

© 2003 Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, Canberra,
all rights reserved

ISBN 0642 246904
ISSN 1321 2656

The Deer Farming Handbook

This publication is copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of research study, criticism or review as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted without the permission of the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation.

RIRDC Contact Details:

Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation
Level 1, AMA House
42 Macquarie Street
BARTON ACT 2600

PO Box 4776
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Phone: 02 6272 4539
Fax: 02 6272 5877

Email: rirdc@netinfo.com.au
Internet: <http://www.rirdc.gov.au>

Author Contact Details:

Chris Tuckwell
Rural Industry Developments
PO Box 1105
GAWLER, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 5118

Phone: 08 8523 3500
Fax: 08 8523 3301
Email: cdtuckwell@bigpond.com

Published: June 2003
Printed by: Active State, Gawler, South Australia

FOREWORD

The Australian Deer Industry has long recognised the importance of steadily increasing the size of the national farmed deer herd to develop its export industry to a scale that sustains international competitiveness into the future. A significant impediment in attracting traditional broad acre farmers into the industry however has been the shortage of sources of technical information in forms that can be readily understood and utilised by new deer farmers.

RIRDC has managed the deer industry's research and development program for more than a decade and there have been significant technical advances during this period, but much of this work has been published in individual R&D reports that are not readily accepted by farmers within a "whole-of-farm" management context.

This "Deer Farming Handbook" is an industry initiative to collate all of the available technical information on deer farming in the Australian environment into one up-to-date publication. RIRDC is pleased to have been able to support this work, which it believes will improve utilisation of many of the R&D results obtained from projects conducted under its auspices in the past and thereby increase the adoption of these R&D advances by industry in the commercial environment.

The author of the Guide, Chris Tuckwell, presents a comprehensive but accessible technical manual that will be a useful reference for all existing and new deer farmers for many years to come. Deer farmers can be confident that the information contained in the Guide is accurate and balanced as the text has been reviewed in detail by a team of nationally and internationally acknowledged Australian deer farming specialists.

Simon Hearn
Managing Director
Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writing and publication of this book was funded through the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation by industry levies collected from all Australian deer farmers.

Both the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation and the Deer Industry Association of Australia gratefully acknowledge SGS Prograze for allowing the use of much of their copyright information in the section about pastures and grazing in this book.

There have been many who contributed to the publication of this book. In particular I wish to thank the editorial group of industry leaders, research scientists and veterinarians who contributed many hours in the review of information written for this book. The editorial committee included:

Dr Gordon Dryden	University of Queensland
Dr Tony English	University of Sydney
Dr Jason Flesch	Formerly University of Western Sydney
Dr Andrew Hansen	Orange Veterinary Hospital
Mr Bruce MacKay	New South Wales Agriculture
Mr Jim Moir	Deer Farmer Victoria
Dr Rob Mulley	University of Western Sydney
Mr Henry Shapiro	Deer Farmer Victoria

Particular thanks must be recorded to Mrs Solange Shapiro for her untiring efforts in editing and re-editing the manuscript for the book.

Disclaimer

This publication has been prepared in good faith to provide a practical and useful guide to deer farmers. The author, to the best of his knowledge, believes that the information contained in this book is true and accurate. No warranty of accuracy or reliability is given and the author cannot accept any responsibility or liability for the results of applying information contained in this book to any particular situation.