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President's Message by Mark Lucas

Good Day All,

This is a busy time of year with haying, velveting and all. What we all need is a little break to sit back, relax and visit with like-minded people. We have the perfect opportunity for that, the MnEBA Summer Picnic coming up Saturday July 27th at Roger and Saichon Nietfeld's farm near Melrose. The Summer Picnic is always enjoyable and gives us "elk-aholics" a chance to see another producer's operation where we can possibly pick up some useful tidbits that save time and money. And as a bonus, there is the food and comradery.

As busy as summer gets, it is often hard to keep up with all the mail and even more so emails. Just last week we ran across an unopened graduation party invitation from back in May for one of the neighbor kids. It kind of makes me wonder what else I have misplaced or accidentally deleted from the computer. One important elk related issue that Brenda has been updating us all on that we cannot afford to overlook is the recent completion of the national CWD Program Standards by the USDA. In the last year, Minnesota Elk Breeders Association has been very involved working with the American Cervid Alliance (ACA) regarding the CWD Rules and Guidelines. The Rules are out and done. Most of the Rules are livable. The major issue is with the accompanying document known as the Chronic Wasting Disease Program Standards. Part A of the CWD Program Standards says, "These Program Standards are optional guidelines to meet the minimum requirements of the CWD rule that have been adopted and approved by the Deputy Administrator....."

We have already witnessed living examples where State wildlife agencies have missed the "Optional" part and grasped on to the "Minimum" part of this paragraph. Supposedly Cervid industry input was to help craft the Standards document. According to the ACA who represented a unified voice of many cervid associations and have worked countless hours with the USDA, only 61 of the 241 suggestions by the ACA were adopted in the final Standards document. We need to discuss this and come to a consensus of what is best for our situation here in Minnesota.

So, I hope to see you all at the MnEBA Picnic this week as we have a lot to talk about.

Cordially;
Mark Lucas
MnEBA President



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

Velvet Buying Season Going on Now, Short Pick Up Window

Scott Salonek announced on Friday, July 19th that he would be buying velvet @ \$25.00 per pound starting immediately. That price went to \$26.00 per pound on July 23rd. In a statement from Scott which was sent out by email, Scott stated, "I will be at the MnEBA summer picnic @ Roger Nietfeld's on Saturday July 27th. If you are on the route and have more than 150 pounds I can stop at your home. If you can bring your velvet to Roger's that works best, I will not have time to stop for small amounts but if we talk, it is possible to meet on my route. As in last year we are looking to fill a container and after that I need to have this done by SATURDAY AUGUST 10th. I will also be at the NAEBA convention on August 1-3 in Sioux Falls, SD. Please contact me @ 612-850-8684 to commit your velvet and discuss meeting."

Brian Wagner and Scott Groen began purchasing velvet on July 23rd and only plan to purchase through the week of JULY 29th. Brian is reporting that poundage seems to be down this year but overall, velvet seems fairly well cut. They thank producers for their business. If anyone has any antler to sell before Monday, he asks them to call Brian @ 612-366-5078 or Scott @ 320-979-0911.

If you want to sell your velvet this year, it is imperative that you contact a buyer ASAP! The buying window is very short this year and with a smaller amount of velvet to be purchased, buyers will be less likely to come back.

Harvest Bull Market Shows Much Interest

Buyers were looking to put down payments on harvest bulls as early as last January! And there are no less than two ads looking for harvest bulls in this edition of MnEBA News. It is safe to say that interest in this year's harvest bull market is higher than usual.

Buyers typically have price lists available. Make sure to contact them if you have an interest in selling bulls this year and be educated in what prices they are offering. Each buyer has their own price schedule which may differ from another based on the buyers final end market and what the hunt ranches they are dealing with are paying them. The time it takes to make a few phone calls can mean a real difference in what you are paid for your bulls.

Meat Market Remains Strong

Meat prices continue to stay strong going into this Fall. Some members are reporting an increase in inquiries from the general public. There are also producers who have left the industry which have former customers looking for new sources of elk meat. If you sell elk meat, make sure you are on MnEBA's meat list of sellers for the upcoming State Fair as there is always lots of interest in elk meat at the booth!

Aug. 22-Labor Day, Sept. 2, 2013

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

It's that time again!

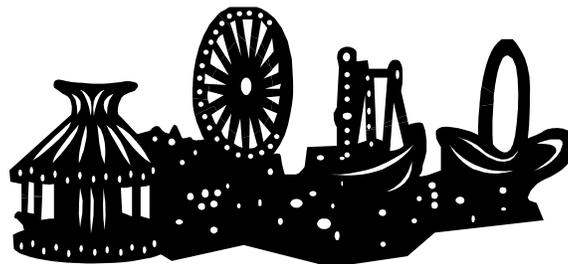
Time to make final preparations for attending the Minnesota State Fair! Below is the schedule to date. There are still lots of openings and opportunities for members to participate. This is the best venue to reach Minnesotans from many demographic backgrounds and educate them about America's Greatest Animal – ELK! And where else can you find all that awesome food in one location?

Even if you've never worked the MnEBA State Fair booth before, feel free to sign up! Morrie and Daphne will work to pair you up with someone who has worked before so you know what to do. Also, feel free to bring friends or other relatives to help out! If working with the general public is not your thing, help would also be appreciated for set up and take down.

MnEBA will be selling snack sticks, sausage and jerky along with elk antler dog chews. With the neighboring MN Buffalo Association no longer having a booth, meat sales could prove interesting!

Many thanks to all who have already signed up! If you're ready to commit to a day at the State Fair, please contact Morrie or Daphne at (320) 354-5156 (home) or (320) 894-2304 (Daphne's cell).

