



Special Interest Articles:

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President's Message by Mark Lucas



Good Day All,

I recently found myself headed to Las Vegas for a business meeting. While that may sound like fun to many, I am not fond of flying and I am not much of a gambler. I always figure that I work way too hard for my money to throw it away at games of chance. I do like to people watch however, and Las Vegas has all kinds, shapes, colors and preferences. The casinos in Vegas are a great place for people watching.

One evening I was walking through a casino and as I strolled past some of the one armed bandits, something caught my eye. One of the slot machines had ELK on it! It was one of those artists' versions of what an elk looks like, but no mistake it was an elk. WOW, I had never seen an elk on a slot machine before, it had to be some kind of sign. Surely the stars were in alignment and some force had brought me here to the one slot machine in Vegas that had elk on it. If I was looking at the payout correctly, with all the elk lined up, it paid out \$10,000! I had to give it a try. I pried open my wallet and got out a \$10 bill. (See a snap shot of the slot machine to the right).



I put in the \$10 bill, gave it a spin, and to my amazement..... nothing. Not even an elk on the screen! How could that be? The machine owed me as an elk producer. What about destiny? I walked away with that cruddy feeling that I had gotten sucked in because of my attraction to anything "elky". Sure, it was only \$10, but I should have known better. I figured I had better share my experience with all you elk minded people. Hopefully it will keep you from falling prey to the same elk slot machine next time you're down in Las Vegas.

On a different note, Easter is just around the corner which means calving and velvet season can't be too far away. Velvet prices sound like they should be respectable again this year. That makes the decision a bit easier when planning which bulls to grow out and what to cut. I love to see the hard antler on their heads, but I like crisp \$100 bills better.

Our summer picnic is the next MnEBA event. Don and Joyce Kaplan have agreed to be our hosts this year. So get the date on your calendar as summer seems to fill up fast. It is Saturday July 25th. The summer picnic is always a great time to catch up with friends and snoop at other people's facilities and handling systems. I hope to see you all there.

Have a safe calving season!

Mark Lucas

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

What Will the Price of Velvet be in 2015?

For the last 15 years, 2014 would top the list for best price on quality velvet. The big question is, what prices will we see in 2015? The world market supply looks to be low so early indications would lead us to believe this year will be as good and maybe up slightly from last year.

A couple things to keep in mind when hearing prices floating around are the exchange rate, what is the difference in our dollar at the time? And what is the quality of velvet being quoted?

Last year with a \$38 base, many producers saw \$45 for early cut antler and some may have even seen a high of \$51 for extremely early cut antler or quality spike antler.

The U.S may still have some of the best quality antler next to New Zealand. So with that being said, keep cutting quality velvet and we are looking for another great year.

As always, if you have any questions about cutting antler or when to cut, give one of us a call anytime. We thank you for your business and look forward to seeing you all again this year.

Scott Groen
320-979-0911

Brian Wagner
612-366-5078

Mark Your Calendars!

2015 MnEBA Summer Picnic Saturday, July 25, 2015

Okaman Cervidae – Don & Joyce Kaplan
43978 Reeds Lake Road, Janesville, MN 56048

POT LUCK LUNCH BEGINS AT NOON

A Noon Potluck meal is being planned followed by a day of great visiting and the MnEBA summer membership meeting. Bring a dish to pass!

FURTHER DETAILS INCLUDING DIRECTIONS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE JUNE NEWSLETTER.

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting Minutes – January 31, 2015

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a board meeting on January 31, 2015 at the home of Lance & Brenda Hartkopf. Mark Lucas, Jim Byrne, Brian Wagner, Wade Schimmelpfennig, Richard Zajac, Greg Lubinski and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Lucas began the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Lucas asked for corrections to the December 17th board meeting minutes as presented. Byrne moved to approve, Schimmelpfennig seconded, motion carried. The 2014 year end treasurer's report was then reviewed. Byrne moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented, Zajac seconded, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Those that attended the Minnesota farmed cervid legislative day at the State Capitol gave a brief update. The group was able to get calendars to all 201 legislators and had discussions with several key legislators. Divided out the task of writing thank you notes to legislators with whom we personally had a meeting and also to send Lynne Osterman an update on what was discussed during each meeting. Decision was made to hand out the leftover calendars at the upcoming Bird, Buck, Bait and Boat Expo.

Hartkopf reported the 2015 MnEBA Annual Conference had attendance of over 100 people, far above the usual attendance total. A spreadsheet showing convention income and expense compared to last year was distributed. Board reported positive comments by attendees.

Hartkopf reported that money was turned in for 699 calendars for the 2015 MnEBA Gun Calendar Raffle. This is the second highest sales on record. A total of 33 members sold calendars. High seller was Wade Schimmelpfennig who sold 113 calendars.

Hartkopf handed out draft copies of the cover artwork for the updated Raise the Legend book. Board approved the design. She's still working with the designer to complete updates for the inside of the booklet and will forward that to the board when available.

Hartkopf reported on progress of NAEBA and ACA efforts to organize a group request for a full Farmed Cervidae committee at USAHA. MnEBA is waiting for direction from the national organizations on how to best offer our support of this request.

Discussed scheduling booth workers for the upcoming Bird, Buck, Bait and Boat Expo on February 27-March 1. Hartkopf to seek additional volunteers to help fill in the remaining time slots.

Lucas brought forth discussion items from the State Fair committee for board consideration:

1. Selling of antler capsules at the booth – board discussion was not in favor of doing this primarily because there are so many different MnEBA members selling capsules, it would be very difficult to select just one farm's brand to sell which is what needs to be done to meet state fair requirements
2. Prices on antler dog chews – board felt MnEBA was competitive in price with retail store prices
3. Jerky – request to carry whole muscle or flat stick product instead of pieces, board directed Hartkopf to pursue the flat stick
4. Definition of "kippered" – board agreed to have a small sign on the table explaining what the word "kippered" means
5. Product signs – board approved state fair committee to create new signs as needed within the \$300 booth improvement budget
6. MN Grown bags – board has already approved ordering MN Grown bags to be used at the state fair and for member sales
7. Business cards with MnEBA's web site information – board approved ordering several thousand cards so an adequate supply is available at the fair

NEW BUSINESS

Election of officers was held. Byrne moved to keep the slate of officers the same for 2015 as the previous year. Wagner seconded, motion carried. 2015 officers are Mark Lucas, President, Jim Byrne, Vice President and Brian Wagner, Secretary/Treasurer.

