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## Special Interest Articles:

- Director Spotlight – NEW!
- March 1 Board Meeting Minutes
- MN Farmed Cervidae Fact Sheet
- MnEBA Member Profile
- North Dakota News
- NAEBA's Best of the Best Sales Results
- Vet Corner

## President's Message by Jim Byrne

Spring, what a season of swings! Snow, rain and blustery winds one day, clear skies and warming temperatures which promise the coming summer and then back to winter again. The one consistent factor of spring is **mud!** That wonderful mixture of water and dirt that suck your boots off and yet which promises better days to come. If you want to get a great healthy workout, do the daily chores. Looking for those dropped buttons in pens while trying not to end up face down when you step forward and your boots stay behind is also a lot of fun!!

The Board met March 1<sup>st</sup> and elected the officers for the next year. And as you can tell I'm still writing the President's message. You will have to put up with me for another year. ☺  
Seriously, I am honored

with the faith you have in allowing me another year.

At the MnEBA annual meeting in Mankato, Dr. Anderson outlined the Cervidae Advisory Board's proposed rules and regulations for the Cervid industry in the event of CWD being found in the wild herds in Minnesota. Dr. Anderson presented the proposal to the Board of Animal Health's (BAH) Board of Directors at their mid-March meeting and requested that the BAH consider going forward with these recommendations. I was present at this meeting and the BAH was very concerned about the effects the rules would have on the industry and whether the industry supported the recommendations. After considerable discussion, BAH approved going

forward with the recommendations as presented.

At the Capitol, legislatively we are in good shape at this point in the current session. Tony Kwilas brought the board good news in that he feels we will probably not have any major push by our opponents for legislation this year. There has been no attempt to place the House Bill introduced late last session by Rep. Hanson on any committee agenda. March 19<sup>th</sup> was the cut-off for committee considerations in the House. So we have made it past major deadlines for stand alone bills. With nothing introduced in the Senate, I am fairly optimistic that we will get through this session without a fight this year.

Take care and keep your boots on.



## 2008 MnEBA Board of Directors

L to R: Brian Wagner,  
Brenda Hartkopf,  
Jim Byrne,  
Charles Francis,  
Mark Hendrickson,  
& Pat Prodzinski

**MnEBA News** is a bimonthly publication of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association. It is mailed out on the first day of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Deadline for information, articles, and advertisements is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

### Board of Directors

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Charles Francis  
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#### Director

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(320) 543-2818

#### Executive Secretary to the Board

Brenda Hartkopf  
(320) 543-2686

## 2008 MnEBA Directories Now Available!

The 2008 MnEBA Directory has been included with your newsletter mailing, or if you receive your newsletter by email, will be arriving in your mailbox shortly.

Call the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 if any corrections or additions need to be made or if you would like additional copies.

## DEER CLASSIC Thank You!!!

THANK YOU to Damon Melquist, Duane Melquist, Jim Byrne, Pat Prodzinski, John Johnson, Perry Olson, and Lance & Brenda Hartkopf for manning the MnEBA booth at the Deer Classic on March 7, 8 & 9. Thanks also to Perry Olson for coordinating the booth. Everyone's help was GREATLY APPRECIATED!

# New!

## Director Spotlight - *Brian Wagner*

### EDITOR'S NOTE

*Director Spotlight is a NEW feature of MnEBA News. It is designed to allow fellow members to get to know their Board of Directors better. We all might learn a new thing or two as well!*

I think we all look forward to this time of year. Spring is here and we can get outside and do things, green grass, new antler growth, and soon we will have new calves.

I was voted on to the Board in January. I have previously served on the NAEBA Board for six years and look forward to working with the MnEBA Board. I also look forward to seeing you all at the North Central and International Antler Competition in Wisconsin

this summer. It is close to home again and will be good family fun at the Wisconsin Dells.

I know you are all aware of the rising feed costs, but with the great velvet prices last year, hopefully this year's prices can compete as well. This year's shooter bull market looks good for this coming year.

I would like to tell you about some of the government programs out there and hopefully they will help with the feed costs.

1. Some MN counties had a drought pasture loss program. It's not a ton of money but well worth your time to fill out the paperwork. To check if your county is eligible, go to your county FSA Office

or check on your computer at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

2. Also, southeastern MN had flood assistance programs. Take advantage of these programs as we are all farmers and elk are livestock and every little bit helps with today's feed costs.

3. The NRCS Office has programs for rotational grazing and will cost share fencing cost and water lines if you have need to add water lines or automatic waterers. Call the Main Office at 651-602-7900 to get the grazing specialist in your area to help.

