

By EMILY MCKINNON



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November

- ◆ In November the baby deer are born. The mothers teach the fawns to hide in long grass so foxes and eagles can't find them.
- ◆ Velvetting of the stags is underway.
- ◆ Velvet pools in Melbourne take place in early November. This is where the velvet cut so far this season from all over Australia gets sorted into grades and sold.



December

- ◆ More baby deer are born and we are still velvetting the stags
- ◆ The regrowth is growing on some of the stags. But this also has to be cut .



January

- ◆ Velveting mainly regrowth now and we are feeding out hay & grain for the hinds and the fawns.
- ◆ The fawns are growing well and running with their mums.



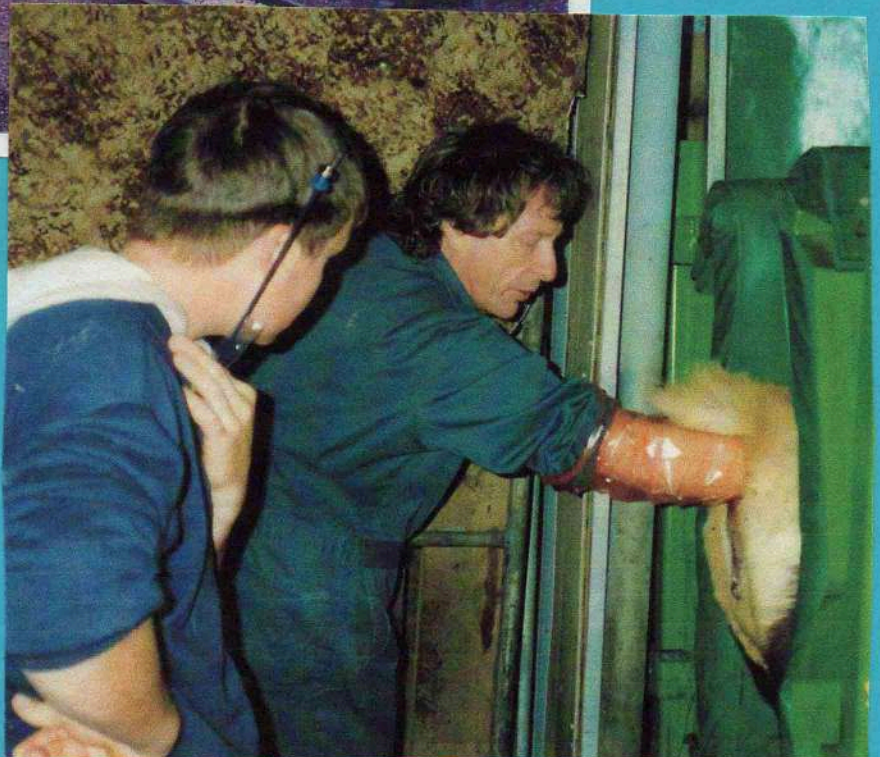
February

- ◆ February is the last month of the velveting season.
- ◆ The 2nd velvet pools in Melbourne and sometimes a competition dinner.
- ◆ In February we sell cull males to meat market (those that cut poor or very little velvet).
- ◆ Fawns get eartags put in their ears and they get mothered up to right hind.



