



## Special Interest Articles:

- CWD Program Standards Update
- Board Meeting Minutes
- Velvet Contract Now Available for 2014
- American Cervid Alliance Updates
- Houston Couple Finds Niche Raising Elk
- MnEBA Officer Blog
- Vet Corner
- Update on CWD Vaccine by PREVENT
- Committee Reports

## President's Message by Mark Lucas

Good Morning All,

The topic of much conversation in the elk industry as of late is similar to that at the MnEBA conference back in January. It continues to center around the CWD Standards Document. I am sure you're all tired of hearing about it and getting your email box bombarded with updates, because I know I am. This is truly a turning point for our industry in my opinion. We have no choice but to unite and voice our concerns, defending our right to raise America's Greatest Animal or live with the consequences of inaction. Let's hope that the work which has been invested to change this Standards document pays off. With the closing of the USDA comment period on the Standards ending on March 31<sup>st</sup>, we will soon know if USDA officials take a stand with the cervid industry, science and agriculture in general, or take a course in a different direction.

At MnEBA's annual conference, everyone was frustrated by the lack of attention given to our industry concerns. As a board, we decided it was time to "head up the food chain" and see if we could not get our voice heard at a higher level. One of our MnEBA members informed us that he would be at a meeting with U.S. Congressman Collin Peterson. He kindly offered to represent MnEBA if so desired. That was too good of an opportunity to pass up. A letter was penned and hand delivered to Congressman Collin Peterson respectfully voicing our situation. Representative Peterson sits in a rather powerful position on the Ag committee that holds the purse strings for much of the USDA budget. A copy of this letter was also sent to USDA Deputy Dr. John R. Clifford as a courtesy since his people were involved in the topic at hand. We have since gotten a letter back from Dr. Clifford thanking us for the letter, for voicing our concerns and welcoming us to discuss things further.

Also as a result of the annual conference, a group led by Dr. Anderson which included Brenda Hartkopf, Dr. Glen Zebarth and Jim Byrne took it upon themselves to go through the CWD Standards document word by word, line by line, highlighting the similarities to the CWD rule, changing the wording that was altered from the rule or contradicted and striking the parts that went over and above the Rule. Together they came up with a document that makes sense or is at least livable. Some of the key points have been recently circulated to all of you as a reference for your own personal comments to submit to the USDA. The full document has also been circulated nationwide as a document to consider to replace the CWD Standards Version 23. Monday night March 17<sup>th</sup> Brenda presented the document to the ACA and explained the process to get to this point. I cannot express how much I appreciate and value the job they all did on this document. Next time you run into Dr. Anderson from the Board of Animal Health, Dr. Zebarth, Brenda or Jim, give them a pat on the back and thank them for their hard work.

By the time you read this, the CWD Standards comment period will be closed. I want to thank all members for taking the time to submit your own comments to the USDA. Stay tuned for the next chapter in this book.

Stay warm!  
Mark Lucas, President, MnEBA

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

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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.

**CWD Program Standards Update**

**A Big Thank You to All Who Sent in Comments**

The CWD Program Standards Comment period has now ended. Many thanks to all members who sent in comment. It is now in the hands of USDA/APHIS to see where the Program Standards go from here.

MnEBA members Dr. Glen Zearth, Jim Byrne and Brenda Hartkopf, with assistance from Dr. Paul Anderson from the MN Board of Animal Health, took on the task of making meaningful change to this document, going as far as to make changes too numerous to count, and citing them all in a 13 page comment backgrounder. Changes made were in accordance with the intent and full content of the Rule, going a different direction than the previous 23 standards versions.

MnEBA has gone on to share these documents with fellow associations through the American Cervid Alliance (ACA) where on Monday March 24<sup>th</sup>, representatives from 18 associations across the country voted unanimously to support them.

But efforts will not stop there. MnEBA is now working to gather support of State Veterinarians and USDA/APHIS. A meeting is being organized to discuss these revised Standards with Dr. John Clifford, Chief Veterinary Officer with USDA/APHIS. As support continues to build through state associations and state veterinarians, it is hoped that USDA/APHIS will listen.

Stay tuned as the saga continues!

***EDITOR'S NOTE:** These documents were sent to the membership via email on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. They can also be found on the MnEBA web site under "MnEBA Newsletter" in the Member's Only section. If you do not have access to email and would like your own copies, please contact the MnEBA Office to have them mailed to you.*

**Market Watch**

**2014 February Fling Semen Auction Sale Results**

Bull (2) straws each	Donor	Price/Straw	Buyer
Prospect	Barry Chernuka & Monte Matheson	\$300	Chad Lawler
X-Ray	Kim Kafka	\$225	Brian Wagner
Tapout	Russell Gwozdz	\$175	Chad Lawler
Silver Creek Bud	Gary Schnitzler	\$300	Eric Mohlman
Prophet	Andy Azcarraga	\$300	Mark Luedtke
Zeus	Eric Mohlman	\$375	Mark Luedtke
Levi	Ben Seutter	\$525	Brian Wagner
Billabong	Russell Gwozdz	\$200	Chad Lawler
Styx	Eric Mohlman / Josh Lundberg	\$350	Andy Azcarraga

## **MnEBA Formal Comment for CWD Program Standards Version 23**

The following cover letter was sent with MnEBA's official comment to USDA/APHIS. This letter accompanied the 13 page Backgrounder and revised industry version of the Program Standards.

