



Special Interest Articles:

- Velvet Buyers Out Purchasing Velvet
- MN Elk Industry Survey Update
- Meat Market Update
- MnEBA Scholarship Winner
- NAEB Convention
- MnEBA Officer Blog
- Bull Needed for 5th Annual MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt
- MN State Fair
- 2012 Gun Raffle Calendars Now Available
- In The News
- Vet Corner

President's Message by Kaye Zebarth

Ah, Summer!

First of all, let me express thanks to all of you who have taken the time to complete and submit the cervidae impact study sent to you early this summer. When combined with the data submitted by the deer breeders group, we should have a very good, current source of information about our great industry, and the economic value of such. (I think there is still time to send your survey if it is still on the desk!!!) The more surveys counted, the stronger and more reliable the finished product. Thanks again.

Here's hoping that a lot of you were in attendance at the MnEBA picnic at the Byrne Farm at Pine Island. Thanks, Jim and

Eileen, for hosting this event; we appreciate all the work it entails to have "a few good people over"!

Once again, we say congratulations to Ike Pohlman, son of Perry and Sandy Olson, who was awarded the 2011 MnEBA scholarship. We know that the future of agriculture is in good hands by the quality of the applications submitted.

Soon you will have in your hands the 2012 edition of the MnEBA gun raffle calendar; our main fundraising tool. Remember, some of the profits of the calendar fund our scholarship, help a disabled American veteran have a chance to hunt a bull elk, provide educational materials to the public,

rent a space at the State Fair to promote our industry, etc, etc. We appreciate your help with sponsoring a month of the calendar, for selling calendars, for supporting the industry. Remember, there are some pretty nice incentives(\$\$\$\$\$) for selling as many calendars as you possibly can!!!

Annual NAEB convention and International antler competition: August 4-6, Waterloo, Iowa!!! See ya there.

It's good to have an end to journey toward, but it's the journey that matters, in the end.

Enjoy the summer!!

THANK YOU

Jim & Eileen Byrne for hosting this year's summer picnic and to Ted & Sheila Mehrkens and Dan & Audrey Mueller for their assistance and helping to supply the elk meat!!!



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.

Board of Directors

President

Kaye Zebarth
(320) 834-4064

Vice President

Mark Lucas
(952) 467-3303

Secretary/Treasurer

Pat Prodzinski
(507) 452-1282

Director

Brian Wagner
(320) 543-2818

Director

Wade Schimmelpfennig
(612) 600-3888

Executive Secretary to the Board

Brenda Hartkopf
(320) 543-2686

Velvet Buyers Out Purchasing Velvet!

Velvet buying is in full swing as all major buyers are currently out purchasing velvet. Minnesota producers are very fortunate to have most of the U.S. buyers either living in Minnesota or Wisconsin!! If you have not yet sold your velvet and have not yet been contacted about selling your velvet, consider contacting the following buyers:

Scott Groen (320) 979-0911
Brian Wagner (612) 366-5078

Scott Salonek (763) 428-8561
Bill Knutson (608) 526-4477

Minnesota Elk Industry Survey Update

A report tabulating the results of the recent Minnesota Elk Industry Survey is in the process of being developed. If you still have not completed and returned your survey, there is still time. Please return your survey as soon as possible so the data can be included before the report is done. The more information the industry is able to submit, the more valid the results will be.

There have been comments made that not everyone believes this survey applies to them. If you raise farmed cervids in Minnesota, this survey certainly does pertain to your operation. No matter if you own one animal or 300, this survey is being put together to help protect our most basic rights as producers to let the public and legislators know that this industry as a whole, adds a tremendous economic value to rural Minnesota. Every producer's value is extremely important in gathering this data.

Filling out the survey takes a small amount of time, but costs no money to the producer. Even the self-addressed, stamped envelope was included in the survey mailing.

Many thanks to all who have already completed and returned your data. The latest numbers we have seen are that 131 of 582 possible surveys have been returned. We can do much better than this as in previous surveys, the elk industry has shown a 60% return rate.

Please do your part in tabulating this important data for the industry and send in your survey, if you have not already done so, as soon as possible.

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.