Discussed ideas to enhance the 2016 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. Want to continue to offer the AR, handguns and Henry firearms. Decision was made to offer a new second incentive to sell 2016 calendars: For each group of ten calendars sold by any one person, the seller's name goes into a drawing for an additional gun, to be picked up at The General Store. Must have stubs and money for all ten tickets turned in by December 31, 2015 to be eligible to be included in the drawing. Sellers can be entered multiple times if they meet the requirements set above. The current free membership incentive for 30 calendars sold with stubs and money turned in by December 31st will also continue. In addition, board

made the decision to offer two additional \$100 Bonus Cash days to the calendar for a total of six, thereby creating more chances to win.

Board discussed potential locations for the 2016 MnEBA Annual Conference. Byrne moved to go to the Sheraton Minneapolis West once again if pricing would be the same as in 2015. Lubinski seconded, motion carried. Hartkopf to follow up.

Discussed possible locations for the 2015 MnEBA Summer Picnic. Will put out a request in the upcoming newsletter. Board to also follow up with a couple potential farms.

Discussed details of having a MnEBA booth at the upcoming State FFA Convention Ag Career Fair in April. Board approved purchasing booth space for this event and will budget accordingly. Byrne and Lubinski volunteered to work the booth for this event.

Discussed MnEBA sponsorship of a MnEBA representative(s) to attend future USAHA annual meetings on a regular, ongoing yearly basis. Board to include \$1,500 in the budget for this line item. Details of

specific areas of reimbursement to be decided at a future meeting.

Discussed an Outdoor Adventure Foundation request for MnEBA to donate a bull elk to their organization for a veteran hunt. Was decided that MnEBA could not afford to sponsor another elk bull in addition to the hunt we already conduct with Midwest Outdoors Unlimited.

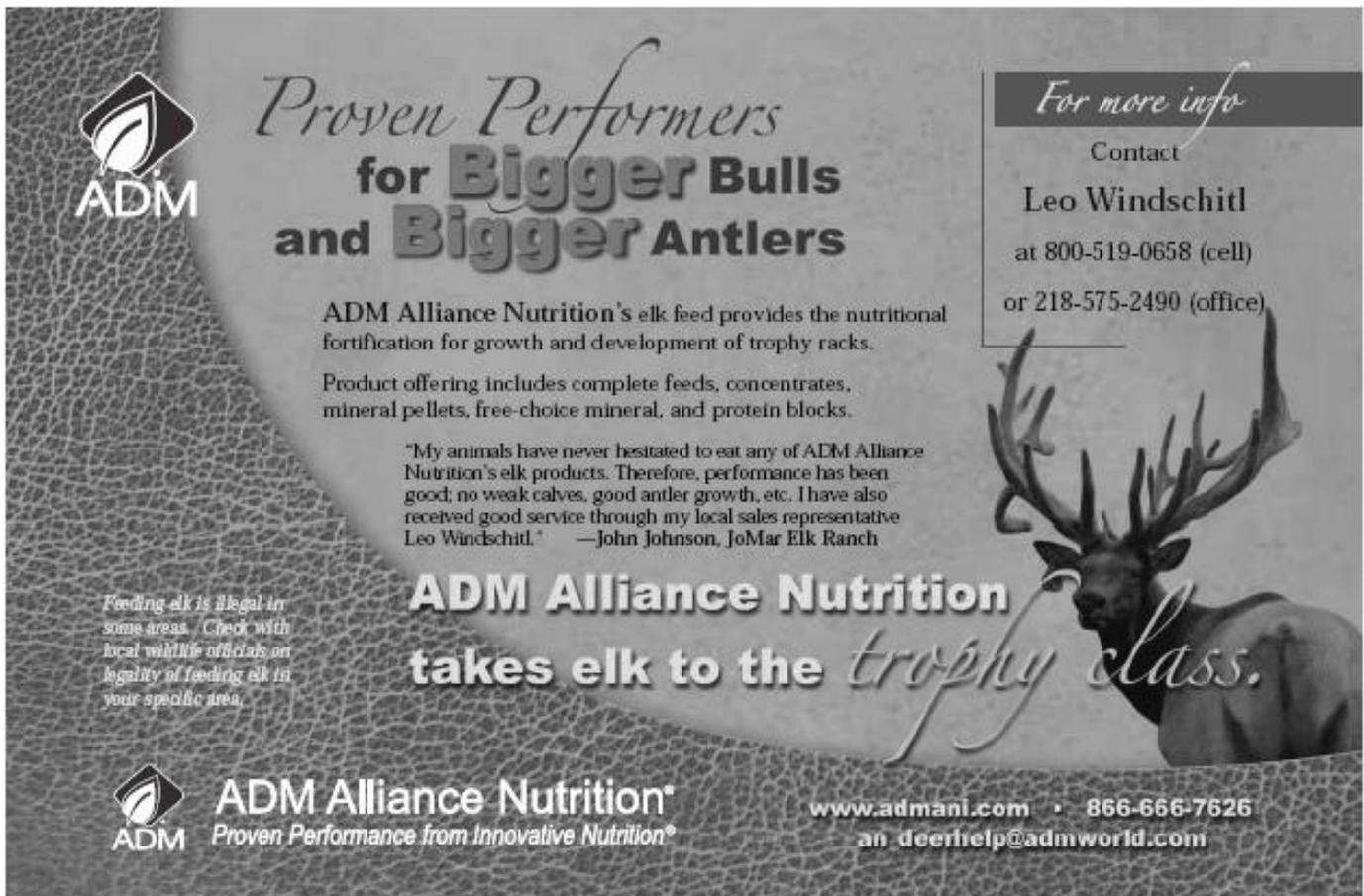
Hartkopf asked the board to consider a new educational handout to replace the current MnEBA informational brochure inventory which is almost depleted. Board approved moving forward with the new format for a new general information piece. Hartkopf to follow up.

Greg Lubinski offered to donate an elk to be processed for State Fair meat sales. Hartkopf to follow up with Crescent Meats to work out details of processing.

