



## Special Interest Articles:

- Minnesota Velvet Pool
- Board Meeting Minutes
- 2009 Gun Raffle
- NAEBA Update
- Vet Corner
- More on Compression Analgesia
- Committee Reports

## President's Message by Jim Byrne

National Agriculture Day was held at the state capitol last week. The Farm Bureau contacted our association about participating. They were seeking "Leaders in Minnesota Agriculture" to see if we would like to make a brief presentation (three minute maximum) about our industry to both legislators and visitors to the capitol.

As president, I accepted on behalf of the association. While waiting my opportunity to speak, I was talking with others waiting

their turn. A number of individuals referred to the Elk breeders as a "stable" member of the agriculture industry.

The word "stable" got me wondering if it really applies to our association. I look back at the annual meeting where Brenda presented our financial history over the last ten years, stable finances. I look at the messages we as an association have presented to the legislature and they are consistent with our purpose and goals, stable industry

focus. I look at the leadership of the association and consistent nature of their direction and dedication to the membership, stable governance.

Are we stable? Yes, we are stable. We are viable members of Minnesota agriculture, we have a viable industry, and we are leaders. Be proud of the contributions you are making to your local communities, to your state and to your association for you have earned the recognition.



Jim Byrne speaking at MN State Capitol on National Ag Day.

## 2009 MnEBA Directories Now Available!

The 2009 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.

**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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(507) 358-6505

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(952) 448-6336

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Pat Prodzinski  
(507) 452-1282

#### Director

Brian Wagner  
(320) 543-2818

#### Director

Kaye Zebarth  
(320) 834-4064

#### Executive Secretary to the Board

Brenda Hartkopf  
(320) 543-2686

## 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.

## Minnesota Velvet Pool by Scott Salonek

### *Velvet has been sold is the good news!*

Price on the other hand was not good! Factors leading to this, I had a verbal agreement with the buyer of the Wisconsin pool to buy our pool at \$11.50. This was supposed to take place in October/November but that buyer's money never came in. This was more than likely due to the falling value on foreign money and a slow economy for antler sales. At the \$11.50 offer, Canadian value was 30% less than in August, which we take the hit on. This coupled with the amount of time to get a buyer and actually get the antler sold, he took a 2.5% shrink on the weight also. I did see the shrink as we did take the antler out of three of the eighteen 500 pound boxes and re-weighed it.

Overall the quality, packaging, and cut was great. Lee was pleased with the pool and antler. The shrink he took was a small hit for us all, as he has seen this over 5%. Also, unless your antler was very much overgrown or damaged when I boxed it, we did not take a grading hit. The pool was sold at \$7.00 straight across and the little bit of overgrown and damages were sold at \$3.75. I took \$.25 from this which will cover boxes and freezer storage. I know we all could have had more back in August, but when asked, most everyone wanted more than \$10 and with the Wisconsin growers getting \$13-\$14 we were hoping the \$11.50 offer on the table would work out.

An added point here is we now have a buyer that has not been in the US for the past 10 years. He has told me that he does not expect the price to be lower for 2009, which will help each farm decide how to approach the 2009 season.

I was approached by a hard antler buyer and he will pay \$4.00 for any hard antler cuts or sheds. So with this information before antler growing season you can all have a plan in place.

Mentally the pool was a bit trying this past year. And whether we organize it again is up to you.

Thanks,  
Scott Salonek, Elk Marketing  
Office: 763-428-8561  
Email: [scott@healthyelkmeat.com](mailto:scott@healthyelkmeat.com)

### MN CWD Update 2

**March 24, 2009, MnEBA** – The Olmsted county herd under quarantine due to the discovery of CWD in one slaughtered cow this past January remains under quarantine. No additional farms have been quarantined. Officials desire to purchase the remaining animals, euthanize and test them for CWD. They are currently awaiting the federal appraisal process.

## Board Meeting Minutes

### February 23, 2009 Phone Conference Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a phone conference on February 23, 2009. Jim Byrne, Mark Hendrickson, Pat Prodzinski, Brian Wagner, Kaye Zebarth and Brenda Hartkopf were present.

Byrne called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. The main topic for discussion was the gun raffle calendar. Two bids for guns have been received so far, Brian is expecting an additional bid. Decision made to wait and see what the third bid comes in at before a final decision is made on who MnEBA will work through to purchase guns for the raffle. Zebarth was asked to follow up with her contact to see if MnEBA can pay for the guns on a weekly or monthly basis when the guns are awarded.

Decision was made to have 750 calendars made and to sell them for \$40 each. MnEBA will send a special mailing out to the membership to seek sponsors for each month. Sponsorship will cost \$300 per month. Sponsors will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis after payment is received. Sponsors will be asked to submit a good quality picture for the calendar along with contact information they want placed in the upper right hand side of the calendar page. The picture must be of an elk or be elk related.

Prodzinski reported that Patty VanGundy has picked up 12 table decorations for next year's conference. Patty asked if MnEBA would be interested in these items and if MnEBA would want to pay for and take delivery of them now. The Board agreed to purchase them now.

