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President's Message by Mark Lucas

Well, it's that time of year again; time to pull together all the receipts, cancelled checks, K-1's, W-2's and 1099's. Not being the most organized guy in the county when it comes to record keeping, it is kind of exciting to get the final numbers together and see just what our way of life as elk farmers did for the bottom line. For one week a year I take over the dining room table to help with my organization of all the pertinent documents, getting ready for the annual tax appointment. It reminds me of working on a jigsaw puzzle. Starting out, the table is covered in pieces that appear unrelated and random. But, after hours of work, piece by piece, the puzzle comes together. The picture on the completed puzzle isn't always pretty, but there is a sense of accomplishment once it is completed.

This winter has not been all fun and games for your MnEBA board members. There has been way more correspondence than usual over governmental issues. Between emails, phone calls and in person meetings, Brenda and the board have been hopping. As we have discussed on several occasions in the past, cervid escapes continue to be a sore spot for the DNR. Recently they tried to get some language inserted into the Game & Fish bill that would give them the right to collect for any and all costs from the producer should we have an elk or deer escape. They had no act of God clause, no monetary cap, no review, no appeal process, just a blank check that the producer would have to write out to the DNR if they felt it necessary to dispatch an escaped animal. Now I don't know how many trucks, helicopters and man hours it could take to dispatch an escaped animal, but suffice to say it could become a sizable operation if left to their own discretion.

Needless to say, we want no part of it. Brenda, the board and our MnEBA lobbyist Tony Kwilas have been working hard to nip this in the bud as the topic has never even been discussed at the Cervid Advisory Board Meeting which would be the typical route for topics such as this. Members of the Cervid Advisory Board are folks that have an interest in cervids in Minnesota like the Board of Animal Health, the DNR, Deer Breeders and Elk Breeders Associations, Zoo officials, USDA people and the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association. These meetings are sometimes like me doing tax preparations in that the process isn't always pretty, but the end result usually is something that works. We will keep you informed as we know more along this subject line which has yet to have the final chapter written. For now, we can all help by double checking our own fences and especially gates to cut down on escapes. We have just too many and that drives our friends in St. Paul into a frenzy.

We have also had a fair amount of activity surrounding the National CWD Program. One individual at the USDA, with little or no help from State Animal Health associations, the cervid industry or even common sense, took it upon herself to write standards that would make it difficult for many states to comply including Minnesota. With pressure from many state and national cervid associations, state vets and the American Cervid Alliance, we hope to help shape this into a national cervid program that makes sense for all. Again, the final chapter is yet to be written.

I am sure there will be much more on these topics and more in this issue of MnEBA News. Take care and hope you all have a Happy Easter!

Mark Lucas, President
Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

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.

Market Watch

Updates from the recent March Mingle indicate continued strength in markets!

There was much discussion at the recent March Mingle in Wausau, Wisconsin about the federal CWD Rule and Program Standards. (See update on Page 6). Another much smaller topic but still of great importance to the industry was a discussion on the current markets.

Rich Forrest reported that he was still buying hard antler and that the market is up to \$10 per pound and looks to remain strong. He felt the meat price has topped out for the time being but that meat prices remain strong ranging anywhere from \$3.00-\$4.00 per pound hanging weight across the country. He felt it would be helpful if more meat could be available year round instead of the typical autumn time period.

Rich felt the industry benefited from the major public relations blitz of prominent professional athletes alleged use of velvet antler spray which has been deemed illegal because of IGF-1 content which is a banned substance for pro athletes. He believes the domestic velvet market could mimic the rise of the domestic hard antler market in time.

Brian Wagner reported that he hasn't begun pursuing the velvet market price for 2013 as of yet and doesn't know where it will go. Last year's price was anywhere from \$20-\$31.50 per pound with 50,000 pounds produced in the U.S. There was at least three times that amount produced in Canada. Brian urged producers to keep to the same program year after year in the number of bulls velveted versus grown out for the shooter market to avoid over-supply in any one area.

Brian reported the trophy bull market looks to be strong this year and that he will actively be looking for a lot of bulls. He urged producers to clean out their cull bulls at a younger age to avoid feeding them extra years with little hope of financial gain. There is a market for 250" bulls and the meat market could also use the extra meat.

In speaking with Scott Salonek, he also has not begun pursuing the 2013 velvet price but does plan to have an update for the June 1st newsletter if not before. Scott is also looking for trophy bulls and has a price schedule available to anyone who is interested.

March Mingle Semen Prices

Bull (2) straws each	Donor	Price/Straw	Buyer
Chief	Ben Seutter	\$150	Dan Reinke
X-Ray	Kim Kafka	\$225	Mark Luedtke
Zion	Andy Azcarraga	\$175	Kim Mohlman
Cadillac	Bill Knutson	\$250	Greg Lubinski
Kings Ransom	Mike Coleman	\$150	Chad Lawler
Zeus	Eric Mohlman	\$225	Greg Kenyon
315S (to benefit ACA)	Mike Coleman	\$250	Chad Lawler
DK Johnnie B	Kim Kafka	\$200	Lance Hartkopf
Styx	Eric Mohlman / Josh Lundberg	\$300	John Kooistra
Awesome (to benefit Brakke family in Iowa)	Tom Nevins	\$175	Rick Jensen
Levi	Syndicate	\$750	Chad Lawler

AVERAGE = \$210 (excluding Levi straws)



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There are over 12,000 businesses across America involved in conservation hunting. Conservation hunting is a multi-billion dollar industry that supports scores of species and provides tens of thousands of jobs for Americans. Most ranch operations are small businesses and many are multi-generational family farm operations.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Conservation hunting ranches are successful small businesses focused on breeding and hunting wildlife.
- Animal populations that are extinct or endangered in the wild have been saved by conservation hunting ranches.
- Conservation hunting ranches are an integral part of the American economy.

Board Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a board meeting on January 11, 2013, at the Holiday Inn, Alexandria, MN. Mark Lucas, Jim Byrne, Brian Wagner, Wade Schimmelpfennig and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Director Richard Zajac was absent.

Lucas called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. The agenda was modified to allow for discussion of the following day's Annual Conference with Pat & Rita Prodzinski who joined the meeting for discussion on fundraising games. Pat, Rita and Wade all agreed to help out the following day.

Board went back to the original agenda. Lucas asked for additions or corrections to the December 9th board meeting minutes. Byrne moved to accept, Wagner seconded, motion carried. Lucas asked for additions or corrections to the October 25th board meeting minutes. Byrne moved to accept, Schimmelpfennig seconded, motion carried.

Board reviewed the treasurer's report which was a year end comparison between 2011 and 2012. Byrne moved to accept the treasurer's report, Schimmelpfennig seconded, motion carried.

Old Business

Discussed 2012 calendar raffle. Hartkopf reported that there were 556 stubs in and that she expected to end up with about 650-700 raffle calendars sold. Discussed the new drawing system which was created to allow the numbers to mix more thoroughly.

Board discussed other annual conference topics. Reviewed auction items list and discussed the fundraising auction. Discussed 20th anniversary activities and went through the complete agenda.

New Business

Discussed the American Cervid Alliance (ACA) and having MnEBA commit to officially being a part of this leadership council. Byrne moved that the MnEBA Board pledge to support the ACA. Wagner seconded, motion carried. Will discuss with the membership at tomorrow's annual meeting.

Discussed Greg Lubinski's proposal to become a donor to the Blue Jacket/Bright Futures project through MnEBA. Board had no objections and agreed to move forward with the idea.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

February 2, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a board meeting on February 2, 2013, at the home of Lance & Brenda Hartkopf in Howard Lake, MN. Mark Lucas, Jim Byrne, Brian Wagner, Wade Schimmelpfennig, Richard Zajac and Brenda Hartkopf were present.

Lucas called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m. Lucas asked for additions or corrections to the January 11th board meeting minutes. Byrne moved to accept, Schimmelpfennig seconded, motion carried. Board reviewed the treasurer's report which showed the financials for the year 2012. The year end checkbook balance was \$13,153.38. Byrne moved to accept the treasurer's report, Zajac seconded, motion carried.

Old Business

Hartkopf reported 61 attendees for the MnEBA Annual Conference in January. Overall event income was up almost \$2,000 over last year, much of this due to more successful fundraising.

Hartkopf reported a total of 718 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendars sold in the recent raffle. Nine members received free memberships with the 30+ promotion. Three people each ended up winning 2 guns on the same ticket this year, even though the mixing of the numbers was greatly improved.

Board reviewed hotel bids for the 2014 MnEBA Annual Conference. Wagner moved to choose the Kelly Inn – St. Cloud bid and try to work out a decrease in rental fees. Byrne seconded, motion carried. Hartkopf reported that this bid was given some time ago and there was a chance it was booked in the meantime. The Crowne Plaza in Brooklyn Center will be the back-up bid if the Kelly Inn is booked. Board would like to offer each booth vendor 2-5 minutes to talk to attendees about the products they are representing at next year's conference.

Discussed the American Cervid Alliance (ACA) and reiterated support for it. Wagner volunteered to be the representative from MnEBA. Byrne, Lucas or Hartkopf will fill in as needed. Discussed the ACA request for funding. There was concern about not knowing when or where the money would be going. Also, did not want the money to be sitting there for a long period of time unused or unavailable for when MnEBA may need it. Will consider larger donation when or if a specific need is identified.

Discussed MnEBA's involvement with the Blue Jacket-Bright Future FFA sponsorship. Byrne moved that MnEBA sponsor two jackets in addition to those sponsored by Greg Lubinski for 2013. Wagner seconded, motion carried.

Hartkopf was asked to look into advertising opportunities in FFA Foundation publications and to ask if jacket donors are listed in their magazine.

New Business

Election of officers was held. Zajac moved to keep the slate of officers the same for 2013 as they were for 2012. Schimmelpennig seconded, motion carried. Mark Lucas will remain President, Jim Byrne Vice President and Brian Wagner Secretary/Treasurer.

Byrne reported that Greg Lubinski, Brenda Hartkopf and himself visited the MN State Capitol on January 31st to meet and greet legislators. They were assisted by MnEBA's lobbyist Tony Kwilas and reported a very successful day. Byrne reported there were no recommended changes to Board of Animal Health (BAH) funding in the Governor's budget. With some districts being restructured and with new legislators in some districts, Wagner requested that a list of legislators be forwarded to the membership so all members are familiar with who represents them. Byrne also reported that the BAH is continuing the process of rewriting their rulebook for all farmed species. It looks like any changes recommended for the farmed cervid industry are changes we can live with.

Hartkopf updated the board on a follow-up to comments made during the annual membership meeting about the federal farm bill containing \$80 million dollars for animal indemnity and that MnEBA should look into whether some of this funding could be made available for CWD indemnity. Upon further review, it was discovered that the fund being referred to is the Livestock Indemnity Program, however, it is indemnity for "disasters" causing animal deaths due to floods, droughts, etc. and not for "disease" indemnity.

