

The Manor Kilbride branch represents farmers from Brittas in south Dublin down to Hollywood in west Wicklow and all areas between. Farmers in this area are at the frontline in dealing with wild deer issues. The following are some of the points highlighted by our members.

- The grazing of grass by deer saved for ewes at lambing and cattle getting out in spring. Grass is the biggest agricultural crop in Ireland. The importance of having grass in spring and autumn, this has proven to affect the viability of dairy and dry stock farms.
- Deer are known to cause problems with silage ground by grazing and soiling.
- They are also culprits for extensive damage to wrapped bales of silage
- Damage to fences being knocked and broken because of deer. This causes huge problems with stock management on farms and can be disastrous between neighboring farmers and householders.
- Road traffic accidents. We experience regularly deer jumping out onto roads causing unnecessary accidents. This puts our families under a constant threat of such an accident.
- The risk of deer spreading T.B.

We understand huge amounts of the deer shot in Ireland are culled in Wicklow. Our branch members have stalkers coming from Wexford, Waterford, Tipperary, Laois, Meath and Dublin among others because of the numbers available here.

Your brief mentions wild deer managed to contribute positively to the national economy and minimizing of economic losses from them.

Farming is a low margin business and many farmers therefore forced into a loss because of wild deer.

As we understand, your group already has representatives from Department of Agriculture, National Parks and Wildlife service and Coillte. Farmers are clearly economically vulnerable to losses caused by wild deer and as such should be directly represented in developing a Deer Management Strategy for Ireland.