Hartkopf reported that proposal requests are going out to prospective host hotels for the 2010 MnEBA Annual

Meeting. Bids are due back to MnEBA by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Discussed the North Dakota Elk Grower's question about cutting in half the number of their members receiving MnEBA News and going to just one page of North Dakota news instead of two and if the price they pay could be cut in half accordingly. The Board had no problem with this.

Hartkopf reported that an appointment has been made for March 17<sup>th</sup> with an accounting office in Buffalo to do a compilation review of the MnEBA books.

Hartkopf reported that the North Dakota Elk Growers have committed to hosting the 2009 North Central Antler Competition. The tentative dates are July 17 – 18.

Hendrickson reported that the NAEBA Office has moved to Minnesota to the home office of Julie Getschmann who is the new office administrator for NAEBA.

Hartkopf reported on the costs associated with trademarking the MN Elk logo. She also reported that MN Grown funds can be used to pay for the expenses associated with this project. There may also be financial assistance through AURI. Hartkopf was asked to follow up with AURI to secure additional funding if it is available.

The next conference call was tentatively scheduled for Monday April 20<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf

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## Wapiti Labs Seeks International Distributors

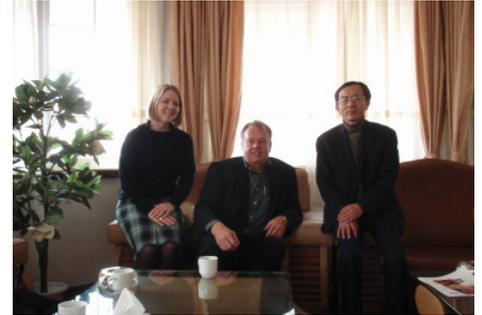
Last month, Craig Wylie and Sarah Clemenson, of Wapiti Labs, Inc., traveled to three major cities in China meeting with accomplished pet and human nutritional supplement distributors and retailers. In ten days time, they were able to gather market analysis and evaluate the interest of the Chinese consumers in Shanghai, Dalian and Beijing.

"I'd like to say that because of this trip, we need to buy all the velvet that Minnesota elk farmers have to offer, but it's just not that easy," Craig mentioned. "That's our goal, of course, but we have quite a few steps before that happens. The registration process and importing requirements are very stringent on these types of products in China."

While visiting with over 20 potential distributors, retail managers, and trade representatives, Craig and Sarah learned about the target market and suggested marketing strategies for velvet antler products for people and pets in the three largest business districts in China. The human products would be entering a mature market, while the pet market in China is still very young.

"The next step for us is completing the registration and proper import procedures while, at the same time, keeping in touch and following up with the key contacts from the trip, Sarah said. "I'm confident we'll be working with a few of them in the near future."

If you want to learn more about their China visit or their velvet antler products for people and pets, contact Wapiti Labs by calling 763-746-0980 or visit [www.wapitilabsinc.com](http://www.wapitilabsinc.com).



Sarah Clemenson, Craig Wylie & Mr. Wu of the Shanghai Dashan Group



Tour guide/translator with the Food Export Midwest program in a traditional pharmacy in Shanghai

## 2009 Gun Raffle Calendar



The Fundraising committee is working to put together all the details for the 2009 gun raffle calendar, a new fundraiser for MnEBA. Instead of selling the usual raffle ticket, members will sell a Minnesota elk calendar with a raffle ticket to be filled out on the back and turned in just like in previous raffles. The buyer keeps the calendar. Better yet, MnEBA members will have a chance to sponsor a month on the calendar and feature a picture from their farm! There are still a few months looking for sponsors (see sponsorship form on following page).

Calendars will be available for sale at the North Central Antler Competition and sold until the drawing date of the next Annual Conference or until they run out. There will be 750 calendars printed. Other details include:

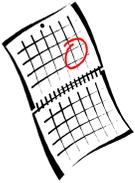
- Calendars will sell for \$40 each.
- A numbered raffle ticket stub will be on the back of each calendar. Fill in contact info on ticket, detach stub, collect funds and return to the MnEBA Office. Keep and enjoy the calendar!
- Names drawn will be returned to the drum where they can be drawn again.
- There will be a gun or cash option awarded every other Wednesday throughout the 2010 calendar year as designated on the calendar. There will be 26 guns or cash options awarded. Winners to be notified at the end of each calendar month.
- This gun raffle calendar will take the place of the raffle tickets which have been sold the last few years.

The gun raffle calendar will be only as successful as members make it. We will all need to sell more calendars than the traditional raffle tickets sold in the past because being a gun raffle, the guns were not donated as other prizes have been in past raffles. But there will be very desirable gun prizes available, plus, everyone will keep a Minnesota elk calendar!

Please contact Brenda Hartkopf at (320) 543-2686 or [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org) or Kaye Zebarth at (320) 834-4064 or [oakpoint@gctel.com](mailto:oakpoint@gctel.com) with any questions or comments.

# MnEBA 2009 Gun Raffle Calendar Sponsorships Still Available!

*This is a GREAT Advertising Opportunity!*



Do you want to feature your elk in the 2009 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar? MnEBA is selling sponsorship opportunities to MnEBA members on a first come, first serve basis for all twelve months of the calendar. The calendar will run from January 2010 through December 2010.