Hope you all have a great 2008 and don't forget to bring your antler to the competition in Wisconsin.

## MnEBA Mission Statement

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association represents a unified voice that strengthens the Elk farming industry in Minnesota by creating awareness about Elk production and promotion and consumption of Elk products.

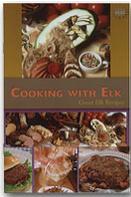
## MnEBA Promotional Materials

The following items are available for promotional purposes. To see the full line of MnEBA promotional offerings, check out [www.mneba.org](http://www.mneba.org) and click on the "Promo Materials" button.

You can order online and pay by credit card or print off an order form and mail it to the MnEBA office along with a personal check. Contact [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org) or call the MnEBA office at (320) 543-2686 with further questions.

### MEAT PROMOTIONS

**Elk Meat Poster** 11" x 17" laminated poster in full color featuring elk burger and steak. Can personalize free of charge, no minimum order. \$5/each.



**"ELK, Meat for a Healthy Life" Brochure** 50 ct. bundle, \$10/each

**3<sup>rd</sup> Edition "Cooking With Elk" Cookbook**  
1-9 copies, \$2.00/each; 10-99 copies, \$1.50/each; 100+ copies, \$1.00/each (pictured)

**Table Tents** feature a juicy elk burger, a MUST HAVE for restaurants selling elk burgers. Sold in packs of 20 for \$5.

### VELVET PROMOTIONS



**Velvet Antler for People Brochures** is an updated, general velvet antler brochure. \$12.50/pack of 50 (pictured)

**Velvet Antler for Pet Brochures** is a first of its kind general info brochure about velvet antler & pets. \$12.50/pack of 50

**Velvet Antler Brochures** is a general velvet antler brochure produced by NAEBA. \$.30 each

### GENERAL INFORMATION



**Elk Info Brochure** with general elk health and market info. FREE to MnEBA members up to 100 copies. \$.50 each to non-members. (pictured)

**Raise the Legend Book**, a general info booklet specifically created for the new breeder or those contemplating raising elk. Up to five copies FREE to MnEBA members!

**Elk, America's Greatest Animal – Minnesota Elk DVD (NEWLY REVISED!)** A DVD promoting all elk markets, with special emphasis on promoting Minnesota grown elk. Great tool for speaking to civic groups and classrooms. \$5 each.

## Cookbook CLEARANCE Sale!

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition MnEBA Cookbooks

**\$1.00** each, any quantity.

Limited amount available. Call 320-543-2686 to order.

### MN Elk Breeders & MN Deer Breeders Team up to Host DFL Senate "Friendraiser"!

On Tuesday February 5<sup>th</sup>, members of MnEBA and MDBA teamed up to host a DFL Senate "Friendraiser". We simply got together in a very informal setting outside of the Capitol to talk about the cervidae industry.

Those in attendance were:

**Deer Breeders:** Denny Niess and lobbyist Lynne Osterman

**Elk Breeders:** Charles Francis, Brian Wagner, Jim Byrne, Brenda Hartkopf and lobbyist Tony Kwilas

**Legislators:** Rep. Rick Hansen, Senator Tarryl Clark, Senator Kathy Salzmman, Senator Larry Pogemiller, Michelle Helgen (Sen. Pogemiller's Chief of Staff), Mike Kennedy (Senate DFL Staffer) and Senator Scott Dibble.

**BAH:** Dr. Hartmann

We sat at a long rectangular table and made a point to place each legislator between two cervidae producers. Dr. Hartmann and Rep. Rick Hansen (author of the live cervidae bill at the Capitol) sat together and discussed rules already in place in current statute.

It was much easier talking to legislators in this relaxed setting and they asked a lot of really good questions about the industry. We sent them all home with the newly revised MN Elk Industry DVD. It was a good educational day.

## March 1, 2008 Board Meeting Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a board meeting at the home of Mark & Sue Hendrickson on March 1, 2008. Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Pat Prodzinski, Charles Francis, Mark Hendrickson, Brian Wagner and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Sue Hendrickson and Tony Kwilas were also present. The meeting began at 10:08 a.m.

The minutes from the December 15<sup>th</sup> board meeting were reviewed. Hendrickson moved to approve the minutes as written, Luedtke seconded, motion carried. The minutes from the January 11<sup>th</sup> board meeting were reviewed. Prodzinski moved to approve the minutes as written, Francis seconded, motion carried. The treasurer's report was then reviewed. Luedtke moved to accept the report as presented, Francis seconded, motion carried.