Discussed the 2013 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt. Will ask Tony Beckel if he would be willing to sponsor once again. Board would like to continue to work with Midwest Outdoors Unlimited in the same capacity as the past couple years.

Hartkopf reported that Roger and Saichon Niefeld have volunteered to host the 2013 MnEBA Summer Picnic. They are looking at the third or fourth Saturday of July. Saichon would like to prepare the food for this event and they have asked that attendees bring their own beverages.

Board made the decision to go forward with a 2013 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar and would like to keep all things the same as last year. They discussed concerns from members that winning numbers should not be put back into the drawing to give more people a chance to win. The board strongly felt this was a great selling point and that winning numbers should continue to go back into the drawing.

It's time for MnEBA's Goals & Objectives to be updated once again. Board tentatively set the date of Saturday March 30th to update them.

Board went through each line item for the 2013 MnEBA Budget. The decision was made to donate \$500 to the ACA. Made the decision not to sell Atomic Chef spices at the State Fair this year. Hartkopf was directed to check with Wade Scott to get a quote to insure the MnEBA trailer. Also, board to consider updating the MnEBA web site. MN Grown funds

are available to do this. Meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

February 26, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a phone conference on February 26, 2013 specifically to discuss the DNR civil penalty for recapture of escaped domestic and non-native animals legislation and the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) application for inclusion into the federal CWD program. Mark Lucas, Jim Byrne, Brian Wagner, Wade Schimmelpennig, Richard Zajac and Brenda Hartkopf were present. MnEBA's lobbyist Tony Kwilas was also present.

Lucas called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m. Kwilas began by explaining the status of the DNR civil penalty language in that it is a small part of the overall Game & Fish bill which is 18 pages long at present. He reported on a hearing that had taken place two hours earlier regarding the bill and shared the overview given by the DNR on why they included the civil penalty for recapture of escapes in the language of the bill. Board expressed concern that there was no cap on the civil penalty and that there was no recourse for an appeal. Board unanimously felt that this topic should be thoroughly disseminated in the Farmed Cervidae committee before any legislative action is taken by the DNR.

Board asked Tony to reach out to the Farm Bureau and Farmer's Union lobbyists and any other lobbyist who would have a vested interest in this language. Discussed the DNR's memo which came out late this afternoon asking for comments via email on proposed legislation from all members of the Farmed Cervidae Advisory Committee. Board felt the topic needed to be discussed in person and not over email. Kwilas then left the call.

Hartkopf, Lucas and Wagner discussed a meeting which had also taken place earlier in the day between the MN BAH, Eric Mohlman, Charly & Laurie Seale and Gary Olson of the MN Deer Breeders Association to discuss the BAH frustration in applying for the new national CWD program. The BAH application has been denied three times and is far from being accepted. March 31, 2013 is the deadline for Approved status. This group will be contacting other states to see where they are at in the application process and will take further action to assist BAH in this effort as needed.

A MnEBA member has volunteered to represent MnEBA for the upcoming industry Washington D.C. Fly-In and has asked if there is any funding from MnEBA available to help with trip expenses. Board said that funds are available and could be requested in writing. Board would decide on a specific amount after receiving the written request.

Wagner moved to adjourn, Byrne seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

Federal CWD Rule/Program Standards Update

The CWD Program Standards working group comprised of representatives from USDA, Wildlife agencies, State veterinarians and Industry (represented by Eric Mohlman-NAEBA, Shawn Schafer-NADEFA and Charly Seale-EWA) are nearing the end of their deliberations on re-working the controversial Federal CWD Program Standards document. It has been a very long road with much dissension amongst the group on many issues. While progress has been made on some industry concerns, they have come up against road blocks on others. Dr. Hartmann of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health is one of the State veterinarian representatives on the Standards working group and has been outstanding in supporting industry concerns.

Charly Seale recently traveled to Washington, DC where he met with Dr. John Clifford, Chief Veterinary Officer for USDA/APHIS. Charly shared in detail industry's concerns with the federal CWD Rule and Program Standards. During their discussions, Dr. Clifford stated that if it wasn't for industry pushing for the rule for the last 10 years, USDA/APHIS wouldn't have even pursued it. Charly told Dr. Clifford that what industry pushed for and what industry got were two vastly different things. Dr. Clifford proceeded to ask if industry would like to scrap the entire program, CWD Rule, Standards and all. Needless to say, this has created a firestorm of discussion amongst industry with widely divided opinions. Many of the North American Deer Farmers Association (NADEFA) leaders are in favor of allowing the Federal CWD Rule and Program Standards to continue to be enacted and to change it to meet industry's needs later, while many NAEBA leaders feel that our best chance to have a document we can live with long term is to change it up front and if that isn't possible, to scrap it. Many producers from both industries are tired of more rules and are drawing a line in the sand to stop the continued added regulations. Still others are undecided and doing their best to become better informed.

This topic was heavily debated at the March 22nd March Mingle. The Federal CWD Rule is 31 pages long and the original Program Standards document is 73 pages long. Interpretation is difficult at best. Both documents can be downloaded at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/cwd/farmed.shtml. For the most recent copy of the updated Standards document, contact the MnEBA Office. The ultimate question seems to be, "What will happen to the current state programs if there is no federal program? Will states and producers benefit or will they encounter more difficulties?"

The American Cervid Alliance will be meeting on Tuesday April 9th to discuss this topic and put the issue to a vote by all represented organizations.

