



Special Interest Articles:

- 2015 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendars Now Available
- NEW MnEBA Web Site
- Summer Meeting Minutes
- MnEBA Summer Picnic Photos
- Regaining Access to China Markets
- NAEBA Annual Conference & International Antler Competition
- Farmed Cervidae Advisory Minutes
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President's Message by Mark Lucas



Good Day All,

This is a great time of the year yet a busy time to be in the elk business. To me, it is a great time of year because it is so rewarding to see the changes taking place in the elk on a daily basis. The new crop of calves are in that rapid growth phase and are out playing rather than hiding so much. I am amazed at the size difference 30 days makes on these calves. The hard work of velveting is about wrapped up and we can see what progress has been made with another year of maturity on the bulls. And my very favorite is seeing how the hard horn bulls are looking as they come up each day to get their vittles. It is truly a fun time.

But talk about busy---in the last month there has been calf tagging and shots, velveting bulls, making hay, cutting thistles in the pasture, and the never ending lawn mowing on top of all the other routine daily farm chores. If you crop farm, there has been planting and spraying season as well in what has been a more difficult than normal year weather-wise. But, it is all part of the life style we chose, the elk business. We all have our reasons for doing it and sticking with it, not opting for the easier route of city life. I am sure we all have those days where nothing is going right that the easy route looks appealing. Yet, we push through it knowing tomorrow is another day.

So it is with the elk markets. Most of us remember the early days of \$5,000 run-of-the-mill heifer calves and \$100/ pound velvet. Then came along those horrible three letter words that killed our markets, BSE and CWD. Borders closed to export meat, velvet and related products in a knee-jerk reaction to the unknowns of the issue. Tough times followed as activists found they too could use those three letter words to trump fear over science to further their cause in the court of public opinion. They are still using it as a last ditch effort to close state borders to imports of live animals like Missouri. But, those of us that were not in it for a quick buck are still here to see another day. The science is beginning to win out over fear. Several recent studies by wildlife agencies side with truth that CWD is not going to end the world as we know it today. That nature and genetic selection is winning out in the wild, perhaps we over-reacted. It does take some time to turn around all the damage that has been caused over the last 5 to 10 years of half-truths and outright lies, but it is happening. Prices for velvet are up to a respectable level and hard antler bulls are once again prize property. I have not yet heard any breeding stock prices but that should follow as well. Work is being done to reopen export markets that have been closed for years and are showing promise. We are glad that we pushed through knowing that tomorrow was another day. The hope of better financial times in the elk business has come to fruition.

Another great thing about this time of year is that the MnEBA Summer Picnic is just around the corner. It is Saturday July 26th at the Jim and Eileen Byrne farm. The Picnic is always a great time to share with likeminded folks and enjoy one of my favorite meals---Pot Luck! Hope to see you there.

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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2015 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendars Now Available!

See what's new for 2015!

New for this year's gun raffle are the additions of two handguns and an AR-15! MnEBA has also increased the gun budget to offer more recognizable name brand guns than ever before. It's exciting to have so many much sought after firearms to offer on this year's raffle!

Calendar sales allow MnEBA to continue with its mission of strengthening the elk farming industry by creating awareness of the industry and marketing. The new MnEBA web site is a great testament to MnEBA's commitment to get the word out about the great products produced by elk. MnEBA is also hard at work supporting the national PR campaign as well as making plans to have a big splash at the MN State Fair. These efforts build on each other to help benefit all members. Calendar sales help MnEBA accomplish that and so much more!

Another great benefit, anyone selling 30 or more calendars and turning in those stubs and money by December 31st will receive a free 2015 MnEBA membership (up to a \$125 value). It pays to fundraise!!!

Many thanks to all MnEBA members who stepped up to sponsor a month in the 2015 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. This year's sponsors include: Jim & Eileen Byrne, Leo Windschitl, Wade Schimmelpfennig, Brian Wagner, Lance & Brenda Hartkopf, Perry & Don Olson, Glen & Kaye Zebarth, Craig & Kathy and Klint & Lora Wylie, Eric & Kim Mohlman, Greg & Roxy Lubinski, Bill & Karen Knutson and Mark & Lisa Luedtke.

If you're attending the MnEBA Summer Picnic or NAEBA Convention in Kansas City, make sure to pick up your calendars! They're also available by contacting one of your local board members or the MnEBA Office at 320-543-2686 or info@mneba.org.



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.

MnEBA's New Web Site is Now LIVE!

Here's a sneak peak...

NEW Features:

* 8 different sliders featuring elk markets and events →

* Quick Links to items important to the general public →

* Expandable Calendar of Events to read details →

* Lots of photos to engage the viewer

* Improved search format to find members who sell elk products

* Minnesota Elk Video prominently displayed →

CHECK IT OUT AT:

www.mneba.org

Many thanks to **Minnesota Grown** for providing the funding to make the new site possible!

Summer Meeting Minutes

Membership Meeting Minutes July 26, 2014

The membership of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held their summer membership meeting on July 26, 2014 at Byrne Farm in Pine Island, MN. President Mark Lucas called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. He began the meeting by thanking Jim & Eileen for being great hosts for this year's summer event.

Lucas asked for additions or corrections to the January 11, 2014 secretary report as presented. Morrie Evenson moved to approve the secretary report as written. His motion was seconded and passed.