877/996-3303
wedocows! SM **GOIN!**

- VETERINARY PHARMACY
- ANIMAL HEALTH SUPPLIES
- DAIRY SUPPLIES
- MILKING SYSTEMS

S T E A R N S
Vet OUTLET
AND PHARMACY

222 E Co Rd 173 | PO Box 219 | Melrose, MN 56352

Market Updates by Scott Salonek

MEAT

If you have not been in the know, the elk meat market has made very substantial increases over the last twelve months. Most animals have risen in price to the producer between \$200-\$300 per animal and on average will now yield \$800-\$1,200 each compared with \$500-\$900 just 12 months ago! Much of the increase is because the demand for the leaner red meat has spilled over from the rise in the buffalo market with that market not able to keep up with demand.

"Most animals have risen in price to the producer between \$200-\$300 per animal and on average will now yield \$800-\$1200 each compared with \$500-\$900 just 12 months ago!"

A very interesting thing to keep in mind coming up for this fall is the smaller 300 inch shooter bulls. I checked with a bull buyer and he was willing to put \$1,000 in a bull of this size. We as producers need to send this type of bull to the meat market and demand better money for the 300-330 size bulls. This bull will bring \$1,200 plus on the meat side and if you add the \$200-300 in velvet, the \$50-\$100 in vet cost you need the hunt market to pay upwards of \$1,500-\$2,000 for the smaller bulls. By sending the bull to the meat market, the small shooter bull market will come up, and you help supply a growing meat market.

Another thought is before the breeding season, figure out what cow stays and those that are not staying, do not keep them around until October through December. Get rid of them. Each extra day costs money to feed and you cannot get it back by holding extra animals.

MnEBA Scholarship Winner Announced



MnEBA would like to congratulate Ike Pohlman, son of Perry & Sandy Olson, who was once again chosen as the recipient of this year's MnEBA Scholarship in the amount of \$500! Ike was one of three strong applicants who are currently seeking a secondary education in an ag-related field of study.

Ike will be starting his second year at Dakota State University in Madison, SD this coming Fall majoring in Biology. Future plans are to one day have an elk ranch of his own. Ike has signed up to work at this year's State Fair and is already becoming active in the elk industry!

Congratulations to Ike for all of his terrific accomplishments and on being awarded this year's MnEBA Scholarship. MnEBA wishes Ike all the best as he enters his sophomore year of college and looks forward to continuing to work with this outstanding young man in the future!

Scholarship Winner Ike Pohlman

NAEBA's 21st Anniversary Annual Conference & International Antler Competition August 4 – 6, 2011



Ramada Hotel & 5 Sullivan Brothers Convention Center ~ Waterloo, Iowa

The 21st NAEBA Annual Conference and International Antler Competition will take place in just a matter of days! It's very close for Minnesota producers as this year's meeting will be held in Waterloo, IA, a mere 200 miles from Minneapolis!

Come experience the antler judging schools, a great variety of seminars, live entertainment, fun contests, and the International Antler Competition! There will be antlers you just need to see to believe! What new bull might you consider AI'ing with this year???

As of this time, there will be velvet antler and hard antler buyers available to purchase your antlers. If you are bringing a significant amount of antler, it would be important to call NAEBA at 402-756-3355 so they could let the possible buyers know. Offset the cost of the convention and hotel costs by selling off the antler in your freezers and shed. Going home with some extra cash in hand will make it well worth going!

Waterloo has great attractions for the whole family! For those who are into John Deere tractors, John Deere Works is located in Waterloo. Tours of the 5 local plants are available. Waterloo also has the largest outdoor water park in the state of Iowa. There are also very interesting restaurants and shopping boutiques within walking distance of the hotel.

There are many outstanding hunt offerings on the auction block at this year's convention, something for every hunter! A special live auction will be taking place with everything a hunter could want on Friday evening and semen from the top bulls in the industry on Saturday evening. Don't miss out on these special opportunities to purchase the hunt of a lifetime or improve your breeding program in ways you can't imagine!

Check out all conference details, including the full schedule of events and registration form on NAEBA's web site at www.naelk.org. If you plan to attend the convention and have not registered as of yet, please let the NAEBA Office know you're coming. It's a big help in planning for meals, room set up and other details. See you in Waterloo!

NAEBA Convention Highlights!