Meanwhile, the March 31st deadline for states to become an Approved state within the federal CWD program is upon us. If a state/producer is not at least Provisionally Approved in the federal program by this date, they will not be moving their animals across state lines. The good news is that Minnesota's program was granted Approved status on March 25th! The Minnesota Board of Animal Health had applied three times and were denied each time and given a long list of reasons why they were denied. Upon the fourth application, they were successful! This means out of state movement should not be interrupted for Minnesota producers.

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What is the *American Cervid Alliance* and why should you and your organization be a part of this growing alliance?



A leadership council of associations, producers, and allied businesses coming together



After 15 years of watching the cervid industry become more and more regulated it is time to protect our industry with a unified front.



The cervid industry is the most discriminated and overregulated agricultural industry in the country today.



The wildlife agencies in this country have found the cervid industry's Achilles' heel and that is Chronic Wasting Disease. They have used CWD to drive a wedge between the cervid industry and legislators, the public and other sportsmen

Join these associations and be a part of an alliance united to fight over-regulation and spread the truth about CWD.

- Alabama Deer Association
- Colorado Elk Breeders Association
- Deer Breeders Corporation
- Exotic Wildlife Association
- Florida Deer Association
- Idaho Elk Breeders Association
- Illinois Deer Breeders Association
- Indiana Deer & Elk Farmers Association
- Iowa Elk Breeders Association
- Iowa Whitetail Deer Breeders Association
- Kansas Cervid Breeders Association
- Minnesota Deer Breeders Association
- Minnesota Elk Breeders Association
- Missouri Elk Farmers Association
- Missouri Whitetail Breeders & Hunting Ranch Assoc.
- New Jersey Deer Farmers Association

- New York Deer & Elk Farmers Association
- North American Deer Farmers Association
- North American Elk Breeders Association
- North Dakota Elk Growers Association
- Northeast Deer & Elk Farmers Association
- Pennsylvania Deer Breeders Association
- Pennsylvania Elk Breeders Association
- Texas Deer Association
- United Deer Farmers of Michigan
- West Virginia Deer Association
- Whitetails of Louisiana
- Whitetail Deer Farmers of Ohio
- Whitetails of Oklahoma
- Whitetail Deer Breeders of Oklahoma
- Whitetails of Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Commercial Deer & Elk Farmers Assoc.

In The News

Planned elk drive from Wind Cave National Park raises question about spread of disease

FEBRUARY 25, 2013 5:30 AM • KEVIN WOSTER RAPID CITY JOURNAL STAFF



A relocation plan aimed at reducing the elk herd in Wind Cave National Park and building elk numbers nearby has some critics worried about the spread of chronic wasting disease.

Wildlife officials at Wind Cave and adjoining Custer State Park are cooperating on a plan to use helicopters in early March to push hundreds of elk out of Wind Cave, where they have outgrown available habitat. The plan is to reduce the number of elk in Wind Cave and bolster the elk population in the adjoining national forest and Custer State Park, where the elk herd has dropped.

It is considered a win-win plan by those involved, but it worries critics who include former state Game, Fish & Parks Department wildlife specialist John Wrede of Rapid City. And chronic wasting disease is at the heart of that worry.

Wind Cave has been in a troubled area for the fatal brain disorder affecting elk and deer since a CWD-infected captive elk herd on private land adjoining the park had to be destroyed in the 1990s.

CWD apparently spread from that captive herd into wild elk in the park, causing a problem there that, based on limited data, appears to produce higher rates of infection in

elk than elsewhere in the Black Hills.

"When considering just elk, the prevalence rate in and immediately around Wind Cave is far greater than any place else in South Dakota," Wrede said. "In fact, you could put Wind Cave directly in the center of what could easily be referred to as an endemic area, where managers and epidemiologists should be trying to figure out how to keep the area from growing larger."

Forcing hundreds of elk out of the park seems to work against such containment, Wrede said.

Wind Cave wildlife officials argue that a drive is unlikely to cause a significant increase in CWD elsewhere in the Black Hills. They also point out that the elk herd in Wind Cave is thriving in spite of CWD, to the point where the reduction plan was needed.

And the higher rates of CWD in the park's elk herd should be kept in perspective, said park biological science technician Duane Weber and natural resource manager Greg Schroeder.

They admit that the numbers of infected elk appear startling, based on limited survey results. Out of 140 elk tested in the park since 1998, 45 have tested CWD positive.

But there's a catch. Those were not random tests. They were tests on elk that were either dead or sick, unlike the more random testing done elsewhere in the Black Hills by GF&P, primarily from elk shot by hunters.

Those test results, based on 15 years of sampling, indicate a CWD infection rate throughout the Hills in deer and elk of slightly less than 1 percent. But comparing the two types of tests isn't fair, Weber said.

"The animals we test are either sick and we suspect chronic wasting and we shoot them, or they've already died and we test them," Weber said. "So it's way higher. Comparing our tests to the state's results is apples and elephants."

It's difficult to know what a more random testing system would show, since Wind Cave doesn't allow hunting within park boundaries.

"In a nutshell, we don't have a very good handle on what our prevalence is, whether it's higher or lower overall," Weber said.

The closest study Wind Cave has to the more random state surveys was a 3-year mortality study based on elk fitted with tracking collars. It indicated that 3 percent of the collared elk that died were CWD infected. For perspective, that was the same rate as those determined to have been killed by mountain lions in the park.