Your sponsorship includes:

1. One picture from your farm which will serve as the picture for a specific month. The picture must have elk on it. It should be the best quality possible and can be sent via email or hard copy. This picture will be enlarged to 8 1/2" x 11".
2. An area on the upper right hand side of the calendar page to publish your logo and contact information (see sample calendar pages to see layout ideas). The publisher will decide which picture should correspond with which month to best enhance the layout of the calendar.
3. Business card size ad on the inside back page of the calendar.

There will be 750 calendars printed. A gun or cash option will be awarded every other Wednesday throughout the year. The specific gun or cash option is different every time.

Please fill out and return the following form no later than April 15, 2009. Payment must be accompanied with your sponsorship form to secure your place in the calendar.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**COST: \$300** per sponsored month. Ad must be paid for to hold your spot. Can pay by cash or check, or call MnEBA at (320) 543-2686 to pay by credit card.

**ENCLOSED** (circle to confirm) All items needed by **April 15, 2009**.

Picture (can be emailed)

Logo or Business Card

Payment

**AD TEXT** and/or **LAYOUT DESIRED FOR CALENDAR PAGE** (approximately 5/8" x 5")

**Return all items to:** MnEBA Office, 9086 Keats Avenue SW, Howard Lake, MN 55349 or email [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org). Faxed business cards or pictures will not be accepted as the picture quality would be greatly minimized. Call the MnEBA Office at 320-543-2686 with any further questions.

***DISCLAIMER:** Picture quality must be excellent. MnEBA reserves the right to not accept any picture or sponsorship where a quality picture cannot be provided or when the picture does not meet the standards which have been set forth for the calendar.*



### North American Elk Breeders Association

53626 265<sup>th</sup> Avenue \* Plainview, MN 55964  
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 Fax (507) 534-2725 or (816) 431-2705  
 info@naelk.org \* www.naelk.org

# New Mailing Address!

## An Update from Your NAEBA President

by Joel Espe, NAEBA President

In the past few months, NAEBA has experienced monumental changes. There have been irreconcilable differences between Board members which have led to several directors stepping down. Two Presidents have stepped down since August. Regrettably, long-time NAEBA employee Jonnie Boone has resigned. For these reasons and many more, the past few months have been some of the most challenging times in NAEBA's history.

However, all is not lost! Many loyal, hard-working NAEBA members still remain in this organization. Numerous members have stepped forward with their time, talents and assistance to overcome these trials and move NAEBA forward in a professional and positive direction. Several changes have taken place over the past few months to make NAEBA members aware of.

### New Office Administrator & Location

Perhaps one of the biggest changes is that the NAEBA Office has a new employee and has moved to Minnesota! Julie Getschmann is the new Office Administrator. Julie and her husband Mike live in southeastern Minnesota and raise 50 head of whitetail deer. She has previously worked two years for NADeFA and has a real passion for the cervid industry. Since accepting this position, several board members and 'very helpful members' have loaded up the office and moved it into Julie's home. Her excitement is catching on. Lets welcome her and new ideas!

Many volunteers have stepped up to pack and organize three large trailer loads of NAEBA goods. Thank you to Eric Mohlman, Josh Lundberg, Mark Hendrickson, Gary Queen, Brian Wagner, Gerald Lawler, Joel Espe, Julie Getschmann and Tena Martin for all your help in making this difficult move.

The past few weeks have been very busy as Julie has been unpacking boxes and organizing the new office. We understand that some office work is slightly behind. Your Board of Directors and Julie are working very hard to maintain a strong foundation for the new office and your Association. The good news is that each day, more progress is being made and the office is close to having all membership services functioning in a timely manner. Please feel free to give Julie a call to follow up on any questions you may have if you have placed orders in the past few weeks. She will be more than willing to find your answers!

### New President

Another change is that I was asked to accept the nomination to be your NAEBA President. With unanimous support of the Board, I accepted this position. Several new Directors have also been appointed to the Board. Knowing that we were starting with a financial handicap in tough economic times, the Board has held numerous meetings to analyze how to best move forward to relocate the office and improve membership services. Through moving the office and taking a second look at office operations, NAEBA is working to be as efficient as possible. Great strides have been made in the past few weeks!

### Updated Registry & DNA Systems

Brian Wagner, Bill Knutson, Mark Hendrickson and Jim Kotschevar have been working with ABRI to update NAEBA's registry handbook. NAEBA is doing it's utmost to give members quality service at a minimal price. This has been a good time to evaluate the program currently in place. The end result will be an improved registry system to better meet the needs of the membership in ever changing times.