### OLD BUSINESS

Byrne reported that the February 5<sup>th</sup> legislative "Fundraiser" event co-hosted with the MN Deer Breeders Association was very successful.

MnEBA lobbyist Tony Kwilas reported that he has been staying in contact with Rep. Rick Hansen, the lobbyist for the MN Deer Hunters Association and the lobbyist for the MN Deer Breeders Association. There has been no movement to date on any issue concerning farmed cervidae and harvest preserves. The first committee deadline is March 14<sup>th</sup>. Tony also reported that the Ag committees are very focused on the TB situation in northern MN and he will monitor that situation closely to keep MnEBA informed of any issues which may affect the elk industry. Tony's recommendation to the Board was to continue working with the Cervidae Advisory Committee on the new farmed cervidae proposed rules and to continue to remind the industry to stay in compliance with MN Board of Animal Health regulations. Tony will continue to monitor events daily at the Capitol. He then excused himself from the meeting.

Board discussed new proposed rules drafted by the MN Board of Animal Health. The Cervidae Advisory Committee has agreed to begin the rule making process. Byrne represented the cervidae industry at the February 13<sup>th</sup> MN Board of Animal Health Board meeting to ask them to begin the rule making process. The request was formally approved and is now in process. Members of the MnEBA board expressed concern that the MN DNR does not seem to have a plan in place in the event that CWD is found in wild deer in Minnesota. Discussed the possibility of the Cervidae Advisory Committee addressing this issue by making a formal recommendation to the MN DNR.

Hartkopf reported that she and Tony Beckel gave a seminar entitled, "Opportunities to Enjoy Elk Close to Home" at the February 22-23 SCI Convention at the Northland Inn.

Briefly discussed the 2008 North Central Antler Competition. It was suggested that MnEBA put together a list of those individuals who have helped at previous competitions.

Hartkopf reported that 177 raffle tickets were sold for the 2007 raffle. A total of 96 tickets were purchased by MnEBA members and 81 by non-members.

Discussed a previous July 1998 motion of making available the MnEBA membership listing on mailing labels for a \$20 fee. There was much concern about member privacy. Luedtke moved that mailing lists are no longer available through the MnEBA Office, Prodzinski seconded, motion carried. It was recognized that MnEBA membership information can still be accessed through the MnEBA web site.

It was reported that Jim Kotschevar has stepped up to be a MnEBA representative on the Non Traditional Farming and Ranching Coalition (NTFARC). Hendrickson reported that he was impressed by the work being done by NTFARC and suggested MnEBA consider making a donation to NTFARC to support the important work they are doing. It was also noted that the North Dakota Elk Growers have recently made a monetary request to MnEBA to assist them in fighting a public ballot initiative which would place a high fence hunting ban in North Dakota. The Board questioned why the North Dakota Elk Growers were not working with NTFARC. Discussion on both topics was tabled until more can be learned about why both groups are not working together. Byrne will follow up.

The entire Board thanked Mark Luedtke for his years of service on the MnEBA Board and wished him well as he is now a member of the NAEBA board, representing the North Central region.

### NEW BUSINESS

Election of officers was held. Prodzinski nominated Byrne for President, Hendrickson seconded, motion approved. Prodzinski nominated Hendrickson for Vice President, Wagner seconded, motion approved. Hendrickson nominated Prodzinski for Secretary/Treasurer, Wagner seconded, motion carried.

Hartkopf presented the outline and bid for the proposed "members only" section to the MnEBA web site. She reported that funding will come from the RMA grant award and MN Grown credits. Board approved the outline of suggested content and asked Hartkopf to follow up on a couple of questions from the board.

Discussed 2008 fundraising. The Board reviewed the MN Gambling Control Board application. Decision was made to move forward with a 2008 raffle. Decision was made to limit number of tickets to 250 tickets printed and keep the price at \$50 each. Discussed possible prize choices. Prodzinski, Hendrickson and Wagner will check into pricing for a gun to be offered. Board to keep brainstorming for additional ways to raise funding for MnEBA.

Discussed North Dakota Elk Growers request to continue placing two pages of North Dakota news in the MnEBA newsletter and distributing 6 issues of MnEBA News to 80 North Dakota elk and deer producers as done for the past year. Board decided to keep pricing the same as last year at \$1,500.

Hendrickson expressed an interest in pursuing another charity elk hunt through Langenfeld Foundation. There is interest in sponsoring a hunt for a disabled veteran. Tony Beckel has indicated an interest in donating the guide

service and his facility. Decision was made to pursue a bull donation or suggest that a group of producers go in together to donate a bull for this cause. Hartkopf was directed to confirm the desire to move forward with this idea with Tony Beckel and the Langenfeld Foundation, then pursue a bull through the newsletter.

