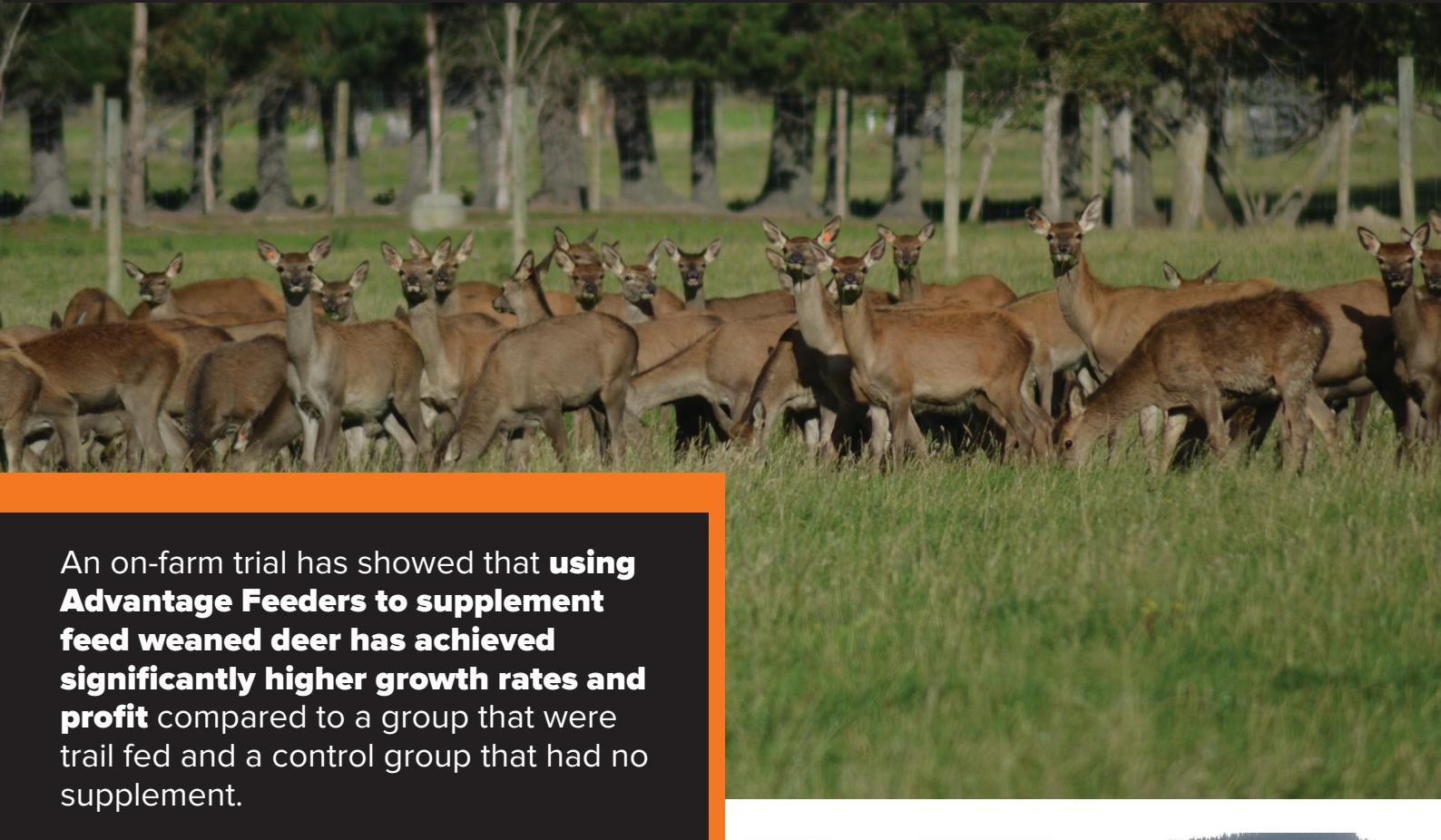




Advantage Feeders



SUPPLEMENT FEEDING WITH ADVANTAGE FEEDERS INCREASES GROWTH RATES BY 46%



An on-farm trial has showed that **using Advantage Feeders to supplement feed weaned deer has achieved significantly higher growth rates and profit** compared to a group that were trail fed and a control group that had no supplement.