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for allowing the period of comment for Version 23 of the CWD Program Standards. While Version 23 has made improvements from Version 1, we feel it has completely missed the mark in being a document which gives accurate direction in carrying forth the intent of the Rule (9 CFR 55 and 81).

In fact, Version 23 does not address the intent of the Rule but seems to have been an attempt to make the Rule much more stringent than it was ever meant to be. There are numerous areas of Version 23 which fail to include important provisions of the Rule, are in direct opposition to the Rule and/or creates requirements which go far beyond the minimum intent of the Rule.

We applaud the final version of the Rule in that the goal was now to make this a "Control" Program and not an "Eradication" Program. Writers had the luxury of many pages of intent which accompanied the Rule and explained the change of direction to a "Control" program. However, Version 1 failed to make the connection to a "Control" program and set the Program Standards document down the wrong path from the beginning. To make matters worse, once the Program Standards working group was assembled, they too went down the wrong path, trying to fix a document, which had an erroneous foundation. While improvements were made, Version 23 still fails on many accounts, to reflect the true nature of the Rule.

Industry has been frustrated with this entire process and is now offering a solution. Attached you will find a completely revised version of the Program Standards along with a Backgrounder document which outlines every change that is suggested. This version takes the approach which should have been taken from the beginning; it follows the Rule document, intent and all. It brings the Program Standards back to what they were intended to be, a set of minimum guidelines which further explain the Rule, not a document which supersedes the Rule and recreates an "eradication" program which goes way beyond the intent of the Rule.

While wildlife and special interest groups may feel the Program Standards do not meet their personal specifications, it's really the Rule they have a problem with. The Rule is a federal law. Program Standards are just an extension of the Rule, no more, no less.

We implore USDA/APHIS to rethink your approach to the direction the Program Standards have gone to date and look at them as the Rule is written and its published intent. While we have concerns too numerous to count, we have also offered a solution, one which is quickly gaining industry wide support. We stand ready to work together to come to a final version which captures the essence of the Rule in the way it was originally meant to be.

Sincerely,

Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

## Board Meeting Minutes

### Board Meeting Minutes February 8, 2014

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a board meeting at the home of Lance & Brenda Hartkopf on February 8, 2014. Mark Lucas, Jim Byrne, Brian Wagner, Wade Schimmelpfennig, Richard Zajac and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Lucas began the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Reviewed several secretary reports from previous phone conferences. Byrne moved to accept the minutes from March 30, Zajac seconded, motion carried. Byrne moved to accept the minutes from September 5, Zajac seconded, motion carried. Byrne moved to accept the minutes from October 8, Zajac seconded, motion carried. Byrne moved to accept the minutes from December 2, Zajac seconded, motion carried. Byrne moved to accept the minutes from January 2, Zajac seconded, motion carried.

Board reviewed the year-end treasurer's report and how it compared to the budget. Byrne moved to accept the treasurer's report, Wagner seconded, motion carried.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Hartkopf gave an update on final numbers from the MnEBA Annual Conference. Attendance numbers have been very steady the past three years, no matter the location. Lucas mentioned that Dr. Glen Zebarth is looking to scale back and asked to resign as chair of the Health committee. Zebarth suggested considering if a health committee was needed. Board discussed this and decided to leave the committee on the list for now and to seek a new chair.

Reviewed final numbers from the 2014 gun raffle calendar. A total of 584 calendars were sold making this the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest sales total ever. After a slow start, the final days of calendar sales were tremendous! Board will follow up with the membership suggestion to improve gun quality for next year's calendar. Wagner suggested updating the look of the calendar, but to avoid going over the budget. Zajac suggested offering more prizes such as binoculars or similar items instead of cash. Will consider offering some of each.

Lucas relayed the web site committee's recommendation that MnEBA accept the Vivid Image bid for updating the MnEBA web site. He explained the benefits of working with this company and also some of the concepts the committee is considering.

Board suggested working within budget, but not to limit creativity. Wagner moved to accept the committee's recommendation, Schimmelpfennig seconded, motion carried.

Lucas reported that a meeting scheduled to take place between the MN Deer Farmers Association, MN Board of Animal Health, MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and MnEBA to discuss the deer breeder's desire to lessen ear tagging, CWD testing and inventory requirements for Minnesota preserves will now be taking place on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at the DNR building. Lucas, Wagner, Schimmelpfennig, Hartkopf and lobbyist Tony Kwilas have committed to attending.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Election of officers was held. Zajac moved to keep the officers the same as in 2013. Schimmelpfennig seconded, motion carried. Mark Lucas remains President, Jim Byrne Vice President and Brian Wagner Secretary/Treasurer.

Board reviewed 2015 Annual Conference bids. Taking into consideration that NAEBA will be joining MnEBA for next year's conference, only locations in the Twin Cities, Rochester and Mankato areas were considered. Byrne moved to accept the bid from the Sheraton Minneapolis West located in Minnetonka. Schimmelpfennig seconded, motion carried. Hartkopf to follow up with contract.

