



TTHA FIELD PRO STAFF NOTEBOOK

1. **Hunting conditions in the field (what you're seeing and hearing on water, nutrition, the rut, weather conditions, survival rates, hunter success, etc.):**

The deer are still coming to the food plots, as the oats and wheat nutrition levels fade the clover and vetch are starting to appear more flavorful. The legumes very slow growing this time of year but they should take off in mid March. In this transition period the deer are hitting the corn and protein feeders regularly.

2. **Hunting Tips (any tricks of the trade that others may or may not consider)**

Great time of year to get your favorite varmint rifle and do some predator control, these guys can be very challenging so you may look at using a pop-up blind or some type of man made cover for concealment. I like to use three old round bales of hay which offer great concealment and wind protection. I normally stack the bales in a triangle position which gives me three shooting lanes.

3. **Any new gear that caught your eye and why:**

To pick up from where I left off last month on Ball clover: This little legume is one of the best clovers I've seen; easy to plant, only need 3 lbs per acre, low ph tolerant, great protein levels, yield, grazing tolerance, great reseeding potential. If you are east of IH 35 then this seed should work for you. You can check out more information on this clover by going to www.ballclover.com

4. **Stories from the field (a hunter's first experience, news of the weird, etc.):**

"My wife's first deer" It was late in the season and seems like it has been a long and tuff season but I told my wife that we would have plenty of time to rest after the season ends. As I was getting ready I noticed she was still on the couch so I asked her "Are you going?" she replied "No I'm exhausted" so I went on to my favorite stand to



hunt that evening. As that golden hour approached I was thinking this is a good evening to hunt and the deer should be up and moving, boy was I right! A group of doe's came out on the food plot and stayed, and stayed, and stayed. There's got to be a buck around here some where I was thinking, so I waited. Then there was the loud "BANG" I just wonder surely not, surely she didn't sneak out to that stand by the house. No that couldn't be her she was almost asleep when I left. So I waited until dark to get down and as I headed back to the 4wheeler I kept wondering if that was her that shot. Driving up to the house she was outside waiting on me and I said "You didn't" and she said "I did". I was so proud of her but disappointed that I wasn't in the stand with her when she got her first buck. But I guess that story wouldn't be as good! We still laugh about that evening to this day.

5. Trends, news or legislation—the good, the bad and the ugly:

The good (a dead pig), the bad (two got away), and the ugly (the damage they left behind). Seems to be ongoing battle around my place and for what I hear all over Texas. I don't know what's worst, Fire Ants or Wild Pigs. Take your pick!

6. Miscellaneous: