



Special Interest Articles:

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Partial funding for MnEBA News is provided through a cooperative agreement with the USDA Risk Management Agency.

President's Message by Kaye Zebarth

Spring Greetings!

A magnificent bald eagle flew through our yard a couple days ago; certainly a harbinger of much anticipated spring. Now, we just wait for the pastures to begin growing as we wait for the velvet/calving seasons sure to come.

Seems to be a rather quiet time right now for the elk industry. That is good news. We're receiving some good news out of New Zealand regarding velvet prices; we've waited long enough for that bit of news, haven't we!!!

The MnEBA Board made an exciting decision recently. The Board voted to offer a scholarship to a deserving child/grandchild of a current active/life member of the association.

Look for the application in your mailing this month. The application is open to all students enrolled in post-secondary agricultural education. All that are eligible are strongly encouraged to apply.

There is still opportunity for you to advertise your farm or ranch in the 2011 MnEBA calendar/gun raffle. We need a couple more of your fine operations to sponsor a month.

Everyone did such a fantastic job selling the calendar, this next year should be even better. With a few more calendar sales, perhaps we can offer a few more scholarships!!!

Good luck to everyone as the calving season approaches. That season makes everyone smile.

Remember: What we see depends mainly on what we are looking for.



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 15th of the preceding month.

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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.

Velvet Watch

Excerpts from the Market Report in Issue No. 40 Deer Industry New Zealand FEB/MAR 2010 – “New Zealand exporters comment that velvet prices have held firm throughout this season.” “Velvet appears to be moving through the supply chain to sale which is a positive indicator of manageable stock levels.”

Pre-season indicators appear to have held firm showing better pricing over last year. However, no North American buyers have committed to specific pricing as of yet. The following is a list of MnEBA members who are putting buying pools together for the coming season. They will give you the best indications for pricing expectations this year.

1. Larry Gerdes (715) 594-3534
2. Scott Groen (320) 979-0911
3. Brian Wagner (612) 366-5078
4. Scott Salonek (763) 428-8561

MnEBA Scholarships

If you have a college age son or daughter, make sure to check out the new MnEBA Scholarship worth \$500 which is available to a son/daughter or grandson/granddaughter of any active/lifetime MnEBA member who is pursuing a post-secondary agriculture related degree in the Fall of 2010. For complete details, see insert in this mailing, or if you receive your newsletter online, see insert included with your 2010 Membership Directory. **Deadline to apply is April 30!**

Committee Postcards

Have you returned your committee postcard yet which was included in the February 1 MnEBA News mailing? This is your opportunity to become more involved with MnEBA committees. Serving on a committee helps you to get to know other producers better and gives you an opportunity to make a difference in the industry!

There are a lot of producers out there with great ideas. Most committees are only seasonal and work can usually be done over email or with a phone call or two. Please take a moment to think about what you'd like to become involved in and return your card today!

Board Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2010 Phone Conference

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a phone conference on March 16, 2010. Kaye Zearth, Wade Schimmelpfennig, Brian Wagner, Mark Lucas and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Zearth called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussed final numbers on the 2010 MnEBA budget. Lucas moved to approve the budget, Wagner seconded, motion carried.

Pat Prodzinski then joined the meeting.

Discussed progress on the 2010 Gun Raffle Calendar. Hartkopf reported that three members have paid to sponsor calendar months and another six have said they're interested. The deadline is April 1. Also discussed obtaining bids for guns. Decision was made to keep the gun list the same as last year. Hartkopf to send out last year's list along with other details to board so bids can be obtained.

Hartkopf reported that two members have stepped forward and offered to host the MnEBA Summer Picnic. After discussion, Lucas moved to have Brian Wagner host the event on Saturday August 21st at his farm near Howard Lake, MN. Schimmelpfennig seconded, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Board reviewed bids for the 2011 MnEBA Annual Conference submitted by Hartkopf. Prodzinski moved to accept the proposal made by the Holiday Inn in Alexandria, MN. Wagner seconded, motion carried.

Discussed options submitted by Hartkopf for purchasing a new copier for the MnEBA Office. Lucas moved to purchase the Xerox Phaser 3300MFP along with the

available service program. Schimmelpfennig seconded, motion carried.

Discussed invitation to have a MnEBA exhibit at the Savor Minnesota event put on by the Minnesota Farm Winery Association. Decided that MnEBA is not set up to do live sampling and that MnEBA would decline the invitation.

Discussed hiring an accountant to complete MnEBA's 2009 990ez tax form. Decision was made to have Hartkopf continue to complete necessary forms as in years past.

Discussed establishing a MnEBA scholarship. Wagner moved to offer one scholarship in the amount of \$500 for college age children or grandchildren of current MnEBA members who are entering or currently pursuing post-secondary education in an agricultural field for the 2010-2011 school year. Prodzinski seconded, motion carried. Hartkopf to create a form and distribute to board for review and approval.

Discussed possible interest in having Minnesota be the host state for the 2011 NAEBA winter event. Schimmelpfennig moved to offer NAEBA the opportunity to hold their 2011 winter event in conjunction with the 2011 MnEBA Annual Conference. Lucas seconded, motion carried.

Discussed details of MnEBA's involvement with the Lake Superior SCI Chapter's upcoming convention on April 9-10 at Grand Casino in Hinckley, MN.

Wagner moved to adjourn, Schimmelpfennig seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf



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Now Accepting Sponsorships for the 2010 MnEBA Gun Calendar Raffle

HURRY ~ SPACE IS LIMITED!

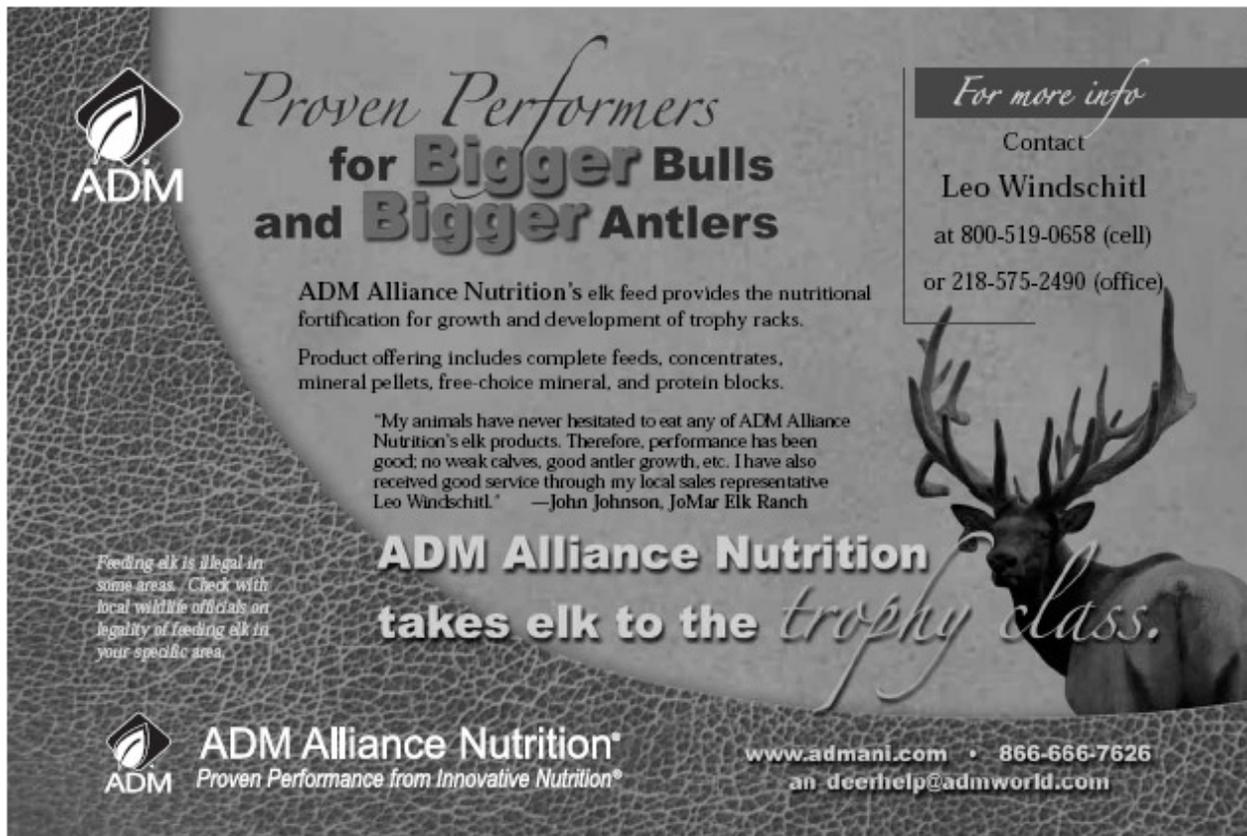
Due to great response from the membership and the general public, the MnEBA fundraising committee is once again organizing a MnEBA Gun Calendar Raffle for the calendar year 2011. Sales for these calendars will be conducted beginning this coming July/August and will conclude on January 8, 2011 at the MnEBA Annual Conference in Alexandria, MN.

MnEBA members also have an opportunity to sponsor a month in the calendar. Sponsorship applications went out with the February 1st newsletter mailing and an application is also included on the next page of this newsletter. All that's needed is a picture from your farm, a business card (or business card info) and payment. This is a great way to advertise your special bull or other elk from your farm to hundreds of people for an entire calendar month! Talk about great exposure!!!

There are just a few months still available for sponsorship. The deadline has been extended to **April 30, 2010**. Several people have committed verbally to sponsor a calendar month, however, sponsorships are not final until payment is made. So if you're wanting a calendar month, be sure to forward payment as soon as possible to secure your spot!

This calendar will be much like last year's calendar with minor modifications made. Picture quality is of utmost importance. Electronic pictures work the best, higher pixels are better. Hard copy photos do not enlarge well, but a high quality full size 8½ "x11" hard copy photo will work just fine.

Please forward any questions or comments to the MnEBA Office at 320-543-2686 or info@mneba.org.



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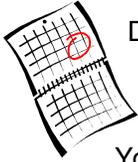
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MnEBA 2010 Gun Raffle Calendar Sponsorships Available!

This is a GREAT Advertising Opportunity!



Do you want to feature your elk in the 2011 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar? MnEBA is offering 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 2011 through December 2011.

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. An electronic version is preferred. This picture will be enlarged to 8½" x 11".
2. An area on the upper right hand side of the calendar page to publish your logo and contact information. 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 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.

The deadline has been extended. Please fill out and return the following form no later than April 30, 2010. 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 30, 2010**.

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. 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.*

2010 NAEBA Annual Conference

International Antler Competition & Annual Convention

Harrahs Hotel & Casino ~ Council Bluffs, Iowa

August 5 - 7, 2010



Come join in NAEBA's 20th Anniversary celebration ~ special activities are being planned, you won't want to miss it!

Tentative Schedule:

- **Thursday, August 5**
Antler Check-in and Judging
Exhibitor Set-Up
Antler Judging School
- **Friday, August 6**
Opening Ceremonies & General Meeting
Regional Meetings
Seminars
Entertainment
Fun Auction
- **Saturday, August 7**
Seminars
Fun Contests
Antler Competition Viewing & Awards
Semen Auction

Great Location!

Council Bluffs, IA is a quick easy drive from many locations in the U.S. – 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

- Forage Management
- Record Keeping Systems
- Government Updates
- Marketing
And More!!!

Local Attractions

- Bass Pro Outdoor World
- Henry Doorly Zoo, one of the U.S. largest zoos (across the river in Omaha)
- Exciting gaming opportunities at Harrah's, Ameristar, and Horseshoe Casinos
- Council Bluffs has a rich river-city history. There are an extensive number of historical museums and sites to visit!
- See www.councilbluffs-iowa.com to find many other great attractions!

Hotel Information

Harrah's Hotel & Casino

1 Harrah's Blvd ~ Council Bluffs, IA 51501

Reservations 1-800-HARRAHS (1-800-427-7247), mention Group Code S08SNAEB to receive the discounted room rate of **\$83** for Thursday, Friday or Saturday nights. Room block deadline – **Tuesday, July 20th**.

For More Info: Brenda Hartkopf, Conference Coordinator (320) 543-2686 or Eric or Kim Mohlman at the NAEBA Office (402) 756-3355.

MnEBA Kitchen

Enjoy this delicious, rich, hearty soup for those cold windy Spring days which look warmer than they really are!