Byrne reported on efforts by Dr. Anderson, Dr. Glen Zebarth, Brenda Hartkopf and himself to put documents together to make comment from MnEBA and also to gather information for the membership to make comment on the CWD Program Standards which are currently out for public comment. The goal is to have this information out to the membership both electronically and through regular mail by the end of February. In addition, Wagner made the motion to have Hartkopf write a letter, to also be signed by the board, to Minnesota's federal legislators expressing dissatisfaction with the whole CWD Program Standards process. Schimmelpfennig seconded, motion carried.

Hartkopf reported that no one has yet stepped forward to host the 2014 summer picnic.

Discussed meeting with Paul Hugunin of Minnesota Grown to go through a SWOT analysis of MnEBA and renew MnEBA's goals and objectives based off the new analysis. Board felt it was important to do this before the web site revisions begin. Hartkopf was asked to coordinate dates and get back to the board as soon as possible.

Hartkopf reported that MN Grown is offering a board building seminar to all MN Grown member associations. Each MN Grown board member can bring up to two directors to this session. When the date is finalized, Hartkopf will forward the date to the board to see who can attend.

Hartkopf reported that the MN Deer Farmers Association has personally invited the MnEBA board and membership to attend their annual conference which takes place at the Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Hartkopf to forward this

invitation to the membership once more information on details of this event are forthcoming.

Further discussion on the MnEBA gun raffle calendar ensued. It was recommended that if MnEBA receives more sponsorship requests for months in the calendar than are available, the option should be put forth for them to sponsor a gun or a prize instead.

Board put together figures for the 2014 MnEBA budget. Hartkopf to plug numbers into spreadsheet and forward out to board. Board to discuss again at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Schimmelpfennig/Zajac moved to adjourn at 1:55 pm, Byrne seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

## Inserts to this Newsletter Mailing

### 2015 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar Sponsorship

This will be the sixth 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 second most successful year ever as over 560 calendars were sold. Sales for the new 2015 calendars will be conducted beginning this coming July and will conclude on January 10, 2015 during the MnEBA Annual Conference at the Minneapolis Sheraton West in Minnetonka, MN.

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 nice 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 15<sup>th</sup>**.

### 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 2014. 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 2014 Membership Directory mailing. Deadline to apply is **May 15<sup>th</sup>**! 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 15<sup>th</sup>**. If you're not sure but would like more information about any particular committee, please contact the MnEBA Office.

**Disclaimer:** This information is being shared for informational purposes only. MnEBA does not endorse any particular buyer over another.

## Velvet Contract Available for 2014

**Both velvet antler and hard antler bull contracts are available for the 2014 elk market.**

I will start with velvet for this season. My buyer would like to purchase 25,000 pounds for the 2014 season and to help reach that weight and give the producer a firm price, this offer has been given sooner than ever before. I want to stress the importance of what we are trying to accomplish; we need to know that the U.S. will meet this demand for 2014; that is the main reason for this early contract. Once the 25,000 pounds is reached, we are out of the market, meaning that after we have contracted the demand, my container will be full and no new contracts will be taken.

AS in past years, your price will NOT go below this offer. It is possible and has happened that you could see a price increase before final pick up on your velvet. This is a win-win for both parties, we know we have the volume we are wanting and you know what you are getting paid BEFORE the product is produced. You should also note that this year's contract price is much higher than last year's price!

If you want to contract your velvet, simply fill in your projected pounds, sign the contract and mail it back to me. A \$5 per pound deposit will be sent back on your projected pounds with a signed copy of the contract. I will make arrangements with you the middle of July to collect velvet and would like the entire collection wrapped up the first weekend in August.

Hard antler bulls seem to be up in price also from last year and I have a contract available for that too. Bulls 400 and down will have a much higher demand than over 400, and I see no problem selling them. I will contract bulls over 420 on an as needed basis; we can talk about this after you get an idea of what you will have. Please call for more information.

Thank You,

Scott Salonek  
15520 S. Diamond Lake Rd  
Dayton, MN 55327  
612-850-8684



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Velvet Capsules*



Bill & Karen Knutson  
Home of Spring Coulee Elk

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Holmen, WI 54636  
Phone (608) 526-4477  
Cell (608) 792-4477  
Fax (608) 526-2055  
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## Velvet Contract

Scott Salonek (buyer) has agreed with \_\_\_\_\_ (seller) to purchase sellers 2014 velvet antler, for the purchase price per pound of \$29.00 U.S. currency on A grade antler. Upon agreement of this contract by both parties signing the agreement, buyer will pay to seller a deposit of \$5.00 per pound on sellers estimated contract pounds of velvet. Upon signing and accepting deposit, seller must provide to buyer not less than 75% of the total pounds estimated or be subject to a penalty. Said penalty shall be \$5.00 per pound on shortage of velvet not provided. Seller can exceed estimated total velvet and not be subject to any such penalty.

Final payment of contract shall be at which time buyer has received seller's total velvet, before August 10, 2014.