Date	Time	Workers	Date	Time	Workers
Pre-Fair		Set Up – Evensons & friends OPEN for additional volunteers	8/28	8 – 2	Norman Schimmelpfennig Dennis Wernsing
8/22	8 - 2	Morrie & Daphne Evenson & friends		2 – 9	Dennis Wernsing Julie Olson and Genene Bymark (Wapiti Labs)
	2 – 9	Glen & Kaye Zebarth	8/29	8 – 2	Jim Byrne
8/23	8 – 2	Aase Family		2 - 9	Jim Byrne
	2 – 9	Don & Joyce Kaplan	8/30	8 – 2	Jim Byrne
8/24	8 – 2	Don & Joyce Kaplan		2 - 9	Jim Byrne / Mark & Michelle Lucas
	2 – 9	Don & Joyce Kaplan	8/31	8 – 2	Prodzinski Family
8/25	8 – 2	OPEN		2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/1	8 – 2	OPEN
8/26	8 – 2	Jim Byrne and Angie & Arianna Bray (Wapiti Labs)		2 - 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/2	8 – 2	Greg & Roxy Lubinski
8/27	8 – 2	OPEN		2 – 9	Paul & Lynn Hueg
	2 – 9	OPEN			





Introducing

CHAOS

Styx Yearling

*30+ points field scored
325" as a Spiker*

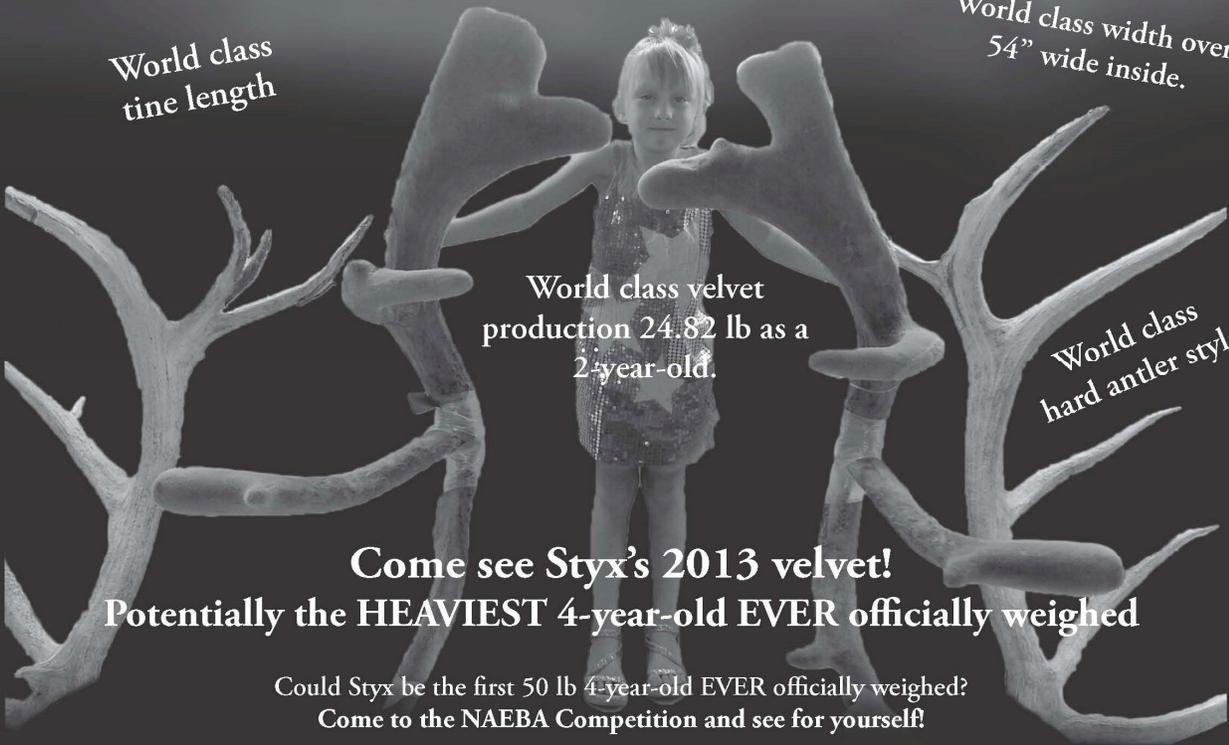
*One of the largest
yearlings ever raised!
Incredible Mass!!*



There is no doubt Styx is passing on his early developing genetics.

*World class
tine length*

*World class width over
54" wide inside.*



World class velvet
production 24.82 lb as a
2-year-old.

*World class
hard antler style*

Come see Styx's 2013 velvet!
Potentially the HEAVIEST 4-year-old EVER officially weighed

Could Styx be the first 50 lb 4-year-old EVER officially weighed?
Come to the NAEBA Competition and see for yourself!

Mohlman Elk Farm
Eric and Kim Mohlman • 402-469-1831

Lundberg Deer & Elk Farm
Josh and Jacki Lundberg • 620-224-3522



2014 MnEBA Gun Raffle Is Now Available!



The 2014 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar is now available for pick up! Copies will be made available at the July 27th MnEBA Summer Picnic as well as at the MnEBA booth at the upcoming NAEBA Convention. You can also call the office to order as many as you need!

Due to the tremendous success of last year's calendar, this year's calendar is much the same including unique elk pictures, a great line up of 26 guns PLUS 4 bonus cash days of \$100 each!

Anyone can also be eligible for a FREE 2014 MnEBA membership (up to \$125 value) by selling 30 MnEBA gun raffle calendars and returning the stubs and money to the MnEBA Office by December 31, 2013. There is no limit to who can earn a free membership except that calendars would run out. Nine members took advantage of this great opportunity last year!!!

Many thanks to all the sponsors of this year's calendar for making the printing possible! They include Leo Windschitl, Glen & Kaye Zebarth, Damon & Duane Melquist, Mark & Lisa Luedtke, Pat, Rita, Brian & Darcy Prodzinski, Morrie & Daphne Evenson, Craig, Kathy, Klint and Lora Wylie, Greg & Roxy Lubinski, Jim & Eileen Byrne, Don & Perry Olson, Eric & Kim Mohlman, Lance & Brenda Hartkopf and Brian Wagner.