Hunter mortality on those collared elk was 6 to 7 percent, on animals that migrated outside the park during the hunting season, Weber said.

Weber and Schroeder said it should also be noted that Wind Cave elk have been moving in and out of the park for years. Portions of the herd have moved over low spots in fences to reach federal or

private forest for calving season, Weber said.

Recent upgrades give Wind Cave officials more control over when and where elk leave and return to the park.

Wrede is pretty sure the Wind Cave rates are higher, regardless of variations in testing protocol. The CWD problem in the Black Hills pretty clearly began with the captive elk herd near Wind Cave and spread into the wild elk in the park and then beyond, he said.

"There may be a better than fair probability that, at least in the case of elk, animals historically testing positive for CWD had origins in

Wind Cave National Park," Wrede said.

The issue isn't lost on John Kanta, GF&P regional wildlife manager in Rapid City. He noted that elk have migrated in and out of Wind Cave for years but also said the helicopter drive will get into parts of the population that tended not to leave the park. And now they will.

"We're certainly going to be pushing some animals into areas where they haven't been before, from a place where there has been a higher prevalence of the disease," Kanta said. "That's certainly a concern that we've discussed among the staff."

Even so, Kanta doubts the CWD impacts outside the park will be dramatic. And he said the upside of redistributing elk will benefit Wind Cave wildlife and habitat management and hunters and wildlife watchers outside the park.

Building the herd in Custer State Park, where limited elk hunting is typically allowed, and on U.S. Forest Service land nearby will benefit elk hunters and elk watchers, Kanta said.

Weber said the positive side of the plan is big.

"We don't know exactly what's going to happen when these elk go out," he said. "But we think the benefit of this project far outweigh any detriments we might see."

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No Wasting Disease Found in Northern Wisconsin Deer

By Mike Simonson, Wisconsin Public Radio, Sawyer County Record

February 15, 2013 – No new cases of chronic wasting disease have been found from last year's deer hunt in far northern Wisconsin, but it doesn't mean the threat is over.

One diseased deer was found in the Shell Lake area of Washburn

County during the 2011 hunting season. So last May, the DNR ordered a feeding and baiting ban in Washburn County and in surrounding Barron, Burnett, and Polk counties.

DNR Warden Dave Zebro says it

remains a mystery as to how CWD jumped 150 miles from the southern zone to the north. But he says they've finished testing more than 1,000 deer from last year's hunt in the new area and none had the disease.

DNR Says Bovine TB 'undetectable' in NW Minnesota Deer

Associated Press, Leader Telegram

February 11, 2013 - ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) – Wildlife managers are claiming success in the effort to eliminate bovine tuberculosis from northwestern Minnesota.

The DNR says bovine TB is now "undetectable" in wild deer in northwestern Minnesota. For the third straight year, none of the deer

killed there during the firearms hunting season tested positive for the disease. DNR officials said in a statement Monday that makes them hopeful they've eliminated the threat.

Bovine TB mostly affects cattle, but can also infect deer. It turned up in cattle and wild deer near the

town of Skime in 2005. Minnesota regained its TB-free status for cattle in 2011 by eliminating affected cattle herds, and working with hunters to sharply reduce the deer population in the affected area to limit chances for the disease to spread.

Inserts to this Newsletter Mailing

2014 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar Sponsorship

This will be the fifth year of MnEBA's Gun Raffle Calendar which has become hugely popular thanks to great members who have stepped up to sponsor calendar ads and sell calendars. We're coming off our most successful year ever as over 700 calendars were sold. Sales for the new 2014 calendars will be conducted beginning this coming July and will conclude on January 11, 2014 during the MnEBA Annual Conference at the Kelly Inn/Rivers Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud.

MnEBA is once again looking for members to sponsor a month in the calendar. Sponsorship applications are included as an insert to this mailing. 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 what is special about your farm. A great bull or a unique photo you captured of your animals can be viewed by hundreds of people for an entire calendar month! If you're wanting to sponsor a calendar month, be sure to forward payment as soon as possible to secure a spot. The deadline to sponsor an ad is **May 15th**.

MnEBA Scholarship

If you have a college age young adult in your family, make sure to check out the 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 degree in the Fall of 2013. An agriculture-related field of study is preferred, but not limited to. For further details, see the insert in this mailing, or if you receive your newsletter online, see the insert included with your 2013 Membership Directory mailing. Deadline to apply is **May 15th**! There will be no extension of this deadline.

Committee Postcards

Fresh new ideas are wanted! Enclosed you will find a self-addressed, stamped postcard listing MnEBA committees. You are being asked to consider helping on any one or more committees. Many are seasonal and duties can usually be done over the phone or by email. Being on a committee is a great way to get to know your fellow elk producers as well! This committee list encompasses many different aspects of the elk industry. Please take a moment and consider helping in the area(s) you have an interest in and return the enclosed postcard by **May 15th**. If you're not sure but would like more information, please contact the MnEBA Office.

AUGUST 1–3, 2013

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LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

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Great Plains Zoo &

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Prairie Star Gallery

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Sertoma Butterfly House

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And so much more!!!

FOR MORE INFO

Brenda Hartkopf
Conference Coordinator
(320) 543-2686

or

Eric or Kim Mohlman
NAEBA Office
(402) 756-3355



2013 NAEBA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*23rd Annual Conference &
International Antler Competition*
*Network with antler, meat and shooter bull buyers,
elk product vendors, industry leaders & more!*

Tentative Schedule

Thursday, August 1st

Antler Check-In & Judging

Exhibitor Set-Up

Antler Judging School

Friday, August 2nd

Opening Ceremonies & General Meeting

Regional Meetings

Seminars

Entertainment

Fun Auction

Saturday, August 3rd

Seminars

Fun Contests

Antler Competition Viewing & Awards

Key Note Speaker

Semen Auction

Make Plans to Attend—You Won't Want to Miss It!