Board reviewed results of the evaluation forms from the 2008 Annual Conference. Hartkopf reported that she will once again be applying for grant funding through a MN Grown application to offset the cost of the annual conference. Discussed possible speakers.

Discussed funds of \$631.80 remaining in the "Awareness" account from 2004. It was suggested that this balance could be used to offset the remaining cost of registering MN elk in China. Prodzinski moved to close the "Awareness" account and move the balance of \$631.80 to the MnEBA checkbook. Hendrickson seconded, motion carried.

Discussed policy for the MnEBA code of ethics. This is addressed in the By-laws under Article VII and reads, "The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association do hereby adopt the code of ethics of the North American Elk Breeders Association".

Hartkopf reported that she received several quotes for "auditing" services for the MnEBA books. A choice needs to be made between a compilation, review, or an audit. Board decided to go to the membership at the summer

meeting with the approximate cost for each level and ask the membership to decide what level of service is desired.

Hartkopf was directed to look into obtaining a check card for the association.

Discussed a request from the AVMA Animal Welfare Committee for more information about the efficacy of velvet antler. Hartkopf will follow up on this request.

Hartkopf asked if Board members would be willing to contribute articles on topics of their choice, in addition to the President's message, for MnEBA News. Board agreed to one article per issue. Wagner agreed to go first.

Wagner expressed an interest in educating the membership on the fact that money is available from local FSA and Soil and Water Conservation offices to help offset costs associated with fencing, rotational grazing, drought assistance, water lines, and seeding. Wagner will address this in the next newsletter.

The next meeting was tentatively set for May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the home of Mark & Sue Hendrickson. Meeting adjourned, 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf



Submitted by **Mary Gerdes**

A man and his ever-nagging wife went on vacation to Jerusalem. While they were there, the wife passed away.

The undertaker told her husband, "You can have her shipped home for \$5,000 or you can bury her here, in the Holy Land, for \$150."

The man thought about it and told him he would just have her shipped home. The undertaker asked, "Why would you spend \$5,000 to ship your wife home, when it would be wonderful to be buried here and you would spend only \$150?"

The man replied, "Long ago a man died here, was buried here, and three days later he rose from the dead. I just can't take that chance."

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## MnEBA Member Profile



*Mark, Sue & Jeremy Hendrickson*

We are the Hendrickson's - Mark, Sue, and our son Jeremy who is 19 and attending Gustavus Adolfus College in St. Peter, MN. The name of our ranch is Elk Unlimited. We are located in Carver, MN about an hour SW of the Twin Cities.

I lived in Montana for about 9 years and that is how I got hooked on Elk, or more specifically elk hunting. After moving back to Minnesota, I was doing a rain gutter installation job (we also do seamless gutters) for John Mesenbrink in Prior Lake. It was in the Fall and we started talking hunting. As it turned out, he was raising elk and that's all it took! That was in the fall of '97 and by the following year we had a few elk as a "hobby".

Lucky for us, I got some very good advice from the very beginning. We joined NAEBA and MNEBA.

We talked to many elk producers and visited many farms. I discovered we could make a profit with fewer animals with the right genetics. How true that statement was! It's all about quality instead of quantity. Even when there was a downturn in the elk industry, we continued to AI every year and use the best backup bulls. It has worked very well for us over the years. Now that the velvet prices are on the way back up and high scoring shooter bulls are in high demand, I am thankful we stuck with it.

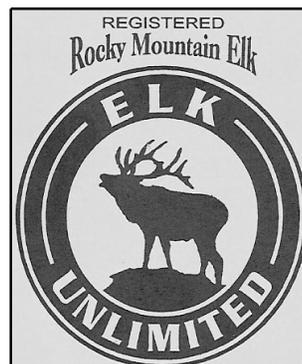
So much for having a few head for a hobby, obviously we treat it as a business instead of a hobby. We try to stay under a hundred head because we are on a 40 acre hobby farm. Someday hopefully in the not to distant future we will move our operation to another location "up north". For now we just use that for hunting and hay ground.

We also specialize in custom hauling of hard antler bulls and all elk for that matter. We will be purchasing approximately 200 bulls for hunting preserves across the U.S.A. We will supply approximately 10 ranches with bulls this Fall and hopefully more as we are currently negotiating with several other ranches. My goal is to put more money in the producer's pocket. It works well for the hunting preserves as well as the producer. They can call and give me a list of bulls they need and I can usually fill their orders. From cows and small bulls to 500 inchers, different ranches need different sizes and different farmers produce different sizes so I can match what bulls go where.