### Convention Date Change

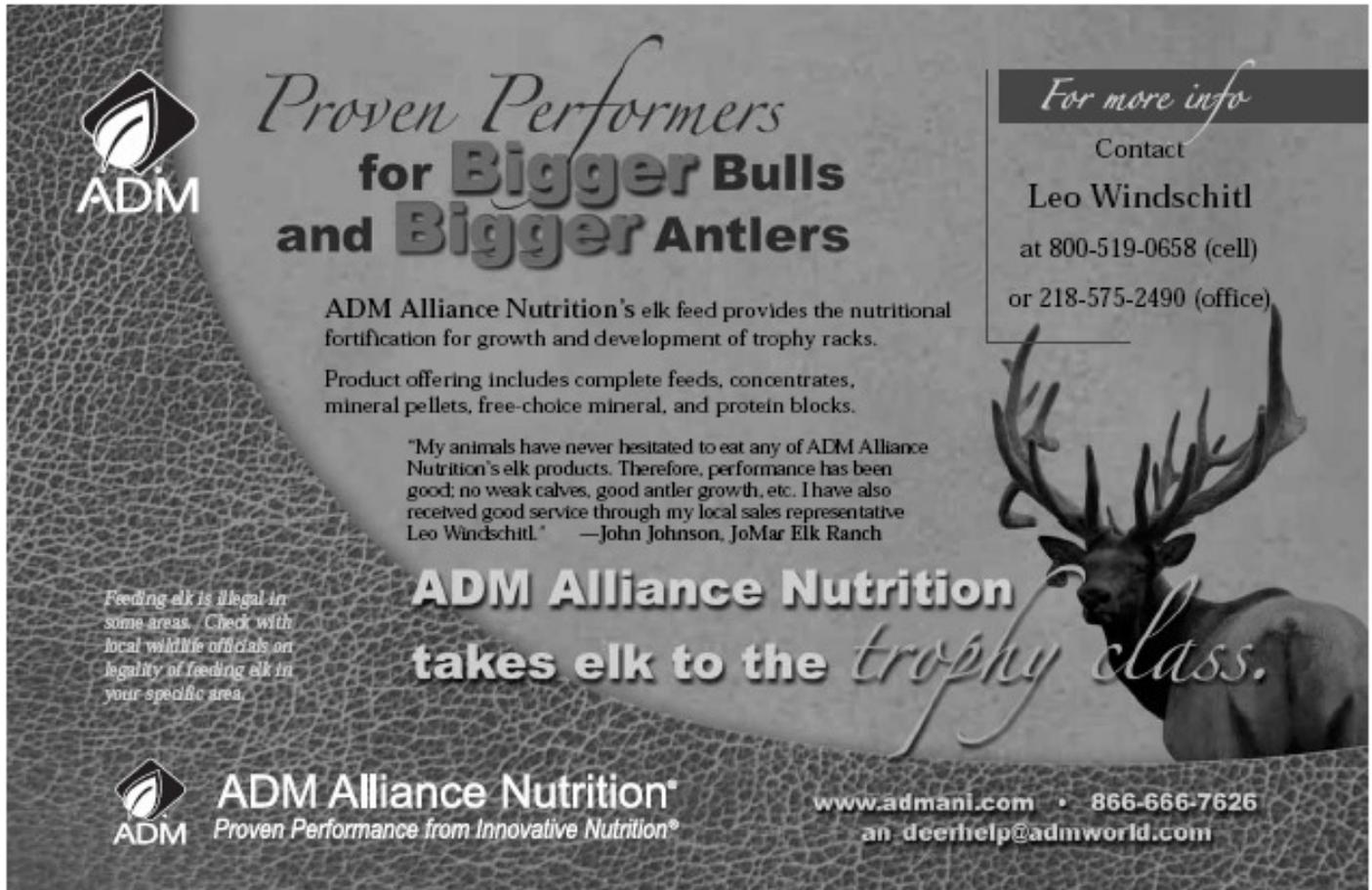
NAEBA's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and International Antler Competition date has moved one week later to August 6-8, 2009 in Omaha, Nebraska. The change was due to a scheduling conflict with the NADeFA Cervid Congress which was to be held the same weekend elsewhere. Regional competitions are being organized. NAEBA is planning another great convention! The location is very centrally located within the United States with easy freeway access from all directions and an airport just minutes away from the host hotel. The hotel facility includes a convention center and a fantastic water park. Plan to bring the entire family, the convention will be full of education and fun, and there is a lot to do in Omaha for all ages!

### A Second National Elk Association

It is now apparent that former NAEBA members are trying to start their own elk association, offering the same services that

NAEBA has been offering for over 19 years. Please know that NAEBA is dedicated to continuing the services it has always offered, that improvements are being made to enhance membership services already being provided, and that NAEBA has Board members, numerous volunteers and many supporters who are committed to moving NAEBA forward in a positive direction. Please support the efforts of your fellow NAEBA members with your membership renewals, registrations, ear tag orders, participation in regional antler competitions and by attending the upcoming NAEBA Convention in August. Get involved with a NAEBA committee. Contact Board members with your questions or comments. Your continued participation in any or all of these areas will ensure the longevity of NAEBA long into the future!

Respectfully,  
Joel Espe, NAEBA President



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# 2009 NAEBA Annual Conference

International Antler Competition & Annual Convention

**Holiday Inn Omaha Convention Center ~ Omaha, NE**

**August 6 - 8, 2009**

## Tentative Schedule:

- **Thursday, August 6**  
Antler Check-in and Judging  
Exhibitor Set-Up
- **Friday, August 7**  
Opening Ceremonies & General Meeting  
Regional Meetings  
Seminars  
Off Site Event  
Fun Auction
- **Saturday, August 8**  
Seminars  
Off Site Event  
Fun Contests  
Antler Competition Viewing & Awards

## Great Location!

Omaha is a quick easy drive from many locations in the country – Interstate travel from I-80 east or west and I-29 north or south!