The treasurer's report included both the 2013 and 2014 year to date review. The July 24, 2014 checkbook balance was \$24,023.48. Don Kaplan moved to accept the report, Rita Prodzinski seconded, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Government Relations: Jim Byrne reported there was very little activity at the State Capital this past session that involved the farmed cervid industry. He explained issues MnEBA was watching but nothing which required action at this time. As always, MnEBA's lobbyist is doing a great job keeping MnEBA informed. Escapes also continue to be a big concern. He explained the move to have primarily Board of Animal Health interface with any producer who has an escape which has not been recaptured within 24 hours. Jim also reported that the CWD Program Standards were finalized in May and that very little of what industry requested had been changed. But industry does have plans to work through remaining concerns at future USAHA meetings, the first of which will take place this coming October.

Fundraising Raffle: Brenda Hartkopf reported that the new MnEBA Gun Raffle 2015 calendars are now available and handed out samples for everyone to review. She reported that MnEBA has never sold out of calendars which leaves important funding on the table which could be used in furthering MnEBA projects and donations such as the national PR campaign. She encouraged anyone who would be willing to sell calendars to pick them up in person as it would save on shipping costs. Again this year, any member selling 30 calendars or more will receive a complimentary 2015 MnEBA membership valued at up to \$125.

Promotions: Brenda Hartkopf reported that there has been lots of work put into the new MnEBA web site in the past few months and that it would be going LIVE on Monday! She also reported potentially developing a press release in the near future promoting the new site, talking about this year's velvet price and getting the word out about a shortage of elk products in all markets. There was also discussion about discontinuing the MnEBA booth at the Minnesota Deer Classic and trying out the St. Paul Birds, Bucks, Bait and Boats Expo which takes place the same weekend as the MN Deer Classic. The board will make a final decision on this soon. MnEBA's 2014 membership drive will take place once the web site is fully operational. It will focus on marketing and the benefits of membership.

State Fair: Daphne Evenson thanked Greg & Roxi Lubsinski and Paul Hueg for agreeing co-chair the State Fair committee with her and Morrie. She also pointed out a few remaining open slots and encouraged all to consider working a shift at the fair.

Health: Mark Lucas reported on issues discussed at the last cervidae advisory meeting including the topics of escapes, redefining what would constitute an endemic area in the future and that it would not be treated the same way as the first case in Pine Island was, and DNR enforcement of hunters transport of carcasses from endemic areas and that it was not possible to completely prevent that from happening. He also reported the Board of Animal Health (BAH) will be discontinuing the distribution of free plastic NEUS tags. They will continue to be free of charge until current supply runs out so he encouraged members to

put there order in ASAP. The metal tags will continue to be available at no cost. Lucas also reported that the BAH changed the rules for import of animals and that they will no longer require a Brucellosis test for entry (unless animals are originating from the greater Yellowstone Park area). Dr. Hartmann is also seeing if he can gain support for a national move to have a Brucellosis test be valid for up to 90 days instead of 30 days. Lucas reported that further details of all of these topics would be in the August 1 newsletter.

NAEBA

Brian Wagner reported that all is going very well with NAEBA and that next week's convention looks to be the biggest one in several years. Convention programs were made available to check out details of the event. Wagner encouraged all to attend! Brian also reported that NAEBA has experienced a growth in overall membership of 25% in the past year and that operations are going very well.

OLD BUSINESS

There was more discussion about the new MnEBA web site. Members were encouraged to look through it thoroughly and alert the office to anything that should be re-worded, forms not working, etc. Members were also encouraged to make sure their elk offerings are correctly noted on their individual membership pages. If anything should be added or deleted, they were once again encouraged to call the office. There's also opportunity for members to add their own personal pictures to their membership listing. Attendees had the opportunity for a sneak peek at the site on computers set up at the event.

NEW BUSINESS

Lucas reported that the date of the 2014 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt has been moved up to the end of September. A bull is still needed. MnEBA would also accept monetary donations to help purchase a bull. Members were encouraged to think about donating to this great cause. It was also announced that hunter applications were now available.

Lucas gave a recap of the strategic planning session hosted by Paul Huginin of Minnesota Grown and attended by Brian Wagner, Jim Byrne, Mark Lucas and Brenda Hartkopf. The three areas identified for needed growth were 1) Increasing membership; 2) Encouraging more production of elk and producers of elk; and 3) Increasing market growth. The new web site was built with these needs in mind. These initiatives will also be priorities moving forward into the rest of the year and beyond.

Lucas and Hartkopf reported on the potential development of an educational calendar for state legislators in 2015. The idea is in the discussion process and has not been fully developed. Since all state representatives are up for re-election this year, the timing would be good.

Hartkopf discussed the 2015 Annual Conference and that NAEBA's January Jamboree would be taking place the preceding day, giving attendees a great opportunity for an extra day of learning and networking. Both events take place at the Sheraton Minneapolis West in Minnetonka, MN. Events begin Friday January 9, 2015.

Lucas reported that MnEBA had recently donated \$1,500 to the National PR Campaign organized through the American Cervid Alliance. A number of pro-industry articles have already been printed throughout the nation. Daily monitoring of several major Minnesota newspapers are included in this campaign.

Morrie Evenson moved to adjourn the meeting, Deb Zajac seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary



In The News – North American Elk Breeders Association E-Blast

Regaining Access to China Markets

By Ian Thorleifson

Printed by Manitoba Co-Operator

Cervid (elk and other deer) products have been used and prized in China for at least 2,700 years. That makes China a very valuable marketplace for cervid products. Indeed, it was a good market until Canada and the U.S. took action to contain and eradicate BSE in early 2003. China immediately closed its markets to all products from ruminants - including cervids - as did most countries around the world.

