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President's Message by Mark Lucas



Good day all,

July 16, 2015

Where does the time go? It is hard to believe that it is already mid-July. First cutting of hay is in the barn and just getting set for second cutting. Due to the lack of snow melt this spring, this is the first time in the 20 years we have lived on the farm that we have been able to hay the entire meadow in the month of June. Usually we have to go around a couple acres due to standing water down there. The elk should be eating a little better quality hay this winter since we were able to hay earlier than usual. The row crops look absolutely great in our area, getting very timely rains. The state's corn crop is rated 69% Good/Excellent by the USDA compared to 76% last year and 62% on average for this time of the year.

Calving season went without a hitch this spring on our farm making life pretty easy. On oddity, all my calves were born in May? Weird as we usually have a few born in May, but usually the first 2 weeks in June were the big weeks. I put the bull in at the same time; cows were in about the same shape, so I have no clue why they were so early. I did use a different herd bull this year, maybe that has something to do with it. Anyone else notice calves earlier than usual? Just would be interesting to know if it was a weather thing or what.

July 25th is just around the corner and that means it's time for the MnEBA Summer Picnic. This is a very good time as those who typically attend will attest too. If you have not attended, make a point of getting to it. There will be my favorite meal, pot luck, along with many like-minded elk friends to visit with. The event starts at noon on Saturday the 25th of July at Don and Joyce Kaplan's farm near Elysian, MN. Bring the family. Also bring any friends who raise elk or are even interested in raising elk, even if they are not MnEBA members. It is a great opportunity to look over someone else's operation, get ideas and share experiences. We have a goal of increasing membership in MnEBA, and the best way to do that is to let folks see what we are all about by bringing them along to a meeting.

The summer meeting also kicks off the beginning of our major fund raiser for the year, the MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. We will have a supply on hand so you can take a pile home with you. See you soon.

Mark Lucas, MnEBA President

Thank You to Don & Joyce Kaplan of Okaman Cervidae for offering your farm for this year's MnEBA Summer Picnic! A great time was had by all!!! See inside for pictures from this fun day!

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.

2016 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendars Now Available!

More incentives to sell and more chances to win!

What could be more incentive to sell calendars than a free MnEBA membership for selling 30 or more calendars and returning stubs and money before December 31st? How about also a chance to win a Ruger American Rifle Predator .204? New this year, for every 10 calendars sold with stubs and money being returned before December 31st, your name goes into a drawing to win this fantastic gun! The more calendars you sell, the more chances to win!

Why create even more incentive to sell calendars? Calendar sales allow MnEBA to continue with its mission of strengthening the elk farming industry by creating awareness of the industry and marketing. The industry is at a critical time where more producers are needed to keep up with the demand for elk products in every market. We need to continue to support the national PR campaign, the great work of the Elk Research Council, MnEBA Scholarship, Charitable Elk Hunt, outreach at Minnesota events and take advantage of every opportunity to get the word out about America's Greatest Animal, especially at the Minnesota State Fair. Calendar sales help MnEBA accomplish these things and so much more!

How are there more chances to win? Two more Cash Bonus days have been added so now there is a Cash Bonus day every other month!

Many thanks to all MnEBA members who stepped up to sponsor a month in the 2016 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. This year's sponsors include: Jim & Eileen Byrne, Leo Windschitl, Dennis & Jacky Engebretson, Brian Wagner, Lance & Brenda Hartkopf, Perry & Don Olson, Klint & Lora Wylie, Chad Lawler, Greg & Roxy Lubinski, Mark & Lisa Luedtke, Rick Wollschlager & Kenny Wiese and Jerry & Linda Campbell.

If you're attending the MnEBA Summer Picnic or NAEBA Convention in the Wisconsin Dells, 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.



Summer Membership Meeting Minutes

Membership Meeting Minutes July 25, 2015

The membership of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held their summer membership meeting on July 25, 2015 at the farm of Don & Joyce Kaplan in Elysian, MN. President Mark Lucas called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Lucas asked for additions or corrections to the January 10, 2015 secretary report as presented. Don Kaplan moved to accept the report as written, Pat Prodzinski seconded, motion carried.

The treasurer's report included both the 2014 and 2015 year-end review. Hartkopf briefly reviewed the financials. The July 22nd checkbook balance was \$25,499.22. Pat Prodzinski moved to accept the treasurer's report, Bill Knutson seconded, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Government Relations: Mark Lucas reported on a quiet session at the State Capitol in terms of farmed cervidae-related items allowing the association to work on something proactive. MnEBA teamed up with the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association to hand out educational calendars in January. Industry representatives were very well received with many legislators asking how they could help the industry.

Over the past few months, the topic of elk relocation has been brought up by a couple different sources. Once at the State Capitol during the legislative visit, and once by a representative from the Fond du lac band of Lake Superior Chippewa about conducting a feasibility study regarding elk relocation in northeastern Minnesota. Mark reported that so far MnEBA's response has been that it's okay as long as the elk which are brought in are from CWD certified Level 6 monitored herds and meet the same criteria for movement that farmed cervidae do.

Fundraising Raffle: Brenda Hartkopf reported that 2016 calendars are now available and thanked this year's sponsors. She reported there are now more ways to win with 6 bonus cash days instead of four, and that a new selling incentive has been added. For every 10 calendars sold with stubs and money turned in by December 31st, the sellers name will go in a special drawing for a Ruger American Rifle Predator .204. She encouraged members to pick up their calendars in person to save on shipping costs.