Calendars will be available for sale from now until sold out or until the January 11, 2014 drawing date at the MnEBA Annual Conference in St. Cloud, MN. Please contact Brenda Hartkopf at (320) 543-2686 or info@mneba.org to order your calendars or to offer your questions or comments.

BLACK VELVET ELK RANCH



WANTED!

Hard Antler Bulls

Contact for more information:
 Brian Wagner (612) 366-5078
 Howard Lake, MN



Initial Concerns Regarding CWD Standards Document- Version 22

June 26, 2013 – The American Cervid Alliance is asking all council members to please review these initial concerns with the Version 22 Standards Document. These bullets are just the starting point. Please share these with the leadership of your respective associations and bring any additional concerns you find. The council will discuss these during the next ACA meeting.

- **Optional Language-** Pertaining to page 3 of the Version 22 Standards document draft. The optional and guidance document language was intended to match the introductory sentences for both Part A and Part B but it has been removed for Part B on Version 22. Part B is the most restrictive and onerous of the entire document therefore it is imperative that there is consistency for Part A and Part B. Instead, the first sentence in Version 22 states these “describe minimum requirements.” This clearly contradicts the intent of the document.
- **Wild Cervid Movement Exemption.** Pertaining to Part A-8.1 of the Version 22 Standards document draft. Version 22 exempts wildlife agencies from re-location/movement requirements of wild cervids from the same certification requirements forced on farmed cervids. The document states, “Wild cervids can move under the authority of APHIS as long as they come from a low risk herd.” If USDA is truly concerned about the public and animal health relating to CWD, then all movement should be subject to the same rules even though the wild cervids are not part of the herd certification plan. Farmed cervids that are not enrolled in herd certification programs are prohibited to move interstate. There must be parity in movement regulations.
- **5 Year Quarantines.** Pertaining to Part B-Paragraph B, of the Version 22 Standards document draft. The document states, all quarantines may require 5 years. This should be based on sound epidemiological evaluation of herd risk.
- **Semen.** Pertaining to Part A-2.6 of the Version 22 Standards document draft. The document states, “At this time there is no scientific evidence that germplasm (embryos or semen) may transmit CWD.” Language concerning germplasm and semen needs to be eliminated until science proves otherwise. The document specifically states there is no scientific evidence to connect CWD with semen therefore it should not be included in the document.
- **100% Testing for all Harvested Cervids in Preserves.** Pertaining to the definitions on page 6 under the heading of “Hunt or Shooter Facility” of the Version 22 Standards document draft. In the last sentence of the definition of “Hunt or Shooter Facility,” Version 22 features the suggested idea of 100% testing for all harvested cervids in preserves by stating, “States also may have CWD testing requirements of all cervids harvested from these facilities.”
- **5 Year Trace Backs and Trace Forwards.** Pertaining to Part A-2.8 of the Version 22 Standards document draft. The document defines “Trace Forwards” under the definitions on page 8 as, “Trace Forward Herd- A herd that has received exposed animals from a CWD positive herd within 5 years before the diagnosis of

CWD in the positive herd or from the identified point of entry of CWD into the positive herd.” Therefore, if someone is considered a trace forward herd within 60 months, their herd status would be suspended according to the language on page 14, “If a herd is designated a CWD suspect herd, a trace back herd, or a trace forward herd, it will immediately be placed in suspended status pending an epidemiological investigation by the State animal health agency. A herd may remain in suspended status until the epidemiological investigation ends and appropriate actions are taken.”

If the trace forward herd is found to be “commingled” with the exposed herd within 60 months, then the trace forward herd will be designated as an exposed herd too. This is according to page 15, “If the epidemiological investigation determines that the herd was commingled with a CWD positive animal, the herd loses its program status and is designated a CWD exposed herd.” If a herd loses its status, the five years of monitoring is void and reverts back to zero. This should be based on a sound epidemiological evaluation of herd risk. This is very important.

- **10 Foot Fencing.** Pertaining to Appendix II of Version 22 the Standards document draft. The document states, “In at least one study (VerCauteren, et.al 2010) recommends fence height greater than 2.4 meters (at least 10 feet) to ensure 100 percent containment.” However, 8 feet is the requirement in the standards and rule. Theories of surveys suggesting anything otherwise is speculation and inappropriate to be included in the document. The document already states in Part A-4 and the Rule 9 CFR 55.23 “For herds established after the effective date of the CWD rule, the fence must be a minimum of 2.4 meters (8 feet) high and must comply with any other existing State regulations or requirements. In either case, the fence must be structurally sound, maintained in good repair, and of sufficient construction to contain the animals.” This language goes far above the intent of the federal rule.
- **Definition of “Commingling” to allow AI Program to Lower Your Herd Status.** Pertaining to Part B-2.4 item 6, under heading of “Limited Contact” of the Version 22 Standards document draft. The document states on page 12, “Commingling includes contact with bodily fluids or excrement from other farmed animals. Farmed cervids commingled with other farmed cervids assume the status of the lowest program status animal in the group.” Semen is considered a “bodily fluid.” This could offer the possible interpretation that if “bodily fluids” enter your herd via artificial insemination, it could lower your herd’s status to the level of the AI herd. This theory is justified by the document already stating the warning about germsplasm (semen) in Part A-2.6 of Version 22 Standards document draft.
- **Requiring Notification for Every State Traveled Through to Destination for Interstate Transport.** Pertaining to Part A-8.4 of the Version 22 Standards document draft. The federal rule, located in 9 CFR 81.5, allows interstate transit to destination. It is stated again in the standards by stating, “Cervids eligible to move interstate in accordance with the CWD rule, and meeting the conditions specified in Part 81.5, can transit States enroute to their destination.” However, the standards then go on to require notification for every state during transit by stating, “Although the CWD rule does not require such transport permits, APHIS intends to advise producers and transporters to provide prior notification to any state through which they may transit en-route to their final destination.” This additional language is unnecessary and should be removed. The federal rule does not require this therefore the standards go above the requirements.
- **Top Soil Removal Requirements.** Pertaining to Appendix IV- Section B, under heading of “Dry lot where CWD positive animals have been held in close confinement (this includes but is not limited to corrals, pens, stalls, and alleyways or pathways),” of the Version 22 Standards document draft. The document states, “In addition, removal of the top 1 to 2 inches of soil may help to reduce surface contamination. The soil removed may be buried deeply or incinerated.” There is no instruction of what state or federal agency will

be responsible for soil removal cost therefore it would fall on the producer. Moreover, the language “Dry lot where CWD positive animals have been held in close confinement (this includes but is not limited to corrals, pens, stalls, and alleyways or pathways)” is very vague and could incorporate dozens to hundreds of acres requiring removal depending on the speculation. This is highly inappropriate.

