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B-4. A review on feeding system for deer production

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Deer farming has been continuously expanding because it requires less investment, land, animals, and labor than other livestock enterprises. The velvet antler production system is comparatively new, however, it is possible to grow continuously for its potentiality. High growth rate and feed availability can enhance deer farming. Understanding the feeding system for deer production is essential to achieve maximum productivity. Deer have mainly been grazed in perennial pasture for venison and velvet antler production in western countries, including New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and America, whereas they have intensively been fed on variable feed sources for velvet antler production in oriental countries, including Korea and China. It is well known that deer belong to intermediate eater and have a good feed availability. Furthermore deer show physiologically digestive seasonality and their availability for feed differ seasonally. Deer farming industry in Korea has mainly depended on imported feed sources, such as oak leaf hay and alfalfa bale, owing to small plow land and increased labor fee. However, oak leaf hay which was greatly acceptable to deer farmer had a low feed availability and comparatively high cost. Therefore, it is highly demanded positive development of feed source which can reduce cost and can increase availability of feed. Forest by-product which is included trees, wild grasses and shrubs collected from the reforestation area, agricultural by-products including soybean cured meal and brewer's grain, and forages including corn, sorghum, and rye silages are expected to adapt well for deer. Furthermore, it was proved a possibility to produce high quality velvet antler by feeding several feed sources including medicinal herbs.

Key words : Deer farming, velvet production, feed source, medicinal herb