Board set the 2015 budget.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary



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MnEBA Members Enjoy a Special Vacation Destination

MnEBA members Don & Joyce Kaplan have generously donated a 7-day stay at their casa in Zihuatanejo, Mexico to MnEBA to be auctioned off during the annual conference fundraiser each of the past 4 years. Here's a look at what three of the lucky bidders have to say about their experiences.

2012 – Perry & Sandy Olson, Minnesota Elk Company

Beaches, Sun, Fishing, Relaxation, Great View, Culture; these are all words that only begin to describe the great opportunity afforded to MnEBA members from fellow members Don & Joyce Kaplan. Their property in Zihuatanejo, affectionately known as Zihua, will provide all who travel there with a warm, relaxing and culturally enlightening experience. The property allows for a fantastic view of the bay, the Pacific Ocean and the surrounding hillsides. There is an excellent veranda to look, nap or socialize from. The evenings are always gorgeous with comfortable temps and beautiful sunsets. There is great fishing to be had for mahi mahi, sailfish and blue marlin. \$500 will get you and a group of 4-6 a great boat, guides and full day of fantastic fishing. Sunset cruises provide a romantic evening meal with your friends or significant other for a very reasonable price. Long walks on the beach are only a few steps away and with the protection of Zihua Bay, surf is always pleasurable but seldom dangerous. Sandy and I took great interest in the local culture and we met some local people and were able to visit local homes/ranches with goats, chickens, hogs, bananas and coconuts and experienced a very different ag experience than we have in MN! While caution is always prudent, we both felt perfectly safe walking the boardwalk and downtown sidewalks late in the evening following dinner or early in the morning going to meet a charter boat.



Perry & Sandy – Nice Catch!

The food in Zihua is exceptional with everything from Ranchos Huervos for breakfast to all types of seafood to steaks and even fire-baked pizza. You can even visit the beach in the morning to buy a fresh mahi-mahi from a local fisherman and cook your own amazing ocean front dinner in the villas awesome outdoor kitchen. The local market is an experience that all visitors must have to see how folks in Zihua buy their food and goods. Everything from T-shirts and souvenirs to jewelry and artwork are available from street and beach vendors, and with the current exchange rates, items are very, very reasonable. Negotiating with these vendors is a fun experience all by itself! Sandy & I know very little Spanish between us, yet the language barrier did not keep us from communicating and getting to know the people and the area. We have since returned to Zihua and we intend to visit again in the next year. This trip is an awesome trip and the value to MnEBA members is unbeatable!

2013 – Greg & Roxy Lubinski, Lubinski Elk Acres

We had a great time at Don & Joyce's casa! A great place to visit to get away from the cold winter! The fishing is always a good time, relaxing on the beach, searching for sea shells, shopping and enjoying all the good restaurants that Zihuatanejo has to offer. We appreciate the auction/donation of this beautiful paradise from these great hosts! We highly recommend!



Greg & Don go deep sea fishing.

2014 – Lance & Brenda Hartkopf, Splendor Ridge Elk Farm

We have never gone on a vacation so we were more than excited to visit Zihuatanejo. It was an incredible experience!

Don & Joyce made great recommendations for things to do and always knew the right person to contact to make things happen. Those of you who know Don might remember one of his most used sayings which we heard several times, "I've got something cooking".

We soaked up the sun from morning until night, taking long walks, traveling to different beaches and going swimming, shopping, fishing, snorkeling and just relaxing under the canopy with a cold beer or margarita and a delicious meal. One of our favorite excursions was the sunset cruise we took to Ixtapa; the sunset over the ocean was breathtaking!

Zihuatanejo is a quiet town on the Pacific coastline without the crowded, tourist-like environment. It was a wonderful time to wind down, relax and experience a whole different culture.



The view from the balcony of the casa.



The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association was one of 25 organizations and individuals who contributed to the national Public Relations Campaign organized by the American Cervid Alliance earlier this year. Since June, approximately 80 published editorials have directly responded to inaccurate articles. This campaign is unlike any in the history of the elk industry! Industry-friendly editorials will continue to be published in major news outlets through this campaign all across the country!

The following are updated examples of some of the work the American Cervid Alliance is doing through this very successful campaign:

American Cervid Alliance Enters Third Year

March 13, 2015

Travis Lowe & Todd Landt Elected Moderator, Secretary

AYR, NE- The American Cervid Alliance recently convened to examine cervid industry issues and legislative updates from around the nation. The council also elected two new officers for 2015. Travis Lowe was elected to serve as the alliance's moderator with Todd Landt elected to serve as the secretary/treasurer. Eric Mohlman decided not to seek another term as moderator. The Counsel thanks him for his service as the alliance's moderator since its inception.

In January, the American Cervid Alliance grew to 39 deer and elk member organizations. This illustrates tremendous growing support for the alliance. The ACA was originally created with 24 associations meeting via conference call to build a team network of communication and decision making. Since then, the alliance has grown to incorporate over 90% of deer and elk associations with an active charter.

2014 proved to be a very successful year for the alliance with the hiring of a public relations firm to help offset negative media. Since July 2014, over eighty editorials have been written by cervid industry leaders and published in major media outlets. Charly Seale, who serves as the alliance's media relations chairman, said this has had an impact. "We have gone from seeing five negative editorials a day to just a couple per week," said Seale. The editorials use the best known science to refute the inaccurate claims written by opponents critical of the cervid industry. Seale continued, "Most of us can

write a great letter but if we can't get it published then we are just preaching to our membership. This campaign has been huge and we are grateful for all those participating associations and individuals who make it possible."

The ACA sees 2015 as a very successful year as more and more legislative battles are won just as they already have in states like West Virginia. All eyes are on Missouri as deer breeders work through the legislature and the courts to keep their industry alive. According to many in this industry, Missouri will be "ground zero" in the fight to strengthen the cervid industry across the nation.

The American Cervid Alliance appreciates Eric Mohlman's work as moderator in the previous two years. Eric Mohlman told the council he has been elected chairman of the Elk Research Council but still plans to be an active ACA councilman. "This has been a great pleasure," Mohlman told the council. "This alliance has accomplished a lot and we should all be proud to be involved." Travis Lowe, a lobbyist in Kansas, takes over as the alliance's moderator. Lowe also serves as executive director of the North American Elk Breeders Association and the Elk Research Council. Todd Landt, past-president of the Iowa Whitetail Deer Association, has been elected to handle the finances as the alliance's Secretary/Treasurer. Lowe and Landt see only good things for 2015 and a great future for the cervid industry.