Thursday August 4th

Antler Check-in
Velvet Antler School
Hard Antler School
Hospitality

Friday August 5th

Opening Ceremonies
Regional Meetings
Photo & Button Contests Begin
Seminars
Comedian Roger Radley
Fun Auction
Hospitality

Saturday August 6th

Seminars
Meat Contest
Antler Competition Results
Awards
Key Note Tom Remington
Semen Auction
Hospitality

*If you haven't already
made plans to attend,
make your plans today!!!
See www.naelk.org for
more details.*

NAEBA's 21st Annual Conference

Schedule

Thursday August 4

Noon – 9 pm
 Noon – 9 pm
 1:30 – 3:30 pm
 4 – 5 pm
 7 – 9 pm
 9 pm

Exhibitor Set-up
 International Antler Check-in
 NAEBA Board Meeting
 Velvet Antler Judging School
 Hard Antler Judging School
 Hospitality – *sponsored by Kelly Butler & Joel & Cheri Espe*

Friday August 5

8 am – 8 pm

9 am
 9:10 – 10 am
 10 – 10:30 am
 10:30 – 11:30 am

11:30 am – 1 pm
 1 – 2 pm

2 – 3 pm

3 – 3:30 pm

3:30 – 5 pm

5 pm
 6 – 7 pm
 7 – 8 pm

8 pm
 10 pm

Breakfast On Own
 Antler Judging
 Tradeshow
 Silent Auction
 NAEBA Info Desk
 Elk Meat Products Entry
 Photo Contest Entry & Voting
 Button Contest Entry & Voting
 Welcome to Iowa
 General Membership Meeting
 Break – *sponsored by Exotic Wildlife Association*
 Regional Meetings
 Western
 Southern
 Central
 North Central
 Northeast
 Lunch On Own
 SEMINAR – *Wapiti Labs Success Story by Craig Wylie*
 SEMINAR – *Washington DC / Gov't Update by Charly & Laurie Seale, Dr. Ray Favero, Dr. Glen Zebarth, Joel Espe, Kelly Butler & Travis Lowe*
 Break – *sponsored by Iowa Elk Breeders Association*
 SEMINAR – *Factors that Affect A.I. Pregnancy Rates in Elk Cows by Dr. Martin Wenkoff*
 Cash Bar Opens
 Evening Banquet
 Entertainment – *Comedian Roger Radley*
 NAEBA's Fun Auction
 Hospitality – *sponsored by Kelly Butler & Joel & Cheri Espe*

Saturday August 6

7 – 9 am
 8 am – 7:30 pm

8 am – 3:30 pm

9 – 10 am

10 – 10:30 am

10:30 – 11:30 am

11:30 am – 1 pm
 1 – 2:45 pm

2:45 – 3:30 pm

3:30 pm

3:30 – 5:30 pm

5:00 pm
 6 – 7 pm
 7 – 7:30 pm

7:30 – 8:15 pm
 8:30 – 9:15 pm
 9:15 – 9:30 pm
 9:30 pm

9:30 pm
 10:00 pm

Breakfast On Own
 NAEBA Board Meeting
 Antler Judging
 Tradeshow
 NAEBA Info Desk
 Photo Contest Continues
 Button Contest Continues
 Silent Auction Continues
 SEMINAR – *Optimizing Semen Quality in Elk Bulls by Dr. Martin Wenkoff*
 Break – *Sponsored by Plateau Valley Elk Ranch*
 SEMINAR – *Cooking Elk With Trophy Spice by Bob Guindon & Tony Williams*
 Lunch On Own
 Velvet Antler Competition
 Viewing & People's Choice Awards Voting
 Break - *Sponsored by BioTracking*
 Elk Meat Contest - *Sponsored by Cervid Livestock Foundation*
 Meat, Photo, and Button Contests & Silent Auction
 End
 Hard Antler Competition
 Viewing & People's Choice Awards Voting
 Cash Bar Opens
 Evening Banquet
 Announce Winners of Photo, Meat, & Button Contests, Silent Auction Results, NAEBA Awards
 Key Note – *Tom Remington*
 NAEBA Semen Auction
 Closing Remarks
 Competition Antler Check-Out
 Exhibitor Tear Down
 Hospitality Room – *sponsored by Dr. Ray Favero & Kim Kafka*