The farmed cervid industry in Canada has struggled, worked and negotiated for 10 years to slowly and incrementally reopen those closed borders to our ruminant products. We've met with some success, such as protocols for moving antler to Hong Kong, Mongolia, Vietnam, Taiwan and a few others.

But China and Korea are the big prizes. Direct access to either or both would mean dramatically more competition amongst buyers and an increase in antler prices of at least 50 percent.

The Canadian Cervid Alliance (CCA) has met with many government officials - from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Foreign Affairs, CFIA, embassy staff and more - but little progress was made until the minister of agriculture set up the Market Access Secretariat (MAS).

This group of carefully selected people had complete focus on regaining the agricultural markets lost after BSE - with emphasis on beef, of course. The successes started to mount up, with great co-operation between the MAS and industry. The cervid alliance met with MAS, and they took on the cause. They used the tools at their disposal for a time, then got back to the cervid producers and said, "OK, now it's your turn. The way business works in Asia is on the basis of personal relationships - you need to go there and make friends and business partners."

The cervid alliance directors were pleased and surprised when they were offered the opportunity to accompany Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz and 70 other influential people from Canadian agriculture and agribusiness on a trade mission to China. The group was very diverse - including provincial ministers and deputy ministers of agriculture, the canola, beef, blueberry and pork sectors. The cervid alliance selected Connie Seutter from the Alberta Elk Commission, Harvey Petracek from the Saskatchewan Cervid Alliance, myself, Don Bamber from Royal Elk Products - Canada's largest and most successful velvet antler processor, and Larry Kessler, a marketing agent from Montreal.

Our trade values are relatively small - about equal to cherries at \$4 million per year, compared to \$2.8 billion worth of canola products, or \$240 million for beef. Beyond that, we were also not technically allowed to move our

products directly into mainland China; it all goes to Hong Kong, then who knows where. Our goal is to establish protocol for all cervid products to go directly to any port and any buyer in China.

Traditional Chinese medicine practitioners prefer antler in slices for mixing with herbs and other nutraceuticals to treat many ailments and to balance the body's yin and yang forces.

Our plan on the trade mission was to meet with government officials from the agencies that govern imports and treat them to gifts and dinners, plus meet with and exchange contact information with as many prospective buyers as possible. We did that quite successfully. Now we need to follow up, from both ends - with Chinese buyers requesting import permits from their government, and us nudging the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to not impede these trade opportunities. It seems odd that we need to worry about our own government denying us opportunities, but experience shows that has happened far too many times in the past.

Our secondary goal was to learn as much as possible about the current market for our products in China. We noticed there has been a watershed change in consumer preferences based on food safety concerns. Twenty years ago, buyers wanted our products in a raw form, to allow them to capture the processing markups and to produce products in China that consumers were familiar with and accepted.

Unfortunately, unscrupulous processors added useless and even dangerous ingredients to what should have been healthy products, all to increase their profits. They have been exposed and punished, but the greater effect has been to convince Chinese consumers that imported products are safer than those processed in China.

The ones who can afford these imported goods - which is an increasingly large percentage of the population, want products that are sealed, labelled and processed in countries that enjoy good reputations for quality control and food safety - including Canada and the U.S. This is a huge opportunity for us to produce and process in North America, institute complete traceability systems to support our safety and quality claims, and market all we can produce in that manner.

Ian Thorleifson is a consultant and elk rancher from Minnedosa, Manitoba.

<http://www.manitobacooperator.ca/2014/07/22/regaining-access-to-china-markets/>

NAEBA's 24th Annual Conference & International Antler Competition



July 31 – August 2, 2014

**Harrah's North Kansas City
Kansas City, MO**

There's still time to decide to attend!!!

The 24th NAEBA Annual Conference and International Antler Competition is promising to be one of the largest conventions in years! With the uptick in all elk markets, excitement in the industry is rising in a big way! This year's conference goes back to where it all began – Kansas City, Missouri.

Conference pre-registrations and commitments to this year's antler competition indicate this will be a fantastic convention with lots of great networking opportunities and awesome bulls to view. The benefits of networking cannot be overstated! Learning a really helpful tip to better manage your farm or herd, or just finding a new breeding bull for your program can set you far ahead in on-farm profitability! This is the convention to attend!

And don't forget the educational seminars offering another great round of opportunities to learn better marketing and management strategies which can have a big impact on your bottom line! Topics include a NAEBA registration refresher, improving visual marketing, live CWD test updates which are very promising, learning more about EHD, chemical immobilization, benefits of being involved in the USAHA conference and more!

This will be the third year of the NAEBA Select Quality Elk Auction. The animals on this year's sale are some the best genetics in the industry with not only great pedigrees, but proven genetics. 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. Laurie Seale has brought lots of great ideas to make the evening a good time! 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 Kansas City!

NAEBA Convention Highlights!

Thursday July 31st

Antler Check-in
State Leaders Conference
Velvet Antler Cutting School
Hard Antler School
Hospitality

Friday August 1st

Opening Ceremonies
Regional Meetings
Photo Contest
Seminars
Comedian Devin Henderson
Fun Auction
Hospitality

Saturday August 2nd

Seminars
Meat Contest
Antler Competition
Awards
Select Quality Elk Sale &
Semen Auction
Hospitality

Harrah's North Kansas City
One Riverboat Drive
North Kansas City, MO 64116

Guest Room Reservations:
(816) 472-7777. Contact NAEBA
@ 320-543-3665 if you haven't
yet booked a room so we can get
you into the NAEBA room block @
\$99 for Thursday and \$119 for
Friday or Saturday.