Seller's phone \_\_\_\_\_

Seller's address \_\_\_\_\_

Seller's estimated contract pounds \_\_\_\_\_

Buyers deposit \_\_\_\_\_

Seller \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Buyer \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

### FINAL PAYMENT

Sellers actual pounds grade A \_\_\_\_\_ X per pound @ \$29.00 = total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Overgrown /Damage \_\_\_\_\_ X per pound @ \$15.00 = total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Less deposit \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Balance paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Seller sign off \_\_\_\_\_

Buyer sign off \_\_\_\_\_



## ACA Council Approves Alternative Program Standards for Public Comment

*Chronic Wasting Disease Public Comment Ends Monday, March 31st, 2014*

March 25, 2014 – AYR, NE- The American Cervid Alliance Leadership Council convened Monday night to give council members clarity on changes made to industry's comments before the end of the ninety day Chronic Wasting Disease Program Standards comment period on March 31st.

The ACA council leaders approved an alternative program standards document to be submitted on behalf of the American Cervid Alliance. The document was written by industry leaders with significant assistance from Dr. Paul Anderson, of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health. The motion to accept the document was adopted unanimously by the ACA Council.

Last week, the ACA reviewed two newly created documents to help member associations articulate comments concerning the Program Standards. The industry's amended edition of Version 23 removes most of the extra language that is not required by the Federal Rule. The ACA council reviewed the industry edition and offered additional suggestions. The council examined the final edition and then met again to vote to endorse the edited document on behalf of the council. During the meeting, two additional changes were made and approved. Clint Patty, the ACA's attorney, has endorsed the idea stating, "It is important for the industry to offer a solution for the record."

The ACA's comment will constitute the council-approved edition of the standards as well an outline explaining the changes and related reasoning. ACA Moderator Eric Mohlman advised the member deer and elk associations to encourage their association, directors, and all their members to each submit their own crafted comments before the deadline.

Laurie Seale, representing Whitetails of Wisconsin, also gave a brief update on the CWD live research that is currently being conducted at Kansas State University. This research is using a type of nasal swab and is showing excellent results in the laboratory. This test is easy to use and will be very low cost. They are also working on tonsil and rectal swab tests as well. The ACA is currently working with the Braake family and Kansas State University to obtain tissue samples for this research.

## ACA Reviews Border Closings, Negative Articles & Comment Period

*ACA Council Reviews Comment Period Procedure, Border Closings, Iowa Legal Case, & Committee Recommendations*

March 5, 2014 – AYR, NE- The American Cervid Alliance Leadership Council met earlier this week to organize efforts for the Federal Chronic Wasting Disease Program Standards comment period and to discuss other industry concerns.

The council had already distributed its outline of remaining concerns from the Version 23 standards to serve as a guide for member associations. Cervid producers and the general public will be able to post comments regarding concerns until the comment period ends March 31. After the comment period ends, USDA/APHIS will consider all comments and publish the final document which will become the new Program Standards for the cervid industry's Chronic Wasting Disease program. It was noted that all comments should include positive elements of this document as well as those that are detrimental to our industry.

The council made it very clear that the federal program will have an accompanying standards document. There has been some misconception that the federal rule could be left in place without program standards. Travis Lowe, representing the Kansas Cervid Breeders Association, told the council that since there is a Federal Rule there will be a set of standards to serve as the companion document and encouraged utilization of the comment period in a professional manner. "We have been trying for over a year to make the standards document better and this comment period will be our last opportunity for improvement. Once USDA/APHIS publishes the final version, the ACA can then meet to see what changes have been made and if they are acceptable." This has been the ACA's intention. Clint Patty, the ACA's attorney, told the council there are several legal options in the event the final version of the standards is still unacceptable. These options would have no impact on the federal rule itself.

Another thoroughly discussed topic was the ACA's response to the damaging article written by columnist Pat Durkin entitled "New chronic wasting disease rules enhance risks". The article featured several negative quotes from Dr. John Fischer of the University of Georgia. Cervid industry leaders believe several statements made by Dr. Fischer in this article, were biased and not based on science. Dr. Fischer is a member of the USDA/APHIS Chronic Wasting Disease Program Standards Working Group, as a wildlife representative and a member of the new USAHA Farmed Cervid Subcommittee. The ACA Media Review Committee, chaired by Charly Seale, was flooded with requests from deer and elk farmers encouraging a response. After council discussion, a motion was made by Tim Condict, councilman representing the Deer Breeders Corp, to have ACA Attorney, Clint Patty, draft and send a letter objecting to Dr. Fischer's remarks and request that any future statements be based on the best known science. Condict's motion also included sending a letter to the United States Animal Health Association's Executive Committee citing Dr. Fischer's public bias and asking them to reconsider his membership on the Farmed Cervid Subcommittee.

Clint Patty answered questions from the council regarding the commerce clause research and the letter sent to the Missouri Conservation Department Commissioners. Mr. Patty told the council the commissioners were now in receipt of the letter. Currently there is only talk and not an actual proposal to close the Missouri borders.

Warren Bluntzer, chairman of the ACA's Terminology Committee, presented several terms and ideas the council should consider and then discuss at a future meeting.

The council also received an update from Rhonda Brakke regarding the news of their recent legal victory regarding their suit against the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Angie Kerry, ACA Councilwoman for the New York Deer & Elk Farmers Association, provided an update on their border closure and said their association would welcome any financial support. The ACA Council also reviewed and approved the monthly financial statement.