I enjoy hunting and pack trips on my mules in the Montana wilderness. My wife is a quilter and very involved in our church. I am currently the vice president of MNEBA. With the shooter bulls and velvet prices up I am very optimistic about the future of elk farming not only in MN but throughout the U.S. and Canada.

With a newly elected president and new board members for NAEBA, we can expect great things. The board members I have talked to are working extremely hard to keep things moving in the right direction. Add to that the Non Traditional Farmers and Ranchers Coalition working for our property rights and our future looks bright indeed! Elk farming is no different than anything else in life, you get out of it what you put into it!

If you have any questions, or just want to talk elk please feel free to call anytime. The only problem is you might not be able to shut me up!!



N.A.E.B.A. Herd # 1189

**Mark, Sue & Jeremy  
Hendrickson**

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## NORTH DAKOTA ELK GROWERS' PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello again from North Dakota. As the weather warms up and the neighbors are thinking about calving in the mud and slush, I have to sit back and smile about the fact that I won't have to worry about that until the weather gets warmer and the ground has dried up.

Hard antlers are beginning to fall off here. Now with the growth of new velvet, I hope that the price will stay where it was. I know there is a surplus of velvet right now, but you can always hope that the price of velvet will follow the price of grain and oil!

We've been busy with the petition drive so far this year. As you probably know, a group calling themselves "Hunters for Fair Chase" have started circulating a petition that would pass a law to outlaw sold hunts behind fences. They've been writing letters to the editor around the state and have had booths at the sportsman's shows in the area to try to get all their signatures. We had a booth at one show in Fargo at the end of February. Their signature collection seemed more like a circus act and I think it turned off more than a couple of people walking by. Although many of the things they have been telling the general public are not true (e.g., elk farms spread disease, etc.) there's not much we can do to stop them from saying what they want. I've had several calls about this topic with our attorney in Bismarck, and he agrees that the First Amendment allows them to say pretty much whatever they want.

We participated in a public forum in Jamestown on March 7. Shawn Schaefer (President of the North Dakota Deer Farmers), Willard Swanke, and I represented our side

and the Hunters for Fair Chase had three people to answer questions about their position on the issue. We only had a few questions from the audience and most of the comments were in our favor which I was glad to see. Willard talked about his experiences with Hunts for a Lifetime, a program designed to help the handicapped participate in hunting. The opposition pretty much focused on disease and ethics. We talked about our property rights, explained how the Board of Animal Health closely regulates us, and pointed out how we bring out-of-state dollars to the local economies of the communities that host private hunts. The crowd seemed most interested in the property rights issue, which I think is a definite positive for us as I feel this is the most important talking point and biggest threat of this potential legislation.

I'm not sure if we will be having any more public forums, but I would like to see more of them happen. If you have any ability to influence groups in your area that would be willing to host such a forum, please let me know. I think the last one was so successful because we were able to answer the questions posed by the other side and they showed in their responses that they are more interested in trying to promote their version of hunting ethics no matter what it costs. I would like to participate in more of these because I think that the Hunters for Fair Chase have really "piggybacked" on some of the misstatements and unfair policies proposed by the Game and Fish department. They are simply unwilling to see Deer and Elk as livestock, and will do and say just about anything to put our industry out of business. They also seem very fixated upon the opinion that land which will not be renewed into CRP has no other value except

through their PLOTS program. I do not disagree with the PLOTS program, but the landowner does have another option and our industry proves that. If we cannot get them to change their policies, we need to bring our message to the taxpayers who fund their program. Please do what you can to educate those around you and let me know if you need information or assistance.

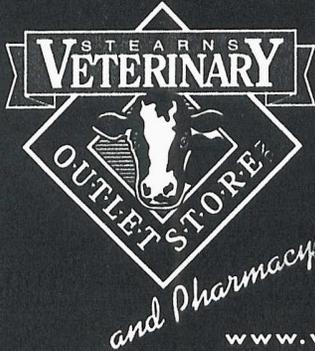
The letters to the editor have gotten more frequent as well. Last week there was a letter in the Grand Forks Herald which said that we basically chased animals around an arena until they died of fear and exhaustion. This really sounds like the language used by animal rights groups, and it's pretty clear that they have started paying attention to the issue and are definitely not supportive of our side of this issue. This is most troubling due to the deep pockets that they have nationwide and the horror stories that they bring to the table from places around the country and around the world. We've all seen the video of the mistreatment of cattle at the processing plant in California, and the news outlets seem to just love to show this video again and again. I think we all know that something like that would not be tolerated in North Dakota, but the general public, who really does not know what happens on our farms and ranches, are not about to ask the right questions when they see an animal being abused behind a fence. In fact, at the public forum last week, one of the spokesmen for the opposition admitted that he has never visited a deer or elk ranch and has no plans to ever do so. The most troubling thing with letters to the editor is that we cannot guarantee that the folks who read the misinformation will "tune in" again to read the rebuttal. If you read anything in your local paper about the issue, I'd really appreciate a call or email to let me know about it. Our public relations people are monitoring the papers, but I know we'll probably miss many of the small local papers.