	Miles	Travel Time (non-stop)
1. Dallas, TX	660	9 hours
2. Denver, CO	540	7 hours
3. Des Moines, IA	130	2 hours
4. Indianapolis, IN	610	8 hours
5. Milwaukee, WI	500	7 hours
6. Minneapolis, MN	380	5 hours
7. Oklahoma City, OK	460	6 ½ hours

Also, Omaha's Eppley Airfield (OMA) offers non-stop flights from many U.S. cities!  
FREE airport shuttle to hotel!!

## Tentative Seminars

- Antler Judging School
- Pasture Management
- Velvet Marketing
- Effective Lobbying

## Local Attractions

- Lauritzen Botanical Gardens
- Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo, one of the U.S. largest zoos
- Old Market Shopping District, lots of unique boutiques and eating establishments
- See [visitomaha.com](http://visitomaha.com) to see many other great attractions!

## Bring the kids & grandkids!!!

The Holiday Inn Omaha has a FANTASIC WATER PARK ~ NAEBA has received the discounted water park pass rate of only **\$15** per day for tons of fun for kids of all ages! See details at [cocokeywaterresort.com](http://cocokeywaterresort.com)! PLUS, the hotel restaurant offers FREE meals for kids under 12 years of age!!!

## Hotel Information

**Holiday Inn Omaha Convention Center**  
3321 S. 72<sup>nd</sup> Street ~ Omaha, NE 68124

**Reservations** (402) 393-3950, mention NAEBA to receive the discounted room rate of **\$99** for Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday nights. Room block release date – **July 15<sup>th</sup>**.

**For More Info:** Brenda Hartkopf, Conference Coordinator (320) 543-2686, Joel Espe, Convention Chair (608) 558-8445 or Brian Wagner, Antler Competition Chair (612) 366-5078

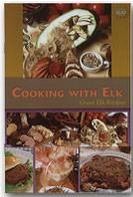
## MnEBA Promotional Materials

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., \$10/each

**Newly revised!**

**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.

### HOME DÉCOR

Price includes shipping & handling.



**Elk Trashcan** (*pictured*) \$25 each

**Elk Rug (Small)** \$27.50 each

**Elk Rug (Large)** \$40 each

**Now Available!**

## MnEBA Kitchen

*Do you ever have leftover roast? Here's a great way to dress it up to make a delicious sandwich!*

### Barbque Elk Sandwiches

1 bacon slice, cut into 1-inch pieces	1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
1 med. onion, chopped	½ tsp. salt
½ cup ketchup	1/8 tsp. pepper
½ cup apple juice	3 Tbsp. sugar
1 Tbsp. vinegar	12 oz. cooked elk roast, thinly sliced
1 tsp. mustard	4 kaiser rolls, split



Cook bacon in a medium saucepan over medium-high heat 3-4 minutes. Add onion and saute 3 to 5 minutes or until bacon is crisp and onion is tender. Stir in ketchup and the next 7 ingredients. Bring mixture to a boil. Cover, reduce heat and simmer, stirring occasionally, 15 to 20 minutes. Stir in sliced elk roast and cook until heated through. Serve warm on kaiser rolls. Yield: 4 servings.

## MNEBA BUSY PROMOTING THE ELK INDUSTRY!

Many volunteers from the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association have been busy these past few months promoting the elk industry in several events!

### Minnesota SCI Convention

Thank you to Tony Beckel and Brenda Hartkopf for giving an elk industry seminar at the recent Minnesota SCI convention! The focus of this discussion was a general overview of the elk industry with an emphasis on the harvest ranch industry. There were good questions by participants and it was a very positive experience.

### Upper Midwest Restaurant, Hospitality and Lodging Show (UP Show)

Thank you to Scott Salonek and Brenda Hartkopf for taking part in the "Ask the Experts" booth at the recent UP Show. This was the first time this seminar panel was offered. MnEBA was honored to be asked to participate.

As the title would indicate, promotion of elk meat was the focus of this show. MnEBA was told this would be a question and answer seminar and that giving away food samples was discouraged in this particular segment. While there was some interest, food samples would have brought in a lot more participation—a taste is worth a thousand words! If asked next year, it will be approached differently if possible.

### Minnesota Deer Classic

Thank you to the many MnEBA members who stepped up to help in the MnEBA booth at the Minnesota Deer Classic! A special thank you to Perry Olson for organizing the worker schedule. Thank you to all who helped man the booth including Dan Groothuis, Jerry Fischbach, Dennis Wernsing, Ray Smothers, John Johnson, Jim Byrne, Pat Prodzinski, Perry Olson and Ike Pohlman. Thanks also to Lance and Brenda Hartkopf for setting up the booth before the show.

### Ag Week at the MN State Capitol

Thank you to Lance and Brenda Hartkopf for setting up the MnEBA booth at the State Capitol which stayed up from Monday-Friday of Ag Week. A special thank you to Jim Byrne for traveling to the Capitol to deliver a short speech during the noon rally on Wednesday of Ag Week. It was excellent exposure for the industry!



MnEBA booth at the Minnesota State Capitol during Ag Week. Booth space was sponsored by the MN Farm Bureau.

## Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

### Seasonal Tips on Cow Care Prior to Calving

With just over 6 weeks left until calving season begins, it is very important to evaluate the condition of the cows going into calving. The following chart is useful in evaluating the body condition score of your cows:

#### Body Condition Scoring For Elk

Body Condition Score	Description
1	The spine is very prominent above the ribs with each vertebrae very distinct; withers are very sharp. Ribs are visible, with no fat covering them. Hip bones (hooks) are very sharp - no fat covering them. The thurl has a very sharp angle, and no fat is seen around the tail head.
2	The spine is evident above the ribs; withers are prominent; ribs are still visible. Hooks are prominent; the thurl is still sunken. Tail head shows some sign of starting to fill up.
3	The spine is not sharp; the individual processes can still be seen. Only the last two ribs are visible. Withers are more rounded, but still sharp at the point. Hooks are smooth. The thurl has a slight depression, and the tail head is flat and smooth. The brisket is starting to fill up.
4	The spine is flat and the back appears rounded. The individual processes can barely be felt upon palpation. Ribs can only be felt. Withers are well rounded. The hooks are well rounded. The thurl is flat. The tail head is rounded and the tail is showing a dimple in the fat. The brisket is becoming flatter.
5	The spine is buried in fat, as are the ribs, withers, hooks, and tail head. The thurl and flank are full. The brisket is wide and deep with fat. The animal appears very square.

*Source: North American Elk, January/February/March 2000*

The optimal score for cows going into calving would be somewhere between 2 and 4. Any cow above a 4 this close to calving should be given a limited feed ration – no grain, free choice mineral and grass hay. Extra pen space for exercise is also helpful.

Cows scoring below a 2 are too thin going into calving and should be given better quality hay, free choice mineral and up to 5 pounds of grain, per head, per day. They may also need worming.

Also check for ticks and treat for ticks if you see them. Hair loss alone is not an accurate indicator, many cows have lost hair over the winter due to fighting amongst themselves. It is important to actually see the ticks.

Lastly, if there has been a historical problem of calf scours in your herd, give cows a booster 2-4 weeks before calving. If there's been a problem with a specific organism, treat with medication specific for that organism.

## More on Velvet Antler Removal Using Compression Analgesia

Dear MNEBA Members:

I would like to clarify a point in the January-February 2009 issue of Dr. Zebarth's column where my name also appears. Under the heading of "Pain relief options," there is reference to the use of compression for analgesia (pain relief) for cutting velvet antler using the caltrate (sic s/b Callicrate Bander). The Callicrate Bander which was designed to castrate bulls would qualify as a compression device. I referenced a study that appeared in the Canadian Veterinary Journal (2002 November; 43 (11):869-875 by Dr.'s Murray R. Woodbury, Nigel A. Caulkett and Peter R. Wilson.

The study showed that compression analgesia is not reliable enough to achieve consistent analgesic results MOREOVER; the application of the band is a noxious event that causes pain and discomfort to the animal. Dr. Woodbury has stated lidocaine ring blocks are the only internationally accepted and recognized protocol for cutting velvet antler. I do agree that only a lidocaine ring block would be accepted analgesia for velvet antler removal. I do not want MNEBA members or others to perceive I endorse compression for analgesia. I do not. Lidocaine is a prescription pharmaceutical licensed veterinarian's utilize in an Extra-Label Drug Use protocol to perform ring blocks. In the interest of minimizing drug residues and correct administration, I recommend a licensed veterinarian perform lidocaine ring blocks.

For those wishing to review two other important studies showing that the Callicrate bander hurts, see:

- Woodbury, M.R., Caulkett, N., Johnson, C.B. and Wilson, P.R., 2005. Comparison of Lidocaine and Antler Pedicle Compression for Analgesia during Antler Removal in Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*) Anaesthetised by Halothane in Oxygen: Cardiovascular and Somatic Responses. Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia, 32, 72-82.
- Johnson, C.B., Woodbury, M.R., Caulkett, N. and Wilson, P.R., 2005. Comparison of Lidocaine and Antler Pedicle Compression for Analgesia during Antler Removal in Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*) Anaesthetised by Halothane in Oxygen: Electroencephalographic Responses. Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia, 32, 61-71.

In a further private conversation on analgesia and cutting velvet antler, Dr. Woodbury stated the following points which were also presented to the American Veterinary Medical Association in 2007:

- Continued research would focus on improving lidocaine delivery systems and standardizing tourniquet pressures to control residues, etc.
- The use of lidocaine for cutting velvet is acceptable to China.
- The USA and Canada do not have published acceptable levels of lidocaine standards, but New Zealand has declared a default level of 0.1 ppm.
- All New Zealand antler is harvested with lidocaine blocks as there are serious penalties for not using local anesthesia (lidocaine) in New Zealand.
- New Zealanders found that placing a tourniquet BEFORE administering lidocaine reduces the lidocaine residues to as low as possible.
- There was no alternative anesthetic as effective as lidocaine and that following administering a lidocaine ring block to the second antler, the first antler is usually ready to be cut; so it is not an issue of time.
- Individuals marketing electroanalgnesia and compression band devices are including the adulteration of antler with lidocaine as a marketing tool.
- In addition it was encouraged in the discussion that adherence to decreasing handling stress by minimizing noises and the number of animals restrained and by performing procedures in a quiet, methodical manner.