MnEBA Officer Blog by Wade Schimmelpfennig, MnEBA Director

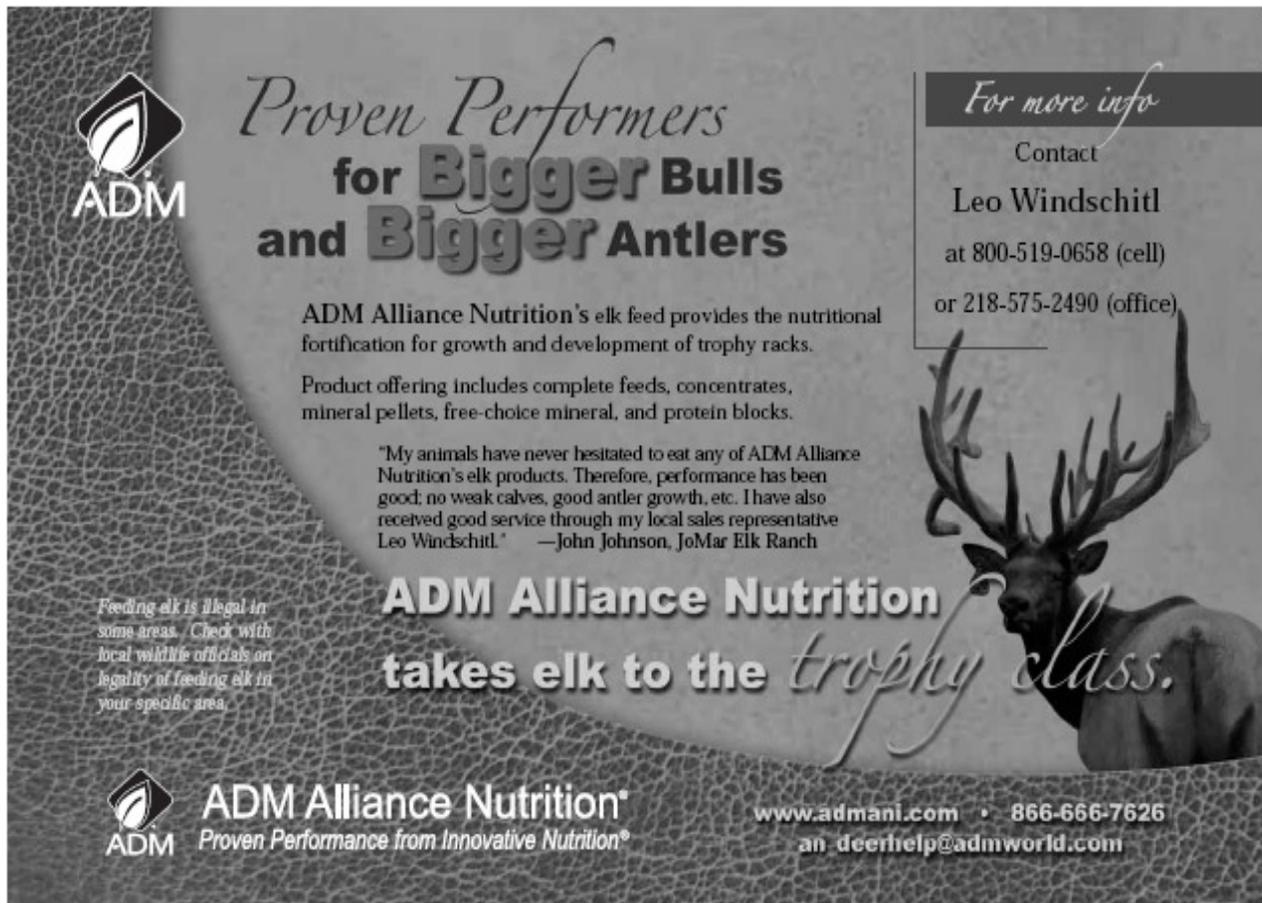
Summer is definitely here. If it isn't a 110 degree heat index outside, we are getting the volatile summer thunderstorms and straight line winds. I hope that everyone hasn't had too much damage at their farms this year so far.

By now we should all be done with our calving season and starting to look at which genetics we would like to be introducing into our herds through AI in a mere 6 weeks. Phone calls need to be made to line up semen and vet. services to help us with that. After all, it is a 5 year investment and by then the economy should be back in full swing making the demand for shooter bulls a good market for producers.

Now would also be a good time to look at culling a few of your poorer producing cows and upgrading with the purchase of a younger and better model or two. As someone once told me, "It costs just as much to feed a poor cow as it does a good one, and you can make more money on one good cow than you can on two bad ones".