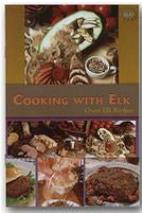
MnEBA Promotional Materials

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 Officer Blog by Wade Schimmelpfennig, MnEBA Director

Greetings to all:

As every year comes and goes, once again NAEBA had the March Mingle hosted by Wisconsin Commercial Deer & Elk Farmers in Wausau, WI this year. It was a great event with very informative speakers. I thank Eric Mohlman and Charly Seale for their dedication of time and resources in working towards crafting the new CWD standards regardless of how it comes out. It was nice to see those who were able to make it.

The fun time of the year is upon us. Buttons are falling off. If the weather changes we will have pastures greening up and calves being born.

I think we as farm managers need to be thinking ahead in making sure we have enough quality forage planted and stored up to help us through next winter with the current drought situation that appears to be gripping the majority of the states. It doesn't appear hay prices are going to be coming down because of the drought.

Good luck to all during this eventful and busy time of year.

Sincerely,
Wade S.

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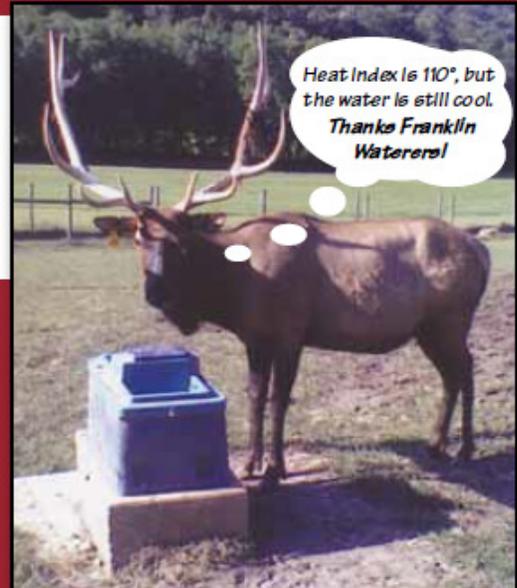


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20th Anniversary MnEBA Memories Continued...

Dr. Bill Hartmann was Minnesota's first Board of Animal Health Farmed Cervidae Program Director from 1993-2001. He then became the Board of Animal Health's State Veterinarian/Executive Director. Dr. Kris Petrini was Farmed Cervidae Program Director from 2001-2002 and Dr. Paul Anderson from 2002-present.

MnEBA first began pursuing harvest preserve legislation in 1997 with Don Olson as legislative chair.

Dr. Glen Zearth has been an active presence on the Elk Research Council and elk representative on the USAHA Annual Conference and various committees throughout MnEBA's existence.

MnEBA's Minnesota Grown affiliation began in 1993 and MnEBA became an Full member in 2001. Many of the promotional brochures MnEBA has created have been developed through this program.

MnEBA conducted its first Ag Stats Survey in 2001 which was updated in 2006. In 2011, MnEBA conducted a joint survey with the Minnesota Deer Breeders Association.

Tony Kwilas began working as MnEBA's lobbyist in 1999 and continues to be a most valuable asset today!

MnEBA Kitchen

Another quick, easy and delicious elk dish!!!

Sour Cream Elk-Enchiladas

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 lb. ground elk | 8 oz. sour cream |
| 1 small jar picante sauce | 1 can Cream of Mushroom soup |
| ½ pkg. taco seasoning | 1 pkg. large soft tortillas |
| 1 can refried beans | 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese |



Brown elk burger, add picante sauce; simmer for 15 minutes. Add taco seasoning and refried beans. Let simmer while mixing sour cream and soup together. Fill shells with meat sauce and sprinkle with some of the cheese. Roll up and place seam-side down in a cake pan. Cover shells with sour cream and soup mixture. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake at 375 degrees for 30-40 minutes or until it bubbles and the cheese melts. Serves 4 people with healthy appetites!

Welcome New Members

Stanley Bajdan, 4950 County Road G, Wild Rose, WI 54984, (920) 622-5288 (Home), (715) 281-8801 (Cell)



- VETERINARY PHARMACY
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ZEUS

3 year old Tequila son cut 20.08# at 2 in 2011 placing 2nd behind Styx
2012 unofficially scored 497" at 3, with 46" inside and 68" outside spread .

416" Typical Frame, 106" & 107" of Typical Tines

Largest NAEBA Registered 3 Year Old Non-Typical Ever

Great tine length/placement, beam diameter, width and high scoring genetics .

How many bulls can cut velvet, score this high Non-typical and be this wide at 3?

Pretty short list that can do all three—Zeus!

Shooter ranches love the bulls with big drops Zeus has had them both years.

Excellent quality semen drawn by Dr. Martin Wenkoff.