## **Iowa Brakke Family Wins DNR Legal Case**

*Iowa Brakke Family Wins DNR Legal Case, Judge: DNR Interpretation, "Irrational, illogical and wholly unjustifiable."*

### **DNR Case Regarding the DNR Quarantine of Brakke's 330 acres until December 28, 2017**

March 3, 2014 – AYR, NE- On February 26, 2014, Iowa Administrative Law Judge Heather L. Palmer issued a Proposed Decision in the matter involving the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Emergency Order against the Brakkes and their property in Davis County. In the Proposed Decision, Judge Palmer held that DNR's interpretation of the relevant Iowa statute and rules was "irrational, illogical and wholly unjustifiable." Judge Palmer further held that the DNR did not have the jurisdiction to issue its Emergency Order under any of the theories asserted by the DNR, and thus, reversed DNR's Emergency Order.

On February 28, 2014, DNR filed a Notice of Appeal and Motion for Stay with the Natural Resource Commission. The Brakkes intend to resist DNR's appeal as well as the Motion for Stay. It is expected that the Natural Resource Commission will issue a briefing and oral argument/hearing schedule for this matter. Such schedule and the exact process of the appeal and Motion have not been set at this time.

Once the Natural Resource Commission reviews Judge Palmer's Proposed Decision, it will issue a Final Decision. If either side is unhappy with the Natural Resource Commission's Final Decision, it can be appealed to the Iowa District Court in Polk County.

### **IDALS Case Regarding Compensation**

The Brakkes appealed the Proposed Decision from Judge Palmer, which refused to award compensation to the Brakkes for their deer under Iowa law, to the Secretary of the Iowa Department of Agriculture (IDALS). The Brakkes' appeal brief is due to the Secretary on March 3, 2014, and IDALS must file its brief on or before March 31, 2014. The Brakkes may then file a Reply Brief on or before April 11, 2014. The Secretary of IDALS will then issue a Final Decision after the briefing is completed. Similar to the DNR matter, any party that is unhappy with the Secretary's Final Decision can appeal the case to the Iowa District Court in Polk County.

## **Missouri Sends Commerce Clause Opinion to Conservation Dept. Leaders**

### *Missouri Cervid Leaders Send ACA's Commerce Clause Opinion to Conservation Department Commissioners*

February 24, 2014 – AYR, NE- Leaders within the Missouri Whitetail Deer Breeders & Hunting Ranch Association have requested the ACA's legal council's written opinion be sent to its Conservation Department Commissioners. The legal opinion, addressed to the commissioners, cites legal opinions regarding the commerce clause and how it pertains to border closers. This correspondence from the ACA attorneys is in response to the relentless and unwavering suggestions of closing the Missouri borders to the importation of out of state cervids by the conservation department and other special interest groups.

The legal opinion, drafted by ACA attorney Clint Patty, states that in his opinion there is a strong argument to be made if a state decides to close its borders to interstate commerce. His review of the constitutionality of the proposed Missouri border closing to out of state cervids cites numerous Supreme Court cases where legal precedence has been established. It also states in most of these prior cases that the best known science available must be used as justification.

The letter also addresses recent events creating credibility and legal issues for the State of Missouri if it closes its borders. The Missouri Attorney General recently filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court in California seeking to strike down a California law that effectively closes California borders to Missouri egg producers. Missouri bases its arguments in California on the same Commerce Clause arguments raised by the cervid industry; closing borders without an adequate rational basis violates the U.S. Constitution.

"We are still hearing that the department wants to close our borders," said Kurt Humphrey, a director on the Missouri Whitetail Deer Breeders & Hunting Ranch Association board. "We have to let the department know where we stand."

The ACA's attorney provided this legal opinion to members of the council as more and more states discuss closing their borders to the importation of cervids. ACA Moderator Eric Mohlman said, "If this opinion can help the Missouri effort then they can do what they need to do with it. If Missouri needs further assistance, we can bring it to the ACA Council for deliberation."

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## **Welcome New Members**

Jason Foss, DVM, Cokato Veterinary Services, 14105 U.S. Hwy. 12 SW, Cokato, MN 55321, 320-286-5050, [cokatoveterinaryservices@gmail.com](mailto:cokatoveterinaryservices@gmail.com)

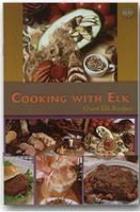
## MnEBA Promotional Materials

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

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

### MEAT PROMOTIONS

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



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

**3<sup>rd</sup> Edition "Cooking With Elk" Cookbook**

1-9 copies, \$2.00/each; 10-99 copies, \$1.50/each; 100+ copies, \$1.00/each (*pictured*)

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

### VELVET PROMOTIONS



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

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

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

### GENERAL INFORMATION



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

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

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

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

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## Houston couple finds niche raising elk

By Ryan Henry / Houston County News

**May 15, 2013** – Patty and Larry VanGundy never gave much thought to raising elk on their sprawling farm three miles north of Houston.

They were crop farmers — corn and soybeans, specifically — and that work provided them a comfortable living.

But in 1993, a friend suggested they consider giving elk breeding a try. It's relatively simple, they were told, and the configuration and expanse of their land was ideal for conditions in which elk thrive.

“At that time, it was just taking off,” Patty VanGundy said of the elk industry in 1993. “We had been raising cattle, and we had cows and calves and some feeder cattle.”