Farming Industry Serious About CWD

Standard Speaker

Published: February 13, 2015

Editor,

Regarding the recent article titled, "Work being done to slow down chronic wasting disease" ...

Pennsylvania Game Commission veterinarian Dr. Justin Brown is correct to note that chronic wasting disease, or CWD, can spread, for instance, when hunters transport deer carcasses across state lines. It is in poor judgment to give undue attention to deer farms as a disease vector.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, strictly regulates all deer farmers under a CWD surveillance program, which requires all interstate and intrastate movement of farmed deer to be documented and traceable. Hunter-harvested deer carcasses being brought back into Pennsylvania from other states that already have CWD are neither documented nor tracked by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Who is more serious about following disease-mitigation practices?

All farms transporting deer across state lines must be under the USDA CWD certification program. The program requires that a facility test all eligible mortalities (deer over 12 months of age) for CWD for a minimum of five years with no positive results. The program's track record is solid.

However, wildlife agencies exempted themselves from certification program requirements, which they lobbied that farmers, however, should follow. Why? Because many more states are considering elk relocation. State conservation agencies are choosing to relocate elk without following the certification program's specific requirements, which are designed to reduce the risk of CWD spreading. If they do spread CWD, who will hold them accountable?

Charly Seale,
Chairman, Media Review Committee
American Cervid Alliance

<http://standardspeaker.com/opinion/farming-industry-serious-about-cwd-1.1832151>

Missouri's Ag Department Should Regulate Deer Farmers

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Opinion

January 20, 2015

Regarding "Missouri bill to switch oversight of deer farms returns" (online Jan. 6):

New legislative bills moving farmed deer under the oversight of the Department of Agriculture will be heard again this session following the controversy of last session's debates in Jefferson City. The bill is still needed because the Missouri Department of Conservation, which oversees deer farms, is pushing regulations that are designed to put them out of business.

In October, MDC adopted regulations that banned the importation of all deer from out of state into Missouri hunting preserves. At the surface, this may look like MDC wants to ensure deer are not imported from states with chronic wasting disease. But the agency did not even allow importation of farmed deer and elk from states that have not found CWD. Instead, MDC banned all farmed deer and elk. This includes, by MDC's definition, deer family species such as fallow deer, axis deer, Pere David deer, which have all been deemed

non-susceptible to CWD by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

This blanket ban of species that cannot even contract the disease shows one of two things: Either the MDC intends to simply choke out the hunting of deer in private preserves, or the MDC's wildlife officials are not informed enough. Whichever the case, the state Department of Agriculture is better equipped to regulate deer farmers.

Travis Lowe • Lawrence, Kan.
Executive Director, North American Elk Breeders Association

http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/mailbag/missouri-s-ag-department-should-regulate-deer-farmers/article_13abaa19-d2e0-5d91-a503-f7d33b947f41.html

In The News

Iowa's Brakke Family Scores on Court Ruling

American Cervid Alliance Update

February 28, 2015 - On February 13, 2015, Hon. Judge Dennis J. Stovall issued a Ruling on the Brakkes' Petition for Judicial Review in the matter captioned Brakke v. Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Iowa Natural Resource Commission. The Court's Ruling found the following:

1. Iowa DNR did not have the jurisdiction to issue the Emergency Order in June, 2013 on the Brakkes' property in Davis County, Iowa. The Court held that it was "irrational, illogical and wholly unjustifiable for the NRC to interpret the statute as

authorizing the DNR to quarantine" the Brakkes' land. The Court also held that the NRC "committed a mistake of law in interpreting the rule" to quarantine the Brakkes' property when it did not meet the definition of a preserve. The Court also stated that the NRC's interpretation of the statute would produce an "absurd result" and that political pressure appears to have influenced the DNR's decision to issue the Emergency Order.

2. Despite DNR acting without jurisdiction, there was not an unconstitutional taking. The Court held that preventing the Brakkes from removing the fence

was a "forced physical invasion" of the Brakkes' property. However, the Court held that because it was a temporary, rather than permanent, physical invasion, there was no per se taking. The Court also held that there was not a taking under an alternative takings theory after weighing the factors relevant to such analysis.

The Court's Ruling on Petition for Judicial Review reversed the decision of the Natural Resource Commission, thereby setting aside the Emergency Order entered in June, 2013. Either party has thirty (30) days from February 13 to file an appeal of the Ruling.

Iowa DNR Motion to Stay Denied; Brakke's Win!

American Cervid Alliance Update

March 17, 2015 - On February 13, 2015, the Iowa District Court of Polk County announced their Ruling on Petition for Judicial Review. The Ruling reversed the prior agency action, thereby invalidating an Emergency Order served to Tom & Rhonde Brakke

by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The emergency order required the Brakke's to maintain a perimeter fence on their property until December 28, 2017.

The Iowa DNR subsequently filed

a Motion to Stay, among others, all of which have now been denied by the court.

This marks a long-awaited victory for the Brakke family and the cervid industry.

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DNR Looks to Collect 200 More Samples for CWD Testing [IA]

By Audrey Posten, North Iowa Times Editor ~ Clayton County Register

February 24, 2015 - The Iowa DNR launched a special deer hunt in part of Allamakee County Feb. 21 in an effort to collect 200 additional samples from the Harpers Ferry area after three wild deer killed there during the recent hunting season tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD).

The three new "positives" brought the total number of confirmed

cases of CWD in wild deer in Iowa to four, after one harvested near Harpers Ferry also tested positive in 2013.

For the hunt, landowners and other individuals will be issued special scientific collection permits at no cost within a 31-section area in Taylor and Fairview Townships, west and northwest of Harpers Ferry.

One-third of that area includes the Yellow River State Forest, where the first deer, a male, tested positive. The three new deer—one male and two females—were also harvested within five miles of that spot.

