

QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY ON SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING OF ROE DEER (CAPREOLUS CAPREOLUS) IN THE HUNGARIAN GREAT PLAIN

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Supplementary feeding of roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) is common in Hungary, expecting improveness of this species condition. However, intensive feeding can also have negative effects. For a better understanding of the reasons behind this tradition, we conducted a questionnaire survey at 23 game management units in the Hungarian Great Plain in the hunting year 2018/2019. Our questions were: 1) are they supplementing the roe deer, and if yes; 2) at which time of year, and for how long period; 3) how much feed are they providing; 4) what is the proportion of different feed types; 5) how many feeders do they obtain and 6) whether they suppose a positive effect of supplementary feeding on roe deer population?

Our results showed that all respondents feed roe deer in autums and winters. At 17% of the areas feeding starts in September, 57% in October, 22% in November. At 22% of the areas feeding period closes in February, 61% in March, 13% in April. The all outsourced feed for deer reached 280.8 tons per year. The most important feed were corn (58%), wheat (19%), oat (9%) and pelleted food (5%). Additionally, 401.6 tons of feed in small game feeders could also be accessible for roe deer. During a feeding period, an average of 419 kg of feed was provided in a deer feeder. All respondents, except one, answered that supplementary feeding had a positive effect, but they did not know how to prove it. The effectiveness of this practice should be investigated.