Farmed Cervidae Advisory Minutes

Minnesota Board of Animal Health Farmed Cervidae Advisory Committee May 13, 2014

The Board of Animal Health (Board) Advisory Committee on Farmed Cervidae met on May 13, 2014 at the Freeman Office Building in St. Paul, MN.

In Attendance: Paul Anderson, Bill Hartmann, Carissa Allen, Carl Denkinger, Michelle Carstenson, Eric Hildebrandt, Glen Zebarth, Jim Byrne, Brenda Hartkopf, Steve Dougherty, Dennis Udovich, Gary Olson, Mark Johnson, Mark Lucas, Brian Wagner, Joni Scheftel, Megan Wood, Dennis Niess, Leroy Haffner, Daryl Simon, Lynne Osterman.

Escapes: Farmed cervidae escape events continue to occur. Although the total incidents have come down over the last several years, there is still concern. It was noted there is a need to decrease incidents and fully resolve these events by returning or killing escaped animals. An updated draft of the Board's escape protocol was presented to the committee which calls for the Board to take on primary responsibility to work with owners to ensure all efforts are made to return or kill escaped animals. The goal of the new protocol is to try and eliminate the need for Department of Natural Resources (DNR) involvement. The Board will meet with owners within 24 hours of an escape being reported, write out a recovery plan and report progress frequently to the DNR. The Board will also issue notices of violation and civil penalties if animals are not recovered.

A question was asked about how an escaped animal can be recovered that is on private property if the property owner is unwilling to grant permission to enter. It was suggested that local law enforcement or the DNR could be contacted in those cases to assist as they may have authority to enter properties in such situations. The committee suggested revising the protocol so that the owner of an escaped animal could notify just the Board and the Board would subsequently notify the DNR. With this one revision, the committee approved the Board's escape protocol. The revised protocol will be forwarded to the DNR for final approval.

Draft Response Protocol for Escape of Farmed Cervidae Board of Animal Health

(May 13, 2014)

Farmed cervidae may not be allowed to run at large. Farmed cervidae that escape are livestock and remain the property of the rightful owner. If an escaped animal cannot be captured and returned to its enclosure alive, the owner must kill the animal or arrange to have the animal killed. An animal that is killed must be tested for CWD and the carcass must be disposed of in a manner approved by the Board of Animal Health (Board). The owner must notify the Board if an escaped animal is not captured or killed within 24 hours. The Board will then notify the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The owner may capture or kill escaped farmed cervidae on their own property or on the property of others with prior permission from property owner. Unless otherwise prohibited, the owner or another person authorized by the owner may use fire arms to kill escaped farmed cervidae.

Board staff will meet with the producer within 24 hours after notification of an escape and will (1) develop and approve a written recovery plan, (2) contact the DNR official in the area to review the plan, and (3) email a copy of the plan to the Board office. Board staff will closely monitor progress on recovery of escaped animals and review progress with the DNR official and the Board office every 48 hours.

If the owner does not recover or kill the animal within three days, a notice of violation will be issued by the Board. If the owner fails to recover the animal by the date specified in the notice of violation, a \$250 fine will be issued. Failure to comply may result in criminal prosecution, injunctive action, further civil penalties or a combination thereof. The board may grant an exception to these requirements if an animal is lost due to an act of vandalism or natural disaster such as a tornado or flood.

The DNR may destroy farmed cervidae that are not returned to their enclosure within 24 hours after the escape. If the DNR kills an animal that has escaped, the carcass must be made available to the Board for CWD testing and proper disposal.

CWD Surveillance: The committee reviewed CWD testing protocols and the need for testing 100% of the animals in the herd that die or are slaughtered. The committee agreed that the protocol is statistically valid and will continue to be the basis for CWD testing in farmed cervidae in Minnesota.

Endemic Areas: The committee discussed how and when areas should be declared as endemic for CWD. The committee reviewed Minnesota's first case of CWD in wild deer near Pine Island. Some felt that it was premature to call an area endemic and restrict movement of farmed cervidae when only one CWD positive deer was found. They felt that we should further define what makes an area endemic for CWD. There are many factors that can affect how and when to designate an area as endemic. Many members agreed it is not only the number of positive animals but also how those animals are distributed, whether the area is adjacent to existing endemic areas and how confident we are in the capacity and scope of the surveillance being performed. Everyone agreed that the Board should not declare an area to be endemic for CWD and restrict animal movement when only one CWD positive deer is found. There should be strong evidence that CWD persists in an area at some low level and that it can be found in subsequent surveillance samples. The committee agreed the rules pertaining to farmed cervidae producers near areas where CWD is found in the wild need to be reevaluated and the protocols for determining CWD endemic areas need to be clarified.

Statutes and Rules: The committee reviewed current Minnesota state statutes and rules for farmed cervidae. There was discussion about the process of making laws and promulgating rules. Statutes are created legislatively and are usually more general than rules. Rules build off the foundation established in statutes to further clarify requirements. The committee was asked to review the current rules and note any parts that may need to be considered for change. The committee suggested that the sections on intrastate movement of farmed cervidae into, within and out of CWD endemic areas in Minnesota needs to be modified to allow such movements under permit from the Board.

