

The role of reindeer in damages on grass crops

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Abstract: Reindeer cause damage to different kinds of cultivations mainly during the vegetation period. They dig out overwintering grass from under the snow and leave excrement on the grass. These latter phenomena have caused the most severe controversy since it is not generally known that the real loss is rare or negligible and that the compacting of the snow often protects the grass against pathogenic low temperature fungi.

Reindeer faeces were mixed with silage conserved with acid and fed to young cattle. No harm was observed even with the largest percentage (2.55% on a dry-matter basis). The danger that reindeer dung could spoil properly made silage or hay seems to be negligible.