

Use of Gallagher® 2-Layer Deer-Exclusion Fencing to Temporarily Deter White-Tailed Deer Browsing in Food Plots

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Warm-season food plots provide supplemental nutrition to white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). Large-seeded legumes such as soybeans, lablab, cowpeas, and others are a common component of warm-season food plots that deer prefer to browse early in development, preventing the food plot from reaching the highest possible nutritional value. We tested a Gallagher® Animal Management Systems 2-layer deer-exclusion fence design at two 400 m² warm-season food plots in Madison County, Georgia. Each food plot contained a mixture of cowpeas and Lablab Plus, marketed by Tecomate® Wildlife Systems. We enclosed a 125 m² (31%) portion of each food plot with Gallagher's 2-layer fence design and randomly established 9 1 m² sample plots within each food plot which included 3 that received no protection, 3 protected by the Gallagher fencing, and 3 control sample plots enclosed in wire fencing. We measured browse percentage and maximum plant height over a 6-week period and tested the effectiveness of fence treatment over time. Unprotected sample plots received more browse pressure (range 19%–72%) than did sample plots protected by the Gallagher 2-layer deer-exclusion fencing (all values < 7%). Fenced sample plots attained plant heights greater, at the 6th week of measurement, (mean= 31.5cm) than did unprotected sample plots (mean= 22.7cm). Our data indicated that Gallagher 2-layer deer-exclusion fencing could reduce unwanted deer browsing and allow plots of these species to establish and tolerate deer browsing pressure.

Retrospective Barrier Placements for a Skunk Rabies Epizootic in NW Wyoming

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Striped skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*) are the most important reservoir of rabies on the Great Plains. In August, 1988 a skunk rabies epizootic proceeded from the "index case" west of Cowley, WY. By 1991, epizootic had reached nearly all areas in the Shoshone River Basin (SRB), and it ended in 1993. This area and the remainder of the SRB had been previously considered rabies-free. The USDA's Wildlife Services (WS) cooperated with state and local officials in a rabies monitoring and control program starting in 1990. Using information from the literature, signs, tracks, and radio-telemetry of normal and rabid skunks, WS decided to trap mainly riparian and irrigated agricultural habitats in the valley's floor. Here, a mosaic of irrigation ditches (e.g., Buffalo Bill Cody's circa 1908) was shown to be travel corridors for skunks. Trapped species (>1,000 skunks) were sent to the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory for rabies testing using immunofluorescent of brain tissues. The study area extended from the Bighorn Canyon and Lake on the east up river to Buffalo Bill Reservoir on the west. The study area and subsequent epizootic encompassed a portion of the Shoshone River ~90 km in length and an area of ~85,000 ha (54