- **HCP with No State Participation.** Pertaining to Part A-1 of the Version 22 Standards document draft. States without an HCP will only be allowed to participate in the program if funds are available. The document states, “Subject to the availability of appropriated funds, in States that do not have an approved State CWD HCP.” There must be federal funds available if a state does not have an HCP or the producer will not be able to participate. Since this is a federal mandate, it is imperative the funding is provided.
- **Quarantine for Commingled Animals for Five Years.** Pertaining to Part B of the Version 22 Standards document draft. For 5 years even if herds have been commingled for any length of time. This should be based sound epidemiological evaluation of herd risk. Standard requirements of 5 years are inappropriate.
- **Sale Barns.** Pertaining to Part B under heading of “Limited Contact” of the Version 22 Standards document draft. The document states, “Pens at fairs, livestock auctions, sales, shows, and exhibitions must be thoroughly cleaned and all organic material removed after use and before holding another animal.” This ensures sale barns involving cervids must have total disinfection if there is limited contact with susceptible species. This will severely damage states with live animal auctions involving deer or elk. For example, Lolli Bros. in Missouri.
- **Definition of Hunt or Shooter Facility.** Pertaining to the definitions on page 6 under the heading of “Hunt or Shooter Facility” of the Version 22 Standards document draft. Version 22 has now included the new definition of “Hunter or Shooter Facility” as “A privately owned ranch or other premises that operates to sell commercial hunts. These facilities should have fenced enclosures maintained to prevent ingress and egress of cervids. They may participate in an Approved State CWD HCP if they can comply with all minimum requirements of Approved State CWD HCP as set forth in the federal rule. States also may have CWD testing requirements of all cervids harvested from these facilities.” The word “Shooter” must be removed from the definition. The added language in the last sentence suggesting 100% testing is also inappropriate.

CWD Standards Comparison between Industry and USDA Versions

Standards Working Group Adopts Only 25% of Cervid Rep's Suggestions

July 11, 2013 – The American Cervid Alliance analyzed two major versions of the standards from the CWD Standards Working Group led by USDA’s Dr. Patty Klein. The Standards Working Group, which concluded in early June, produced the final running draft of the standards known as Version 22. Version 22 is currently being prepped for the public comment period after the completion of technical approval by USDA attorneys.

In April, Version 18, known as the “Industry Suggestions Draft” was created after the Working Group allowed a subcommittee of the committee’s cervid and state veterinarian representatives to offer an alternative they could all agree to live with. Version 18, which had the approval of Eric Mohlman, Shawn Schafer and Charly Seale, was submitted to the full Working Group. The remainder of the Working Group then reviewed the suggestions to determine which ones they would incorporate into the running draft.

After a side by side comparison of Version 18 and Version 22, it shows that only 25% of the industry suggestions made by Mohlman, Schafer, and Seale were adopted by the Standards Working Group after it was presented. Version 18 made 241 changes the cervid industry needed. Version 22 reflects only 61 of the 241 changes within the 56 page document.

Unanimous Vote to Explore Legal Options Regarding CWD Standards

Council to Send Letter to USDA Labeling Standards as "Unacceptable"

July 23, 2013 – The American Cervid Alliance met Tuesday to discuss the ongoing concerns of the Version 22 CWD Program Standards document. Version 22 is the product of the Standards Working Group that is currently being prepared for public comment.

The council members discussed the list of concerns that were distributed last month. Concerns discussed were the comparison between versions 18 and 22, unnecessary language regarding semen, 60 month quarantines, 60 month trace backs with their possible consequences on the industry, among others.

Due to the high number of severe concerns, the council voted to draft and send a letter to Dr. John Clifford of the United States Department of Agriculture stating the alliance of 29 deer and elk associations consider this document unacceptable.

The decision came by a motion from Gary Olson of the Minnesota Deer Breeders Association that asked for a letter to be sent on behalf of the ACA stating the document is not acceptable. Olson stated, "Our industry met with USDA for two hours every week for over six months and only 25% of what our cervid representatives and state veterinarians asked for was accepted. It is our duty as elected leaders of our associations to protect our members from these over-reaching regulations." "We must go to Dr. Clifford one more time to let him know this document is unacceptable."

The Olson motion was adopted 16-0, including one proxy vote. Richard Garrels of the Iowa Elk Breeders Association was the second on the motion.

After further discussion of possible next steps along the process, a second motion was made by Kim Kafka of the North American Elk Breeders Association, to explore legal options that exist in regard to the CWD Program Standards. Kafka stated, "There is a lot wrong with this document. My NAEBA members and directors cannot accept this. It's terrible from top to bottom. We will send a letter with our concerns to Dr. Clifford as stated earlier and take advantage of the 30 day public comment period but we need to start learning what our legal options are. I would like to make a motion that we start exploring our legal options and bring answers for our next meeting."

Curt Waldvogel commented during discussion, "Both the CWD Program Standards and Rule are unacceptable and we have to do something about it. Our industry cannot afford this." Waldvogel voted in support of the Kafka motion.

The Kafka motion passed unanimously 16-0, including one proxy vote. Donald Hill of the Missouri Whitetail Deer and Hunting Ranch Association was the second on the motion.

The council will convene at the first of the month to address the legal options.

Official Ear Tags for Farmed Cervidae (Deer & Elk)

All farmed cervidae must have one official ear tag.
Official ear tags must never be removed from an animal.

