Considerations for using 4-poster deer treatment devices to manage *Ixodes scapularis* in Lyme disease-endemic communities

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**BACKGROUND:** 4-Poster deer treatment devices suppress *Ixodes scapularis*, the primary vector of Lyme disease. Feasibility and acceptability of using 4-posters for disease prevention in mainland, residential communities have not been well-documented.

**GOAL:** To determine whether 4-posters can be placed in residential areas to potentially impact human outcomes.

### Is high density placement feasible in residential settings?

**Methods.** Locate 80-100 ha sites in high Lyme disease-incidence residential areas of NY and CT for placement of clusters of 4 devices each.

**Results.** Most areas unsuitable for device clusters.

**Conclusions.** Device placement may be challenging at high density in residential settings.

### Are communities open to 4-poster use in residential areas?

**Methods.** Online survey distributed to CT-licensed pest control operators (n=561).

**Results.** 1652 respondents (5.5% response rate).

**Conclusions.** Highest support for placement in neighborhood or community, not own property.

### Are pest control operators open to 4-poster use?

**Methods.** Online survey distributed to CT-licensed pest control operators (n=561).

**Results.** 91 respondents (16.2% response rate). Of these, 87 offering tick control services were asked:

**Conclusions.** Data suggest majority of CT PCOs would consider offering 4-posters with additional information and training and if cost-effective.

### What are the logistics of using 4-posters in a community setting?

**Methods.** 3 devices installed for 5 months on public golf course in Ridgefield, CT.

**Results.** 4-posters easy to use and stable, with few device challenges.

**Conclusions.** 4-posters can be deployed on large public property near residences, with wildlife monitoring and safety fencing.

**REFERENCES**

For a list of selected references

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