Full text: <http://tinyurl.com/lw9tklz>

First Successful CWD Vaccine Tested in Deer

American Veterinary Medical Association ~ <https://www.avma.org/News/JAVMANews/Pages/150215p.aspx>

January 28, 2015 - The first successful vaccination of deer against chronic wasting disease is reported in the journal *Vaccine*, (*Vaccine* 2015;38:726–33), posted online in advance of print Dec. 21, 2014.

Researchers say the breakthrough may not only protect U.S. livestock against CWD but may also shed new light on human diseases suspected of being caused by prion infections, such as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, kuru, familial insomnia, and variably protease-sensitive prionopathy. Some studies also have associated prionlike infections with Alzheimer's disease.

"Now that we have found that preventing prion infection is possible in animals, it's likely feasible in humans as well," said senior study investigator and neurologist Thomas Wisniewski, MD, a professor at New York University's Langone Medical Center.

Should further vaccine experiments prove successful, Dr.

Wisniewski believes as little as 10 percent of a cervid herd would need to be inoculated to induce herd immunity.

Chronic wasting disease is found in wild and captive cervids of North America. Scientists fear CWD could possibly spread to livestock in the same regions, especially cattle.

For the study, five deer were given the vaccine; another six were given a placebo. All the deer were exposed to prion-infected brain tissue. They also were housed together, engaging in group activities similar to those in the wild. Scientists say this kept them in constant exposure to the infectious prions.

Deer receiving the vaccine were given eight boosters over 11 months until key immune antibodies were detectable in blood, saliva, and feces. The deer also were monitored daily for signs of illness, and investigators performed biopsies of the animals' tonsils and gut tissue every three months to search for signs of CWD

infection. Within two years, all the deer given the placebo had developed CWD. Four deer given the vaccine took substantially longer to develop infection, while the fifth animal was infection-free at the time of the report's publication.

Dr. Wisniewski and his team made the vaccine using *Salmonella* bacteria to mirror the most common mode of natural infection—ingestion of prion-contaminated food or feces. The team inserted a prionlike protein into the genome of an attenuated *Salmonella* bacterium, which produced anti-prion antibodies.

"Although our anti-prion vaccine experiments have so far been successful on mice and deer, we predict that the method and concept could become a widespread technique for not only preventing, but potentially treating, many prion diseases," said lead study investigator Fernando Goni, PhD, an associate professor at NYU Langone.

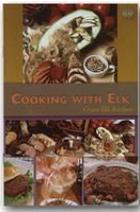
MnEBA Promotional Materials

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

MNELK / MINNESOTA GROWN BOX

For meat sales or any other Minnesota grown elk products which can be boxed up. Box size 17”x10”x8.25”.

Designed to hold 30 lbs.

\$1 each



Board Blog by Jim Byrne, MnEBA Vice President



At the annual meeting, Dr. Anderson asked the industry to push the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) for a Farmed Cervidae Committee. Currently the Subcommittee on Farmed Cervidae does not fully represent our industry and our concerns. Our needs are not being heard. Both NAEBA and ACA are at this time petitioning the USAHA to establish such a committee.

With the national organizations working on the committee situation, it then falls to the state associations to encourage individual members to become active in USAHA. I believe that our association has only one active member at this time, that being Dr. Glen Zearth. Glen has made an outstanding presence for MnEBA for many years. It's time we give Glen some support at these meetings. The Association needs individuals to become USAHA members, attend the yearly meetings, make our presence known by being voting members at the yearly meeting and to make a commitment to remain a member for more than a couple of years.

In our last board meeting, the board voted to allocate monies in the support of USAHA attendance by association members. The commitment an individual would make, would be to obtain an individual membership in USAHA, register and attend the yearly annual meeting. The board feels that although we cannot offset the total expenses for this participation, we can help out by defraying some of the expense.

We all like to think that the things we need to change will be done by someone else or by the powers to be. That doesn't just happen! You need to be involved in the processes that make change. Think about the latest rules that have been imposed and how you would like to change them or even override them. Here's your chance. Be a USAHA representative and help make the change.

Inserts to this Newsletter Mailing

2016 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar Sponsorship

This will be the seventh 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 699 calendars were sold. Interest from customers of the calendar seems to grow every year! Sales for the new 2016 calendars will be conducted beginning this coming July and will conclude at the MnEBA Annual Conference next January.

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 15th**.

MnEBA Scholarship

If you have a college age young adult in your family, make sure to check out the MnEBA Scholarship. This year, not one, but TWO scholarships will be given out, each worth \$350. The scholarships are being made available to sons/daughters or grandsons/granddaughters of any active/lifetime MnEBA member who is pursuing a post-secondary degree in the Fall of 2015. 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 2015 Membership Directory mailing. Deadline to apply is **May 15th**! There will be no extension of this deadline.

2015 MnEBA Membership Directory

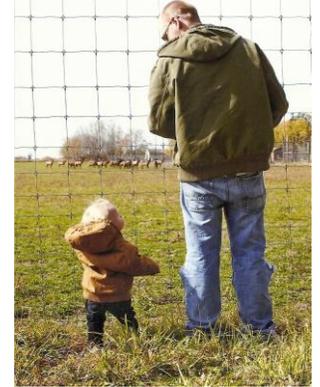
The new directory is now available. Please let the office know if you need additional copies. While every attempt is made to keep membership information updated, please let the office know if there should be any changes or updates made to your listing.

Member in the Spotlight

Lubinski Elk Acres Major Expansion

Lubinski Elk Acres was established in 1989, beginning as so many of us did with just 3 bred cows and a bull. They have just completed a big expansion and are now up to 200 head and growing. As Greg now has a fourth generation elk farmer in the family, it was time to grow.

Greg is a crop farmer as well as an elk farmer and felt it was the right time to expand his elk herd. “Crop prices were good for five years, but that has gone away. Livestock is the bread and butter of any operation.”



Greg's son Bryce and grandson, Bentley.

Why the big expansion?

Greg had many reasons why he felt it was time to grow the operation.

- Doubled herd size from 100 animals to over 200, needed more pastures and pens.
- Raising more bulls for velvet and trophy market, needed extra room.
- Tripled amount of fenced acres from 36 acres to 106 total fenced acres. While this may not sound like much, he was taking \$12,000/acre cropland and converting it to elk pasture which he felt would make more money than the current row crop price.
- Diversification – Greg feels that when crop prices are low, livestock tends to be up.
- With more of his land being converted to hay and pasture, he would prevent soil erosion and runoff.