New tag size!

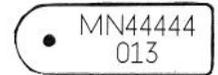
Official ear tags include:

- **National uniform ear tagging system (NUES)**
 - Begins with “41”, the official state number for Minnesota.
 - Issued by the Board of Animal Health. Call 651-201-6804 to order.



- **Premises based numbering system**
 - Includes “MN”, state premises identification number and a unique animal number.
 - Pre-printed and issued by private tag companies.

- Allflex USA: 1-800-989-8247
www.allflexusa.com
- Hasco Tag Company: 1-800-860-6300
www.hascotag.com
- Premier Sheep Supplies: 1-800-282-6631
www.premier1supplies.com



- **Animal identification number (AIN) system**
 - Consists of 15 digits, beginning with “840”, the United States country code.
 - Radio frequency identification (RFID) version issued by the Board of Animal Health.



Records:

- Reports submitted to the Board of Animal Health must list all identification devices for each animal. All numbers and letters must be listed as they appear on a tag, tattoo or implant. If an animal is retagged, both the old and new tags must be recorded.

MnEBA Officer Blog by Jim Byrne, MnEBA Vice President

Well, antlers have been cut and calves are born and growing. This whole process of growth and development makes you appreciate the amazing capacities the Lord has provided the creatures of his world.

A while back, we had a calf that was trampled and broke a leg or maybe the hip when the herd rushed out of the barn one afternoon. It was hobbling badly and we weren't sure what we needed to do.

I worked for a veterinarian at one time who had the belief that God took care of his creatures and that sometimes it was best to let God's healing take place without interference. He would say with a smile that "skillful neglect" was the best thing for the injury and the animal. In the case of this little calf, it was the best thing we could have done. Today that calf is grown and will take part in this year's breeding season and without knowing her ID number, you can't pick her out from the others.

Now that summer is waning, it is time to start thinking of who is going to breed with who and the conception of the new calves for next year. The growth and development cycle starts all over again and the miracle of God's creation will continue to amaze.

Respectfully,

Jim

We Are Buying Elk Bulls!

Any score sizes—Any amount

**Don't let anyone just pick the best and leave the rest!
We also buy rag horns and cows.**

**We pay
Top
Prices!**

Will pick up at your farm or pay you for delivery.

"We have been buying bull elk from Minnesota for over 20 years!"



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In The News

News updates from the American Cervid Alliance.

Iowa CWD Crisis Update

330 Acres Quarantined until December 2017; Litigation Scheduled for Late Summer

June 28, 2013 – The American Cervid Alliance would like to offer an update regarding the ongoing CWD crisis in Iowa since last summer. Tom & Rhonda Brakke, owners of Pine Ridge Lodge, originally found a positive CWD buck in their hunting ranch in July 2012.

By January 31, 2013, all animals were depopulated and tested in compliance with the Iowa DNR Agreement. Also according to the agreement, the decontamination procedures were followed and completed during the first week of April. Pine Ridge was responsible for expenses incurred from the testing, storage of carcasses in reefer, disposal, and decontamination. These procedures were directly ordered as suggested by Part B of the CWD Standards working document. Part of the decontamination process was the removal of 4 inches of top soil in areas of their farm and other requirements consistent with standards working document Version 22.

According to the Brakke's, without any options provided to maintain breeder or preserve facility operations to

generate income, the Brakke's legal representatives contacted the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) and Iowa DNR to discuss future options for the preserve property. Because there were no options provided by the state, the Brakke's canceled their hunting preserve license and 30 days later opened the gates planning to remove the fences. The Brakke's stated their intentions to remove the fence were to generate income from the property. During that 30 day cancelation time period, they were not contacted by the Iowa DNR or IDALS.

On June 6, 2013, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) served an Emergency Order stating that the preserve is subject to quarantine and among other things, requiring the Brakke's to close the gates and maintain the fence. The emergency order stated the Brakke's eight foot fence must remain in place and maintained until December 28, 2017. The date is based off five years after the last positive was found.

The Brakke's are involved in a contested case proceeding with the IDALS regarding their breed facility animals. In the proceeding with IDALS, the Brakke's are seeking to set aside the quarantines issued by IDALS and if such quarantines are not set aside, they are seeking appropriate compensation from the state for the loss of their property. The contested case hearing with IDALS is set for August, 2013.

The Iowa DNR is requesting open access to the Brakke's 330 acre property for a period of 4 weeks in order to destroy any wild cervids that have entered the property. The Brakke's are challenging the DNR's actions and request. In addition, the Brakke's are seeking appropriate compensation from the state should the DNR's action be upheld. Due to the Emergency Order, the Brakke's expect at least a portion of the issues involving DNR will be heard by an administrative law judge tomorrow on July 3rd, and possibly a full hearing on the merits at a later date.

Iowa Judge Rules against IDALS Motion to Consolidate Brakke Cases

Iowa Assistant Attorney General to Inquire Constitutionality of CWD Standards Rationale

July 23, 2013 – Today, July 23, 2013, the Iowa Administrative Legal Judge ruled against a motion request by the Iowa Department of Land Stewardship (IDALS) to merge the two contested cases (Ag and IDNR) filed by the Brakke family into one. The motion would also delay hearing the merits for both cases until November. Tom and Rhonda Brakke filed suit against IDALS last fall to seek indemnity for their animals on their breeder farm. The

Brakke's filed a second suit against the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) in July 2013, after the IDNR issued an emergency order quarantining their 330 acres until December 28, 2017. The Brakke's believe the two lawsuits are separate jurisdictions and constitutional takings even though they are both related to the exposure of Chronic Wasting Disease.

In a statement issued by the Iowa Assistant Attorney

General, "Both cases will involve a constitutional takings analysis, and that analysis will involve some level of discussion of the science and rationale behind IDALS' and DNR's Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) quarantine policies and the USDA's Program Standards for CWD exposed herds or property."

The American Cervid Alliance will distribute updates regarding the Iowa cases as they become available.

