

## Pellet Counts for Determining Population

If deer produce 13.5 fecal pellets each day and if all pellets were cleared from the area 3 months (1/4 of a year) ago, what is the population density for deer in the study area?

1. Measure a plot – 20 x 21.75 (1/100 acre)
2. Count all pellets on plot
3. Record:
  - a. # of pellets in study area x 100 = # pellets in one acre
  - b. # of pellets in one acre x 4 (4 (3) month periods) = # of pellets in one acre in one year.
  - c. # of pellets in one acre in one year / 13.5 pellets each day = # animal days use per year per acre.

# of pellets x 100 x 4 / 13.5 = Deer Days per year per acre

For example,

1. 7 pellets in study area x 100 = 700 pellets/acre
2. 700 pellets/acre x 4 = 2800 pellets/acre/year
3. 2800 pellets/acre/year ÷ 13.5 = 207 animal days use per year per acre.

Could be one deer used the area for 207 days or two deer for 103.5 days or 207 deer used the area for 1 day, or any combination of deer and days.