So they looked over some elk their friend's uncle had for sale and decided it was time to try something different and diversify their operation — not to mention add a second source of income. They invested several thousand dollars in six heifers and one bull that first year, and from there, VanGundy Elk Farm was off and running. “It just kind of fell into place,” she said.

Now almost two decades later, the VanGundy farm consists of four adjoining pastures of 40 acres that are home to elk cows and calves, last year's babies and the bull pen — which during



the rut they playfully call “the bachelor pen.” They've had as many as 70 animals at one time.

In addition, Patty is the proprietor of a gift shop, appropriately named the Antler Shed, located at the farm. Within it are nearly all the by-products of an elk, including frozen cuts of meat, processed locally from animals they butcher; elk antlers, taken from their animals and used for carving or crafting purposes; and velvet antler capsules, a dietary supplement some take to help alleviate arthritis. “We sell the antlers to people who stop by looking for antlers for carving or crafting,” Patty said.

She also stocks the store with metal art pieces, cabin décor, amethyst candle holders, sterling jewelry with various stones and, of course, products like pendants or baskets made of antlers.

Before purchasing the elk, the VanGundys learned that raising

them is fairly easy as compared to the beef cattle. It's figured a person can raise three elk for every one cow, in terms of the pasture needed. “You work with them a little bit, but they don't require a lot of work,” she said. “You just need good pasture (hay) because that's their main source of food intake.”

An elk's year is somewhat structured, too, as September through November is the breeding season, which produces calves sometime between May 15 and July 15. During the summer, the males grow their velvet antlers, and beginning in late August through the end of fall, bulls will be in hard antler and can be heard “bugling,” or whistling to challenge other bulls for the domination of the cows.

And they're healthy animals, she added, and are able to take care of themselves much of the time. Their heartiness makes the cold

winter months not much of an issue. "It's not real common that they get sick," she said.

One of the factors that attracted the VanGundys to the elk industry is the number of ways in which money can be made from the animal. Breeders know there are generally four avenues to profit: breeding stock, velvet antlers, shooting bulls and meat sales.

At first, the VanGundys' goal was to have 25 cows and sell breeding stock, meaning animals with desirable traits that increase their value. However, until just recently, the market hasn't called for breeding stock animals, so the VanGundys have focused on the other areas, like the antlers. Male elk grow new antlers each year, so they're considered renewable resources. "If you don't cut it off, it falls off," Patty said. "If it falls off, it's called a shed end."

These sheds are sold for crafting purposes, such as the intricately carved flasks one of their customers makes, or another who uses full sets as the arms and legs on chairs. They've even sold larger sheds that have ended up with outdoor retailers like Cabela's and Gander Mountain for displays.

But velvet antler — which is harvested in May or June, 60 to 70 days after the growth of new antlers begin — are also popular. On average, a two-year-old bull will grow an average of five to

eight pounds of velvet and mature bulls can produce anywhere from 20 to 40 pounds.

The velvet is a world market commodity that, in the last 15 years, has fetched between \$10 and \$100 a pound, according to the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association.

Once the velvet is harvested, the VanGundys either sell it or have it processed. The processed velvet is then ground up, put in gel caps and sold as a dietary supplement that helps relieve the symptoms of arthritis.

The VanGundys also sell shooting bulls, most recently last year when they sold eight to a ranch out west.

They also keep a variety of elk meat on hand at their shop, including roasts, burger, steaks and jerky. Patty touts the healthful aspects of elk meat, pointing out its low caloric, fat and cholesterol content, as well as its high protein value.

For instance, three ounces of elk has 146 calories, 1.9 grams of fat and 30.2 grams of protein. That's compared to beef's numbers of 211, 9.3 and 29.9 and pork's 212, 9.7 and 29.3. The taste, VanGundy said, is comparable to buffalo, though she said some have described it as "a tad sweeter."

In addition to the stock at the farm, the VanGundys also supply restaurants in Winona, Lanesboro and Sparta, Wis., with

elk meat. However, the demand for their meat has increased, and after they cut back the size of their herd, they're finding it more difficult to fill all their orders.

The VanGundys also give tours of their farm any time of year, though Patty said it's best to come during the summer. She's had a wide variety of ages, all the way from a group of pre-school students to a bus load of senior citizens. The tours generally take an hour.

On a late February afternoon, Patty VanGundy calls out to her skittish animals, hoping to coax them close enough for a good look. They're often spooked by the sight or smell of a new person, which causes them to run in the opposite direction. But elk are so inquisitive that if a person were to stand still enough, they're likely to come back for a closer look.

But in this case, they came back after hearing the sound of feed filling a plastic bucket. She points out the different characteristics of some of her animals. One bore the wounds of a recent battle it had with another bull, while another sported a smaller-than-average rack. Unfortunately, she said, that animal was in line to be butchered.

But despite the appearance of the elk, this being an especially rough-looking time of year for them, she sees the beauty in each animal: "I like the animals. They're majestic," Patty said. "We really like having them around."

## MnEBA Officer Blog by Jim Byrne, Vice President

Think about the benefits you have received from the Association since the annual meeting. The Board and office have been working on:

- Informational materials,
- Educational meetings,
- Combating state legislative initiatives,
- Dealing with federal standards procedures, and
- Maintaining the workings of the association.

These are just a few of the major benefits the producer who is a member of our association receives.