Elk Bull Needed for 2013 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt

MnEBA is seeking an elk bull for the 2013 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt to be held at Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch in Baudette, MN later this Fall.

The bull should measure 300"-350". This elk hunt will be awarded to a disabled Minnesota veteran of the United States armed forces. This will mark the 7th year MnEBA has sponsored this hunt!

Please contact the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 or info@mneba.org if you can help!

Do You Know a Disabled Minnesota Veteran Who Might Want to Apply?

MnEBA is also seeking to find this year's veteran with the assistance of Midwest Outdoors Unlimited. Applications are now available and will be due by October 1st.

Please contact the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 or info@mneba.org to request an application!

MnEBA Member Featured In Local Ag Publication

Groen's hobby becomes full time elk farm

By Carol Stender – Agri News
cstender@agrinenews.com

February 25, 2013

BLOMKEST, Minn. – Scott Groen describes his elk operation as a hobby that became a full-time venture.

It's not as if he didn't have enough to do when he purchased his first elk in the mid 1990s. The Blomkest farmer had a 225 sow farrow-to-finish operation and a quarter section of farmland to keep him busy.

But he needed a change.

Groen had developed allergies. He would begin itching once he went in the hog barns, he said. Between his allergies and asthma, it was difficult to attempt even fun things with his son.

When doctors tested him for 72 allergies, he failed 30. Hog dander was among the allergens causing his troubles.

His parents, Bud and Joan, moved to the farm when Groen was just three months old and set up a beef operation. Groen showed the family's Charolais in 4-H.

After high school graduation, Groen took over the farm and built his hog herd. He also handled crops while his father continued to raise cattle. In 1988, Bud and Joan moved off the farm to manage Kandiyohi Lake Park 1. Groen married his

wife, Sue, and continued to raise livestock and crops. Eventually the cattle were sold. Less than a decade later, after Groen's allergies were diagnosed, the farm needed a new focus.

Groen was drawn to elk, he said.

"It was something different to have," he said. "And they take care of themselves."

He purchased his first animal in 1995 and sold the hogs as he built the elk operation. By 1998, the pigs were gone, Groen said.

The hogs once made up to 90 percent of the farm's income. But Groen found equally profitable markets for the elk. Sales from breeding stock, antlers and to hunting preserves now make up to 75 percent to 90 percent of the farm's profits.

"Farmers around here laugh about it, but it's true," he said.

There are two markets for antlers – velvet and hard. Groen cuts the antlers off at the velvet stage. This is the pre-rut state and the antlers appear slightly furry. Buyers like velvet antlers, he said.

Velvet antlers, once cut, are held upside down and frozen to preserve them. Groen collects antlers from other elk farmers and sells them to Chinese buyers. Some elk, like his two breeding bulls, naturally shed their antlers. The bulls rub the velvet, which will be sold as "hard" antlers.

In the early years, the Groens traveled to many elk shows to enter antlers in competition. They received numerous awards especially for the antlers from one of their first bulls named King. His antlers scored 500 inches, a measurement that combines the circumference, spread and other factors. Undeniable was another bull who recorded high scores. Those bloodlines remain within the herd.



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wedo cows!



The herd is raised on pasture, which is divided into paddocks surrounded by eight-foot high fencing. The animals receive a grain ration that changes depending on the animal's age. The ration is mostly oats or soybean hull pellets, corn, distillers grain and an elk mineral. Pastures make up 60 acres of his land, he said. The rest is planted in corn and soybeans with about 13 acres chopped for silage.

Bulls are kept until they reach about six years of age when they are sold for breeding or to hunting preserves, he said.

He has 130 total head in his yard, he said. That's down from his early years and he doesn't anticipate increasing numbers due to heavy regulation within the cervidae industry.

Any elk that dies must be tested for Chronic Wasting Disease, he said. If they aren't, the farmer could receive a \$250 fine. The same testing must occur for elk at hunting preserves. CWD tests aren't required for beef or wild animals.

In his roughly 18 years raising elk, the herd has never tested positive for CWD. "All I'm asking for is fairness in testing," he said.

The Groen's son, Cody, is a junior at St. John's University and is considering returning to the farm. Daughter Shelby is a freshman at St. Benedicts and daughter Libby is a freshman at Renville County West in Renville.

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 at 800-519-0658 (cell)
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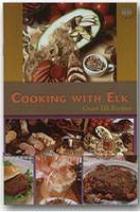
MnEBA Promotional Materials

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

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

MEAT PROMOTIONS

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



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

3rd Edition "Cooking With Elk" Cookbook

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

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

VELVET PROMOTIONS



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

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

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

GENERAL INFORMATION



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

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

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Elk Rug (Small) \$27.50 each

Elk Rug (Large) \$40 each

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More 20th Anniversary MnEBA Memories

The first North American Elk Breeders Association (NAEBA) Convention to be held in Minnesota was hosted at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2000. In conjunction with this event, MnEBA hosted the Best of the Best Elk Sale, a live animal elk sale in downtown Minneapolis! The International Antler Competition was hosted at the St. Cloud Civic Center in St. Cloud, MN in 2000 as well.

The NAEBA Convention has since been hosted in Minnesota in 2004, 2005 and 2006 at Jackpot Junction in Morton, MN and at the Minneapolis Marriott NW in Brooklyn Park in 2012. NAEBA held their January Jamboree at the Holiday Inn in Mankato in 2009.

MnEBA's first fundraising raffle took place in 2004 with the drawing at the MnEBA Annual Conference in 2005. This ticket-type raffle was held 4 consecutive years. In 2009, MnEBA began the MnEBA Gun Calendar Raffle which has been a growing success!

MnEBA began a college scholarship program in 2010 in the amount of \$500 each year.

MnEBA was named Association of the Year in 2009 by the North American Elk Breeders Association.

MnEBA developed the MN Elk Trademark program in 2010 for meat and dietary supplements containing velvet antler for pets and humans.