In summation, cutting velvet antler without any analgesia causes pain and cutting velvet antlers without appropriately administered lidocaine analgesia causes pain.

Most Sincerely,  
Dr. Delores E. Gockowski, North Ridge Veterinary Svc, LLC  
90590 North Ridge Rd  
Sturgeon Lake MN 55783  
218-380-8949

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for your support!**

***Editor's Note:** This editor had no idea that the use of the Callicrate Bander in providing pain relief during velvet antler removal is a highly debated issue, even amongst the most revered professionals in animal health. As more research was conducted on this topic for MnEBA News, Dr. Zebarth suggested a discussion with Dr. Terry Church, one of Canada's foremost animal health experts. Dr. Church was kind enough to share his experiences in using the Callicrate Bander and has a much different viewpoint.*

*Dr. Zebarth said it best when he suggested that both sides of the issue be presented and that producers should make their own determination on what method of pain relief is best for use in their own operations.*

## **Another Viewpoint** by Dr. Terry Church

Dr. Terry Church has managed Canadian Rocky Mountain Ranch Ltd., located near Calgary, Alberta, for the last nine years. Currently they run about 350 elk, 175 buffalo and a few reindeer. He has an Animal Science, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Masters Degree in Disease Prevention, and has held several senior management positions with Alberta Agriculture.

In his more recent years, he has become more hands on in the operation of Canadian Rocky Mountain Ranch raising elk and buffalo for their associated lodges and restaurants and retail meat sales program. They also operate a velvet antler capsule distribution business under the brand name " Qeva ". Dr. Church was very interested to learn more about the use of the compression analgesia and its ability to relieve pain when removing velvet antlers compared to a local anesthetic such as Lidocaine. Dr. Church has provided the following information on the use of compression analgesia for removal of velvet antlers.

While Lidocaine is available for use on elk as Extra-Label Drug Use, generally administered by a licensed veterinarian, or under their supervision, there is no doubt that lidocaine residues will remain in the antler following its use. Most North American purchasers of velvet antler products freely state that they do not wish to consume products with lidocaine or other chemical residues. The use of Lidocaine in other food producing animals usually requires a withdrawal period before the meat or the milk can be consumed. The main velvet antler processing plant in Alberta and Canada maintains a very strict ban on accepting velvet antler removed with drugs such as Lidocaine. Properly administering Lidocaine as a ring block on elk stags under veterinary supervision is a challenge for most farmers. Compression analgesia seemed to offer a more convenient approach that also avoided the residue problem in the velvet antler.

I have participated in four separate studies on our ranch to evaluate compression analgesia in collaboration with scientists from Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and AgResearch Ltd., New Zealand. The compression instrument(s) was provided for these studies by No-Bull Enterprises. A summary of these four studies plus two others, for a total of six, was published in the Online Journal of Veterinary Research by Cook NJ, et al, volume 9:13 - 25, 2005, titled " Stress and pain assessment of velvet antler removal from Elk ( Cervus elaphus canadensis ) and Reindeer ( Rangifer tarandus ) ". The conclusion by the authors of this publication states "**these studies indicate that removal of velvet antler without analgesia is painful and an effective analgesic technique should be applied. Electrical analgesia ( EA ) is ineffective and its application caused pain in some animals. The combined evidence suggests that high-tension compression is as effective as local anesthetic ( Lidocaine ) for pain management during antler removal. These studies further indicate that the application of local anesthetic may be more variable, and stressful to some animals, than application of compression analgesia.**"

The study " Comparison of Lidocaine and compression for velvet antler analgesia in wapiti " by Murray R. Woodbury, Caulkett NA and Wilson PR was conducted on a total of 32 elk stags which were placed under general anesthesia for the application of the analgesia and removal of the antlers. The authors concluded "**that application of compression MAY be painful, and that compression was not AS EFFECTIVE as Lidocaine for velvet antler removal.**" In view of the published statement above, I believe that many veterinarians have greatly over interpreted the conclusion reached by Woodbury, et al. In addition, Woodbury, et al stated that "Removal of velvet antlers in both treatment groups elicited behavioral responses. This suggests that the lidocaine blocks were not fully effective on 6 of 16 animals." Interestingly, Cook, et al also found the application of local anesthetic may be more variable, and stressful to some animals, than application of compression analgesia. I would recommend that the Woodbury, et al study be closely reviewed and quoted in the proper context when discussing analgesia for velvet antler removal. **Continued**

Finally, I have used compression analgesia on over 800 animals to date, and have become fully convinced that it provides appropriate pain relief for the removal of velvet antlers. It is very important to use a properly designed and manufactured system such as the Callicrate Velvet Antler Bander in order to obtain the critical degree of tension required to achieve effective analgesia. We have found that this system is easy to use and when used according to the directions, achieves good pain control. In my experience, elk stags typically react more strongly to the ring block as the needle must be inserted 4 to 6 times around each pedicle in order to inject the local anesthetic than to the application of the compression band. If the recommended wait period of 4 minutes is followed, very few elk bulls will react or show any degree of pain response to the cutting of the antlers. In addition, the compression system provides a very effective tourniquet during the removal of the antlers.

We have concluded that compression analgesia offers a drug-free, humane and painless method for removing velvet antlers. It is a farmer-friendly approach that addresses both food safety and animal welfare issues. The Callicrate system takes very little training to use, and it provides consistent analgesia and a tourniquet all in one step.

