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**The Use of Tame, Free-Ranging
White-Tailed Deer to Determine Food Habits**

*Lynn L. Rogers
USDA Forest Service
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108*

Tame, free-ranging deer have been employed in studies of food habits in the Superior National Forest for the past 4 years. As adults, these deer use ranges of about the same size as those of wild deer. They live entirely off the land; they are alert and run from predators such as wolves or bears; they mate with wild deer; they join wild herds in winter yards; they produce and raise healthy fawns; and in summer they defend territories against other deer. Advantages of using tame deer in studies of food habits are that the deer select their own habitats for feeding; food availabilities can be assessed at each feeding site to determine preferences; parts or phonological stages of plants that are unacceptable as forage can be recognized; the amount of food eaten per day can be determined; and a large quantity of data can be acquired. Disadvantages are that tame deer incur high mortality from hunters, that only limited numbers of tame deer can be studied, and that studies are limited to the food species occurring in the tame deer's ranges.

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Rogers, L. L. 1980. The use of tame, free-ranging deer in studies of food habits. Abstracts of papers presented at the 42nd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, St. Paul, Minnesota. Dec. 7-10, 1980. (Abstract)