru. I would suggest running a 3 foot tall piece of carpet on the inside of the gate and put a piece of carpet in all corners of the pen. Fawns will follow the adults in the event they get spooked but the fawns don't know when to stop, the carpet will make a difference.

You want to setup your pen or nursery as if you were baby proofing your own house the best you can.

Fawn Shelters - When putting your fawn shelters in the pen put them where they are easy for you to get to so you can get your hands on the fawns. I put mine up toward the gate in shady areas and on high ground if possible. I put the open end to the prominent wind. Good shelters keep birds of prey unsuccessful.

**If possible move your doe's to a rested pen right before birthing begins, I would not immobilize to move them this late.** A rested pen is a pen that has been absent from deer, cleaned, and the natural forage has returned. Following the above procedures. Make sure you have 3 soft rubber shallow buckets for each pen having fawns. One bucket for chaffhaye, (never feed rough stemmed forage to fawns), one bucket for clean water, and one bucket for fawn starter pellets. Make sure your feed buckets are not available to the adult deer. Keep them clean and change out daily.

## **Fawn Born**

In the first 24 hours give fawn a 3.5cc dose in the side pockets of the mouth of your choice of Probiotics and inject .20cc Bactricillin G under the skin (SC). If you can avoid delay ear tagging until weaning, if rules allow. Make sure there is available fresh clean water that a fawn can get to. Also give fawn access to Chaffhaye at week 2 and starter pellets at week 3. You will have to use a feeder that will keep the adult deer out of it.

**These fawns are remaining in pen.**

Around the 24 hour mark pull fawn from the pen. It is important to give it at least 12 hours in the pen with momma to insure fawn has received colostrum from its mother. Once pulled give fawn 3.5cc dose of your choice Probiotics in the pockets of the mouth and inject with .20cc Bactricillin G under the skin (SQ). Repeat Probiotics on day 3 again with 3.5cc in the pockets each side of mouth. Start the bottle-feeding on first available scheduled bottle-feeding. Do not be alarmed if the fawn doesn't take the bottle immediately and it might take a few feedings to get it in the normal routine. Follow the bottle-feeding schedule below. **These fawns are going to the nursery.**

Anytime you handle a fawn especially for the first time check it over look for anything not normal. Put an antibiotic or iodine on umbilical cord. Check the temperature of the fawn, thermometer in rectum works best, should be 101-102 degrees. Do not cool fawns that appear to be overheated with excessive cold water (drenching), you will put them in shock, a lightly soaked towel with cool water works well for summer heat or a mildly air conditioned facility. Fawns can also go into shock from a heavy rain where they get soaked quickly on a hot day, have fawn shelters for them.

## **Whitetail Bottle Feeding Chart**

I use whole red cap milk, with Meyenberg Condensed Goat Milk A&D with American Probiotics Healthy Fawn Plus Additive. I use Pritchard nipples on my bottles. I feed Chaffhaye to the fawns and Fawn Starter Pellet. I will use organic applesauce to entice eating the pellets.

First 2 weeks stimulate exterior of rectum with scent/fragrance free baby wipes every time you feed. After 2 weeks stimulate every other feeding for 10 more days.

(Week 1) 1st 3-4 days Milk Replacer. 3-8oz 5 times daily  
6:00 am and 10:00 am : 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm : 10:00pm and 2:00am

(Week 2) Feed up to 3 weeks of age, Milk Replacer 5-8oz  
5 times daily 6:00 am and 10:00 am : 1:00pm and 5:00 pm : 10:00 pm and 2:00am

(Week 3) Feed up to 4 weeks of age 6-8oz Milk Replacer.  
4 times daily 7:00 am and 12:00pm : 6:00pm and 11:00pm

(Week 4) Feed up to 5 weeks of age 6-10oz Milk  
Replacer. 4 times daily 7:00 am and 12:00pm : 6:00pm and 11:00pm

(Week 5) Feed up to 6 weeks of age 8-10oz Milk Replacer  
4 times daily 7:00 am 12:00pm 6:00pm 11:00pm

(Week 6) Feed up to 7 weeks of age 10oz Milk Replacer.  
4 times daily 7:00 am and 12:00pm : 6:00pm and 11:00pm

(Week 7) Feed up to 8 weeks of age 12oz Milk Replacer.  
3 times daily 7:00am 3:00pm 10:00pm

(Week 8) Feed up to 9 weeks of age 12oz Milk Replacer.  
3 times daily 7:00am 3:00 pm 10:00pm

(Week 9) Feed up to 10 weeks of age 12oz Milk Replacer.  
3 times daily 7:00am 3:00pm 10:00pm

(Week 10) Feed up to 12 weeks of age 10-15oz Milk Replacer 2 times daily 7:00am 7:00pm

(Week 12) Feed up to 14 weeks of age 12-15oz Milk Replacer. 1 time daily at 8:00am

Give fawns access to Chaffhaye at 2 weeks of age. Start with a handful in a clean rubber pale and replace daily. Do not give fawns straight Alfalfa or any other hard stem plant, it scratches their tender mouths and opens them up for further issues, Lumpy Jaw, etc.