The public relations team is doing a great job for us, but they are not working for free and

our fundraising efforts are not going along as well as I'd hoped. It seems like the elk ranchers in every state are fighting a similar battle and there does not seem to be much extra money available in other states to help our cause. We have been very fortunate in that the Deer Farmers have been very supportive, and they have contributed generously. Organizations in North Dakota representing producers of other animals such as cattle, bison, and reindeer have also declared their support for our cause. However, the funds we have raised so far will not be enough if we are forced to buy television airtime during the national presidential election (because the advertising rates during that time raise exponentially). I plan to ask for financial assistance from related industries such as vets, meat processors, feed suppliers, and economic development groups who benefit from private hunting. In order to "tap into" bigger national fundraising dollars, we need to demonstrate local financial support for our position. Please don't hesitate to call if you have any ideas or would like to help.

If you are not in a position to contribute dollars directly, perhaps you would be willing to contribute services or other valuable items. We have gotten preliminary approval for some funding from Safari Club International. What they would like to do is to auction off private hunts. These hunts do not have to be located in North Dakota, but the proceeds raised from auctioning these hunts will be contributed to the Citizens to Preserve North Dakota Property Rights. If you can help, let me know.

Thank you.  
Wayne



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## NAEBA's "Best of the Best" Sale Results

### North American Elk Breeders Association

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 info@naelk.org \* www.naelk.org



NAEBA held a "Best of the Best" elk sale on March 7<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the March Mingle and Antler Judging School. This sale was also available for viewing and bidding online.

The highest selling animal was a King/Udeniable cow A.I. bred to 6-Pac consigned by Bill & Karen Knutson which sold for \$4,750. Sale averages are as follows:

Category	Average Price
(12) lots bred females	\$2,042
(2) lots bred females plus 10 straws semen each	\$4,100
(2) lots bulls	\$1,800
(13) lots semen	\$187 per straw



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## Velvet Watch

### Indicators for the 2008 Velvet Season

*Deer Industry News*, the official magazine of Deer Industry New Zealand and the NZDFA, reports in their February 28, 2008 issue that while competition and price are beginning to firm in the velvet market, the Korean oriental medicine market is still experiencing a down-turn both in general trade of ingredients and also in patient visits. *Deer Industry News* also reports "the Korean won/New Zealand dollar exchange rate is currently 741, above the five year average of 675, and also last year's average of 643. This makes it more expensive for Koreans to buy New Zealand velvet. Velvet exporters report that a strong New Zealand dollar is affecting the price that both New Zealand and overseas buyers are prepared to pay for velvet."



Average reported pricing paid for New Zealand velvet in the New Zealand PGG Wrightson pool in the past few weeks stands at \$36 US for Super A and \$25-\$32 US for A & B grades. This compares to approximately \$50 US for the same grades at this time last year. The Elk Wapiti Supreme™ grade was privately sold for \$50 US indicating an interest for elk antler versus other types of deer antler.

There is the typical uncertainty in the market today as to what the 2008 US price will be and who will be buying. The following is a list of past buyers who will know more as we get closer to the buying season.

1. **Global Velvet International** – Tentatively planning a pick up at Larry & Mary Gerdes in Bay City, WI. No date has been set. Contact Shawn Richards at 616-893-5930 or Larry at 715-594-3534.
2. **Scott Groen** – Can be reached at 320-979-0911
3. **Scott Salonek** – Can be reached at 763-428-8561

## Elk Marketing Council Meat Pricing

### Pricing, Cold Carcass Hanging Weight

(Cold carcass weight = Hot carcass weight -3%, or .97 hot carcass weight.)



<200 lbs.	\$1.25/lb
201 – 250 lbs.	\$1.40/lb
251 – 285 lbs.	\$1.65/lb
286 – 375 lbs.	\$2.00/lb
>376 lbs.	\$1.50/lb

Call Scott Salonek at 763-428-8561 for more information.