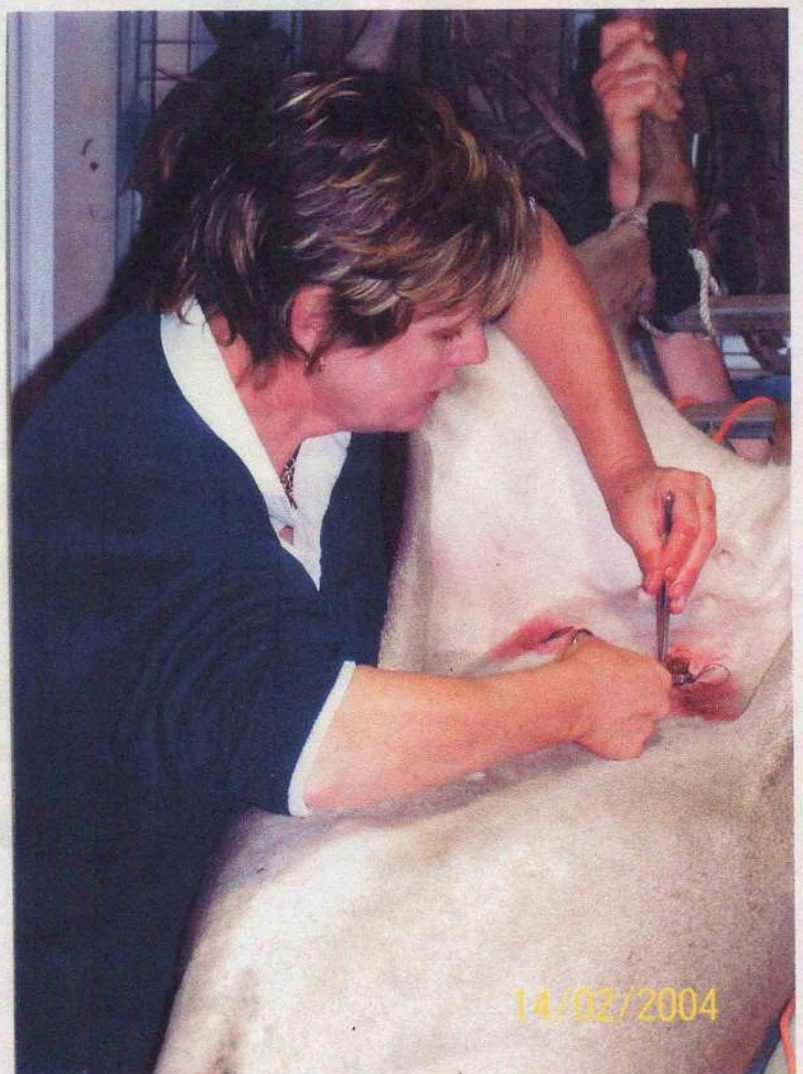
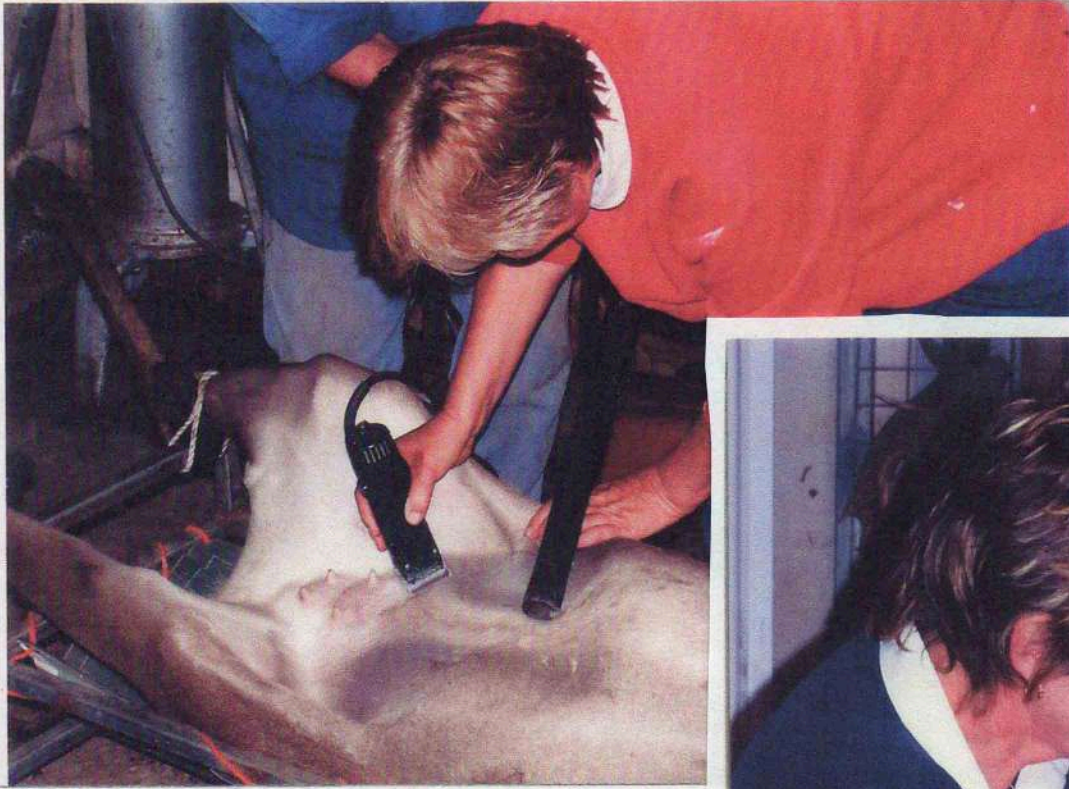
March

- ◆ The mating season starts and the stags begin to rut and roar.
- ◆ The fawns get weaned off their mums and get put in a medium sized pen.
- ◆ We can do AI if needed.



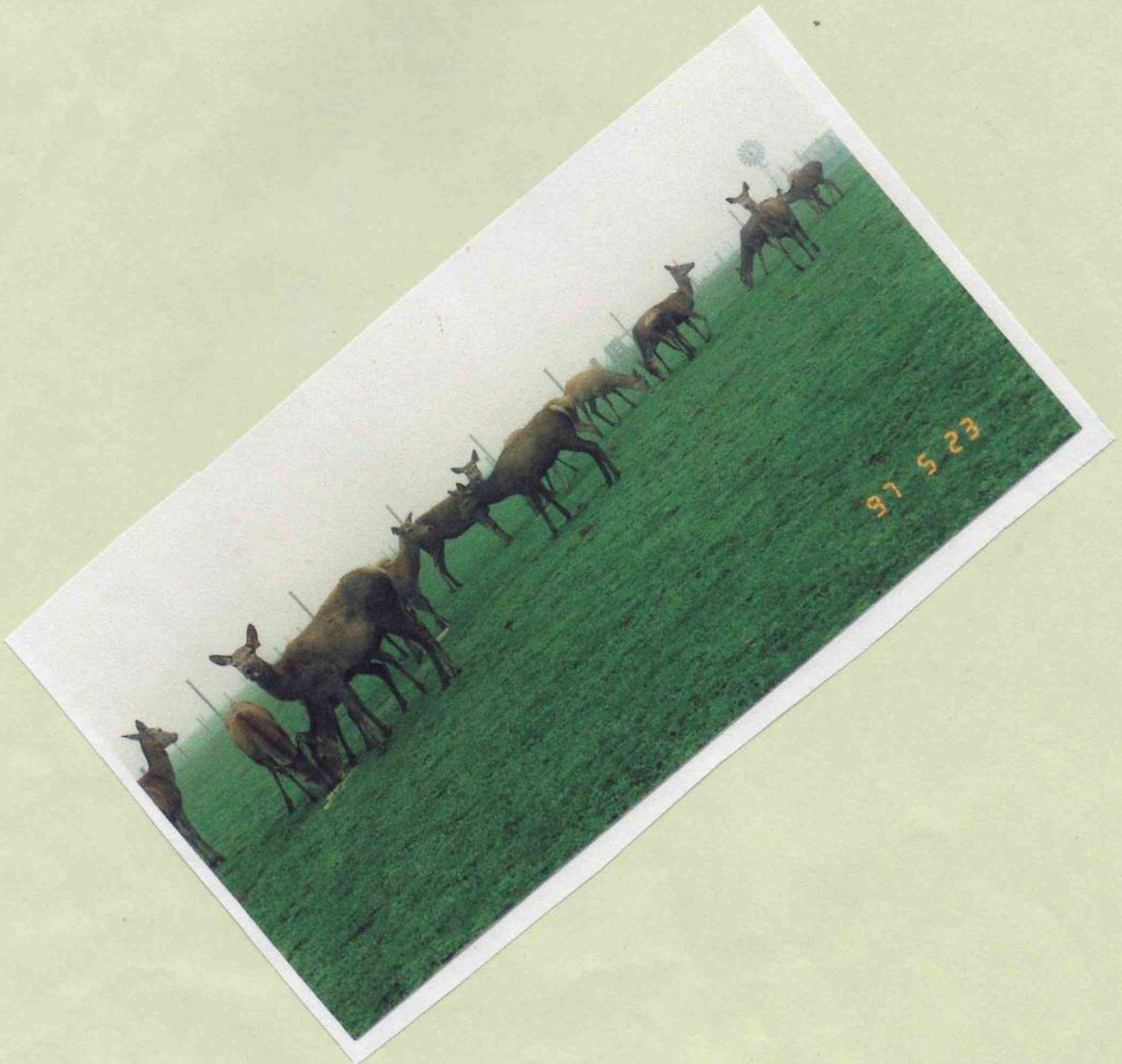
April

- ◆ You can do embryo transfers if you are doing them.
- ◆ We hand feed the fawns so they get used to the people.
- ◆ The mating season is still on.