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the NAEBA convention in Waterloo, IA in a few days and at Jim Byrne's farm for the MnEBA summer picnic featuring some of the interesting work that he has been doing with double fencing. Just a reminder to have your reservations made for the convention hotel rooms, as well to make sure you pick up your calendars from Brenda while in either Waterloo or at Jim's house. A person may want to make a list of who all they sold to in the past and try to get back to them again this year. Every dollar we raise in calendar sales is a dollar we don't have to get from annual dues.

I wish everyone a very good day and hope to see you very soon.



ADM

Proven Performers
**for Bigger Bulls
 and Bigger Antlers**

ADM Alliance Nutrition's elk feed provides the nutritional fortification for growth and development of trophy racks.

Product offering includes complete feeds, concentrates, mineral pellets, free-choice mineral, and protein blocks.

"My animals have never hesitated to eat any of ADM Alliance Nutrition's elk products. Therefore, performance has been good; no weak calves, good antler growth, etc. I have also received good service through my local sales representative Leo Windschitl." —John Johnson, JoMar Elk Ranch

ADM Alliance Nutrition
takes elk to the trophy class.

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

ADM Proven Performance from Innovative Nutrition®

For more info
 Contact
 Leo Windschitl
 at 800-519-0658 (cell)
 or 218-575-2490 (office)

www.admani.com • 866-666-7626
 an_deerhelp@admworld.com

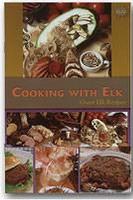
MnEBA Promotional Materials

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

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

MEAT PROMOTIONS

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



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

3rd Edition "Cooking With Elk" Cookbook

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

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

VELVET PROMOTIONS



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

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

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

GENERAL INFORMATION



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

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

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

HOME DÉCOR

Price includes shipping & handling.



Elk Trashcan (*pictured*) \$25 each

Elk Rug (Small) \$27.50 each

Elk Rug (Large) \$40 each

Now Available!

Bull Elk Needed for the 5th Annual MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt



It's that time again to begin organizing the 5th Annual MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt. Tony Beckel from Tony's Trophy Bull Hunt Ranch in Baudette, MN, has graciously agreed to provide the hunt facilities and guide services for this year's hunter. MnEBA will also be teaming up with Ron Welle of Midwest Outdoors Unlimited to help select this year's veteran recipient.

What MnEBA still needs is a bull! We're looking for anything that scores between 300-350 SCI. The hunt would most likely take place in the November/December timeframe; Tony is working at moving the hunt date up a bit earlier than in past years.

If you or someone you know would be willing to donate or provide the funds (even partial would help) necessary to purchase a bull, please contact the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 as soon as possible. These hunts have been tremendously successful and are very rewarding to both the hunter and donors involved! They've provided a special lifetime memory for very deserving individuals and created positive awareness about the harvest preserve industry. Thank you for your consideration!!!

MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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



VALLEY SPRINGS CUSTOM FREEZE DRYING, after several years of operation has decided to sell the business, it has been sold to Bill & Karen Knutson.

As of Jan. 1, 2011, it will be known as
SPRING COULEE CUSTOM FREEZE DRYING, with all operations continuing the same great service and commitment as in the past. Bill & Karen would like to thank Larry for this Business opportunity and for sharing his experience and expertise.

You can contact
SPRING COULEE CUSTOM FREEZE DRYING
at 608-526-4477 or
N7447 Cty Rd D, Holmen, WI 54636
FOR ALL YOUR DRYING NEEDS!

We look forward to working with you in the future!

MnEBA Kitchen

Here's a delicious, easy way to serve your family a quick meatball dish. This recipe is a great compliment to all the awesome garden vegetables currently in season.

Oven Meatballs

2 eggs	½ tsp. salt
¾ cup milk	¼ tsp. pepper
1 cup cracker crumbs	⅔ cup ketchup
2 lbs. ground elk	2 cans golden mushroom soup
1 small onion	1 cup water



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Beat eggs. Add milk and cracker crumbs; mix until moistened. Add ground elk, onion, salt, pepper and ketchup. Roll into balls and place in lightly greased casserole (9x13" pyrex works great). Mix one cup water with the 2 cans of soup and pour over meatballs. Bake uncovered for 1 hour at 350 degrees.

2011 Minnesota State Fair Schedule



Thank you to all who have already signed up to work the 2011 MN State Fair! The Minnesota State Fair schedule to date is shown below; there are a few time slots still open. Any and all help, for any amount of time, is greatly welcomed!