Fencing Crew

The Lubinski's hired K-Fence, Hugh Kraemer and Outback Fence, Billy Krusmark to put up the new fencing. Greg was really happy with their work, “Both crews did a very fine job and they were quick too. In just four days, we had 10,000 feet of fence put up!”



Load of posts ready to be pounded into the ground.

Equipment Purchased

Greg also made an investment in other new equipment by purchasing a Trip Hopper and a UTV Cub Cadet. He explained how he uses it to feed his bulls and how it eliminates the need for feed bunks. “The Trip Hopper lays down a pile of feed every five feet and helps minimize the fighting over feed. By the next morning, all the feed is gone. What the elk don't eat leaves a little something for the pheasants and meadowlarks”. Greg also feels moving the animals from pen to pen is easier with the Cub Cadet. “When they see it coming, they follow it wherever it goes. When I need to move the bulls, they follow it right out of the pen!”



Long row of posts (above) ready for wire!

Outback Fence ready to stretch the wire (right).



MnEBA Kitchen

Here's a little twist on your everyday meatball! Baking them is so much easier than frying them first!

“Drunk” Elk Meatballs

2 lbs. ground elk	3 Tbsp. parsley
¼ cup Worcestershire sauce	1 onion, finely diced, divided
1¼ cup fresh bread crumbs	3 Tbsp. butter
1 tsp. salt	1/3 cup bourbon whiskey
1 tsp. pepper	2 cups favorite BBQ sauce



Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Place ground elk and a small amount of finely diced onions in mixing bowl, taking a moment to break it up a little bit. Add the Worcestershire sauce.

In a food processor, tear apart a couple slices of bread until you make enough for 1¼ cups of crumbs. Add to the bread crumbs the parsley, salt and pepper. Stir them together. Pour crumb mixture over meat. Gently mix this together with your hands until just combined.

Measure meat into balls about the size of a golf ball, briefly press and shape into a ball. Place on a large baking sheet. Repeat with all of the meat mixture. Bake for 20 minutes.

While the meatballs are baking, saute the remaining onions in butter until they are golden brown. Pour in the bourbon and let it simmer for a minute. Stir in the BBQ sauce and combine. Let it cook a minute and then turn off the heat.

When meatballs are done baking, place them in a small crockpot. Pour the sauce over the top and gently stir to coat. Cover and cook on low heat for 30 minutes before serving.

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**25th Annual North American Elk Breeder's Association
ANNUAL CONVENTION & INTERNATIONAL ANTLER COMPETITION**

July 30 - August 1, 2015 ~ Ho Chunk Casino, Hotel & Convention Center ~ Wisconsin Dells

Name _____ Spouse Name _____
 Child(s) Name (for badge) _____ E-Mail _____
 Ranch/Business Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ City/ State/Zip _____

Full Registration (Registration includes meals, seminars and trade show)

	Until July 1	After July 1	
Single	\$175	\$200	\$ _____
Couple	\$325	\$375	\$ _____
Day Pass	\$75	\$100	\$ _____
Child (7-18)	\$25	\$50	\$ _____
Child (6 & under)	Free	Free	

Exhibitor Booth Registration (Includes 10'x 10' area, one 8' skirted table and two chairs)

Sign up by **June 15th** to be included in the convention program.

- Monarch Exhibitor (Two booth spaces & choice of space location) First come - First serve. **\$250** \$ _____
 _____ Check here if electricity is needed
- Royal Exhibitor (One booth space) **\$100** \$ _____
 _____ Check here if electricity is needed

Contact Person _____ Ph# _____ E-mail _____
 Badge Name(s) _____
 Description of Products/Services _____

Convention Program Advertising - Advertise in the Convention Program to Increase Your Exposure!

Convention programs mailed to all members & distributed to all attendees. Convention program advertising deadline **June 15th**!

Front or Back Cover \$400	Inside Front or Back Cover \$350	Full Page \$300	
Half Page \$200	Quarter Page \$150	Business Card \$75	\$ _____

Contributions/Donations - This event is NAEBA's largest fundraiser! All donations & contributions generate revenue which allows NAEBA to operate throughout the coming year. Please consider making a monetary or item donation to benefit NAEBA. **As an Added Bonus - anyone donating \$1,000 Cash or more will receive a FREE Convention Pass!**
 (List your donation(s) below to have them included in pre-convention promotions.)

Amount/Description _____

Sponsorship - To call ATTENTION to your company in a BIG WAY ~ Sponsor Convention Events!

- Evening Banquet – \$3,000 (3 Convention passes **PLUS** Full Page Convention Program Ad **AND** Royal Exhibit Booth) \$ _____
 - Entertainment – \$1,500 (2 Convention passes **PLUS** choice of 1/2 Page Convention Program Ad **OR** Royal Exhibit Booth) \$ _____
 - Hospitality Suite Sponsor (call for details) \$ _____
 - Coffee Break – \$400 \$ _____
 - Trophy (1st, 2nd, 3rd) – \$75/each (trophy class(es) _____) \$ _____
- TOTAL DUE \$ _____**

Hotel Information - Ho Chunk Reservations (800) 746-2486. Ask for NAEBA's special conference rate of \$104 per night ~ Thursday/Friday/Saturday ~ Room block deadline – **Thursday, July 16, 2015**

Payment – US Funds

Circle one: Visa/Mastercard Discover American Express Check # _____
 Credit Card #: _____ Security Code (3#s on Back of Card) _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____
 Card Holder Signature: _____

Mail/Fax this Form with Payment To: **NAEBA, 9086 Keats Avenue SW, Howard Lake, MN 55349 Fax: (320) 543-2983**

Brenda Hartkopf, NAEBA Office Manager
 (320) 543-3665 Fax: (320)543-2983 info@naelk.org

Dawn Berhorst, NAEBA Event Coordinator
 (573) 690-1245 dawn@naelk.org

NAEBA's 25th Annual Convention & International Antler Competition

July 30–August 1, 2015
Ho Chunk, Wisconsin Dells

SEMINARS & SPEAKERS



Artificial Insemination 101
Dr. Martin Wenkoff,
Livestock Reproductive
Technologies

EHD—Signs & Prevention
Dr. Lee Cohnstaedt,
Research Entomologist, USDA
Ag Research Service

**Elk Research Council
Update - Travis Lowe,
ERC Exec. Director &
Eric Mohlman, ERC
Chairman**

**Velvet Cutting Class
& Hard Antler Scoring
School - Eric Mohlman,
Lance Hartkopf
& Tom Watts**

**Semen Collection &
Rules for Exporting Semen**
Dr. Martin Wenkoff, Livestock
Reproductive Technologies

Velvet Antler Herbalist
TBD

**NAEBA Animal Registration 101
Q&A**
TBD

**Understanding Calf
Management**
Ben Seutter & Eric Mohlman

Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

This is an article everyone should keep a copy of. It is good scientific evidence showing that CWD does not affect humans.

