

Scare pistol

Single shot; .22 cal scare pistols can be used by rural residents to scare deer away from yard-sites.

Aluminum pie plates

Tying aluminum pie plates to the branches of a tree will discourage deer from feeding on it.

The pie plates blow in the wind creating a noise and the aluminum creates reflections and light flashes that deer are not comfortable feeding around.

Scarecrows

Using scarecrows in conjunction with some of the other scare measures will help keep deer away. A 2X4 cross with some old clothes on it will do the trick.

It is important to move the scarecrow regularly. This makes it difficult for the deer to become accustomed to it.



Other scaring techniques

Using lights or leaving a radio playing in the yard can also be effective especially if they are hooked to a motion sensor, which turns them on.

Hanging mirrors, strips of tinfoil or scare tape on trees also works.

Two radios placed at each end of a stack and set to different stations has been shown to deter elk.

Repellents

Bloodmeal

Bloodmeal is dried, pasteurized hog or cattle blood. It can be sprinkled on or around trees that are being eaten by deer. The deer do not like the smell of blood meal and will avoid it.

Bloodmeal is also a good source of fertilizer. To maintain its effectiveness it must be re-applied after rain or snow.

Bloodmeal should not be used in a situation where it may be ingested by livestock.

Critter control

Critter Control is 100% natural and biodegradable. It is a blend of herbs, spices and pepper that creates an odour deer don't like.

Critter Control can be used to protect stacks. It should be sprinkled on the ground around the stack rather than directly on the hay.

Critter Control can also be used in yard and garden situations. It should be put into a nylon stocking and hung from several places in a tree or the tree can be sprinkled with the mixture.

If you plan to sprinkle it, it is best to wet the bush or tree first so the product sticks to it. Critter Control is high in potash so it also makes a good fertilizer. It should be re-applied after rain or snow.

Datura

Plants of the Datura family such as Angel Trumpet Flowers give off an odour that deer do not like. Planting them around the perimeter of the garden has been proven to keep deer away in summer.

Deer-away and Scoot

Both of these products have been proven effective in keeping deer away from gardens and ornamental trees. They are available at local hardware stores.

Egg/soap shake

There are two types of solutions that work well.

Solution #1: mix four litres of water with two eggs and 15 milliliters of hot sauce. Spray or pour this mixture on the trees where the deer are causing damage.

Solution #2: mix 5 milliliters of liquid dish soap with one litre of water and about 30 milliliters of hot sauce. Use a watering can to pour the mixture over the tree.

TKO

TKO is a citrus-based liquid available at most home and garden retailers. The TKO is mixed with water in a 60 gram to four-litre ratio and sprayed directly onto ornamental trees and gardens.

Continued spraying after the initial application is recommended.

Other repellents

Other repellents found to be effective include human hair and mothballs or garlic put in nylons and hung from the tree or shrub. Shavings of strongly scented hand soap also work.



Contact Information

Government Programs

Damage compensation

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation
Contact the nearest office or call
1-888-935-0000

Damage prevention

Saskatchewan Environment
Contact the nearest office or call
1-800-567-4224



Saskatchewan
Environment

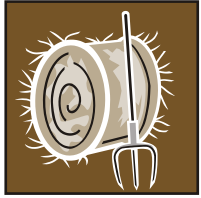


Dealing with Deer and Elk Damage



Saskatchewan
Environment

Protecting Haystacks



Deer and elk are attracted to stored livestock forage, especially in winters when natural food supplies are hard to find. Big game will also search for the highest quality feed.

While a few animals may not be a concern, more may soon be attracted to the site. Once the animals establish a feeding pattern the problem becomes much more difficult to stop.

Unfortunately, they often soil or destroy three or four times the amount that they eat. Livestock will not eat feed soiled by big game.

Early action will help reduce or prevent damage.

Saskatchewan Environment has programs available to assist landowners to protect stored forage.

They include loans of temporary fencing, funding for intercept feeding and grants to help cover the cost of buying permanent fencing.

Producers whose stored forage is being damaged should contact staff in the local Saskatchewan Crop Insurance office and a local conservation officer.

NOTE: Producers who leave bales in the field that have not been stacked will not be compensated for big game damage.

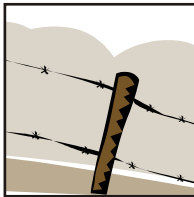
Fencing

Fencing is probably the most reliable method of protecting stored forage.

Permanent fences

Ideally, stacks should be located away from deer or elk habitat and close to the farmyard. This may discourage the deer from approaching the stack or at least helps to limit their feeding time.

If deer and elk are regularly damaging stored forage the producer should consider erecting a permanent fence. An effective permanent fence should be at least 2.5 metres high and built of either wire or wood slabs.



Permanent fence plans are available at Saskatchewan Environment offices.

Temporary fences

Temporary fencing can also be an effective big game deterrent.

An effective temporary fence can be made by laying a barrier of panels made of materials such as slabs or page wire against the stack or by wrapping the stack with commercially available plastic fencing.

Electric fence set on high current can also be used around the stack.

Another method is to lean the top of a snow fence out from the base of the stack. This gives the fence the appearance of depth. Deer can jump high but don't like the appearance of width or depth.

Barriers made of straw

Deer can be kept away by building a barrier of straw or slough bales.

Set a row of round bales vertically on the ground then lay a horizontal second row across the top. A simple barrier of snow fencing, hog or page wire or any other suitable material can be used to make a gate.

Straw bales can also be used to protect the ends of hay rows.

Stack Management

Plow snow away from your bale stack. Snow banks allow deer to climb to the top of the stack.

If the bales are in single rows, blow snow on top of the bales. The snow hardens and deer have trouble digging through to the feed.

Intercept feeding

The main objective of intercept feeding is to get animals away from haystacks by providing an alternative feeding site. When setting up an intercept feeding site the following points should be considered:

- the site should be at least one kilometre (one-half mile) from haystacks;
- the site should have nearby cover and shelter from wind;

- the site must be accessible by tractor;
- the site should be picked to reduce possible movement of animals across roads or highways;
- the quality of the feed used should be similar to what the animals were damaging;
- a general rule of thumb for alfalfa consumption is 1.4 kilograms (3 pounds)/day/deer and 4 - 5.5 kilograms(9-12 pounds)/day/elk; and
- a snowmobile can be used to slowly move deer out of the yard towards an intercept feed site.

Note: Saskatchewan Environment will compensate the producer for intercept feed at the rate set by Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation.

To be eligible for this compensation producers must inform their conservation officer before starting intercept feeding.

Protecting Grain Piles

The best way to protect grain piled on the ground is to build a barrier around the pile.

One method is to surround the grain pile with round bales stacked on end. Deer will still be able to jump over the bales so push some stakes into the bales and use snow fence or stackwrap to raise the barrier an additional metre or so.

Do not allow snow to build up around the pile.

Ensure that piles of grain are moved into proper storage as soon as possible.

NOTE: There is no compensation available for grain stored in piles

Protecting Gardens and Ornamental Shrubs

Deer looking for food will often wander into towns or yard sites where they discover delicacies such as gardens and ornamental shrubs. There are several things that can be done to deter the deer.



Avoid Feeding Deer

Deer become accustomed to being fed and soon lose their fear of humans. Many deer problems begin when well-meaning people start to feed a small number of deer.

Feeding deer with a non-natural food source can also affect their diet and overall health and keep populations at an artificially high level. Too many deer increases the potential of future damage.



Fencing/Wrapping

Ornamentals and fruit trees can be protected from hungry deer by wrapping them with burlap, poly plastic, small mesh page wire or chicken wire. The wrapping should reach a height of about two metres.

A two-metre fence will help to keep deer out of gardens. Fences should be built of woven wire, stackwrap or barbed wire with a spacing of about 20 centimetres. Electric fencing can also be used.

Although each of these techniques can be effective, combining them increases their effectiveness.

Scaring

Scaring techniques can be applied to any damage situation stacks, grain piles or yards and gardens. Scaring is especially effective if used before animals become established at a feed site.

Over time animals will get used to any scaring device so it is worthwhile to add variations to the techniques being used.

Scare cannons

Scare cannons are an effective way of keeping wildlife away from haystacks.

They should be close to the location being protected and moved every couple of days.

They are more effective when used with a scarecrow or a vehicle that is also moved periodically.

Scare cannons operate on propane and their reliability may decrease in very cold weather.