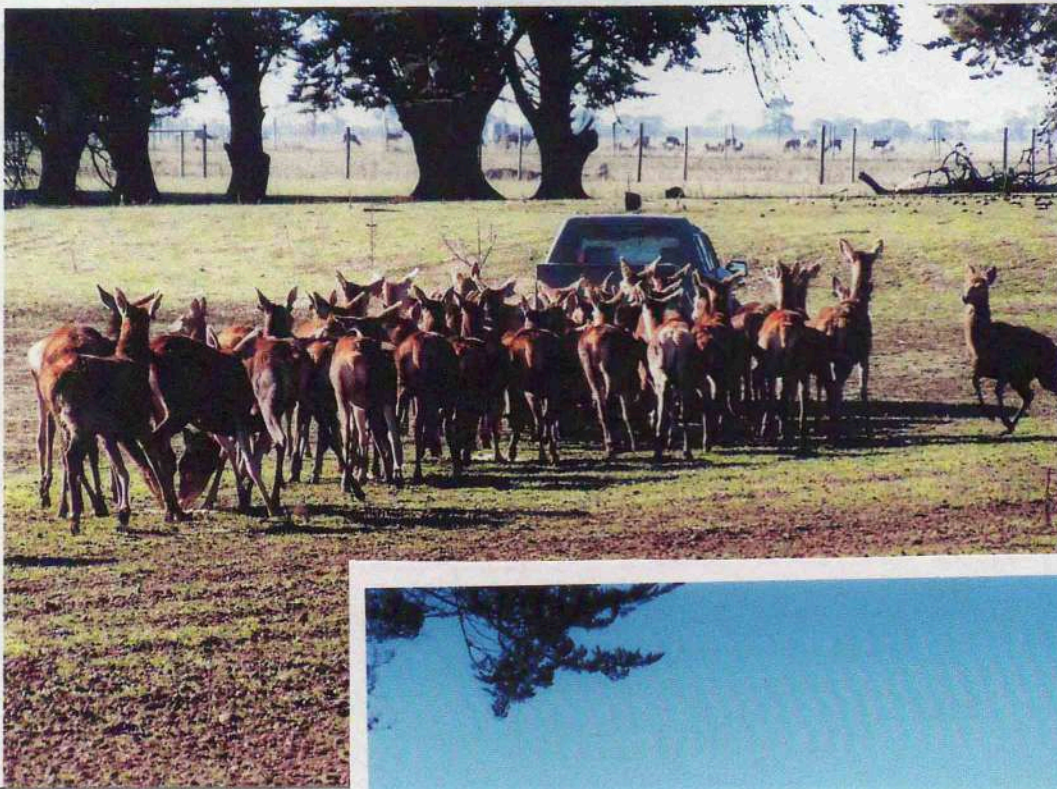
May

- ◆ In May you take the stags away from the hinds.
- ◆ We take the fawns into their paddock and we let them eat grass & grain.
- ◆ Drench fawns if needed and give mineral supplement.



June

- ◆ The stags are still on the rut and feed the hinds & fawns grain/hay.
- ◆ Stags only get hay if there is no grass at all in paddock.
- ◆ You sell the cull hinds and only if they are ready.



July

- ◆ You keep a eye out for the stags with hard antler, because if they get too nasty and try to hurt other stags, you have to cut their hard antler off.