Cheesy Elk Burger Soup

½ lb. ground elk	4 cups chicken broth
½ cup chopped onion	4 cups diced, peeled potatoes
¾ cup shredded carrots	¼ cup flour
¾ cup diced celery	8 oz. American cheese, cubed
1 tsp. dried basil	1½ cups milk
1 tsp. dried parsley flakes	¾ tsp. salt
4 Tbsp. butter	½ tsp. pepper



In a 4-quart saucepan, brown meat; set aside. In the same saucepan, sauté onions, carrots, celery, basil and parsley in 1 tablespoon butter until vegetables are tender, about 10 minutes. Add broth, potatoes and ground elk; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 10-12 minutes or until potatoes are tender.

Meanwhile in a small skillet, melt remaining butter. Add flour, cook and stir until bubbly. Whisk into soup; bring to a boil. Cook and stir for 2 minutes. Reduce heat to low and add cheese, milk, salt and pepper; cook and stir until cheese melts. Remove from heat and serve. Yields 8 servings.

2010 MnEBA Directories Now Available!

The 2010 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.

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Consumers today are demanding natural, drug-free products. Only the **VELVET ANTLER BANDER** allows the removal of velvet antler without the risk of drug residue in the antler, while also providing humane treatment of the animal.

This new method of high compression involves rubber tubing tightened around the pedicle, which quickly blocks off the nerves that supply the antler and desensitizes the antler without the use of drugs or needles.

- Provides a safe, humane, and chemical free method of velvet antler harvest from elk and other deer species, eliminating the potential for drug residue in the antlers.
- Provides effective control of bleeding during the antler removal process.
- Provides analgesia equal to injected lidocaine. Provides more consistent results, safer, and easier to administer. *Simply wrapping a toumiquet around the pedicle will not give the same results. High tension compression is necessary to achieve effective analgesia.*
- Results in fewer adverse behavioral reactions during antler removal.



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Vet Corner by Glen Zearth, DVM

USDA Announces New Framework for Animal Disease Traceability

February 5, 2010 (WASHINGTON) – Agriculture Secretary Vilsack announced today that USDA will develop a new, flexible framework for animal disease traceability in the United States, and undertake several other actions to further strengthen its disease prevention and response capabilities.

“After concluding our listening tour on the National Animal Identification System in 15 cities across the country, receiving thousands of comments from the public and input from States, Tribal Nations, industry groups, and representatives for small and organic farmers, it is apparent that a new strategy for animal disease traceability is needed,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “I’ve decided to revise the prior policy and offer a new approach to animal disease traceability with changes that respond directly to the feedback we heard.”

The framework, announced today at the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Mid-Year meeting, provides the basic tenets of an improved animal disease traceability capability in the United States. USDA’s efforts will:

- Only apply to animals moved in interstate commerce;
- Be administered by the States and Tribal Nations to provide more flexibility;
- Encourage the use of lower-cost technology; and
- Be implemented transparently through federal regulations and the full rulemaking process.

“One of my main goals for this new approach is to build a collaborative process for shaping and implementing our framework for animal disease traceability,” said Vilsack. “We are committed to working in partnership with States, Tribal Nations and industry in the coming months to address many of the details of this framework, and giving ample opportunity for farmers and ranchers and the public to provide us with continued input through this process.”

“One of my main goals for this new approach is to build a collaborative process for shaping and implementing our framework for animal disease traceability,” said Vilsack. “We are committed to working in partnership with States, Tribal Nations and industry in the coming months to address many of the details of this framework, and giving ample opportunity for farmers and ranchers and the public to provide us with continued input through this process.”

One of USDA’s first steps will be to convene a forum with animal health leaders for the States and Tribal Nations to initiate a dialogue about the possible ways of achieving the flexible, coordinated approach to animal disease traceability we envision. Additionally, USDA will be revamping the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Animal Health to address specific issues, such as confidentiality and liability.

Although USDA has a robust system in place to protect U.S. agriculture, with today’s announcement, the Department will also be taking several additional actions to further strengthen protections against the entry and spread of disease. These steps will include accelerating actions to lessen the risk from diseases—such as tuberculosis—posed by imported animals, initiating and updating analyses on how animal diseases travel into the country, improving response capabilities, and focusing on greater collaboration and analyses with States and industry on potential risk overall.

More information on USDA’s new direction on animal traceability and the steps to improve disease prevention and control is available at www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability.

