

# The Deer Farming Year



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A variation of one month should be allowed between the north of Scotland (later) and the south of England.

The calendar below is given as a guide only. Management regimes on different farms often vary depending on local conditions and personal preference.

### September

Calves are weaned, tagged, sexed, vaccinated, wormed, weighed and housed.

Hinds are wormed and coppered if required, weighed, condition scored and sorted into rutting groups, generally up to 45 for single sire mated groups with a sweeper stag (see below). One stag is introduced to each group after having been de-antlered, wormed and weighed.

### October- November

'Sweeper' stag introduced to the hinds, following the removal of the first stag.

Supplementary foods are introduced as required to maintain body condition for adult stock.

Calf sales are completed for calf producers.

### December

Stags removed, fed well until good body condition is regained.

Hinds condition scored and regrouped if necessary for the remainder of the winter. On some farms they may be housed and also treated for fluke in risk areas.

### April

Hinds vaccinated (clostridial) mid April, yearlings wormed and the herd regrouped for calving, keeping yearlings in a separate calving group, if space allows.

Turn out housed stock

### May, June, July

Calving commences, twice daily calving patrol with binoculars, calves may be tagged at birth.

Yearling stock are wormed, given mineral supplements and possibly weighed.

### August

Advantageous to worm two month old calves and return them to the field with their mothers.

Take the opportunity to identify the dam and calf at this time.

Prepare and plan strategy for busy weaning and rutting season.