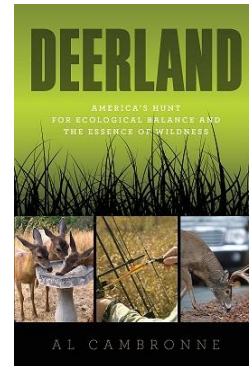


DEERLAND Book Club Discussion Questions



1. Were you surprised by the very first paragraph in Chapter 1? Do you think other readers will be, too? If so, why? There was a time when those words would have been completely unremarkable. What does that say about changes in our culture?
2. As you read Chapter 1, what new information about deer did you find most surprising?
3. The title of Chapter 2 is “Inside America’s Deer-Industrial Complex.” Do you think the author is exaggerating when he uses this term? Why or why not?
4. If you’re not a hunter (and maybe even if you are), what surprised you most during this tour of America’s Deer-Industrial Complex?
5. Some readers have been surprised at the context in which Aldo Leopold is mentioned in this chapter. What does that tell us about how he’s remembered?
6. Do you think most hunters will love Chapter 2 or hate it? Why? And after finishing this chapter, are nonhunters likely to view hunting more favorably or less favorably?
7. How, if at all, did the chapter “The Deer of Buffalo County” change your perceptions of trophy deer hunting?
8. Is being a Buffalo County guide or outfitter really a dream job? Why or why not?
9. What do feeding, baiting, and “foodplotting” all have in common? How are they different? Even if you’ve never done any of these three things, how do you feel about them and why? How did your views of these practices change after reading this chapter?
10. Why is the term “fair chase” so difficult to define? How would *you* define it?
11. What did you find most surprising about the role venison has played in American history?
12. Why does the author believe venison is still important? Do you agree or disagree, and why?

13. Is *Dairymen's* an isolated, extreme example of “why the mountain fears its deer?” Why or why not? What lessons does the *Dairymen's* experience hold for us?
14. What impacts *do* overabundant deer have on forests, and how do those direct impacts ripple through the entire ecosystem? What trade-offs do we make, and why has all this become such a difficult balancing act?
15. How did the forestry scenes reinforce what the author learned at *Dairymen's*?
16. As you read Chapter 7, “We Get the Leftovers,” what new information did you find most surprising?
17. In a not-so-subtle way, what safety advice does the author emphasize in the first scene of Chapter 8, “The Deadliest Animal in North America?” How about in the rest of the chapter?
18. For many readers, the “Invasion of the Suburban Cervids,” chapter will be the most controversial. What new information did you encounter in this chapter, and how did it reinforce or challenge what you already believed about suburban deer issues?
19. Why have deer translocation, sterilization, and contraception turned out to be ineffective solutions for most municipalities? How do you think that's likely to change in the future?
20. How do you feel about lethal solutions to overabundant deer in the suburbs? If you live in a suburb that has far too many deer (if not, imagine that you do), and if you had to choose, which of the approaches described in this chapter would you prefer to see implemented in your own neighborhood? Why?
21. In the chapter “Beyond the City Limits,” the author explores some simple questions with no simple answers. Did you agree with his conclusions? Why or why not?
22. In the “Sheepfest” passage, one official spoke of offering data and letting people reach their own conclusions. What conclusions did *you* reach from the experiment?
23. Despite all the footnotes, some readers won't believe or agree with certain of the author's conclusions. On what topics do think that's most likely, and why? Did the author make any arguments that *you* found unconvincing—or, for that matter, especially convincing?
24. What does the author see as the future of Americans' complex relationship with deer? Do you think he's being too optimistic? Too pessimistic? Why?
25. How did you think differently about deer after finishing *DEERLAND*?
26. To whom would you especially recommend this book, and why?