Small Loop in Human Prion Protein Prevents Chronic Wasting Disease *Finding provides new therapeutic target for prion diseases*

February 24, 2015 | Heather Buschman, PhD

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) — an infectious disease caused by prions — affects North American elk and deer, but has not been observed in humans. Using a mouse model that expresses an altered form of the normal human prion protein, researchers at University of California, San Diego School of Medicine have determined why the human proteins aren't corrupted when exposed to the elk prions. Their study, published Feb. 23 in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, identifies a small loop in the human prion protein that confers resistance to chronic wasting disease.

"Since the loop has been found to be a key segment in prion protein aggregation, this site could be targeted for the development of new therapeutics designed to block prion conversion," said Christina Sigurdson, DVM, PhD, associate professor at UC San Diego and UC Davis and senior author of the study.

Prions aren't microorganisms like bacteria or viruses; they're simply protein aggregates. Some prion diseases are caused by an inherited genetic mutation, while others are caused by exposure to infectious prions in food. Acquired prion diseases are triggered when a foreign, misfolded prion protein causes the body's own natural prion proteins to misfold and aggregate. In addition to chronic wasting disease, examples include scrapie and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (or "mad cow disease") in animals and variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans. In humans, prion diseases can cause a variety of rapidly progressive neurological symptoms, such as difficulty walking and speaking, and dementia. These diseases are 100 percent fatal and there is currently no effective treatment.

"We suspected that a loop in the human prion protein structure may block the elk prions from binding, as the sequences did not appear to be compatible," Sigurdson said.

To test this hypothesis, Sigurdson and her team developed a transgenic mouse that expresses a prion protein that's identical to the human version — except for a small loop, which they swapped out for the elk prion sequence. When these mice were exposed to the elk prions, they developed chronic wasting disease.

In contrast, control mice expressing the normal human prion sequence resisted infection when exposed to same materials — just as humans seem to, even those who consume venison meat.

"This finding suggests that the loop structure is crucial to prion conversion and that sequence compatibility with the host prion protein at this site is required for the transmission of certain prion diseases," Sigurdson said.

Co-authors of this study include Timothy D. Kurt, Cyrus Bett, Jun Liu, Tom Yang, UC San Diego; Lin Jiang, David Eisenberg, UC Los Angeles and Howard Hughes Medical Institute; Natalia Fernández-Borges, CIC bioGUNE, Spain; Terry R. Spraker, Colorado State University, Fort Collins; Joaquín Castilla, CIC bioGUNE and Basque Foundation for Science, Spain; and Qingzhong Kong, Case Western Reserve University.

This research was funded, in part, by the National Institutes of Health (grants NS055116, NS069566, U54AI0359 and AG029430), national grants from Spain and the Morris Animal Foundation.

<http://health.ucsd.edu/news/releases/Pages/2015-02-23-human-prion-protein-and-chronic-wasting-disease.aspx>

I am involved with the AASRP Proper Antler Velveting Seminar, a training day for veterinarians to gain hands-on experience and training in harvesting elk antler. If you think your veterinarian would be interested, please share this learning opportunity with them. Deadline for on-line sign up is May 1st.

AASRP Proper Antler Velveting Seminar

When: June, 20, 2015
8 a.m.

Where: Alexandria, MN

Presenters: Dr. Cliff Shipley and Dr. Glen Zebarth

Contact: Dr. Glen Zebarth
dcch@rea-alp.com or 320-815-1049

Registration: Online registration is available until May 1, 2015 at www.aasrp.org

Details: The American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners will hold a one day, "Train the Trainer" hands-on educational experience of recommended practices and standards for the welfare of cervids during removal of velvet and hard antler. This one-time event will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2015 at an elk farm near Alexandria, Minnesota. The instructors are experienced cervid veterinarians Dr. Glen Zebarth and Dr. Cliff Shipley assisted by Dr. Cindy Wolf.

There is a minimum of 10 attendees required, and a maximum number of 20. Registration closes May 1, or when the class is full. Registration is filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

All airfare, ground transportation and hotel charges are the responsibility of attendees.

Hotel Information: A block of ten rooms at each of two hotels are being held by AASRP until May 20. Attendees should ask for a room in the AASRP block when making their reservations. All hotel fees are the responsibility of the attendees.

Holiday Inn
5637 Hwy 29 South
Alexandria, MN 56308
320-763-6577

Americinn
1230 Timberlane Drive
Sauk Centre, MN 56378
320-352-2800

Ground Transportation to Alexandria and Sauk Centre: (reservations recommended)
Executive Express 1-888-522-9899 www.executiveexpress.biz

Attendees should arrive in Alexandria, Minnesota on Friday June 19, 2015. Transportation will be provided between the hotels and the farm for a class start at 8AM on Saturday.

The morning schedule includes information on chute design and handling facilities, tranquilization protocols for when chutes are not available, local anesthesia techniques, equipment and procedure. Lunch will be provided on the farm. Drs. Zebarth and Shipley will demonstrate recommended procedures for handling elk in velvet antler and hard antler as well as velveting of elk with both local and general anesthesia. Each attendee will have an opportunity to perform local anesthesia and surgical velvet removal on one elk.

A question and answer period will follow the velveting laboratory, and Dr. Zebarth will describe nutritional and management practices to help clients obtain optimum antler production. Transportation will be provided back to the hotels after the laboratory.