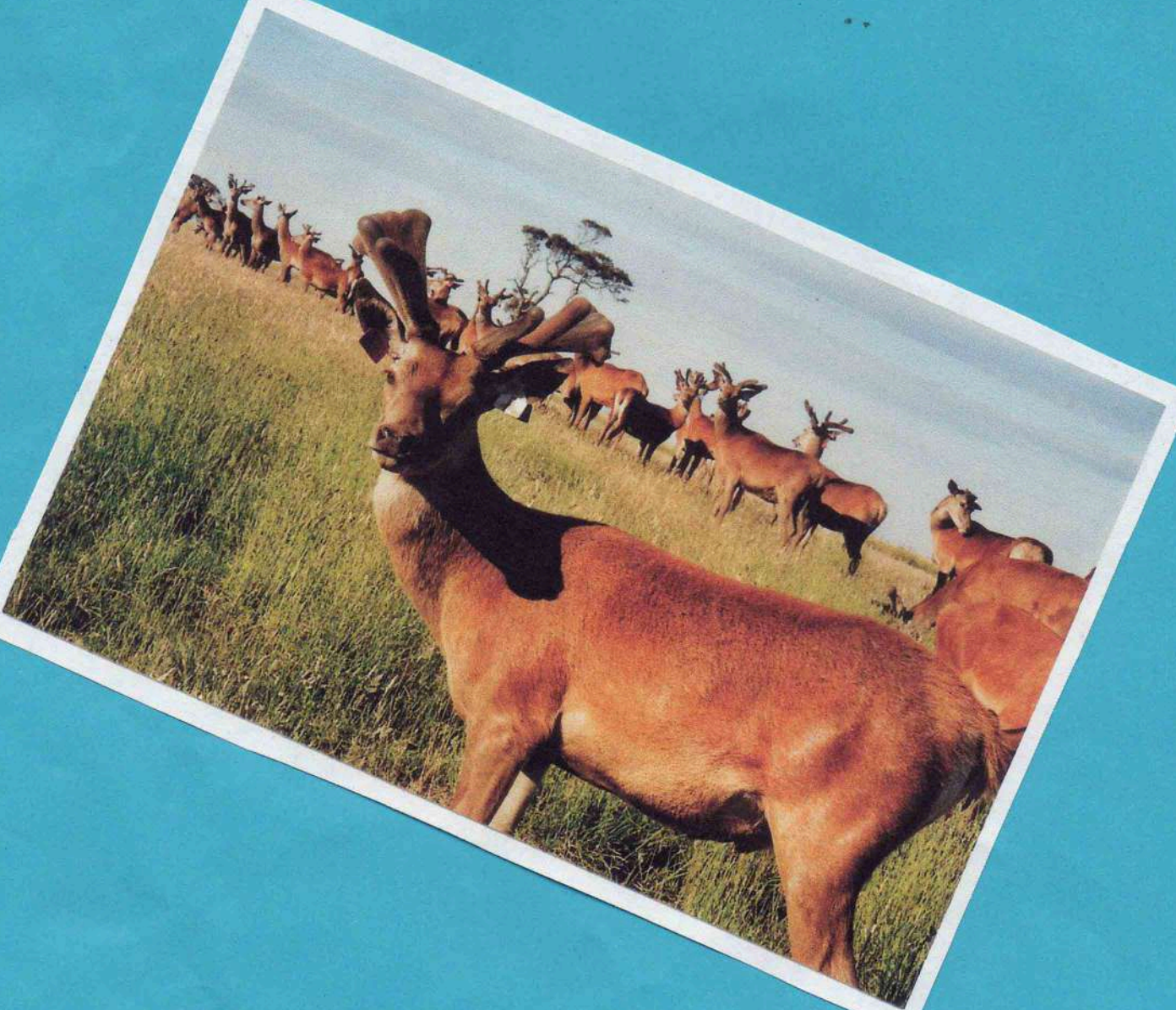
August

- ◆ The buttons and hard antlers start to drop & fall off.
- ◆ New seasons velvet starts growing again.
- ◆ Dropped hard antlers can be collected from paddock so they don't puncture ute tyres.



September

- ◆ In September the buttons are still falling off and the velvet grows bigger.
- ◆ You have to make sure freezers/sheds/crush are ok for the start of the velveting.
- ◆ Fawns are on their own, growing bigger.



October

- ◆ In October you start velveting.
- ◆ In the beginning only once a week , then up to twice a week bring all stags in and velvet those that need doing.
- ◆ The velvet needs to be measured, weighed graded and frozen.
- ◆ Those that don't cut enough velvet write down on cull list and put in separate mob.



