Deer Industry Association of Australia

FACT SHEET



LANEWAYS

A laneway system has three possible functions. It should be designed to facilitate stock and farm machinery movement. It can be used as a holding area for stock or it can be designed to be used as a paddock as well as a laneway.

There are no rules governing the size, length, shape or positions of the laneways. The design of a laneway system will depend on the topography of your farm, the position of your yards, waterways, trees, other uses of the laneway and the type of vehicle used for mustering. In other words, it has to be part of your whole farm plan.

The laneway concept evolved through a need to move stock quickly and efficiently. If you need to work with the mob furthest from the yards, and you do not have a laneway, you're in trouble. Can you imagine trying to bring a mob of animals, let alone deer, through five other paddocks, three of which already have other mobs in them?

A laneway is important!!

Farmers need to understand some basic principles in order to move deer quickly and easily. The deer need to know the property. If your deer know the gates, what's on the other side of the gates, and where they might be going if they go through the gates, life is very easy. On the other hand, if the animals do not know the property, you will have to work them differently. This involves more time and more patience.

The design of your laneway will be partially affected by your yard site. Your yards may be anywhere along the laneway system. As you should incorporate your laneway so that it is accessible to most of the paddocks, the position of the yards within that system will depend on other factors. These factors include all weather access for large trucks, power and water availability and paddock design. It is useful to have two or three holding paddocks near the yards.

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