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# CROSSING

L many incredible animals with several of them seeing the buck next season and wondered what he being world-class. Our hard work, dedication, and might develop into if given another year or two. Our experience, not only during season, but also in the 2018 scouting efforts never turned up The Beamer, off-season has continually produced success. As the and the season passed without a single glimpse of founder of SHHC, I couldn't be any more proud of the buck as well. I couldn't help but wonder what our team and what we have achieved in such a short had happened to the buck and think about his time. Of all the great highlights in 2019, the Beamer Buck was certainly the most unique and is far from after locating many great bucks, there was still no forgettable.

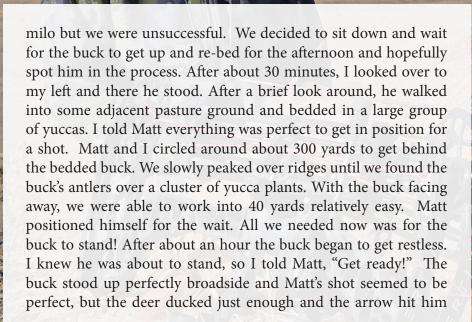
The story of the Beamer Buck began in 2017 as a client and I were driving down a small trail road at daylight. As we crested a small rise, a unique-framed, October rolled around, and with it came bow season. young buck trotted out of a wheat field and ran across the road in front of us. My client and I looked at each brother-in-law, Eric arrived to begin their hunt. I other and said, "Look at the double beam on him!" had hunted with Matt a couple years prior and he The buck ran off into some neighboring sandhills took a great buck at 50 yards with his bow. This hunt

n 2019, we had an unforgettable year at Sandy and we only had one other encounter with him that Hills Hunting Company. As a team we harvested year. As 2017 came to a close, I highly anticipated potential. Fast forward to the summer of 2019 and sign of the double beam buck. To be honest, I had written him off, assuming he had most likely become a casualty of the previous season.

It was later in the month when Matt Jensen and his

started as many of them do; it was hot, dry, and the the morning haze and landed on a group of rutting mature bucks had rubbed their velvet becoming deer in middle of a milo field. Two bucks were in more nocturnal and more difficult to find. On the the 180" range; great bucks, but not what Matt was second day, we found a buck I was familiar with looking for. After a few more minutes of glassing, from summer scouting and Eric was up to bat. This I caught some movement to the right of the rutting would be his first stalk ever on a mule deer. The group. Just over a little knob I could see antler tips wide buck was laying in some tall yuccas with the moving but had no idea what was about to walk wind in his face, so we snuck up to 20 yards, got over the hill. The buck fed slowly making his way comfortable, and waited for the buck to stand for a to the top of a ridge. When he finally cleared the shot. Everything went as planned except the arrow ridge and lifted his head, I'm sure you can imagine struck a yucca stalk and deflected under him. It was the words that came out of my mouth! A trashy giant stood through the haze. Although I couldn't his lucky day! He high-tailed it to another property unscathed. make out exactly how big the buck was, I knew he was BIG. We sat and watched him feed for a short The next day we went to a different area where many time waiting for him to bed. He slowly worked of the crops were being cut. I knew this would be a towards an uncut milo field and fed out of sight. We good place to check as the corn and milo harvest repositioned in an attempt to keep eyes on him, but always displaces deer and forces them from hiding. had no luck. We gluckly snuck out to a small hill

As the sun began to break the horizon, it cut through to see if we could pick him or his antlers up in the



241 B GHANHEE

## THE BEAMER BUCK



high. We knew the shot wasn't fatal, so we kept an in some sagebrush on top of a hill. It appeared the eye on him as he walked from the pasture ground buck could see everything from his position, but I into some nearby sandhills. He went about a mile told Matt, "Let's get a little closer." Eventually we and bedded again. Matt and I made another stalk. were able to get behind the buck and get the wind in our face. We slid in behind him and looked over a This time getting to 35 yards. The massive buck had no idea we were there. All we needed him to do was ridge from about a hundred yards away. I could see stand and give us a good shot. As he stood, Matt his antlers and luckily his vision was obscured by a drew, but the buck was facing straight away. We had big clump of sage. All we had to do now was make no shot! The massive buck began to walk away from it over this ridge, drop into the bottom, and start up us again. As the light faded, we were forced to back the hillside where he was laying. It was a tense several out and come back the following morning. I didn't minutes as we eased over the crest of the ridge and know if we would ever see this giant again and it into the bottom. We slowly snuck up the hill making made for one of the longest nights of my life. it to 20 yards. He had no idea we were there! Again, we waited! After nearly an hour, he decided to lay The following morning we arrived where we had last seen the buck the night before. We topped a hill and and improve our shot angle. 20 minutes went by and thoroughly glassed the area, but no luck. It appeared he finally stood and was perfectly broadside. Matt he had moved out of the area. We went from hill to came to full draw while the buck was getting up and hill glassing for several hours attempting to relocate let an arrow fly. Matt made a great shot and the buck the buck. After not picking him up, we went back to was finally down.

his head flat on the ground allowing us to reposition look for his bed and any sign of blood, but we came up empty there as well. I told Matt and Eric, "Let's get As we walked up on the buck, I couldn't stop thinking back in the pickup and make our way to a different about what an incredible deer we had just harvested. part of the ranch and get on a high hill; maybe we can As we sat there looking at him, it finally dawned on see him from a different angle." As we were driving me that it was the young, double beamed buck that towards the hill, I looked over and saw an antler in had run across the road in front of me that cold, a tall patch of wild sunflowers we had just glassed windy morning two years prior. I couldn't believe it...all the years, all the miles, all the glassing, all the an hour prior. It was him! I was shocked to see him laying there and we were only 100 yards from him. wondering, and then there he lay right in front of I was nervous he would get up and run so we sat me. I guess you just never know when two paths there for about 30 minutes before we made a move. will cross. The whole time we watched him he never moved his head, which led me to believe he was hurt worse than The Beamer Buck ended up grossing just over 241" we had originally thought. I told Matt, "Let's make a with an estimated 5" tine busted off. This buck ended up as one of the top 5 bucks ever taken by Sandy move and see if we can get close enough for a shot." We sat at 50 yards and again he stood up giving us Hills Hunting Co. no shot. He walked another half mile and bedded

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