Indemnity funding for CWD: USDA recently received additional funding for depopulation of CWD infected herds. Indemnity will be offered to the North Oaks red deer herd in Minnesota and to the owners of the CWD positive white-tailed deer herd in Iowa.

North Oaks: If the appraisal and herd plan is accepted and signed by the North Oaks red deer herd owners, the herd will be depopulated by USDA sometime this summer.

Elk Farm Llc: The property owned by Elk Farm Llc near Pine Island, Minnesota, has been restricted since that elk herd was depopulated in 2009. Since the herd was depopulated, the owners have been required to maintain perimeter fencing to prevent wild deer from entering the property or remove top soil and reestablish perimeter fencing in areas that have been developed for construction of roadways. All requirements in the herd plan will be fulfilled and all restrictions on the property will be lifted on September 30, 2014.

CWD found in Iowa wild deer: Iowa recently discovered a CWD positive white-tailed deer in Allamakee County, about 25 miles south of the southeastern corner of Minnesota. Michelle Carstensen, with the Minnesota DNR, said they are coordinating with the Iowa DNR and Wisconsin DNR to evaluate CWD surveillance near the Minnesota border. The Minnesota DNR will be doing surveillance for CWD in Houston County this fall during the hunting season.

Importation of hunter harvested carcasses: Committee members asked if there are any plans to enforce importation restrictions on hunter harvested wild deer carcasses from CWD endemic areas. They felt that there is a significant risk of bringing CWD into Minnesota when hunters return with whole deer carcasses from CWD endemic areas. Michelle Carstensen indicated that some states notify the Minnesota DNR if any Minnesota hunters register an animal that subsequently tests positive for CWD. Even though importation of whole hunter harvested carcasses from CWD endemic areas is prohibited, there is no organized regulatory process in Minnesota to prevent it. Michelle Carstensen stated that it is very difficult to prevent hunters from bringing whole carcasses into Minnesota from CWD endemic areas.

Importation bans: There have been several states that have closed their borders to most cervid imports in the last year including Florida, Louisiana and New York. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has proposed a

ban on importation of white-tailed deer. In an effort to prevent this importation ban, legislation was recently passed in Missouri that would redefine farmed white-tailed deer as livestock and transfer regulatory authority to the Missouri Department of Agriculture. This legislation is pending approval or veto by the Missouri Governor.

CWD Program Standards: The Federal CWD Program Standards are now final. The final version includes almost none of the suggestions submitted during the comment period by the farmed cervidae industry. At the last United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) a Farmed Cervidae Subcommittee was created under the Captive Wildlife and Alternative Livestock Committee. Issues of concern with the CWD Program Standards will again be addressed by the subcommittee at the USAHA annual meeting in Kansas City, October 18-22.

Official ear tags: The Board of Animal Health will be discontinuing the distribution of official plastic ear tags (National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tags and Radio Frequency ID (RFID)). These tags will be available to purchase through a company named Leedstone. The Board will continue to provide metal NUES ear tags free of charge and distribute the plastic tags until the current inventory is depleted. All farmed cervidae must now be officially identified and the Board will be enforcing this requirement. When submitting inventories, it is important for producers to remember to indicate full tag numbers. The Board continues to receive inventories where only partial numbers are recorded. Official NUES ear tags numbers are unique only if all the characters (e.g. 41ABC1234) are recorded.

Brucellosis testing import and export requirements: Except for animals that originate from the greater Yellowstone Park area, the Board will no longer require brucellosis tests for importation of farmed cervidae. For exportation of farmed cervidae to other states, several committee members said that it would be helpful if brucellosis test could be conducted within 90 days of export instead of 30 days. Most states require a test within 30 days of shipment. Dr. Hartmann said that he will soon be attending a regional USAHA meeting and will suggest this concept to the other state veterinarians in attendance.

Planning for the future: Many committee members are concerned that the "guidelines" in the CWD Program Standards will have an adverse effect on the farmed cervidae industry. They asked how they can get USDA to reconsider their suggestions for changing the document. One option would be to bring their concerns to next USAHA meeting and present them at the subcommittee on farmed cervidae. The committee identified two issues that they would like to see changed in the CWD Program Standards: (1) the requirement to sample both the obex and lymph nodes for CWD testing, and (2) the protocol for identifying and quarantining CWD exposed herds (trace forward and trace back).



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Aug. 21-Labor Day, Sept. 1, 2014

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

It's that time again!

It's time to make final preparations for attending the Minnesota State Fair! Below is the schedule to date. There are still several openings and opportunities for members to participate. The schedule for the first Friday and mid-week has some open slots. This is the best venue to reach Minnesotans to educate them about America's Greatest Animal – ELK! And there's tons of great food and fun to enjoy before and/or after your shift!

Even if you've never worked the MnEBA State Fair booth before, no worries! Morrie and Daphne are great about pairing someone up with another person 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. There will be meat product from two different vendors. Plus, two kinds of jerky (traditional & teriyaki) this year, both in a 2.6 oz. re-sealable pack. Meat sales were up significantly over last year as people now knew the elk booth was in a new location. Hopefully with more average weather, meat sales can take another significant jump!