Elk sausage, sticks and jerky will once again be sold along with something new, Elk Antler Dog Chews! These were requested by many attendees at the Fair last year and MnEBA is excited to now offer something new to fairgoers!

Working the State Fair booth is a great tradition for many MnEBA families. There are interesting things to do at the Fair for the entire family! If you've never worked the booth, sign up to work with someone already on the list or take an open slot. Or, consider bringing a friend to work with you. Contact Morrie Evenson at (320) 212-1479 or Daphne Evenson at (320) 894-2304 to sign up.

Date	Time	Workers	Date	Time	Workers
Pre-Fair		Set Up – Paul Hueg Family OPEN for additional volunteers	8/31	8 – 2	Norman Schimmelpfennig / Joan & Jerry Beier
8/25	8 - 2	Morrie & Daphne Evenson & friends		2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	Glen & Kaye Zebarth	9/1	8 – 2	Jim Byrne / Dennis Wernsing
8/26	8 – 2	Aase Family		2 - 9	Jim Byrne / Dennis Wernsing
	2 – 9	Aase Family	9/2	8 – 2	Jim Byrne / Martin Zacharias
8/27	8 – 2	Ike Pohlman; Hartkopf Family		2 - 9	Jim Byrne
	2 – 9	Kaplan Family	9/3	8 – 2	Sally Bergman / Morrie & Daphne Evenson
8/28	8 – 2	Kaplan Family		2 – 9	Prodzinski Family
	2 – 9	Kaplan Family	9/4	8 – 2	Prodzinski Family
8/29	8 – 2	Fred & Eleanor Neubert & grandkids		2 - 9	Turek Family
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/5	8 – 2	Greg Lubinski
8/30	8 – 2	Duane & Damon Melquist		2 – 9	Paul & Lynn Hueg
	2 – 9	OPEN			

2012 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendars are now Available!!!



A big thank you to all members who purchased sponsorships for the 2012 MnEBA Gun Raffle calendar! Calendars are back from the printer and are now available! Members can pick them up at the MnEBA Summer Picnic in Pine Island or at the NAEBA Convention in Waterloo, IA. Or, contact any board member who may live near you, they usually have extras. If those avenues do not work for you, contact the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 or info@mneba.org and calendars can be mailed out to you.

BONUS!

This year there is a very special, significant cash bonus for selling your calendars early. There will be a \$500 bonus cash drawing!!! For every 10 calendars sold by any one individual, their name goes into the drawing. If you sell 40 calendars, your name goes in 4 times. Also, everyone who sponsored a month in the calendar has their name go in once as well. The deadline for being included in this drawing is **December 15th!** There could be no better incentive to sell calendars early than the possibility of winning cold, hard cash!!!

Calendars will be available for sale from now until sold out or until the January 7, 2012 drawing date at the MnEBA Annual Conference.

Details of the raffle remain the same as in years past with the addition of FOUR bonus prizes!!

- Calendars will sell for \$40 each.
- A numbered raffle ticket stub will be on the back of each calendar. Fill in contact info on ticket, detach stub, collect funds and return to the MnEBA Office. Keep and enjoy the calendar!
- Names drawn will be returned to the drum where they can be drawn again.
- There will be a gun or cash option awarded every other Wednesday throughout the 2012 calendar year, plus four bonus prizes as designated on the calendar. There will be 26 guns or cash options awarded. Winners will be notified at the end of each calendar month and posted on the MnEBA web site.

One great selling point to remember is that The General Store (where gun certificates are redeemed), will allow the winner to trade the value of their winning gun for other store merchandise. This could be another gun or other hunting, fishing or camping gear, even clothing. They have a very wide assortment of items to please anyone who is lucky enough to be a winner!

The person who sells the most calendars will receive a FREE one-year MnEBA membership! Please contact Brenda Hartkopf at (320) 543-2686 or info@mneba.org or Kaye Zebarth at (320) 834-4064 or oakpoint@gctel.com to order your calendars or to offer your questions or comments.

Advertiser Index

Stearns Veterinary Outlet

Page 2

ADM Alliance Nutrition

Page 6

Spring Coulee Custom Freeze Drying

Page 8

Farm Bureau Financial Services

Page 12

Thank you for your support!

In The News

Russia Seizes Animal Parts

By ANDREW E. KRAMER

June 14, 2011 MOSCOW — The 26 elk lips were just the tip of the pile. The items the Russian customs agents reported seizing Tuesday were exotic even by the standards of Russia's border with China, where wildlife smuggling is rampant: 1,041 bear paws, lynx fur, unspecified claw parts and five tusks from the extinct woolly mammoth.

