

Deer, Dogs And Snow

At this writing, the winter has been good to our deer, not too cold and not too much snow. Well-fed deer are able to generate enough heat to stand cold temperatures without too much discomfort. When the thermometer drops very far below zero, it begins to put them under more pressure. At that time they generally have to get up and move around periodically to maintain their body heat. This, of course, means they need more food to furnish the energy to give off that heat.

Throughout most of New York, range conditions outside winter deer concentration areas are good enough to furnish this food adequately. It is in the confines of winter areas that food shortages exist. Therefore, any snow condition that does not force the deer into overbrowsed yards, gives them more time spent in yard fringes where feeding conditions are not as critical.

I used the word "forced" into overbrowsed areas, advisedly, for as snow gets deeper, deer are herded into the yards, just as effectively as if they were rounded up with a big net and dragged in.

As winter snow begins to build up, deer find it harder to move about and drift toward protected areas where cold winter winds are less penetrating and where snow is not as deep. By the time snow has reached 18 inches deep, travel in open woods is hard enough that deer are primarily confined to these more favorable areas.

Most people do not realize just how small a deer is and have been taken to task for saying that a buck's heart is only 18-20 inches off the ground. With their pointed toes, they can sink in right up to their chest in 18 inches of snow.

Just to see how well those deer that are supposed to stand four feet at the withers would fit in the handling boxes biologists use while marking deer they live-trap. I measured one of the boxes. The hole in the yoke which holds the deer's neck was centered 22 inches above the floor. The box itself stands a mere 36 inches high. Body size has never prevented a deer from walking into one of the handling boxes.

Once deer are confined to the yards, they do not leave until the snow outside has settled to the point where travel is easy — food or no food. They seem to be aware that more energy will be expended foraging for food in deep snow than will be obtained

from the browse they can get. Therefore, the later deer are forced into their wintering areas, the more chance there is that they will come through in reasonable physical condition.

Because of many variables, there is no set time lapse before deer begin to get in trouble. Under adverse conditions, a fawn can be up against the ropes in as little as six weeks after they have moved into the yards. Older deer normally have more reserve upon which they can draw, and are able to reach browse out of reach of smaller deer.

The other big hazard to the life of deer during winter are well-fed, but unconfined, pet dogs. The free roaming pet may not be a deer chaser to begin with, but when he joins others and roams the predator in him comes out when the pack starts following a deer.

Because dogs have larger feet in relation to their weight, than do deer, they do not break through a crust of heavy snow as easily. With this advantage, there are many times during the winter when dogs can run on the snow while deer are floundering.

Dogs actually kill deer in two ways. The obvious is by dragging them down and literally tearing the still-alive deer apart. The other is more subtle in that extra energy required to keep away from dogs means more food is needed to supply that energy. In marginal situations this may cause starvation when a deer might otherwise survive.

Safe Use Of Pesticides Around The Home

Chances are that you keep a pesticide around your home to help get rid of common house or garden insects and maybe even mice. Used with care, pesticides can make your life better and help keep you healthy. Used improperly though, these chemicals may result in harmful side effects for you and your family.

To help you guard against the hazards caused by the misuse of pesticides, the Environmental Protection Agency has published a booklet, "Safe Use Of Pesticides Around The Home". Single free copies are available from Consumer Information, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

This publication recommends that you use prevention as the first step in any home pest control program. By taking sensible precautions, you can make your home less attractive to insects and rodents. For example, clean where moths lay eggs. Keep your yard free of litter that could provide a breeding ground for flies or rats.

If you use a pesticide, follow these precautions:

Get the proper pesticide for the specific problem. Read the label. Whenever possible, choose the pesticide that is effective against only a few other pests in addition to the one you want to get rid of. This allows you to solve your problem without harming insects that control pests.

Apply the pesticide properly.

Wear clothing that covers your arms and legs. If you spill some on your skin or clothing, wash with soap and water and change clothes immediately. Keep children and pets away from areas where you mix or apply pesticides. Don't smoke since some pesticides are flammable. Also, they can poison when transferred from hand to mouth by cigarettes.

Dispose of containers safely. Wrap single, empty pesticide containers in several layers of newspaper and tie securely. Put in a covered trash can or crush and bury 18 inches deep where there is no danger of contaminating water. And, never puncture pressurized containers!

Clean up thoroughly. Wash your hands and face with soap and water after spraying and cleaning all equipment.

"SAFE USE OF PESTICIDES AROUND THE HOME" is one of approximately 250 selected federal publications listed in the current edition of the **Consumer Information Index**. Published quarterly by the Consumer Information Center of the General Services Administration, the INDEX is available free from Consumer Information, Pueblo, Colorado 81009, and from Federal Information Centers located throughout the country.

A single pecan tree has been known to bear 3,000 pounds of nuts in one year, but average production is 25 to 100 pounds.



Addie M. Cook To Celebrate 90th Birthday At Home

Addie M. Hall Cook, a resident of Andover for 65 years, will celebrate her 90th Birthday quietly with a small party of relatives at her home on Sunday, February 2, 1975.

Addie M. Hall, was born in Troupsburg on February 2, 1885 and lived in Hornell during her youth, working in the Hornell Silk Mill there.

She married Raphael J. Cook, an Andover farmer and life-long resident of that community, on June 30, 1900 and has lived the

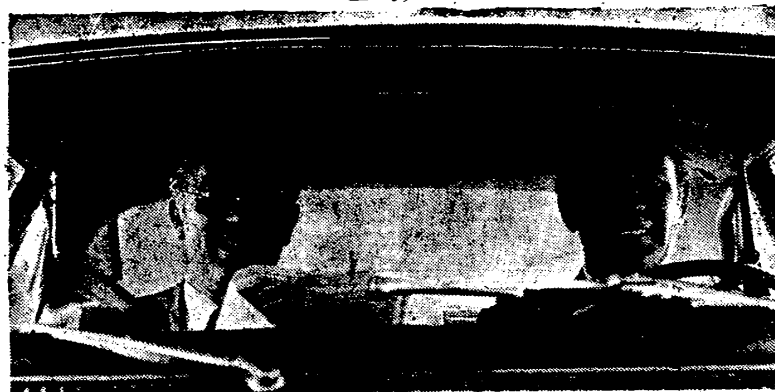
rest of her life on this farm (65 years in the same house). Raphael Cook, her husband, passed away in 1953.

Mrs. Cook's family consists of four children — Mrs. Leroy Gullford (Marion) of Belfast; Mrs. Charlotte Alderson, Andover; Kenneth Cook and his family of Andover and Wisner Cook, also of Andover; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

For entertainment, Mrs. Cook watches TV. She attributes her longevity to hard work, love of the outdoors and interest in doing and caring for others.

According to her recollection, Mrs. Cook states that she is the oldest living member of the United Methodist Church having belonged for 64 years.

Double up, America.



Two can ride cheaper than one.

If you drive to work by yourself, you're spending twice as much money on commuting as you should.

That's too much.

Cut it in half. Take a friend.

Not only will your daily commute cost you half as much, but that monotonous trip will be a lot more pleasant.

Let's double up. Carpools are a great way to get where you're going. Faster and cheaper.

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