Welcome New Members!

Dale & Donna Wippler, 5770 145th Court NW, Ramsey, MN 55303, (763) 323-9194,
dale_wippler@hotmail.com

In The News

Chronic Wasting Disease Found in Captive Deer

February 25, 2010

(JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.) - The Missouri Departments of Agriculture, Conservation and Health and Senior Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today that a captive white-tailed deer in Linn County, Missouri has tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). CWD is a neurological disease found in deer, elk and moose.

"There is no evidence that CWD poses a risk to domestic animals or humans," said State Veterinarian Dr. Taylor Woods. "We have protocols in place to quickly and effectively handle these situations."

The animal that tested positive for CWD was a white-tailed deer inspected as part of the State's CWD surveillance and testing program. Preliminary tests were conducted by the

USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa.

Upon receiving the confirmed CWD positive, Missouri's departments of Agriculture, Conservation and Health and Senior Services initiated their CWD Contingency Plan. The plan was developed in 2002 by the Cervid Health Committee, a task force comprised of veterinarians, animal health officers and conservation officers from USDA, MDA, MDC and DHSS working together to mitigate challenges associated with CWD.

CWD is transmitted by live animal to animal contact or soil to animal contact. The disease was first recognized in 1967 in captive mule deer in the Colorado Division of Wildlife captive wildlife research facility in Fort Collins, Colorado. CWD

has been documented in deer and/or elk in Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and the Canadian Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. There has been no evidence that the disease can be transmitted to humans.

"Missouri's proactive steps to put a testing protocol in place and create a contingency plan years ago is proving beneficial. We are in a solid position to follow pre-established steps to ensure Missouri's valuable whitetail deer resource remains healthy and strong," said Jason Summers Missouri's Deer Biologist.

For more information regarding CWD, please contact Dr. Taylor Woods at (573) 751-3377.

CWD Test Results Negative in White-Tailed Deer on Property in Linn County

March 19, 2010 (JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.) – Today the Missouri Departments of Agriculture and Conservation announced that tests of 50 captive deer sampled in Linn County showed no signs of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

Tests were conducted by the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa. The Department of Conservation continues to test a sampling of free-ranging deer within a five-mile radius of the 800-acre tract where the initial CWD-positive white-tailed deer was located.

"The Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri

Department of Conservation, Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services and USDA have worked cooperatively in putting an aggressive and effective plan in place and quickly executing that plan," said State Veterinarian Dr. Taylor Woods. "The sampling and negative test results should reassure the public that the infection does not appear widespread."

State agencies continue an active and robust tracking plan through which deer near the site are monitored for the disease. "We will continue to monitor free-ranging deer in the surrounding area," said Bob Ziehmer, director of the

Missouri Department of Conservation. "The continued cooperation of nearby landowners and support from the sportsmen in the area has been greatly appreciated."

CWD is transmitted by live animal-to-animal contact or soil-to-animal contact and has never been reported in humans or cattle. The disease was first recognized in 1967 in a captive mule deer in the Colorado Division of Wildlife research facility in Fort Collins, Colo.

For more information regarding CWD, contact the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Division at (573) 751-3377.

CWD Found in Southwestern North Dakota Deer

March 17, 2010 (GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT, NORTH DAKOTA) – North Dakota's Game & Fish Department officials were notified this morning by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Veterinary Services that a sick-looking mule deer taken last fall in western Sioux County has tested positive for chronic wasting disease. This is the first time CWD has been detected in a North Dakota animal.

Dr. Dan Grove, Game & Fish Department wildlife veterinarian, said a hunter in unit 3F2 shot an adult buck that did not appear to be healthy. "As we do with our targeted surveillance efforts, we collected the sample to test for CWD and bovine tuberculosis," Grove said.

The Game & Fish Department's targeted

surveillance program is an ongoing, year-round effort that tests animals found dead or sick.

"We have been constantly monitoring and enhancing our surveillance efforts for CWD because of its presence in bordering states and provinces," said Greg Link, Game & Fish Department assistant wildlife division chief.

In addition to targeted surveillance, the department annually collects samples taken from hunter-harvested deer in specific regions of the state. In January, more than 3,000 targeted and hunter-harvested samples were sent to a lab in Minnesota. As of today, about two-thirds of the samples have been tested, with the one positive result. The remaining one-third will be tested over the next month.