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## Committee Reports

### Government Relations by Tony Kwilas, MnEBA lobbyist

It's been a pretty quiet session relating to the elk industry. Helping Board of Animal Health on their budget to make sure they are ok and can keep monitoring all their programs including ours. Also making sure that we don't become involved in the wild elk situation occurring in NE Minnesota (crop deprivation payments).

Because of great proactive PR work by the Association there has been no discussion of the CWD issue in Olmsted county.

### 2009 North Central Antler Competition

The North Dakota Elk Growers will be hosting the 2009 North Central Antler Competition. Details include:



**Where:** Spirit Lake Casino & Resort, Devils Lake, North Dakota

**When:** July 17 – 18, 2009

**Hotel Reservations:** (800) 946-8238 There is a block of rooms set aside for this event. There are also limited RV sites (\$19.95) and cabins available (\$195, sleeps eight).

**For More Info:** Gerald Lawler, (701) 266-5391 or see [www.spiritlakecasino.com](http://www.spiritlakecasino.com).

### MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

<b>Annual Conference</b>	Kaye Zebarth (320) 834-4064
<b>Nominating</b>	Fred Neubert (320) 352-6733
<b>Government Relations</b>	OPEN
<b>Antler Competition</b>	Kaye Zebarth (320) 834-4064
<b>Health</b>	Dr. Glen Zebarth (320) 834-4064
<b>Auction</b>	Jerry Strodman (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

## A PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MNEBA MEMBERS!

The following request was received by President Byrne who has asked for this opportunity to be passed on to MnEBA members. Please contact the MnEBA Office if you are interested.

**2009 Great Prairie MUT 10K & 20K Relay**  
**Saturday, August 1st @ Coffee Mill Ski Resort**  
**Wabasha, Minnesota, USA**

On Saturday, August 1, 2009, the inaugural run of the Great Prairie MUT will be staged. This MUT (mountain-ultra-trail) event will be a 10k trail run for men, women and corporate teams (5 person teams). We'll have two separate races for boys and girls 20k relay teams (4 person teams) where each participant runs a 5k.

The race course developed at Coffee Mill is a 5k loop. This is a spectator friendly event as friends and family will be able to view the runners at multiple locations on the course, which directly contrasts with most running events where spectators are only able to view a runner for a few seconds. Also, as Coffee Mill provides a classic "Up and Down" course, the event will be physically grueling and demanding.

Minnesota has a history of strong running events and we believe this event will reach regional and national prominence in short order. In fact, USA Track-n-Field will be in attendance to observe the event as we desire to bid and host the 2010 National 10K Trail Championships next year. In order to conduct a successful interview with them, we would value your partnership.

A great opportunity is available for the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association. On Friday, July 31, we will hold a running clinic for the high school athletes competing in the relay races. The past president of the Minnesota Cross Country Coaches Association suggested staging a clinic in conjunction with the Great Prairie MUT which will be called the "Future Collegiate Runners of America". This clinic will provide a variety of information about running, diet and nutrition, safety, shoes and even some local culture. We would like to finish off the clinic with a unique twist. Instead of holding a pig roast, I thought holding an elk roast would not only be fun, but a great way to market your product to a very healthy demographic. This would provide a great way to showcase a very healthy and lean meat, but I believe very few people in Minnesota have consumed elk meat. Broadening your market for future sales and creating a memorable experience will be a great benefit for all.

Great Prairie MUT is produced by Great Prairie, Inc. which is a 501c3 non-profit organization. If a rancher is interested in this opportunity, we could provide a receipt for the donation, a free booth area for the Expo staged during the races, print their name on the shirts and link their ranch from our website. I think it would be a remarkable win-win-win for both the Breeder, the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association and the Great Prairie MUT.

I've provided the contents of an email that was initially sent out to inform people of the event and the registration. I've also provided information that I'm sending to potential vendors for the Expo which includes the demographics of a MUT runner. With the website under construction and registration forms ready to be delivered, I would value a dialogue with you about your partnership with this event. Feel free to contact me on my cell phone at 612-272-7693.

I look forward to working with you with the Great Prairie MUT and other concepts that are in development as well.

Thanks!!

Todd J. McIntyre, CCIM  
 President  
 Investment Property Services, Inc.  
 763-744-1111  
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## Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

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

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<b>Size</b>	9 ¼ x 7 ¼	4 ½ x 7 ¼ or 9 ¼ x 3 ½	4 ½ x 3 ½	2 x 3 ½

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

## Calendar of Events

**July 17 – 18, 2009** – North Central Antler Competition, Spirit Lake Casino Resort, Devils Lake, North Dakota

**August 6 – 8, 2009** – NAEBA Convention & International Antler Competition, Holiday Inn Omaha Convention Center, Omaha, Nebraska

**August 27 – September 7, 2009** – Minnesota State Fair, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

## Classified Ads

**For Sale or Trade:** Hydraulic squeeze chute, padded, with pump. Asking \$2,000. Contact Mark Hendrickson at (612) 599-7395.

**Elk Hide Tanning:** Elk hide tanning, \$325 hair off or \$12.50 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

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Howard Lake, MN 55349