## MnEBA Kitchen

### Elk Pizza Burgers

1 lb. elk burger	½ tsp. garlic powder
1 small onion	½ tsp. oregano
1 (8 oz.) pizza sauce	salt & pepper to taste
1 can mushrooms (opt.)	1 cup grated American cheese



Saute ground elk and onion. Add everything else but cheese. Let cool, then add grated American cheese or substitute with Velveeta cheese. Place mixture on open face hamburger bun. Broil 5 to 7 minutes.

**Vet Corner** by Dr. Glen Zebarth**News Release****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, February 19, 2008****Contact:** Malissa Fritz, BAH Communications Director, 651-201-6830  
Michael Schommer, MDA Communications Director, 651-201-6629**Another TB infected herd found in Minnesota; state prepares for status downgrade***Status change will mean new testing requirements for some Minnesota cattle and bison*

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Board of Animal Health today announced that a Beltrami County beef cattle herd has tested positive for bovine Tuberculosis (TB). This is the fourth positive herd detected since October 2007, and it will likely result in the downgrade of Minnesota's bovine TB status from Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA) to Modified Accredited (MA), as required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Code of Federal Regulations.

Since bovine TB was discovered in a northwest Minnesota beef cattle herd in July 2005, the disease investigation has found 11 infected beef cattle herds, all in Roseau and Beltrami counties. USDA regulations prescribe a downgrade in status when more than three herds are discovered within a 12 month period.

By dropping from MAA to MA, Minnesota moves to the third of five status levels and two steps down from the highest status level, TB-Free. When the downgrade becomes official, state producers will have to adhere to stricter federal and state testing requirements when shipping cattle or bison. The USDA will require all breeding animals to be tested for bovine TB within 60 days prior to shipment and a whole herd test within the previous 12 months. All feeder animals must have a TB test prior to movement. Cattle and bison are exempt from the testing requirement if they are moving interstate to a federally inspected slaughter facility. A Modified Accredited status may also require surveillance testing of dairy herds that sell milk.

"All Minnesota producers planning to ship animals interstate should still contact their veterinarian to determine state import requirements prior to movement," said Minnesota Board of Animal Health Executive Director and State Veterinarian Dr. Bill Hartmann. "Individual state import requirements may differ from federal requirements, so it's important to verify them prior to shipment."

At the February 13, 2008, meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health, members approved a motion to proceed with obtaining split-state status in order to allow the majority of the state to upgrade its status, while the counties surrounding the core area affected by TB would remain MA.

"We consider it of utmost importance to do everything we can to limit the impact of bovine TB on the state's cattle industry as a whole," said Hartmann. "While the downgrade in our status is a setback, we are committed to eliminating this disease from the state."

In the upcoming days, the Board will send approximately 42,000 letters to cattle producers, veterinarians, and auction markets across the state explaining the situation and changes to interstate movement requirements. In addition, animal health officials will convene several meetings to give producers an opportunity to hear from the Board and other state and federal agencies that are managing the eradication campaign. Following presentations from the Board of Animal Health and other state and federal agencies, there will be ample time for questions from the public. The meeting schedule is as follows:

- Lewiston – February 25, 10:00 a.m. – Lewiston Sales, 21241 Dutchman's Crossing Road
- Pipestone – February 25, 7:00 p.m. – Pipestone Livestock Auction, E. Highway 30
- Melrose – February 26, 10:00 a.m. – City Center, 225 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street N.
- Grygla – February 26, 7:00 p.m. – Grygla School, 114 N. Fladeland Ave.
- Thief River Falls – February 27, 9:00 a.m. – Northland Community and Technical College, 1101 Highway One E.

Exposure to bovine tuberculosis through the milk or meat supply is extremely unlikely. Meat inspectors check all cattle entering the marketplace for signs of the disease before and after slaughter. Any animal showing these signs is withheld from the food supply. In addition, adequate cooking destroys the bacteria. Further, the milk pasteurization process at processing plants destroys any potential bacteria.

As the official animal disease control and eradication agency of the State of Minnesota, the Board was created over 100 years ago to safeguard the health of the state's domestic animals. In carrying out its mission, the Board is a part of a network of state agencies protecting public health and providing an abundant, wholesome food supply to Minnesota consumers.

For more information on TB, upcoming producer meetings, and the agency, visit the Board's website at [www.bah.state.mn.us](http://www.bah.state.mn.us).