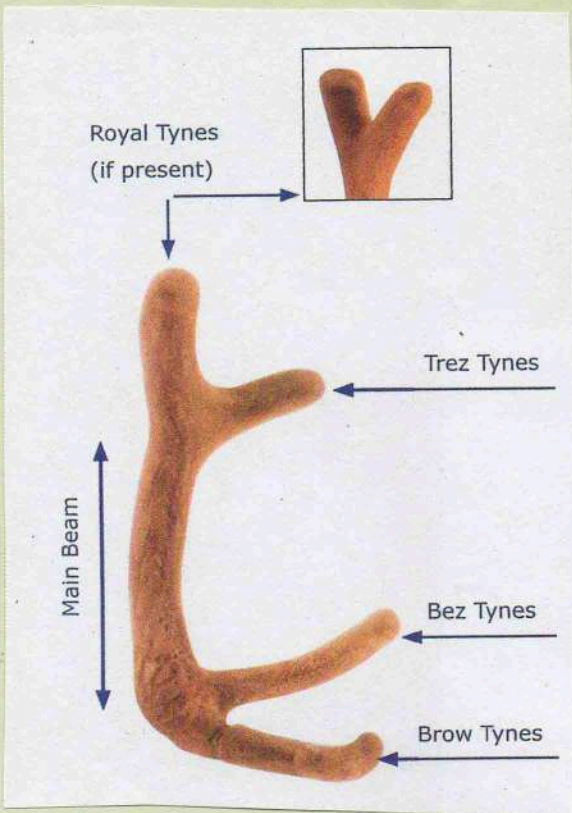


All year round

- ◆ .Cull animals are sold as they become ready (heavy enough) and there is enough for a truck load.
- ◆ Drench for worms is given to mobs if and when needed.
- ◆ Mineral drench (vitamins) given to fawns when weaned and when they look like they need it.
- ◆ You check they all look healthy and have enough to eat.



Velvet Grading ...



REGROWTH

RG1



RG2



RG3



RG4



Regrowth

Regrowth	Circumference	Length	Tynes
	>13 cm	10-25 cm	0 or 1
	>13 cm	10-25 cm	1 or 2

Regrowth	Circumference	Length	Tynes
RG3	>9 cm	5-25 cm	1 or more
RG4	N/A	N/A	N/A

HARD HORN



Hard Horn 1 (HH1)

Fully developed antler with royals and velvet till attached

Hard Horn 2 (HH2)

Spiker Hard Horn; heavily calcified velvet

Hard Horn 3 (HH3)

Regrowth Hard Horn; heavily calcified regrowth and fully developed antlers with royals and velvet that is starting to shed

HARD ANTLER



Hard Antler 1 (HA1)

Fully developed Hard Antler without velvet that is not bleached

Hard Antler 2 (HA2)

All other Hard Antler



SPECIFICATIONS



Specifications

Minimum weight	Circumference	Bottom tynes
SA1	>18 cm	1
SA2	>18 cm	2
A1	16-18 cm	1
A2	16-18 cm	2
B1	14.5-16 cm	1
B2	14.5-16 cm	2
C1	13-14.5 cm	1
C2	13-14.5 cm	2
D1	11.5-13 cm	1
D2	11.5-13 cm	2
E	<11.5 cm	N/A

SHORT



Short

	Top length		Overall length
	preferred	max	max
SA1	<16 cm	18 cm	N/A
SA2	<16 cm	18 cm	N/A
A1S	<13 cm	16 cm	45 cm
A2S	<13 cm	16 cm	45 cm
B1S	<11 cm	13 cm	40 cm
B2S	<11 cm	13 cm	40 cm
C1S	<8 cm	10 cm	35 cm
C2S	<8 cm	10 cm	35 cm
D1S	<7 cm	8 cm	30 cm
D2S	<7 cm	8 cm	30 cm
ES	N/A	5 cm	30 cm

MEDIUM



Medium

	Top length		Overall length
	preferred	max	minimum
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
A1M	<13 cm	16 cm	45 cm
A2M	<13 cm	16 cm	45 cm
B1M	<11 cm	13 cm	40 cm
B2M	<11 cm	13 cm	40 cm
C1M	<8 cm	10 cm	35 cm
C2M	<8 cm	10 cm	35 cm
D1M	<7 cm	8 cm	30 cm
D2M	<7 cm	8 cm	30 cm
EM	N/A	5 cm	30 cm

LONG TOP



Long top

	Top Length
SA1LT	18-28 cm*
SA2LT	18-28 cm*
A1LT	16-26 cm
A2LT	16-26 cm
B1LT	13-23 cm
B2LT	13-23 cm
C1LT	10-20 cm
C2LT	10-20 cm
D1LT	8-18 cm
D2LT	8-18 cm
ELT	5-15 cm

OVERGROWN



Overgrown

	Top Length minimum
OG1	28 cm
OG2	28 cm
OG1	26 cm
OG1	26 cm
OG2	23 cm
OG3	23 cm
OG2	20 cm
OG2	20 cm
OG3	18 cm
OG3	18 cm
OG3	15 cm