We believe that there are approximately a hundred farms that are not members of the association. We wonder why these producers would pass up the opportunity to belong to a group that works so hard for them and their industry. Do you know any of these producers?

If you answered "Yes" to knowing any of these producers, we would ask you to talk personally with them and ask why they are not members. We need to know why/how we are not meeting their needs or expectations as an association. What is keeping them from adding their strength to a group that is supporting the elk industry? Once you know the answer to any of these questions, please talk with the Board or office so that we can work to make the association even stronger. If you would rather have someone else make the contact with a non-member, pass their contact information on to the office so we can contact them.

Strength is in numbers and our goal is to include all elk producers in Minnesota in our membership and through your help we can accomplish this goal.

Respectfully,  
Jim

## FFA Foundation Blue Jacket Thank You

Fellow MnEBA member Greg Lubinski approached MnEBA last year wanting to get the association involved in Minnesota's FFA Foundation's "Blue Jackets – Brighter Futures" campaign. Greg donated funds to MnEBA to purchase two jackets in MnEBA's name, one for a boy and one for a girl. MnEBA matched that donation and sent in funds for 4 jackets last Fall.

MnEBA has received one last thank you letter from the last of the four recipients as follows.

Anyone wishing to add to this fund is more than welcome to participate! Contact the MnEBA Office for additional information.



*Dear MnEBA,*

*Thank you for selecting me for an FFA chapter jacket. I will put it to good use representing my chapter.*

*Thanks again,  
Ashley McCormick (city unknown)*

# MnEBA Kitchen

One last crock pot recipe as we make the slow transition from winter to spring!

## Crock Pot Elk Stroganoff

- 1½ lbs. elk steak, cubed
- 2 cans condensed Golden Mushroom Soup
- ½ cup chopped onion
- 1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 14 oz. can beef broth
- 8 oz. fresh mushrooms, quartered
- Salt & Pepper to taste
- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- ½ cup sour cream
- Egg noodles or rice



In the crock pot, combine the cubed elk steak, soup, onion, Worcestershire sauce, beef broth, mushrooms, salt and pepper. Cook on low for 5-6 hours. Stir in cream cheese and sour cream about half an hour before serving, stirring every ten minutes or so to break up the cream cheese.

Serve over cooked egg noodles or rice. (After egg noodles have cooked, can add them directly to the crock pot for a half hour to allow the flavors to mingle and thicken up a bit.)

If the sauce is too thin, add some cornstarch and water. Makes 6 generous servings.



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*Feeding elk is illegal in some areas. Check with local wildlife officials on legality of feeding elk in your specific area.*



## Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

### Preparation for Calving Season

**The number one thing every producer should do is to calve cows on as clean of pasture as possible such as new seeding alfalfa.** Next best alternative is a pasture where elk haven't been for awhile, or third best, where elk haven't calved for awhile. Better areas would also include well drained pasture with no mud holes. I realize this is easier said than done!

Other things which can be done this time of year to prepare for calving:

1. Make sure cows are worm-free, especially for crypto or coccidia. Check fecal samples to screen herd. If infected, worm appropriately.
2. Give higher nutrition to cows in another month, increase feed last three weeks before calving. Usually this is done naturally by the onset of grass.

If you don't have access to good grass, can consider an injection or the supplementation of additional Vitamins A, D & E, but Vitamin A would be most important.

As far as any vaccinations for disease prevention, what I would suggest is that if you've had any disease issues in calves in previous years such as E-coli or the viruses Rota or Corona, then try to vaccinate cows for those diseases. Only do this if you've had problems in the past, otherwise, don't do this.

To find out if you've had this problem in the past, you need to get the deceased calf to the diagnostic lab so you know. A lab diagnosis is the only way to know for sure, you can't really tell otherwise. A lab diagnosis will tell you what to do next year.

If you find you have a disease problem once calving has begun, do the following:

1. Get a diagnosis
2. Vaccinate calves when born for specific problems
3. Work with veterinarian on how to best deal with the problem
4. Very important to move cows who have not yet calved out of this pen to a different pen

Treating and vaccinating sick calves are tough things to succeed at. Anything which can be done to prevent these problems from occurring will be a much better plan.

## 2014 MnEBA Summer Picnic LOOKING FOR A HOST!

Looking for a host for the 2014 MnEBA Summer Picnic.  
Date yet to be determined, but typically takes place in mid-late July.

MnEBA will help plan the program and assist with details as needed.  
Please contact the MnEBA Office ASAP if interested!

## Update on CWD Vaccine Progress by PREVENT

### About PREVENT

The Pan-Provincial Vaccine Enterprise Inc. (PREVENT) is a non-profit corporation founded in 2008 by three of Canada's leading centres for vaccine expertise: the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) in Saskatoon, the Canadian Center for Vaccinology (CCfV) in Halifax, and the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) in Vancouver. Located in Saskatoon, PREVENT accelerates the commercialization of Canadian vaccine technologies by managing critical mid-stage development. Vaccines being developed by PREVENT address Canadian human and animal health needs and have associated intellectual property, for which PREVENT has secured a license. PREVENT is currently developing vaccines against Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), Group A Streptococcus (GAS), Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), and Seasonal Influenza. PREVENT was initially funded through the Government of Canada's NCE-CECR program (Networks of Centres of Excellence-Centres of Excellence for Commercialization and Research).

