

FLORA FAUNA NEWS

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Welcome to Zoo Pharma Dynamics, Inc. We hope you will enjoy our newsletter as we enjoy putting it together. We want you to find it informative and entertaining. If you have a topic or a question you would like addressed in the next newsletter please email us. We always appreciate pictures of the funny things animals will do. God Bless and Keep Animals Happy and Healthy!

Effects of Winter Diet for White-tailed Deer

By Brian Kanke
Chairman of Zoo Pharma Dynamics

Mother Nature slows the metabolism in the winter months to compensate for the lack of forage.

The theory is that the animal has been fattening up for the winter but do they really. During the months of abundant forage there are many things occurring: molting occurs, offspring are being nursed, antlers are being grown and competition for a mate will begin.

There are a lot of calories being burned and activity level negates the fattening up theory. The debate is what to feed deer in the winter. You hear about rut and conditioning feeds, feeding carbohydrates, feeding more alfalfa etc..

How about feeding them what they need? "Protein and Low Carbohydrates." Giving a deer too many carbohydrates can be fatal, and I am not a supporter of most of the rut and conditioning feeds.

Deer will search out what their missing, but you can give them a big head start by providing quality protein pellets. I suggest a 20% protein pellet and I prefer a textured feed. The textured feed will help provide some missing fiber, vitamins, and minerals.

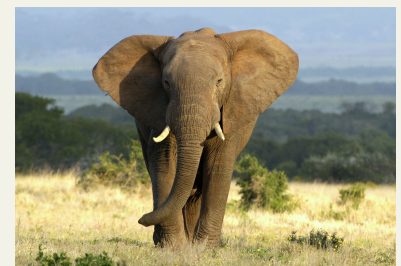
Giving the deer access to quality textured feed will usually lead to healthy deer coming into Spring. Let's not forget that the does are in gestation and food fuels the womb. Another helpful food is alfalfa flakes which will help elevate body temperature during severe cold spells. The alfalfa must be kept and fed dry. Wet alfalfa will be of little benefit and they more than likely won't eat it. Deer for the most part are like us in the winter, We love to eat!!



Did You Know?



- Owls don't have eyeballs. They have eye tubes.
- Young goats pick up accents from each other.
- Elephants have a specific alarm call that means "human."
- Butterflies can taste with their feet



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