Link said monitoring efforts have intensified in recent years and all units have been completed twice throughout the entire state.

"The deer population in unit 3F2 is above management goals, and hunter pressure will continue to be put on the population in that unit again this fall," Link said. "We are going to be aggressive with licenses and disease surveillance in that unit."

Since the department's sampling efforts began in 2002, more than 14,000 deer, elk and moose have tested negative for CWD.

CWD affects the nervous system of members of the deer family and is always fatal. Scientists have found no evidence that CWD can be transmitted naturally to humans or livestock.

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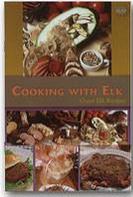
MnEBA Promotional Materials

The following items are available for promotional purposes. To see the full line of MnEBA promotional offerings, check out www.mneba.org 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 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

3rd 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 Summer Picnic & Hog Roast

Saturday August 21, 2010

Black Velvet Elk Ranch – Brian Wagner
Howard Lake, MN

Mark your calendars for a fun day of good eating, socializing, touring and learning!

The schedule hasn't been set yet, but plan for a noon pot-luck meal. Brian will furnish the meat and attendees will bring a dish to pass. The afternoon will consist of a seminar or two, and possibly a tour or two of other local elk farms.

Attendees are also welcome to bring antlers for display which have been judged at the NAEBA International Antler Competition earlier in the month.

Check out the MnEBA web site at www.mneba.org for updates as plans come together. More information will also be available in the next newsletter!

Minnesota Elk Branding Logo Now Available!

Have you registered for the new MN Elk Branding Logo yet? MnEBA members received a registration form with the February 1st newsletter mailing. Use this logo on your meat and velvet antler products to help promote MN raised elk products. All members using this logo must be registered users. There's no fee to apply but an application form must be completed and turned in to the MnEBA Office.

Once your registration form is received, you will be sent up to 1,000 stickers (stickers measure 3/4" x 1") to apply to your meat and velvet antler products. You can also request an electronic version which you can have printed directly on your own labels or business card.

If you've misplaced your form, please contact the MnEBA Office and another form will be sent out. Call the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 or email info@mneba.org with any questions!



Committee Reports

Government Relations by Jim Byrne

On Tuesday, March 16, 2010, MnEBA was once again invited by the Farm Bureau to participate in Ag Day at the Capitol. For those who may be unfamiliar with Ag Day, the Farm Bureau invites representatives from the leading livestock and agricultural industries to the Capitol to promote and encourage our legislative houses to support and promote agriculture in Minnesota. Each of the industries representatives is given 3-4 minutes to address the attendees concerning their markets and the issues affecting them. In addition, state dignitaries such as MN Agriculture Commissioner Gene Hugoson and members of both the House and Senate address the attendees concerning agriculture with Minnesota.

Meeting with Tony Kwilas, our lobbyist, just prior to the presentations, I was able to get his perspective on the current session and what we as an association should be doing to maintain strong support within the legislature. At the end of this session we are going to lose some staunch supporters in both the House and Senate. Senator Steve Dille and Representative James Vickerman will be retiring from office leaving their seats and their Ag committee assignments open in the November elections. Compounding this will be the fact that those who are elected to the Senate will only serve a two year term before facing re-election. This means we have to establish ourselves with these legislators early in their term and make certain that they understand our position and issues.

Once again, we need to remember that as members of the association and as members of the Ag community, we need to elect people who support farming. We as producers also need to talk with them and let them know our feelings and concerns. Let them know that how they vote on farm issues effects your operation and that their decisions will have an impact on your ability to provide for your family. Help them help us by educating your legislators about the elk industry so they can support our industry.

Health Committee by Glen Zebarth

Just a brief update on the CWD national program – This program has been in the process of being re-written once again. The USDA has promised the final revision to be out for comment two months from now. There will be a comment period of 90 days then it will be accepted or further edits will be made based upon comments.

Promotions by Brenda Hartkopf

These past few months have been a good and busy time for promotions! MnEBA had a booth set up for the MN Department of Agriculture Strategic Animal Ag Conference in Willmar on January 14th. MnEBA has also been invited to display a booth at the Lake Superior SCI Chapter 12th Annual Hunter's Banquet which will be coming up on April 9-10 at Grand Casino in Hinckley.