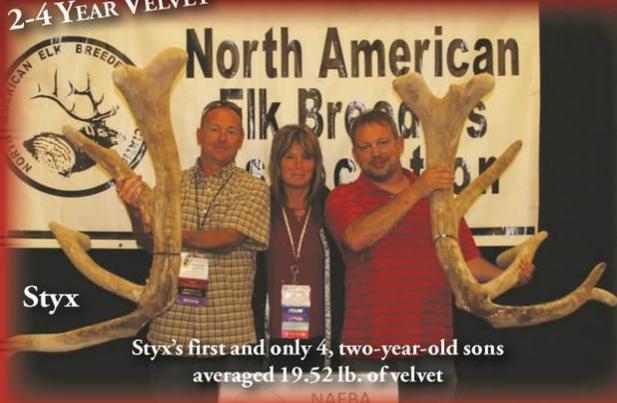
Many thanks to all who have already signed up! If you're ready to commit to a day at the State Fair, please contact Morrie or Daphne at (320) 354-5156 (home) or (320) 894-2304 (Daphne's cell).

Date	Time	Workers	Date	Time	Workers
Pre-Fair		Set Up – Paul Hueg & Greg Lubinski	8/27	8 – 2	OPEN
8/21	8 - 2	Morrie & Daphne Evenson & friends		2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	Mark & Michelle Lucas	8/28	8 – 2	Jim Byrne, Norman Schimmelpfennig
8/22	8 – 2	Aase Family		2 - 9	Jim Byrne , Norman Schimmelpfennig
	2 – 9	OPEN	8/29	8 – 2	Jim Byrne, Greg Lubinski, Martin Zacharias
8/23	8 – 2	Ike Pohlman		2 - 9	Jim Byrne, Greg Lubinski
	2 – 9	Darrell & Sheila Turek	8/30	8 – 2	Prodzinski Family
8/24	8 – 2	Wade Schimmelpfennig, Greg Lubinski		2 – 9	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf
	2 – 9	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	8/31	8 – 2	Kaplan Family
8/25	8 – 2	Jim Byrne, Greg Lubinski		2 - 9	Kaplan Family
	2 – 9	Ray Smothers, Greg Lubinski	9/1	8 – 2	Greg & Roxy Lubinski
8/26	8 – 2	Damon & Duane Melquist		2 – 9	Paul & Lynn Hueg
	2 – 9	OPEN			



Consistent Proven Early Developing Genetics Will Put Money In Your Pocket

PEOPLE'S CHOICE
2-4 YEAR VELVET



Styx

Styx's first and only 4 two-year-old sons averaged 19.52 lb. of velvet

- Heaviest four-year-old bull ever officially weighed!
- 50.22 lb. official
- Width*Width*Width*Width
- 58 3/4" Inside at the fourth tine- 2013
- Co-Owned with Josh Lundberg

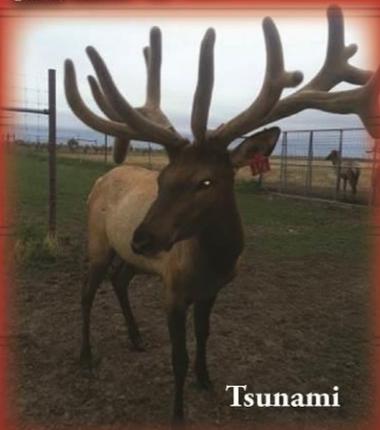
PEOPLE'S CHOICE
2-4 YEAR HARD ANTLER



Zeus

- Highest scoring 3-year-old ever! 480 1/8" official at 2013 Int. Competition with Zeus' actual spread of 48" his true score would be an astonishing 493" at only three years of age!

Incredible tine length, style
and placement
Great width! - 45" wide at only two!



Tsunami

- Twister son • Estimated well over 20 lb. and 370" green this year
- Great drops off both third tines - Hunters love the drops!
- Has the "LOOK" that everyone is wanting!
- Semen available for 2014 breeding
- \$150 per straw - call for quantity discount



Kraken

- Styx Son
- 1st Place- 2013 NAEBA Int. Competition
- 22.10 lb. official
- Semen available for 2014 Breeding
- \$150 per straw — Call for quantity discount

Mojito

- Tequila Son
- 2nd place- 2013 NAEBA Int. Competition
- 20.98 lb. official
- Semen available for 2014 breeding
- \$150 per straw — Call for quantity discount



2012 & 2013 Premier Breeder - Velvet Antler

MOHLMAN ELK FARM

4985 West Blue Hill Road, Ayr, NE 68925

402-469-1831 • mohlmnelk@gtmc.net

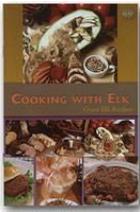
MnEBA Promotional Materials

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!

Board Blog by Wade Schimmelpfennig, Director



Hi everyone,

I hope that everyone's summer is going well. The weather this year sure has been a roller coaster of events. We started off the year with the polar vortex which made an exit just in time for monsoon season to enter in. Now we are in the hottest weeks of the year and we are struggling to get out of the 40's at night. It sure has made it difficult for those who have been trying to get a crop in, or hay off this year. The combination of poor weather and fluctuations in corn prices leads me to believe that there will be higher prices in the hay markets again this winter and next spring. I feel that the higher quality hay will definitely be bringing a premium due to the difficulty of getting a first cutting in a timely manner. If you can, I suggest stocking up before the snow flies. I think that the price of oats will be coming down though because I figure lots of alfalfa was planted this year. I just sold a gravity box full last week and got \$4.25/bushel for it. I don't see that happening next year. With the wet weather causing a late planting, the weight of the oats will be down significantly though.

I hope that everyone's calving and antler cutting went well this year. It is very promising to see the price of our velvet bringing what it is.

I hope to see everyone at both our picnic at Jim and Eileen Byrne's farm as well as at the convention in Kansas City.

Safe travels and best wishes to all.