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## Committee Reports

### 2008 North Central Antler Competition

**Where:** Ho-Chunk Casino Hotel & Convention Center

**When:** August 6-7, 2008

**Hotel Reservations:** (800) 446-5550. Mention "NAEBA" to receive the discounted room rate of **\$95** for Wednesday or Thursday night.

**Note:** This room block will be released on **JULY 30**.



The 2008 North Central Antler Competition will be hosted by the Wisconsin Commercial Deer & Elk Farmers Association (WCDEFA) and held on August 6-7 at Ho-Chunk Casino near Baraboo, WI and the Wisconsin Dells resort area.

WCDEFA is looking for volunteers to help out with this event. If you are willing and/or able to help out, please contact Bill Knutson at (608) 526-4477.

### 2008 Raffle Ideas & Donations

Plans are underway for the 2008 raffle. Do you have ideas for prizes? Do you have a prize you would be willing donate to support MnEBA? Would you like help organize the raffle? Please contact the MnEBA Office with your ideas, donations or to help out on the committee.

#### MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

<b>Annual Conference</b>	Kaye Zearth (320) 834-4064
<b>Nominating</b>	Fred Neubert (320) 352-6733
<b>Government Relations</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>Velvet Competition</b>	Kaye Zearth (320) 834-4064
<b>Health</b>	Dr. Glen Zearth (320) 834-4064
<b>Auction</b>	Jerry Strodtman (507) 451-3107
<b>Awards</b>	Patty VanGundy (507) 896-2380
<b>Promotions</b>	Brenda Hartkopf (320) 543-2686
<b>Shows</b>	Morrie & Daphne Evenson (320) 354-5156
<b>Fundraising</b>	Brenda Hartkopf (320) 543-2686

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Ads must be camera ready. To place an ad, call the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686.

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## Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

9086 Keats Avenue SW  
Howard Lake, MN 55349

PHONE:  
320-543-2686

FAX:  
320-543-2983

E-MAIL:  
[info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org)

OFFICE HOURS  
8:30-11:30 a.m.  
Mondays, Tuesdays &  
Thursdays

We're on the Web!  
See us at:

[www.mneba.org](http://www.mneba.org)

## Calendar of Events

**August 6 – 7, 2008** – North Central Antler Competition, Ho-Chunk Casino Hotel & Convention Center, Baraboo, WI

**August 7 – 10, 2008** – NAEBA Annual Conference & International Antler Competition, Ho-Chunk Casino Hotel & Convention Center, Baraboo, WI

**August 21 – September 1, 2008** – Minnesota State Fair, St. Paul, MN

## Classified Ads

**Wanted:** MnEBA is looking to sponsor an elk hunt for a disabled veteran through the Langenfeld Foundation and is seeking an elk bull to be harvested at Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch in Baudette, MN. A live bull donation or monetary donations to go towards purchasing or hauling a bull to Baudette would be gratefully accepted. Think about getting a group of producers together to offset the per person cost. This donation will go to a very admirable cause and is a great way to promote a positive image for the Minnesota elk industry. Contact the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 or email [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org) if you can help out.

**Wanted:** King semen. Contact Mark Hendrickson at (952) 448-6336 or email [elkherd1189@aol.com](mailto:elkherd1189@aol.com).

**For Sale:** Hydraulic Squeeze Chute and Handling System. The handling system is an NV Modular system with seven pens. Size is 40 feet by 24 feet. (7) sliding modules, (7) swinging modules and four corner modules – three gates – entrance, exit and load out. The squeeze is an Elk-N-Z Monty North built chute. Contact Pat Prodzinski at (507) 452-1282 or [pvre@hotmail.com](mailto:pvre@hotmail.com).

**For Sale:** Elk rings for men & women. 14 kt solid gold bandset with an ivory tooth, or, elk antler bandset with an ivory tooth. Call Okaman Elk Farm for pricing at (507) 267-4054.

**Elk Hide Tanning:** Elk hide tanning, \$150 hair off or \$7.50 per square foot, hair on. We can also make jackets, vests, gloves and more from your hides. Call for free catalog or for more information at (800) USA-FOXX. Check out our web site at

[www.usafoxx.com](http://www.usafoxx.com) or email [info@usafoxx.com](mailto:info@usafoxx.com). USA Foxx & Furs, Duluth, MN.

**Advertise Here Free:** If you are a MnEBA member, you can advertise here free of charge. If you are not a member but are interested in advertising, the cost is \$25 up to 25 words and \$.45 per word over 25 words. For more information, contact Brenda Hartkopf at (320) 543-2686.

## MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

9086 Keats Avenue SW  
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