MOHLMAN ELK FARM

Eric, Kim, Chase, and Kyra Mohlman—402-469-1831

Ayr, Nebraska—mohlmnelk@gtmc.net

Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

FAQ's for the CervidTB Stat-Pak® (Stat-Pak) and the Cervid Dual Path Platform (DPP) tests for bovine tuberculosis

The Stat-Pak serology test for diagnosing bovine tuberculosis (TB) in elk, red deer, white-tailed deer, fallow deer, and reindeer was recently approved for official use. Samples must be collected by an accredited veterinarian and submitted to National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa on VS Form 10-4. NVSL charges \$12 per sample. Please see below for a list of commonly asked Questions and Answers regarding the new blood test. Contact the Minnesota Board of Animal Health at (651) 201-6804 with any further questions about collecting and submitting samples for testing.

Q. What are the CervidTB Stat-Pak Antibody and the DPP tests?

A. The Cervid TB Stat-Pak® Antibody Test is a serologic test used to screen for bovine TB in captive cervids. The DPP® is a more specific serologic test used when animals have non-negative results on the Stat-Pak test. When used together, the Stat-Pak and DPP have a higher specificity rate than do the skin tests.

Q. Which cervid species can I use the Stat-Pak and the secondary DPP tests on?

A. The Stat-Pak and secondary DPP test are approved for use in elk, red deer, white tail deer, fallow deer and reindeer. The tests are not approved for use in any other cervid species at this time.

Q. How does the performance of the Stat-Pak compare to the single cervical tuberculin skin test (SCT)?

A. The performance of the Stat-Pak is not significantly different than the single cervical test (SCT) in uninfected red deer, elk, whitetail deer, fallow deer and reindeer. The Stat-Pak appears to detect the same or a higher percentage of naturally infected elk, red deer and white-tailed deer, when compared to the SCT. There are too few naturally infected reindeer to evaluate the performance of the test in this species.

Q. Is there any benefit in using the Stat-Pak over single cervical tuberculin (SCT) skin tests?

A. The Stat-Pak is a TB test requiring only one handling event. SCT skin tests require the handling of cervids on two different occasions: one for tuberculin injection and the second for interpreting the test results.

Q. What type of sample is required for the test?

A. For each cervid tested, at least 2ml of refrigerated blood serum must be submitted in a serum collection tube.

Q. Who is authorized to collect and submit samples?

A. Only *Designated Accredited Veterinarians* who have received supplemental training on TB testing and the Stat-Pak testing are authorized to collect and submit samples.

Q. I am an accredited veterinarian, but have not been trained as a Designated Accredited Veterinarian. May I submit samples using the Stat-Pak test?

A. No. At this time, you must be a *Designated Accredited Veterinarian* who has received supplemental Stat-Pak test training in order to collect and submit samples using the Stat-Pak test on cervids.

Q. How can I become a Designated Accredited Veterinarian?

A. Contact your local APHIS Veterinary Services Area Office to receive information on the supplemental Stat-Pak test training and to become a Designated Accredited Veterinarian. A list of Area Offices can be found at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/area_offices/.

Q. If I am a Designated Accredited Veterinarian, may I choose either the SCT skin test or the Stat-Pak test to assess the status of TB in cervids?

A. Either test may be used. However, animals that are non-negative on the Stat-Pak will be retested with the DPP and animals that are reactors on the SCT will be retested with the CCT.

Q. Why is additional training needed if the test only involves submitting a blood sample?

A. In order to perform TB testing of any kind (skin testing, serological testing, etc.) in cervids, a veterinarian must be knowledgeable not only in technique, but also in the regulations under the National TB Eradication Program. Additionally, many tests that are performed must adhere to additional requirements such as for import/export and establishing and maintaining accredited cervid herds.

Q. Can I send the serum sample to any laboratory for testing?

A. No. Serum samples must be sent to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa. Be sure to obtain permission from your Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) in your State to submit the sample(s) to NVSL prior to sample shipment. AVIC's can be contacted at the local Area Office.

Q. Do all States accept the Stat-Pak and DPP as official TB tests for cervid herd accreditation and import purposes?

A. You must verify with your State or the importing State to determine if their animal health regulations allow the use of these tests as an official testing method for cervids.

Q. If I am also testing a cervid for brucellosis, may I collect one blood sample and have it tested for both TB and brucellosis?

A. No. When also testing a cervid for brucellosis, an additional tube of blood must be collected and submitted to an approved brucellosis testing laboratory accompanied by a VS Form 4-33. VS Form 4-33 can be found at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/forms.shtml.

Q. The test is advertised as a chute-side test, why does the sample have to be submitted to a lab? Can I obtain the test kit and perform the test?

A. No. The Stat-Pak test performance was evaluated under controlled laboratory conditions. At this time, APHIS has approved the test for use at the NVSL. APHIS plans to evaluate test performance, including how it is impacted by being conducted in a field setting, such as chute-side. If these evaluations indicate that the test performance would not be adversely affected, broader use of the test will be considered.

Q. What happens if the Stat-Pak test result is non-negative?

A. If the Stat Pak has a non-negative (i.e., a positive or inconclusive result), NVSL will perform the secondary DPP serological test using the serum from the same sample that was originally submitted. If the DPP result is non-negative, an epidemiological investigation will be done and the disposition of the animal will be determined by the area and regional TB epidemiologists according to regulations under the National TB Eradication Program.

Q. Can cervids that respond to the SCT skin test then be retested with the Stat-Pak?

A. No. Cervids that are responders on the single cervical test must be retested using the comparative cervical skin test (CCT). Likewise, cervids non-negative on the Stat-Pak must be retested using the DPP secondary test.

Q. Can accredited veterinarians or producers obtain the Stat-Pak test for their own use as an "unofficial test"?

A. No. Any tuberculosis test conducted in species under the National TB Eradication Program is an official test as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 9, Part 77. All results must be reported to State animal health officials within a specified time after the test was administered.