Officials said they discovered the cargo after a dog alerted them to the contents in the bed of a Chinese driver's seemingly empty truck. On closer examination, officials found a secret compartment with the cache of contraband.

"The illegal cargo weighing almost 1.4 tons was detained by border guards and customs officials" a statement explained. The items were individually wrapped, the statement said, though it did not say if the compartment was refrigerated. The elk lips alone weighed 143 pounds.

Smuggling is generally blossoming in Russia's Far East. The long border with China, closed for decades, is now open for travel and trade.

"China is a vacuum cleaner for Siberian wildlife," said Aleksei L. Vaisman, a senior coordinator for Traffic Europe-Russia, which is sponsored by the conservation group WWF, which monitors trade in wild animals. The largest cache of bear paws he knew of previously was 787 paws (one paw shy of 197 full sets of four).

As Russian border agents using dogs have become more adept at catching small-time traffickers, smugglers have been compelled to risk large shipments, he said. The large number reported Tuesday (from about 260 bears) were most likely accumulated by brokers who bought them from hunters over the winter, he said. A set of four brings the hunters about \$50.

Bear paws are a ritual dish for Chinese, elk lips a delicacy. Also smuggled daily, for food or medicine, are bear gallbladders, frogs, deer antlers and the genitals of spotted deer. The bones of highly endangered Amur tigers are sought for their aphrodisiac qualities.

The mammoth ivory poses an unusual set of legal and ethical issues.

The tusks are more abundant than many people in the West realize. Encased in an upper layer of Siberia's permafrost are the remains of an estimated 150 million mammoths that lived from 3,600 to 400,000 years ago. The parts surface in the spring thaw across vast stretches of Russia's far north and are routinely collected. Most are exported — legally — to China, South Korea and Japan to be carved into personal stamps used in place of signatures on documents.

Russia, though, requires an export license. This is intended to ensure that traders send tusks with possible scientific value — like prehistoric slaughter marks or signs of ancient disease — to researchers. Generally, conservationists concerned about the illegal ivory trade from Africa into Asia encourage buyers to turn to the legal trade from Siberia of ivory from mammoths.

Still, it was unclear how the tusks were hidden in the truck intercepted at a border crossing in the town of Blagoveshchensk or how the smuggler had obtained them. The tusks are often cut up and sold by the kilogram.

Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

With the velvet season in full swing and on everybody's mind, here's the ultimate place to learn the latest information about velvet antler supplements for people and pets.

Announcement and Invitation to the 3rd International Symposium on Antler Science and Product Technology

(the 3rd ASPT) September 15 and 16, 2011 Changchun, China

The 1st and 2nd ASPT were held in 2000 in Banff, Canada and in 2004 in Queenstown, New Zealand, respectively. These symposia provided an unparalleled opportunity for those who work in the areas of antler biology, production, chemistry, biological and clinical efficacies to exchange ideas, knowledge and technology. The 3rd ASPT is a continuation of this unique series.

Since the 2nd ASPT, much progress has been made in the antler research field, particularly in the areas of basic antler biology, and biological and clinical efficacies. Therefore, the time is right to organise the next ASPT to bring together leading antler researchers to review the past and to direct the future of the field. Consequently, the Institute of Special Wild Economic Animals and Plants (ISWEAP) of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences has been authorised to hold the 3rd ASPT on the 15th and 16th September, 2011.

The Programme will include invited plenary lectures as well as having room for contributed oral and poster papers. The aim is to have high participation and there will be many opportunities for scientists and leading industry people to interact to explore our mutual fascination – deer antlers.

ISWEAP is a well recognised antler research centre in China, located in Changchun, the capital of Jilin Province. Changchun is the 2nd largest city in the Northeast of China, with a population of 4.9 million, and is the cradle of the Chinese automobile and film industries. Therefore, the city has been called "Eastern Detroit", "Eastern Hollywood", or "Eastern Los Angeles". Jilin Province lies in the centre of Northeast China, bordering Russia and North Korea on the east and southeast, respectively. The revered Chinese sika deer originate from Jilin, which is also the home of the famous "Three Treasures of Northeast": Ginseng, fur and velvet antler. The deer farmed in Jilin account for a fifth of the total deer population in China.