### Update on the development of PREVENT's CWD vaccine

PREVENT has been engaged in two main types of activities over the past year: Manufacturing and Animal Experiments.

#### Manufacturing Update (PREVENT must be able to produce the CWD vaccine):

- Development of the preliminary manufacturing process is now complete
- The preliminary manufacturing process (the "Outline of Production") has been approved by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in Canada
- PREVENT has manufactured a few thousand doses of the vaccine for use in current experiments
- Once the product is approved, PREVENT may need more resources to manufacture for the entire North American market (millions of doses)

#### Animal Experiments Update (PREVENT must demonstrate that the CWD vaccine works and is safe):

- Wyoming
  - Elk outdoor natural exposure trial at CWD-contaminated land test site in Wyoming
    - Experiment began in Spring 2013
    - No clinical signs of CWD infection in non-vaccinated control elk yet (none expected yet)
    - This experiment will have to run AT LEAST another year or two (CWD is a disease that moves very slowly, so it takes a long time to see if the vaccine is working)
- Saskatoon
  - Elk indoor challenge trial in InterVac Containment Level 3 (CL3) facility in Saskatoon
    - PREVENT worked with the CFIA in Canada to develop an approved protocol for this study
    - Elk have been immunized with the CWD vaccine
    - Elk will be deliberately infected with CWD in April (to see if the vaccine works)
    - This experiment will run for at least one year after that
    - If the early results at one year look promising, PREVENT may extend the trial for another year
    - Likely will be at least two years before the experiment is complete (again, CWD is a disease that moves very slowly, so it takes a long time to see if the vaccine is working)
  - Sheep safety trial at VIDO facility in Saskatoon
    - The vaccine has been used annually in the same group of sheep for over 3.5 years now with not a single safety issue observed

If you have any questions about PREVENT's CWD vaccine, please do not hesitate to contact John Mapletoft, Business Development Manager/Project Manager ([john.mapletoft@usask.ca](mailto:john.mapletoft@usask.ca); 306-966-1541) or Peter Yim, Director of Outreach and Partnerships ([peter.yim@usask.ca](mailto:peter.yim@usask.ca); 306-966-1533) at PREVENT.

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**FOR MORE INFO**

Brenda Hartkopf  
NAEBA Office  
(320) 543-3665  
or  
Laurie Seale  
Fundraising Coordinator  
(830) 928-3143



# 2014 NAEBA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*24th Annual Conference &  
International Antler Competition*  
*Network with antler, meat and shooter bull buyers,  
elk product vendors, industry leaders & more!*

**Tentative Schedule****Thursday, July 31st**

Antler Check-In & Judging  
Exhibitor Set-Up  
Antler Schools

**Friday, August 1st**

Opening Ceremonies & General Meeting  
Regional Meetings  
Expanded Seminar Schedule  
Entertainment  
Fun Auction

**Saturday, August 2nd**

More Seminars  
Fun Contests  
Antler Competition Viewing & Awards  
Animal & Semen Auction

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

## Committee Reports

### MN Deer Classic Thank You

This was the second year of the Minnesota Deer Classic being held at the National Sports Center in Blaine, MN. It was another interesting year as the Minnesota Deer Farmer's Association brought in Keith Warren of the television series, "The High Road with Keith Warren" and "Deer & Wildlife Stories". Not only did Keith represent the farmed cervid industry at the event, he also gave three educational seminars on 1) Deer Farming, 2) CWD, and 3) Harvest Preserves.

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

### Updating the MnEBA Web Site

Work is progressing slowly but surely on the revamping of the MnEBA web site. The web designer has been chosen and the funding contract has now been secured with Minnesota Grown. Several committee members are now on vacation, but upon their return, the committee will be meeting with the web designers in person to brainstorm the new look and content for the site. Once that happens, the project should progress at a much quicker pace! Look for completion of this project mid to late summer!

### MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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

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## Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

9086 Keats Avenue SW  
Howard Lake, MN 55349

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320-543-2686

FAX:  
320-543-2983

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

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

## Calendar of Events

**July 31 – August 2, 2014** – NAEBA Annual Conference & International Antler Competition, Harrah's, North Kansas City, MO

**August 21 – September 1, 2014** – MN State Fair, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

**January 9, 2015** – NAEBA January Jamboree, Sheraton Minneapolis West, Minnetonka, MN

**January 9-10, 2015** – MnEBA Annual Conference, Sheraton Minneapolis West, Minnetonka, MN

## Classified Ads

**Wanted:** Grande Natural needs Elk or Whitetails for meat delivered to Crescent Meats, Cadott, WI. We will meet or beat the competition on the rail price. Looking for fleshy critters 3 years and older on cows, 3 years and younger on bulls. Call 719-657-0942 or email [Rich@elkusa.com](mailto:Rich@elkusa.com).

**Wanted:** Grande Natural buys Elk Hard Antler for \$10.00 per lb on browns, \$7 for good hard whites, and we will pay UPS shipping if you can cut them up and pack them. Call Rich at (719) 580-0661, or email [Rich@elkusa.com](mailto:Rich@elkusa.com).

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

**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](mailto:bruce@kruegerlumber.com). Or at (920) 772-4487 in the evening.

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

## MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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