Give fawns access to starter pellets at 3 weeks of age in a clean rubber pale and replace daily. Do not introduce a textured feed until 10 weeks of age, preferably not until week 16.

Keep fresh clean water available from day one, change out daily and clean bucket as needed.

## **Fawn Medicines**

- **Always give a probiotic in conjunction with an antibiotic.**

**Albon** - Great for treating scours and upset stomachs to include bloating. Oral medicine. Can be given in bottle with milk replacer.

**Bactricillin G** - Given at first 24 hours .20cc SQ . Good for mild illness and scours.

**Amoxicillin** - Given orally. Excellent for treating cholstridia, .50 cc in mouth twice a day make sure they swallow it. Treat for 3 days

**NuFlor** - Great for treating lumpy jaw, .30cc IM

**Enrofloxacin** - Good for treating pneumonia and blindness due to disease. IM, SQ

**Valbazen** - Excellent wormer, can be put into bottle with milk replacer or orally by itself. I give .20cc at 3 weeks and .20cc at 8 weeks and .30cc at weaning.

**Dexamethasone** - Good for treating a spinal injury, fawns with loss of front or back legs. Use small dosages and not for prolonged use. This medicine is hard on their kidneys and liver. I never give more than .20cc IM per day for more than 3 days. Always give fawn gel after every dose.

**Vaccines** - I do vaccinate fawns at weaning time, consult your vet for the best vaccines for your situation.

**\*Consult your veterinarian, I am not a veterinarian, these are suggestions.**

As your fawns start to grow, I separate the slow achievers from the advanced fawns. The reason I do this is there needs to be a change to the slower achievers diet. I often will go

back to a more aggressive bottle-feeding while keeping the advanced/normal fawns on the started path.

I do like to introduce/give the fawns small portions of fresh fruit. I have found watermelon is an excellent hydration tool. The watermelon is full of water and they love it, even a sick fawn will lick and eat on watermelon. I have found that they will go to the watermelon before going to the water bucket.

During the severe heat of the summer after the fawns have figured out the water bucket I will add electrolytes to the water.

I also have water sprinklers in the pen, I will run them in the late morning and late afternoon, just enough for them to have some fun, I never pond water and I usually do it every other day or everyday alternating morning –afternoon.

A common problem in fawn nurseries is the suckling of the buck fawn's penis. I cure this by using Yuk Lik, when I go into bottle feed I will apply in the morning to all my buck fawns, this will stop that activity. To ignore this problem can result in serious injury to your buck fawn.

## **Fawn Products**

There are a lot of products and supplements out there claiming to produce the biggest and best fawns and deer in general. The problem is very few have the research and the studies behind them to support their claims. There is nothing out there to replace or alter the natural growing process of an animal that's ethical. There are products and supplements to assist in keeping the animal healthy, and a healthy animal will grow well. Look for products that have been in business more than 5 years, look for products that can supply you with scientific research, case studies, instructional resources, etc.

## **Other Key Products I Use and Recommend**

### **Chaffhaye**

[www.chaffhaye.com](http://www.chaffhaye.com) or [www.mpfeedstore.com](http://www.mpfeedstore.com)

I feed my fawns and deer Chaffhaye, I never feed them baled Alfalfa. Baled Alfalfa is dry and hard stemmed, in my opinion not a natural product that deer would eat, plus enormous waist.

Chaffhaye is premium alfalfa harvested at optimal plant maturity to maximize nutrients. Chaffhaye is a supreme source of fiber, protein, and nutrients for browsers and grazers.

Chaffhaye is a natural source of beneficial yeast, enzymes, and microorganisms that support healthy digestion and absorption of nutrients. Chaffhaye is moist, soft, and leafy and is coarsely chopped to release enzymes and maintain good gut motility. Animals eat all of Chaffhaye including the stems.

**Chaffhaye is perfect for scratching the rumen without tearing up the mouths of fawns. Open wounds in the mouth are an open invitation to illness.**

Chaffahye is more nutritious than hay and a non GMO product.

### **Fawn Starter Pellet**

I do feed a Fawn Starter pellet. I can't recommend one particular brand over another as I am still looking and evaluating the best one. The fawn starter pellets in the market are all similar so go with the one that you feel confident in. I am hoping for a non GMO fawn starter pellet in the future.

There is so much more I can I write but this is a good tool for you to use and make it work for you. Just remember the key to bottle feeding is patience; it is a very tiresome but so rewarding of a task bottle-feeding these babies. You are more than welcome to call me anytime you have a question 830-444-2030. If you don't want to bottle feed yourself I have a great fawn nursery to bottle feed for you.

Sincerely,

Brian Kanke  
BL Whitetails LLC