Q. May I perform the Stat-Pak test on animals that have only producer tags as identification?

A. No. Official identification recognized by APHIS must be present on each animal tested with the Stat-Pak. Identification numbers must be recorded on the VS 10-4/10-4a and VS 6-22 to correspond to the sample submitted for testing.

Q. How much does the Stat-Pak test shipping kit cost?

A. If you choose to order a preassembled Stat-Pak test kit consisting of instructions, a VS 10-4/10-4a Laboratory Submission Form, an ice pack, and a paid shipping label to NVSL, the cost is about \$30.00. You may also submit blood samples utilizing your own compliant shipping box using 24-hour delivery service. The US Postal Service does not deliver directly to NVSL. For more information on how to have a Stat-Pak test kit shipped to you or on compliant shipping boxes, please call (515) 337-6200 or email us at NVSL_userfee@aphis.usda.gov.

Q. How much does NVSL charge to run each test?

A. \$12.00

Q. Who will pay the fee for NVSL to run the test and how can payment be made?

A. The Designated Accredited Veterinarian submitting the sample will be responsible for test payment. This may be done by providing a credit card number on the submission form, including a check with the samples and submission form, or setting up an account with NVSL. Call NVSL at (515) 337-6200 for more information.

Q. How long will it take to get test results?

A. Results will be returned to the submitting Designated Accredited Veterinarian within 5 business days after samples arrive at NVSL.

Q. How will the test results be provided?

A. Test results will be provided to the submitting Designated Accredited Veterinarian by email, FAX, or mail. Veterinarians may specify preferred methods for receiving results on the submission form or when they set up their account with NVSL.

2013 MnEBA Summer Picnic
Saturday, July 27, 2013
Elk Forever Genetics, Roger & Saichon Nietfeld
Melrose, MN

Roger & Saichon have graciously volunteered to host this year's summer picnic at their farm near Melrose located in central Minnesota.

A Noon meal is being planned followed by a day of great visiting and the MnEBA summer membership meeting.

More details to follow in the June 1st newsletter! Make plans to attend!!!

Committee Reports

MN Deer Classic Thank You!

This year's Minnesota Deer Classic changed locations to the National Sports Center in Blaine, MN. MnEBA's booth was located in a great spot and generated lots of great elk talk!

Many thanks to Lance and Brenda Hartkopf for setting up and working Friday, Jim Byrne, Greg Lubinski and Pat Prodzinski for working Saturday and Perry Olson for working Sunday, taking down the booth and returning the trailer to Howard Lake. Many thanks to Perry for also organizing the event!

Officials are already looking to make this event bigger and better for next year! It's a great opportunity for MnEBA to reach local sportsmen and share our story!

Legislative Update by *Tony Kwilas, MnEBA Lobbyist*

It is the policy committee deadline this week at the State Capitol. It has been a fast and furious pace with many hearings reaching into the late hours of the evening. After this Friday (March 22), all policy committees will be finished meeting for the year and the focus will turn to the Tax and Finance committees.

Besides the state budget, the main issue of concern for the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association has been a proposal by the Department of Natural Resources to recover costs incurred by the agency in capturing escaped animals. The original proposal included escapes of nonnative and domestic animals, included a civil penalty with no cap on the Agency's costs and no appeal process of the civil penalty. The House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee has removed all of the language from the Game and Fish bill, where it was originally proposed. The Senate Environment Committee has removed the original language and asked the DNR, after consultation with the Farmed Cervidae Advisory Committee and other interested stakeholders, to report back to the Legislature on if any changes are necessary in the recovery of escaped animals. This issue will be decided in a conference committee, along with many other environment and natural resource issues, where there are differences in language between the House and Senate. It is anticipated that these issues will not be decided until late April or early May. I will keep you posted as the legislation progresses. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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

Advertiser Index

Farm Bureau Financial Services

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Pronschinske Elk Farm

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Mohlman Elk Farm

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Thank you for your support!

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.

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

July 27, 2013 – MnEBA Summer Picnic, Elk Forever Genetics, Roger & Saichon Nietfeld, Melrose, MN

August 1 – 3, 2013 – NAEBA Annual Convention & International Antler Competition, Best Western Plus Ramkota, Sioux Falls, SD

August 22 – September 2, 2013 – MN State Fair, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

January 10 – 11, 2014 – MnEBA Annual Conference, Best Western Plus Kelly Inn/Rivers Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud, MN

Classified Ads

For Sale: Elk Rite 2000 complete handling facility including five cubicles with sliding and swinging gates. Comes with manual squeeze and birthing extension. Many extras! \$12,000 for everything. Contact Stanley Bajdan, Wildrose, Wisconsin at (715) 281-8801 cell or (920) 622-5288 home.

For Sale: Distributor for Franklin Waterers, energy efficient PC & AP Models, also standard waterers. Rely on Franklin Waterers. Bale feeders available. Also 8 to 10 animals available for farm stock. Contact Jay at (507) 458-7970.

Wanted: Wolf Creek Elk Ranch is buying hard antler at \$8 per pound delivered to the ranch in Sturgeon Lake or to Wapiti Labs Inc. in Ham Lake. Must also include copy of CWD certification from the MN Board of Animal Health. Call Klint at (877) 497-9653.

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

Wanted: Looking for a future herdsire, breeding stock and a used semen tank. You can e-mail me at bruce@kruegerlumber.com. Or at (920) 772-4487 in the evening.

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