

HYBRID DEER

The winter of 1984 - 1985 was a fairly severe winter and a deer feeding program was instituted. Having a fair number of deer around (mostly Mule Deer and some White-tailed) took part in this program. It was surprising how soon the deer knew feed was being put out for them at evening and morning chore time. As if by magic at 8:30 in the morning and 4:30 in the afternoon deer appeared out of the tree shelterbelts. Those that had gone back to the riverbreaks were coming on the run, as if they were racing to see who could get there first.

When spring weather arrived the deer spent most of their time in the riverbreaks, and much less time at the farm. In the fall of 1985 - 1986, when the first bad weather arrived, a small herd came in and were searching for food in the area that they had been fed the previous winter.

I was surprised to see that two of the Mule Deer does had White-tail fawns nursing on them. One had two and the other had one. These were soon

weaned but stayed close to mothers until spring.

The next fall, 1986 - 1987, they back again, but the mothers had Deer fawns. Two of the previous spring White-tails were bucks. They were quite independent, the doe, followed her mother and sister. The fall of 1987 - 1988 the same were around, except for one White-tail bucks. It had either strayed away or was taken during the hunting season. This season of 1988 the doe back again and the surviving buck is now a proud specimen and they arrived with a youngster.

I am positive that these three deer were nursing on Mule Deer does in 1985 - 1986 are White-tail and Mule Deer crosses. It is hard to believe Mule Deer would adopt other deer let alone those of another species. We have had a White-tail buck associated with the Mule Deer for several years. — *Sig Jordheim*, White Bear, Saskatchewan. SOL 3L0



Cross doe with 1988 offspring

Sig Jordheim



Mule X White-tailed Deer buck

Sig Jordheim