RESULTS SUMMARY

The Advantage Feeders group added 13.15kg over the 75 day trial whereas the trail fed group and control group only added 8.98kg and 7.21kg respectively.

Using an equal sale price/kg and taking into account the cost of feed, depreciate and labour, the Advantage Feeders group netted an additional profit of \$18/head. Due to the chilled venison price being significantly more than the frozen price and the higher growth rates of the Advantage Feeders mob, the additional profit could be significantly more based on the weaners being ready to be killed earlier.

Other benefits were the ability of the Advantage Feeders system to offer continuous supplementation regardless of the weather conditions.



An Advantage Feeder in use on swede crop at end of winter

TRIAL OUTLINE

	Advantage Feeders mob	Trail feeding mob	Control (no feed) mob
Quantity	200	200	193
Starting date	16/3/15	16/3/15	16/3/15
Finishing date	1/6/15	1/6/15	1/6/15
Average daily barley quantity	300g	300g	n/a



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FULL RESULTS

	ADVANTAGE FEEDERS MOB	TRAIL FEEDING MOB	CONTROL (NO FEED) MOB
Quantity	200	200	193
16/3/15 weight (kg)	54.16	52.57	54.28
1/6/15 weight (kg)	67.31	61.55	61.49
Average total weight gain (kg)	13.15	8.98	7.21
Average daily weight gain (g)	171	117	94
Total feed consumption (kg)	4313	4000	0
Average Consumption/head (kg)	21.6	20.0	0.0
Feed cost/head (\$350/tonne)	\$ 7.55	\$ 7.00	\$ -
Number of feeds	4	20	0
Time each feed (hours)	0.75	0.25	0
Total feeding time (hours)	3	5	0
Cost of feeding (\$40/hour)	\$ 120.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -
Cost of feeding/head	\$ 0.60	\$ 1.00	\$ -
Depreciation cost/head*	\$ 0.90	\$ -	\$ -
Total feeding cost/head	\$ 9.05	\$ 8.00	\$ -
Value of venison/kg/LW	\$ 4.63	\$ 4.63	\$ 4.63
Added value of venison in trial	\$ 60.91	\$ 41.59	\$ 33.39
Added value less Total feeding cost	\$ 51.86	\$ 33.59	\$ 33.39

* This assumes the depreciation rate is 15%, the investment of one feeder is \$2,400, supplement feeding accounted for 50% of the use of the feeder each year and 200 weaners fed from the feeder.

ABOUT THE TRIAL OPERATORS

Kris and Brian Russell ran approximately 2300 hinds and finished about 2800 weaner deer as well as running 2200 ewes and 150 breeding cows over two properties.

OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGHER PROFIT:

Supplementation could be extended through Winter and Spring until the weaners reach the desired weight, bringing a much higher price per head. Additionally, once sold, this makes available more pasture for maternal stock so increased stocking rates can be achieved.

COMMENTS FROM THE TRIAL OPERATOR:

We have had eight falls of snow since April when it is common to have only one or two. Access to feeders has been quite fortunate in managing their stock this season. When it hasn't snowed, it has been very wet – raining most days since mid-April.

It is great that we can still feed barley through the feeders, as there would be a huge loss with trail feeding under current conditions.

The feeders have also allowed us to feed later into autumn and winter when ground conditions don't allow trail feeding.

In a normal season, we would have had higher growth rates in the trail feeding mob due to being able to feed more grain but this would come at a higher cost due to a lot more grain and labour being used.

09 431 7276

www.advantagefeeders.co.nz