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**Eric Mohlman Resigns as Executive Director;
Travis Lowe Named Successor**

*Brenda Hartkopf & Laurie Seale Join Staff;
Office Moving to Minnesota*

July 8, 2013 – NAEBA announces new staff changes effective in August after Eric Mohlman and Kim Mohlman resigned as Executive Director and Office Manager, respectively. The NAEBA Board of Directors has named Travis Lowe as the new Executive Director, Brenda Hartkopf as Office Manager/Convention Coordinator and Laurie Seale as the Fundraising Coordinator/Convention Assistant.

The new team was assembled after the Mohlman's gave their notice that will become effective after the 2013 Convention in South Dakota on August 1-3rd. With the growing demands of their elk farm and small business, Mohlman said they wanted to take a step back. The Mohlman's have staffed the NAEBA office from their home near Ayr, Nebraska since 2008.

Travis Lowe takes over as the association's policy point person bringing several years of government relations and association management experience. Lowe has worked for several lobbying firms and served as Legislative Director for the recent Senate President of Kansas. He has a political science degree and is also the lobbyist for the Kansas Cervid Breeders Association. Lowe will still continue working as a lobbyist representing several clients in the state capital of Topeka. Lowe has served as an officer on the board for the last two years and will resign his seat at the upcoming convention.

Brenda Hartkopf will take over the daily office duties and also retain her position as Convention Coordinator. Hartkopf has worked part-time for NAEBA since 2008 running NAEBA's annual conventions and also serves as the Executive Secretary for the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association for the last fifteen years. The NAEBA office will be moved to her home in Howard Lake, Minnesota, this fall. Long time NAEBA members, Hartkopf and her husband Lance, have raised elk since 1993.

Laurie Seale will take on a new part-time position as Fundraising Coordinator and assistant for NAEBA events. Seale most recently served as Executive Director of the Cervid Livestock Foundation until last month. Seale owns a large whitetail farm in Wisconsin and served as president of the Whitetails of Wisconsin association for several years. She is also a councilmember for the American Cervid Alliance.

Eric Mohlman stated, "My wife and I have cherished all the great years working for NAEBA. We have had the pleasure of working with several fantastic Board of Directors and staff members. We know Travis, Brenda, and Laurie will do great things for NAEBA in the coming years. We will miss working with all the wonderful NAEBA members on a day to day basis but we will still be involved in smaller roles." Mohlman will still participate as a representative for NAEBA throughout CWD negotiations as the CWD Policy Analyst. Mohlman had also served on NAEBA's board for several years and was elected president in 2008.

The NAEBA Directors thank Eric and Kim Mohlman for all their years of dedicated service.



July 24, 2013

Dr John Clifford
Deputy Administrator and Chief Veterinary Officer, USDA APHIS
Room 317-E Whitten Building
1400 SW Independence Avenue
Washington, DC 20250

Dr. Clifford,

The North American Elk Breeders Association respectfully submits this letter to the United States Department of Agriculture to share our concerns with the "Chronic Wasting Disease Program Standards."

The North American Elk Breeders Association (NAEBA) represents domestic elk breeders across the United States and Canada. NAEBA's leaders have spent the last several months reviewing the potential impacts of the CWD Program Standards. NAEBA appreciated the opportunity to have a seat at the table with the Standards Working Group in an effort to improve the standards document. Unfortunately, now that the Working Group negotiations have concluded, the remaining requirements will prove devastating to our membership.

The latest product of the Standards Working Group, known as Version 22, is currently under technical review by USDA in preparation for public comment. NAEBA is deeply concerned there are too many major changes that must be made to consider this a workable document for the cervid industry.

Major concerns with the latest version of the standards include but are not limited to:

- The intended "optional" language does not match for Part A and Part B.
- The exemption of wild cervid movement has not been removed.
- 60 month quarantines are suggested even though research requires only half that time.
- The document suggests 100% testing of all harvested trophy animals.
- The document suggests 10ft fencing.
- The document requires removal of top soil of potentially thousands of square feet.

In addition to the concerns themselves, Dr. Patty Klein allowed a subcommittee of the Working Group comprised of cervid industry representatives and state veterinarians to offer an alternative draft. The alternative draft, known as Version 18, makes 241 changes to the underlying document. A side by side comparison shows only 61 of the 241 changes were adopted in Version 22. This correlates to only 25 percent of the industry and state veterinarian recommendations being accepted. Considering the final product of the Standards document being sent out for comments, NAEBA's position at this time, is that this document is not acceptable to our members.

We appreciate the opportunity to voice our concerns.

Respectfully,
Kim Kafka
NAEBA President

NAEBA's 23rd Annual Conference & International Antler Competition

August 1 – 3, 2013

**Best Western Plus Ramkota
Sioux Falls, SD**



The 23rd NAEBA Annual Conference and International Antler Competition will take place in just a matter of days! This year's convention is only 10 miles from the Minnesota border in Sioux Falls, South Dakota!

This is a great chance for Minnesota producers to once again attend a national convention relatively close to home. Minnesota had a great presence at last year's convention and will hopefully once again. There are so many things to experience - antler judging schools, live entertainment, fun contests, the International Antler Competition and timely seminars. This year's seminars are especially important with the CWD Program Standards and new TB Blood test issues being major concerns. Several buyers of elk products will be there and there will be an elk marketing seminar. Selling products is what it's all about to keep the farm going. Take advantage of all these opportunities to become better informed and to network with those people who can help you bring your farm to where you want it to be.

This also includes attending the antler competition! You can change the whole direction of your breeding herd by finding the perfect bull to compliment your cow genetics at the competition, sale, and semen auction. Pictures may be worth a thousand words but seeing the antler in person is even better. It's always interesting to see what antler records will once again be broken!

This will be the second year of the NAEBA Select Quality Elk Auction. The animals on this year's sale are some the best genetics in the industry. All NAEBA members have received the convention program containing the sale lots; you'll want to check them out.

There are some new hunt offerings on this year's auction block and many new, unique items. The Mystery tent is also very interesting! Semen from the top bulls in the industry will be on the auction block on Saturday evening, in conjunction with the animal sale. Don't miss out on these special opportunities to purchase a great hunt or improve your breeding program long into the future.