Wade Schimmelpfennig

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**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.

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

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

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an_deerhelp@admworld.com

MnEBA Kitchen

As we move into Autumn, here's another great comfort food recipe!



Cornbread Elk Casserole

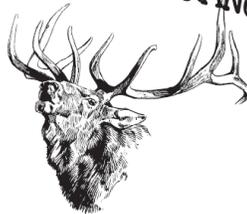
8-10 bacon strips	1 tsp. garlic powder
1 medium onion	1 pkg. (1¼ oz.) chili seasoning
2 pounds ground elk meat	2 boxes (8½ oz. each) corn muffin mix
2 cans (15 oz. each) whole kernel corn, drained	1 egg
2 cans (10¾ oz. each) tomato soup	1/3 cup milk

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees. In large oven-safe skillet over medium-high heat, cook bacon strips. Remove bacon to paper towels to drain, reserving drippings in skillet. Crumble bacon.

Chop onion. Add onion and elk meat to drippings in skillet. Heat, stirring often, until onion is tender and meat is browned. Pour drippings from skillet, retaining onions and meat in skillet. Reduce heat to medium. Add corn, tomato soup, garlic powder, chili seasoning and bacon to skillet.

In medium bowl, combine corn muffin mix, egg and milk. Mix until well combined. Spread cornbread batter over ingredients in skillet. Place skillet in oven and bake for 15 to 20 minutes, or until cornbread topping is golden brown. Yields 4-6 servings.

BLACK VELVET ELK RANCH



WANTED!

Hard Antler Bulls

Any & All Elk

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

Vet Corner by Glen Zearth, DVM

Increasing Calving Percentage

Things to think about going into breeding season

We have been hearing about a few herds which have had very low breeding percentages this year, not only in AI but bull bred females as well.

Now is the time to be preparing for fall breeding to increase your chances of calving success in the spring. Some things to think about include:

1. **Semen check** – Semen check your breeding bull, especially if you're using a different or new bull. Infertile bulls are not common, but it does happen. Also, have your veterinarian check to make sure there are no physical abnormalities in the bull.
2. **Pasture quality** – Start thinking about obtaining good quality nutrition for the cows going into breeding. One of the most important things of all is to make sure the cow is on a rising plane of nutrition with cows gaining weight going into breeding. Highly fertilized straight alfalfa is not the best, it's better to have a mix of grass and alfalfa. Also, check pastures to make sure there's not too much fescue. Watch mineral levels and check copper levels. Herds are showing up all the time with low copper levels and this does affect breeding conception. Also avoid excess potassium as this also inhibits fertilization.
3. **Distiller grains caution** – If feeding large amounts of distiller's grains, be very careful of high sulfur levels which will work to offset mineral balances. If there's an imbalance, limit distillers feed or increase minerals. Work with a nutritionist to make sure everything is balanced.
4. **Pregnancy check** cows the first of the new year. It's too late to have them conceive, but just the right time to send them to slaughter unless they're an exceptional cow. Keeping open cows is an economic hardship that can be avoided.

A poor calving percentage can have a very negative impact on profitability of your herd. If you want to make money in elk, you need to make sure your calving percentages are high. Anything you can do now to prepare for success in the spring will put money in your pocket long term.

Elk Bull Needed for 2014 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt

MnEBA is seeking an elk bull for the 2014 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt to be held at Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch in Baudette, MN the **end of September**.

The bull should measure 300"-350". If you don't have a bull but want to contribute, funds can also be donated to help purchase a bull. This elk hunt will be awarded to a disabled Minnesota veteran of the United States armed forces. It will mark the 8th year MnEBA has sponsored this hunt!

Please contact the MnEBA Office ASAP 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 September 1st**.

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

Study: Chronic wasting disease won't wipe out elk

BILLINGS GAZETTE
JULY 14, 2014 • [WYOMING GAME AND FISH](#)

A 10-year study conducted by the University of Wyoming and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department suggests that the effects of chronic wasting disease on elk may not be as devastating as once believed.

Research has shown that genes play a role in elk susceptibility to CWD. Some elk have genes that prolong the time between exposure to the CWD prion, the infectious agent of CWD, and the onset of the disease. These genes become dominant over many decades, greatly reducing the impact of CWD on the population. Elk with these genes live longer even when heavily exposed to CWD, and therefore have more opportunity to reproduce than elk with other genes.

Some people have feared that winter feedgrounds for elk would concentrate the disease resulting in a much higher incidence of CWD.

"This study model essentially represents the worst-case scenario that would face feedground elk," said Terry Kreeger, retired state wildlife veterinarian for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. "We predict a genetic shift over several decades favoring genes that prolong the incubation time of CWD resulting in elk populations that are able to persist in the face of the disease."

Scott Edberg, deputy chief of the Wyoming Game and Fish Wildlife Division, said, "It helps to know that based on this research, if CWD should become established on feedgrounds, we won't see a devastating effect on populations as many have feared. This research also looked at how hunting would affect populations, and it appears, Game and Fish would still need to have hunting seasons to manage elk populations even if faced with CWD on feedgrounds."

The full study was published in an issue of *Ecosphere*, an online, open-access, peer-reviewed scientific publication of the Ecological Society of America and can be accessed at www.esajournals.org.

Rancher John

Old ranch owner John farmed a small ranch in Montana. The Montana Wage and Hour Department claimed he was not paying proper wages to his workers and sent an agent out to interview him.

'I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them,' demanded the agent.