Chinese were the first to utilise deer antlers for medicinal purpose (168 B.C., recorded in a scroll found in a Han Tomb). The most comprehensive description of medicinal use of velvet antlers was published in "The Grand Materia Medica" by Li Shi-Zhen (1590): "Tonifies the Kidneys and fortifies the Yang, benefits Essence and Blood, and strengthens sinews and bones". Recently, researchers from different disciplines and countries have been investigating antlers for properties well beyond their traditional medicinal value. The findings have not only substantiated and extended the traditional claims, but have also demonstrated that antlers provide a unique biomedical research model. The basic science of antler biology has a role to play in our understanding of antler's clinical efficacy: the more we know of biology the greater our knowledge of possible products will be. We believe that with your attendance the 3rd ASPT will be a resounding success and memorable event in antler research history!

The organisers look forward to seeing you in Changchun in 2011!

Co-Chair: Fuhe Yang, Co-Chair: Jimmy Suttie, Secretary-General (science): Chunyi Li
The 3rd ASPT Organising Committee

AgMax®

**FLEXIBLE
COMPREHENSIVE
CUSTOMIZED COVERAGE**

We created AgMax® specifically to serve the unique needs of highly specialized and commercial agriculture operations, including:



Wade L. Scott
Waconia
(952) 442-4402
wscott@fbfs.com

- Growers who process or retail their production
- Animal producers who direct market
- Equine operations, including boarding, breeding and training
- Agritainment operations such as pumpkin patches, corn mazes and petting zoos
- Hunting and guiding activities on your farm

Call today to learn more.



FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

Insurance • Investments

www.fbfs.com

Auto | Home | Life | Business | College | Retirement

Western Agricultural Insurance Company/West Des Moines, IA. Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company/West Des Moines, IA. Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company/West Des Moines, IA. *Companies of Farm Bureau Financial Services
© 2007 FBL Financial Group, Inc. 146

MINNESOTA
ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

2011 Application for Membership

Name _____ Spouse _____

Farm, Ranch, or Company Name _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone(Residence) _____ Work _____

Fax _____ E-mail Address _____

Premises ID# _____ # of elk owned _____ Referred by _____

=====

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (Check membership desired)

\$ 125 _____ ACTIVE (Must live in MN and own elk---full voting rights)

\$ 50 _____ ASSOCIATE (For out-of-state membership or MN residents who do not own elk---no voting rights)

\$ 50 _____ JUNIOR (18 yrs old & under who own elk---full benefits)

\$1,000 _____ LIFE-TIME (Entire lifetime membership)

Memberships run from January 1st to December 31st each calendar year. Please make checks payable to:

Minnesota Elk Breeders Association
9086 Keats Ave. S.W.
Howard Lake, MN 55349
(320) 543-2686

Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

9086 Keats Avenue SW
Howard Lake, MN 55349

PHONE:
320-543-2686

FAX:
320-543-2983

E-MAIL:
info@mneba.org

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

Calendar of Events

August 4 – 6, 2011 – NAEBA Annual Convention & International Antler Competition, Ramada Waterloo Convention Center, Waterloo, IA

August 25 – September 5, 2011 – MN State Fair, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

January 6 – 7, 2012 – MnEBA Annual Conference, Crowne Plaza, Brooklyn Center, MN

March 9 – 11, 2012 – Minnesota Deer Classic, State Fairgrounds Coliseum, St. Paul, MN

Classified Ads

For Sale: Monty North Elk NZ Hydraulic squeeze chute \$1,500.00 OBO. Also hydraulic pump \$500.00 OBO. Mark Lucas, Hamburg, MN, (952) 215-1313.

Wanted: Klint Wylie from Wolf Creek Elk Ranch is looking to purchase hard antler. Paying top dollar with copy of CWD certification from the MN Board of Animal Health. Call Klint at (877) 497-9653 for more information.

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

For Sale: (2) Kiwi squeeze chutes. Call Larry Gerdes at 715-594-3534.

Elk Hide Tanning: Elk hide tanning, \$325 hair off or \$12.50 per square foot, hair on. We can also make jackets, vests, gloves and more from your hides. Call for free catalog or for more information at (800) USA-FOXX. Check out our web site at www.usafoxx.com or email info@usafoxx.com. USA Foxx & Furs, Duluth, MN.

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

MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

9086 Keats Avenue SW
Howard Lake, MN 55349