STYX



- 626" at only five-years-old with his actual spread of 61 5/8" - Unofficial
- Sons over 50" wide at just two and three-years-old. - Unofficial
- For a second year in a row Styx's sons averaged over 19 lb. at two
- No doubt Styx is passing on his width, tine length and mass.

10 cows from our herd have had 20+lb. two-year-olds

13 cows have had 19+lb. twos

17 cows have had 18+lb. twos

24 cows have had 17+lb. twos

28 cows have had 16+lb. twos

35 cows have had 15+lb. twos

CHERNOBULL

525" - 4 -Year -Old - Unofficial

- Tequila Son
- 525" with his actual spread of 64" at only 4 years of age - Unofficial
- Incredible tine length, style, mass and width!
- Swept down and out whale tails everyone is looking for.
- Semen drawn by Dr. Martin Wenkoff, tested and in the tank.



MIDAS

487" - 3 -Year -Old - Unofficial

- Styx Son
- Grown out in 2014 and scored 487" with his actual inside spread of 50 4/8" at only 3-years-of-age! - Unofficial
- Outside spread of 74" unofficial, Great boxy frame for a young bull.
- Semen drawn by Dr. Martin Wenkoff, tested and in the tank.



50 CAL.

441" - 2 -Year - Old - Unofficial

- Styx Son
- 441" at 2-years-old with his actual spread of 52 3/8" - Unofficial
- Estimated 30 lb of velvet at cutting stage this year.
- Velvet weight, width and high scoring genetics just like his sire!
- Semen drawn by Dr. Martin Wenkoff, tested and in the tank.

Mohlman Elk Farm takes great pride in the cow herd we have created over 21 years of selective breeding. It is through our commitment to keep improving our genetics that we have cows that are able to consistently produce world-class bulls in a predictable fashion.

Our continued support of NAEBA and its International Antler Competition has allowed us to have production stats that are proven and verifiable. The above stats showing the bull production of Mohlman Elk Farm's cow herd are taken directly from NAEBA's competition results and show the consistency of our cow herd.

MOHLMAN ELK FARM

Eric, Kim, Chase and Kyra Mohlman
4985 West Blue Hill Road Ayr, NE 68925
402-469-1831, mohlmnelk@gtmc.net

Committee Reports

Bird, Buck Bait & Boat Expo – Thank You

Thank you to all who helped man the booth at the recent Bird, Buck, Bait & Boat Expo on February 27 – March 1 at Warner Coliseum at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. This is a relatively new show for the area so there weren't as many people in attendance, but reports are that there were good discussions held at the booth. Booth workers also sold elk jerky.

Many thanks to the following for your help with this event: Lance & Brenda Hartkopf (set up), Gary Smith and neighbor, Pat Prodzinski, Jim Byrne, Greg Lubinski, Bryce Lubinski, Kraig Wurst, Mark Lucas, Joey Lucas, Wade Schimmelpfennig and Norman Schimmelpfennig. Thank you to the Schimmelpfennigs' for returning the trailer back to Howard Lake as well!



Gary Smith and his neighbor working the MnEBA booth at the show.

WANTED – USAHA Annual Convention Representative

Have you ever had an interest in attending the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Annual Meeting? If you were able to listen to Dr. Anderson's presentation at the recent MnEBA Annual Conference, then you know how important this meeting is! The conference is held once a year about the fourth week of October in a variety of locations around the United States. For instance, the 2014 meeting was held in Kansas City, MO. In 2015, it will be in Providence, Rhode Island.

Dr. Glen Zearth has represented both state and national elk interests at USAHA meetings for many years. MnEBA is looking to give both Glen and the industry more support for cervid-friendly initiatives by helping to sponsor another representative from MnEBA. While the MnEBA sponsorship will not cover all expenses, it will cover a portion of them.

For more information, please contact any board member or the MnEBA Office.

WANTED – Your ELK Photos

MnEBA is looking for elk pictures from member farms and ranches for use on MnEBA's Facebook page and web site. Pictures can be recent or from longer ago and can be about anything elk related! Please think about what photos you might have or could take and send them to the MnEBA Office. It would be a huge help in keeping fresh, new content in front of the general public!

MnEBA Newsletter Advertising Rates

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

	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

MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS	
Annual Conference	Rita Prodzinski (507) 452-1282
Fundraising	Brenda Hartkopf (320) 543-2686
Government Relations	Jim Byrne (507) 358-6505
Health	OPEN
Scholarship	Kaye Zearth (320) 834-4064
State Fair	Greg & Roxy Lubinski (507) 534-3247 Paul Hueg (612) 791-0443

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 25, 2015 – MnEBA Summer Picnic, Okaman Cervidae, Don & Joyce Kaplan, Janesville, MN

July 30 – August 1, 2015 – 25th Anniversary NAEBA Convention & International Antler Competition, Baraboo, WI (Wisconsin Dells)

August 27 – September 7, 2015 – MN State Fair, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

Classified Ads

Wanted: Hard antler bulls wanted for Fall of 2015 sizes 300-450 plus, prices better than last year, contract and deposit if wanted. Scott Salonek 612-850-8684.

Wanted: Late born 2014 bull calves (July 1st or after). Ted Mehrkens, 507-843-5636.

Wanted: Grande Natural buys Elk or Whitetail meat animals delivered to Crescent Meats, Cadott, WI or Eickman's, Steward, IL. We will meet or beat the competition on the rail price. Looking for fleshy critters generally 3 years and older on cows, 2 year and older on bulls. Call 719-657-0942 or email Rich@ElkUSA.com.

Wanted: Grande Natural pays competitive prices for Elk Hard Antler drops or cutoffs, spikes, buttons, etc. AND we will pay UPS shipping if you cut them down and pack 'em up. Call Rich at 719-580-0661, or email Rich@ElkUSA.com.

For Sale: Distributor for Franklin Waterers, energy efficient PC & AP Models, also standard waterers. Rely on Franklin Waterers. Contact Jay at Pronschinke Elk, 507-458-7970.

Wanted: Any and all elk meat animals, trophy bulls, breeding stock or whole herds. Brian Wagner, 612-366-5078

Wanted: Looking for a future herd sire, 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, \$225 hair off or \$15 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.

MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

9086 Keats Avenue SW
Howard Lake, MN 55349