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## **Huis- en Hobbydierenlijst NL**

FEDFA represents the interests of European agricultural deer keepers. The ***Vereniging van Nederlandse Hertenhouders*** is a member of our association. Agricultural deer keeping has developed into a very interesting alternative to conventional forms of agriculture throughout Europe in recent years. In most European countries, the demand for venison cannot be met by hunting and farming, and venison is imported in large quantities, much of it from New Zealand, which is the world leader in agricultural venison production. Venison is one of the healthiest types of meat because it contains little fat and is very digestible.

Venison from agricultural farms covers the highest quality segment, because the animals are kept in a species-appropriate manner, are slaughtered and are immediately processed and cooled in hygienically perfect rooms. This is not always guaranteed with hunted game meat.

For agriculture, the switch to wild husbandry means relieving the strained markets for pork and beef and thus also benefits the entire population. Extensive animal husbandry brings significant benefits compared to intensive pig farming and intensive cattle farming!

### **Safety for the animals:**

For centuries, red deer and fallow deer have been kept in enclosures and bred there. These are therefore not captured wild animals, but farm animals specifically bred and kept by humans, which have become accustomed to humans. They are therefore referred to as farm game. Several EU laws regulate the safe keeping of farmed game.

### **Safety for the pet owner:**

Injuries to farmers caused by animal attacks are negligible. There occur almost no serious injuries (or death), that is a rarity, in comparison to e.g. having cattle or horses. One reason is that the animals are not kept in stables but outdoors, where there is also enough space to dodge for deer and farmer.

The concern about the transmission of diseases (zoonoses) from farmed game to humans is unfounded. Direct contact with the animals, e.g. by touch, hardly takes place. The contact between humans and pets such as dogs or cats is much more

intense! In addition, the vast majority of zoonoses are not transmitted by domestic animals and livestock, but by insects!

In Germany there are currently about 6,000 deer farms, in Austria about 2,100 deer farms as well as in all other EU countries as well as worldwide, farm game keeping is very common and **works without problems**. In 2022, the internationally recognized and world-renowned scientist Dr. John Fletcher published the book on **The Management of Enclosed and Domesticated Deer** , in which deer keeping worldwide is described. (ISBN 978-3-031-05385-6)

It would be a huge setback for such a successful and thriving industry if it were to be banned in the Netherlands by removing red and fallow deer from the production list. We therefore appeal to you to reconsider this and at the same time to encourage the agricultural keeping of red and fallow deer in the Netherlands .

Dont hesitate to ask any question

Yours sincerely

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President  
FEDFA  
Federation of European Deer Farmers Association