Cull Data Record Guidance

A cull record or larder record is a useful resource that fulfils several functions related to deer management. It assists with informing deer management, showing how many deer are being culled per season, fulfilling certain legal requirements and keeping a record of carcass traceability for the food chain.

Measurement of deer impact on a land holding can be undertaken in several ways. A basic but successful way of monitoring impact is to assess woodland and crop damage annually, set a cull target, meet the target and then assess the impact the following year. If the impact is reduced the cull was a success, if not the cull may need to be increased the following year. It is important to note that with species such as fallow, whilst a cull of up to 50% will prevent a population expanding it may not necessarily decrease numbers. A healthy population includes a 50/50 ratio of males to females with a pyramid structure of age class and more younger deer than old. By monitoring the sex and age of deer culled alongside the deer impact decisions can be made on the cull target for the following year.

Food hygiene regulations state that the health, condition and behaviour of deer destined for the food chain are checked and recorded and that the carcass can be traced back from the processor to where and by whom it was shot. Completing a signed declaration 'carcass tag' and a cull data record with the relevant information fulfils this requirement and also gives the deer stalker a complete record of the traceability of their carcasses.

The *Cull Data Record Sheet Template* is a simple and easy to use spreadsheet based on information produced by the Deer Initiative. It acts as a structured way of recording the information written on the signed declarations 'carcass tags'. There is also room for extra data. This may not appear to have immediate use but it is easy to record and helps build data that can be used for deer cohort (behaviour) analysis in the future.

Note: When filling in the Cull Data Record Sheet Template, an easy way to remember what was written on a carcass tag is to take a photo of it with your mobile phone.

The table below is a guide to completing the Cull Data Record Sheet. The record sheet is downloadable as an excel document for use as a digital record or can be printed out and completed by hand.

Guidance Table

Heading	Heading description	Required on a signed declaration 'carcass tag'	Aids in deer management	Allows carcass traceability	Fulfils financial goals
Data that is considered essential					
Carcass tag number	A unique identifying code used for traceability recorded by an AGHE	√	√	√	
Date killed	Date shot by the deer stalker	√	√	√	√
Time killed	To the nearest hour	√	√	√	
Location	Name of place, a six-figure grid reference, or GPS. Can be used to create a year by year cull map	√	√	√	
Species	Use codes e.g. Red, F, S, Roe, M, CWD	√	√	√	√
Sex	Use M, F for male, female rather than using traditional terminology (stags, bucks etc)	√	√	√	
Age (Yrs)	Use numbers for individual age classes (young =0, yearling =1 etc) or codes for age classes e.g. Y (young), YR (yearling), A (adult), O (old)		√		
Weight (Kg)	Ensure that units, carcass preparation and timing are consistent e.g. in Kg, empty, head/feet off, skin on, 12 hours after hanging	√	√	√	√

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Abnormalities damage or disease	Includes abnormal behaviour before culling, or any abnormalities found during an inspection	√	√	√	
Comments	Include genetic traits, E.g. Mellanistic, Common etc for fallow	√	√		
Inspected by	Name of "trained person" who carried out an inspection to large game meat hygiene standard, requires a signature on AGHE tag	√	√		
Trained hunter no.	A trained hunter No. states that a person has sufficient knowledge and skill to identify abnormalities and disease	√	√	√	√
Additional useful information					
Culled by	Name of deer stalker		√		
Embryo	Visual check, record as a number, not a code. Note: may not be visible in roe before January. Recording fetus length can be used to predict the rut		√		
Milk	Visual check, record and a code e.g. Y/N Determines whether the female has given birth to young that year		√		
Antlers	Description and score if applicable		√		√
Bullet entry/exit	Use a code according to placement. Relates to carcass value and welfare		√		
Destination	To whom sold or given, could be recorded as a code and with a price		√	√	√
Time into chiller	Usually recorded on chiller record against tag number			√	