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At no time of the year are mature bucks more active than during the breeding season, enhancing the hunter's opportunity to catch a glimpse of one.

Although trophy-racked bucks have historically occurred in the triangle, land managers and deer hunting enthusiasts continually search for methods to improve deer quality. Armed with the latest knowledge required to develop big deer, particularly when it comes to age and nutrition, present day managers look at their deer herds differently than they did in the 1970's. Today sportsmen are becoming more relaxed in letting young deer walk in order that the animal can reach its optimum antler-producing years of six years or older. Landowners realizing a substantial economic return from deer are reducing livestock densities and are beginning to take deer into consideration whenever land clearing practices are conducted. Just these basic practices enhance buck quality. For some Texans and most outsiders, the real reason trophy deer occur in abundance is game proof fencing. But this is not always the case. The construction of game proof fences has escalated over the last ten years, but much of the triangle remains free ranging. Remember, big bucks occurred in the triangle long before high fences. The present day expansion of high-fenced ranches has forced many deer contests to separate entries taken from high fenced ranches versus those taken on open range, and the number of trophy class bucks taken on open range exceeds the number taken from fenced operations.

Now this is not to say that high fences are not effective, but it does mean that a high fence does not guarantee the production of trophy class deer. It is simply another tool managers have to control deer numbers, but without rain or the ability for those bucks to reach maturity, exceptional antler qualities will fail to materialize. Although the triangle is a natural, big buck producing area, I doubt there is another area on the continent where deer receive as much professional attention. Wildlife managers in this region continually investigate new methods while reviewing old management practices. Whether it is basic habitat manipulation practices involving roller choppers, aerators, fire, or herbicide, the search for the technique that benefits deer most continues daily.

The golden triangle is Texas' breadbasket for trophy buck production, but that's not to say big deer do not exist elsewhere. As a result of intensive deer management practices, other portions of Texas have been placed on the same playing field. Just take a look at the Texas big game awards, and you can see some huge racked bucks taken in the Texas Panhandle. Some of Texas' best kept secrets as to where big deer occur are now being discovered. The point is, one doesn't have to hunt the golden triangle to take that trophy buck, but for the betting man, the odds of realizing that dream are nowhere greater than in this red-soiled region.