MnEBA had a presence once again at the MN Deer Classic. Many thanks to Dennis & Tony Wernsing, Mark Hendrickson, John Johnson, Wade Schimmelpfennig, Pat Prodzinski and Jim Byrne for working the booth. Thanks also to Perry Olson for organizing the schedule and Lance & Brenda Hartkopf for setting up the booth.

Jim Byrne took a day off work and represented MnEBA at the MN State Capitol for a noon rally to celebrate Ag Week on March 16th. He gave a short presentation about the importance of property rights and the need to keep non-ag special interest groups out of ag issues.

Thank you to all members who took time out of their schedules to promote the MN elk industry! Your assistance was very much appreciated!!!

MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Annual Conference	Kaye Zebarth (320) 834-4064
Nominating	Fred Neubert (320) 352-6733
Government Relations	Jim Byrne (507) 358-6505
Antler Competition	Kaye Zebarth (320) 834-4064
Health	Dr. Glen Zebarth (320) 834-4064
Auction	Jerry Strodman (507) 451-3107
Awards	Patty VanGundy (507) 896-2380
Promotions	Brenda Hartkopf (320) 543-2686
State Fair	Morrie & Daphne Evenson (320) 354-5156
Fundraising	Brenda Hartkopf (320) 543-2686

The Impact of the MnEBA Annual Charitable Elk Hunt



The following note was sent to the MnEBA Office in early March. It shows the huge impact that a hunt of this nature can have on a person's life and what a lasting memory it is for very deserving individuals and their families. It is a very special privilege for MnEBA and it's members to be a part of something so profound.

Dear MN Elk Breeders Association,

I apologize for not getting this out to you sooner, but I kept getting distracted by other things. Tim Merkens, our veteran elk hunter from this last November, passed away from a cerebral hemorrhage on February 17th. It is believed he fell and hit his head in the very early hours of the 16th, he had had knee surgery the week before. He was rushed to the hospital by ambulance and into surgery to try to drain off the blood on the brain. It was unsuccessful and he was declared brain dead the night of the 17th. He was kept on life support until the next day when he could be taken into surgery again to harvest any viable organs. Tim had always insisted on being an organ donor.

The family had asked me if I would be a pallbearer and if I could bring a picture of Tim and his elk from the hunt as they say "it was all he ever talked about". They couldn't find the pictures I had given him. I agreed and helped our friend off to the next life. Tim Merkens will be missed by many. If there is ever any doubt on the impact your veteran elk hunt has on people, think of Tim Merkens.

Best Wishes to you and yours -

*John O. Rosenberger
Asst. CVSO
Norman County Veterans Service Office*

MnEBA Newsletter Advertising Rates

	Full Page	Half Page	Quarter Page	Business Card
1x	\$75	\$50	\$30	\$20
6x	\$400	\$300	\$180	\$120
Size	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.

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Shelter Shade
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**THANK YOU
for your support!**

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

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

Calendar of Events

April 9 – 10, 2010 – SCI Lake Superior Chapter 12th Annual Hunter's Banquet, Grand Casino, Hinckley, MN

August 5 – 7, 2010 – NAEBA's 20th Annual Convention and International Antler Competition, Harrah's, Council Bluffs, Iowa

August 21, 2010 – MnEBA Summer Picnic, Black Velvet Elk Ranch, Howard Lake, MN

August 26 – September 6, 2010 – Minnesota State Fair, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

January 7 – 8, 2011 – MnEBA Annual Conference, Holiday Inn, Alexandria, MN

Classified Ads

For Sale: Entire elk herd. (5) bred cows, (1) heifer, (1) bull calf, (8) bulls or sell for meat. Call (320) 563-4084 (home) or (320) 815-1816 (cell).

For Sale: (2) Kiwi squeeze chutes and (1) Monte North hydraulic chute.

Wanted: Meat animals wanted. Contact Brian Wagner at (612) 366-5078.

Wanted: Hard antler. Will pick up hard antler at Cabelas in Owatonna on Wednesday April 14th and at Douglas County Animal Hospital in Alexandria on Thursday April 15th. Time will be from 8am-5pm both days. Contact Clint Wylie at (218) 820-9653 for more information.

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 or email 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
Howard Lake, MN 55349