'Well,' replied old John, 'There's my ranch hand who's been with me for 3 years. I pay him \$600 a week plus free room and board. The cook has been here for 18 months, and I pay her \$500 a week plus free room and board. Then there's the half-wit who works about 18 hours every day and does about 90% of all the work around here. He makes about \$10 per week, pays his own room and board and I buy him a bottle of bourbon every Saturday night.'

'That's the guy I want to talk to, the half-wit,' says the agent.

'That would be me,' replied old rancher John.

*Spring Coulee
Velvet Capsules*



Bill & Karen Knutson
Home of Spring Coulee Elk

N7447 Cty Hwy D
Holmen, WI 54636
Phone (608) 526-4477
Cell (608) 792-4477
Fax (608) 526-2055
miniman41@centurytel.net

Committee Reports

New MnEBA Web Site Goes Live!

The new MnEBA web site has been soft-launched earlier this week. This means that only a limited amount of people know the site has changed and are being given some time to navigate the site to make sure everything is working correctly, that the wording on the pages is accurate, the forms work correctly, etc. Once the site is deemed to be "ready", the full launch will take place where there will be announcements made and there will be a big push to have people check it out!

Please go to www.mneba.org and check out everything the new site has to offer! If you see anything you feel should be changed or corrected, or something is confusing, please contact the MnEBA Office ASAP.

What's next??? MnEBA will be starting to send membership emails via Constant Contact as well as begin a Facebook page to further marketing and education of the elk industry and the great elk products produced by members. These two additions will have the same look and feel as the new web site.

Many thanks to the committee for all their hard work in putting everything together for the new site. Committee members include Jim Byrne, Mark Lucas and Mark Luedtke. Much appreciation also goes out to Minnesota Grown for providing the funding mechanism to help MnEBA develop a modern, engaging and creative site!

2015 MnEBA Annual Conference

This year's MnEBA Annual Conference weekend will offer the special opportunity to attend the North American Elk Breeders Association January Jamboree the day before! Mark your calendars for a full two days of education, learning and fun on January 9-10, 2015! Both events take place at:

Sheraton Minneapolis West

12201 Ridgedale Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55305

Reservations: 952-593-0000 – Mention MnEBA to receive the reduced rate of \$99/night. This room block will be released on 12/18/14. (This location is only a 1½ miles off 494, right next to Ridgedale Shopping Center. You can't miss it!)

Do you have any ideas for seminar topics or new fundraising ideas for the upcoming winter convention? Are there any topics which haven't been covered in awhile which you want to learn more about?

Contact Rita Prodzinski at (507) 452-1282 or rprod@hotmail.com, or Brenda Hartkopf at (320) 543-2686 or info@mneba.org with your thoughts and ideas!

MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Annual Conference	Rita Prodzinski (507) 452-1282
Fundraising	Brenda Hartkopf (320) 543-2686
Government Relations	Jim Byrne (507) 358-6505
Health	OPEN
Scholarship	Kaye Zebarth (320) 834-4064
State Fair	Morrie & Daphne Evenson (320) 354-5156 Greg & Roxy Lubinski (507) 534-3247 Paul Hueg (612) 791-0443

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Thank you for your support!

**Many thanks to Jim & Eileen Byrne for hosting the 2014 Summer Picnic!
A great time was had by all!!!**

MINNEAPOLIS

Save the Date – January 9-10, 2015

North American Elk Breeders Association is excited to join the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association for the

2015 NAEBA JANUARY JAMBOREE!

NAEBA January Jamboree
Friday, January 9, 2015

MnEBA Annual Conference
Saturday, January 10, 2015



Both events take place at
Sheraton Minneapolis West
12201 Ridgedale Drive • Minnetonka, MN 55305

Reservations – (952) 593-0000
www.sheratonminneapoliswest.com



15 minutes from Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP)



Lots of educational seminars, networking and a great hospitality room both days! You won't want to miss it! Bring the entire family! Great indoor activities await! Just minutes away from the Mall of America (*includes Nickelodeon Universe and SeaLife Minnesota Aquarium*), Water Park of America (*next to Mall of America; largest indoor water park in U.S.*), Science Museum of Minnesota and so much more!



www.naelk.org



Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

9086 Keats Avenue SW
Howard Lake, MN 55349

PHONE:
320-543-2686

FAX:
320-543-2983

E-MAIL:
info@mneba.org

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

Calendar of Events

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

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

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

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

Classified Ads

For Rent: Two breeding bulls for the 2014 season. Bull #1 is a symmetrical 6x6. Bull #2 is an 8x10. Both are in excellent condition and ready to meet the girls. Our herd is TB accredited and maximum CWD level. Contact Don @ Okaman Farms for details, (507) 267-4716, (507) 267-4054 or email kaplanjoyce@gmail.com.

Wanted: 2014 elk calves (male or female) from Minnesota. Animals must be from CWD Certified, TB Accredited herds. \$500 each. Contact Greg Lubinski at (507) 273-0525 (cell) or (507) 534-3247 (home).

For Sale: Hydraulic Squeeze chute with pump. Also for sale a crowding tub. Both used for about 6 years for handling bull elk. Cliff Mulder (507) 215-2427

Elk Hide Tanning: Elk hide tanning, \$225 hair off or \$15 per square foot, hair on. We can also make jackets, vests, gloves and more from your hides. Call for free catalog or for more information at (800) USA-FOXX. Check out our web site at www.usafoxx.com or email info@usafoxx.com. USA Foxx & Furs, Duluth, MN.

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

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

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

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

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