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 contact convention coordinator Brenda Hartkopf at 320-543-2686 and let her know you're coming. It's a big help in planning for meals, room set up and other details. See you in Sioux Falls!

NAEBA Convention Highlights!

Thursday August 1st
Antler Check-in
Velvet Antler Cutting School
Hard Antler School
Hospitality

Friday August 2nd
Opening Ceremonies
Regional Meetings
Photo Contest
Seminars
Comedian Scott Novotny
Fun Auction
Hospitality

Saturday August 3rd
Seminars
Meat Contest
Antler Competition
Awards
Mindy Patterson Key Note
Select Quality Elk Sale &
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Guest Room Reservations:
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Elk Breeders Association to
receive a guest room rate of \$99.

MnEBA Kitchen

Here's a filling salad for those dog days of summer when you don't want to heat up the kitchen!

Taco Pasta Salad

1 (16 oz.) box spiral pasta	1 large green pepper, chopped
1 lb. ground elk	1 medium onion, chopped
$\frac{3}{4}$ cup water	1 medium tomato, chopped
1 envelope taco seasoning	1 small can sliced black olives
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese	1 bottle (16oz.) Western dressing



Cook pasta according to package directions. Meanwhile in skillet, cook ground elk over medium heat until no longer pink. Add water and taco seasoning; simmer uncovered 5-10 minutes.

Rinse pasta in cold water and drain; place in large bowl. Add burger mixture, cheese, green pepper, onion, tomato and olives. Mix well. Add dressing, toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate at least 1 hour. Makes a big batch!

Editor's Note: You might also substitute taco sauce in place of some of the Western dressing to give a little more flavor.

Summary of Life

Submitted by Larry Gerdes

GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED

1. No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats...
2. When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
3. If your sister hits, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
4. Never ask your 3-year-old brother to hold a tomato.
5. You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
6. Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
7. Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
8. You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
9. Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
10. The best place to be when you're sad is Grandma's lap.

GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED

1. Raising teenagers is like nailing jelly to a tree.
2. Wrinkles don't hurt.
3. Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
4. Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground...
5. Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.

GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD

1. Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional...
2. Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
3. When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
4. You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
5. Its frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to listen. ☺

Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

Fly Control

This time of year, flies seem to be a big problem and have been worse than usual in central Minnesota this summer. There are ways to help control flies and give your animals some relief.

For general control, you may try applying fly spray with a high pressure sprayer or during feeding. Oilers don't seem to help all that well. Any time you have your animals in the facility, pour with a long lasting dairy permectin. The disadvantage to this is that it will be removed if it rains, but otherwise should give them relief for 7-10 days.

Fly problems will cause some elk to lose their hair and also cause them to suddenly run. Wind, shade and tall grass also seem to help.

Watch Antlers for Maggots

Summer is also when we start seeing some bulls have problems with maggots, either in damaged antler or around the base of the antler or stump. Even just a little damage can cause an infestation of maggots. Signs of problems would include head down or shaking head, ear down, or swarms of flies around the bull's head. If you see this, it is very important to bring the bull in and check for maggots. Left untreated, this problem can result in the death of the bull.

If you find the bull has maggots, the infested area must be cleaned very thoroughly. Soap and water will work as well as Betadyne. Get in there with a brush to remove all maggots; it is very important to get it well cleaned out. Then it's also very important to spray affected area with screwworm spray such as Catron IV™. Finally, give a shot of long acting antibiotic such as L.A. 200™ or penicillin. When the infestation is at the base of the antler, also apply a long lasting fly spray.

Every year there are reports of this happening. As long as you catch it early and treat it, you can stop it.

Big Appetites = Good Weight Gain = Good Quality Meat

This time of year, the elk seem to go on an eating binge! It's a good time to put weight on the velveting bull herd for next year. They typically do not put weight on in the Fall like they do in late summer. If pastures are currently short, consider supplementing with hay. Take advantage of the good appetite they have for feed and supplement accordingly. Results will be more noticeable when they have a healthy appetite than in the winter when they're not eating much.

This also makes now a good time the cull or butcher, before rut begins. Meat quality is excellent when appetites are good. I have heard of a good amount of inquiries for elk meat.

Fall Feeding – Consider Corn Silage

Be thinking about what you want to do for Fall feeding. Most crops were planted late this past spring. If we have an early frost, it might be a good time to feed corn silage to your elk. Corn silage is a good feed for elk and cuts down significantly on hay consumption. The main drawback towards corn silage is that Listeriosis or "circling disease" can occur. Listeriosis is however, very treatable. If feeding corn silage, you will want to manage mineral intake very closely. Consult with a nutritionist on the proper ration.

Committee Reports

2014 MnEBA Annual Conference

The 2014 MnEBA Annual Conference will be held at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, MN on January 10-11, 2014. The host hotel will be the Best Western Plus Kelly Inn, right next door.

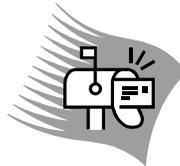
Do you have any ideas for seminar topics or new fundraising ideas for the upcoming winter convention?

Contact Kaye Zearth at (320) 834-4064 or oakpoint@gctel.com, Rita Prodzinski at (507) 452-1282 or rprod@hotmail.com, or Brenda Hartkopf at (320) 543-2686 or info@mneba.org with your thoughts!

Thank You from Scholarship Recipient

Dear MN Elk Breeders Association,

Thank you very much for awarding me with your scholarship! It will help out a lot with school expenses. It is greatly appreciated.



Sincerely,
Joey Lucas

MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Annual Conference	Kaye Zearth (320) 834-4064
Nominating	Fred Neubert (320) 352-6733
Government Relations	Jim Byrne (507) 358-6505
Antler Competition	Kaye Zearth (320) 834-4064
Health	Dr. Glen Zearth (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

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320-543-2686

FAX:
320-543-2983

E-MAIL:
info@mneba.org

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

Calendar of Events

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

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

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

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

Classified Ads

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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