

# Deer Farming Facts & Figures



## Deer Farming – Facts & Figures

- According to the 2005 agricultural census, there are approx 33,000 deer on farms in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In England about 77% of these are Red Deer and 23% are Fallow Deer. In Scotland, virtually all are Red Deer.
- Fallow Deer are roughly half the size of a Red Deer and require approximately half the feed and space.
- The majority of stags are slaughtered at 15 to 17 months of age, hinds a little older with the maximum age at slaughter for prime stock being 27 months.
- A grass finished 15 month old stag of a reasonable bloodline should weigh about 100 to 110kg live weight and provide a cold carcass weight of between 53 to 60kg. Yearling hinds are likely to be in the region of 65 to 80kg live weight with the better hinds retained for breeding herd replacements.
- Yearlings can be rutted, although production rates may be less than the 90 to 95% anticipated of mature hinds. Hinds of up to 10 years of age are still reliable producers of quality calves and the best hinds can go on producing to 12 years plus.
- A mature stag can rut a single sire group of 30 to 40 easily, it is however normal practice to change him midway through the rut. The rut takes place in the autumn followed by a gestation period of 236 days for Reds, with calves born from mid May to July.