Promotions: Brenda Hartkopf reported that the promotions committee has been very busy with lots of great help from the membership. MnEBA had a booth at both the Bird, Buck, Bait and Boat Expo and the Minnesota State FFA Convention. However, for next year, the Bird, Buck, Bait and Boat Expo is being discontinued. The board will be looking into alternative shows. Greg Lubinski talked about the success of the FFA booth, which generated a farm visit from one of the schools post-convention, and also a young man who visited the booth at the convention contacted the association to explore the possibility of working on an elk farm this summer.

MnEBA has also completed the update of the Raise the Legend book which had a facelift and new pictures added. Brenda encouraged members to take advantage of their 5 free copies and have them available when new people interested in the industry visit their farm. MN Grown/MN Elk plastic bags are now available for membership purchase and will also be available at the State Fair. Hartkopf also reported work on a new general information brochure as copies of the old brochure are nearly depleted. These should be ready at State Fair time.

Hartkopf reported that three of the top searched pages on the MnEBA web site have to do with elk meat, with the remaining on the raffle and directory. MnEBA's Facebook page is also increasing in "likes" and she strongly encouraged members to send their elk pictures to the MnEBA Office to be shared on Facebook.

State Fair: Greg Lubinski reported that the schedule still had a couple openings and that Greg would help out anyone who felt they needed assistance during their shift. Paul Hueg is working on new banners for the booth to give it a little different look this year. MnEBA will be selling dog chews and meat products once again. Jerky will now be sold in a flat stick instead of pieces.

NAEBA

Brian Wagner reported that NAEBA has been doing very well and is growing rapidly. They are in final preparations for the 25th anniversary convention next week. Brian reported that he is taking a break from being the North Central representative and that Bill Knutson was nominated for the open position. Brian also reported on the new ballot system for voting in regional directors and that this has been very well received by the membership.

Brian also discussed the great work of the Elk Research Council and explained the fundraising raffle which will be taking place during the convention.

OLD BUSINESS

President Lucas announced that because MnEBA was able to sell 700 calendars, MnEBA was able to offer (2) \$350 scholarships this year. One scholarship went to Shelby Groen, daughter of Scott & Sue Groen. Shelby will be a senior at the College of Saint Benedict majoring in Communications. The other went to Kaitlin Bartelt, granddaughter of Don & Sharon Olson who will be a freshman at South Dakota State University majoring in Nursing this fall.

NEW BUSINESS

President Lucas discussed the importance of having representation at the yearly USAHA annual meetings each October. Dr. Glen Zearth has been outstanding in representing both the MnEBA & NAEBA associations for many years. MnEBA is looking to add to our numbers to find an additional person to represent MnEBA who could attend these

conventions on a long-term basis. Anyone who might be interested was asked to contact a board member or the office for more information.

The 2015 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt is scheduled for October 6-8. Army Ranger Tom Block who grew up in the Elysian, MN area, is this year's recipient. He is a friend of the family of MnEBA members Don & Joyce Kaplan. Don shared details about Tom's story. President Lucas thanked the many people involved in making this hunt a reality.

It was announced that the 2016 MnEBA Annual Conference will be held at the Willmar Conference Center in Willmar, MN on January 8-9, 2016. The Willmar Conference Center and adjoining hotel have all been remodeled and updated in the last year.

Daphne Evenson moved to adjourn the meeting, Lance Hartkopf seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

All Eyes on Missouri

By American Cervid Alliance



JULY 24, 2015 - The Missouri deer farmers and trophy ranch owners are defending their operations against the Missouri Department of Conservation in the court house. Several members of the Missouri Deer Association filed an injunction to hold the implementation of new rules brought forth by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Today is the second and final day of the hearings. Yesterday, the attorneys representing the deer farmers illustrated the burden and double standards the new rules would place on the industry. Today, the state agency will defend its position. A verdict is expected in the coming days.

The American Cervid Alliance wishes everyone to send hopeful thoughts and prayers for the Missouri deer industry.

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NAEBA June 2015 Marketing Report

By Barry Chernuka & Chad Lawler, NAEBA Marketing Committee Co-Chairmen

Trophy Market: The 2014 trophy bull market ended with higher prices than the industry has seen in several years. With the continuing trend of lower numbers of bulls and a stable to strong demand it appears that for the foreseeable future this market will be stable or move in a positive direction. Idaho is now open to ranches east of the 100th meridian line and this is causing trophy ranch owners and bull buyers to become more aggressive in order to ensure they will have the bulls on hand to cater to their client's needs in the future. Trophy bulls of all sizes are in demand from 300" 6x6's to the ever popular 330-370 size. There is still high demand for 400" bulls and higher, since there are simply less of them. 350 class bulls should be bringing around \$4,000 and 400 class bulls will be starting near the \$7,000 mark.

Velvet: It is always a good business decision to velvet all the bulls on your farm you do not plan to sell as trophies. This rule is especially true for two, three and four year olds. In 2012 and 2013 we saw velvet sell between \$27-30 per pound, and that is at or above most farms' breakeven point for cutting velvet. In 2014 velvet sold at \$35 a pound average with up to \$51 per pound for spiker and regrowth antler. There was \$45 per pound paid out for premium early cut antler. In talking with several velvet buyers in the US and Canada, it was unclear if there would be a premium for early cut antler again this year. No one currently has a rock solid price for velvet yet this year (June 5th). We should expect to see similar prices to last year with it trending up slightly. With the renewed interest in trophy bulls and continued strength of the dog chew market, we need to make sure we can still produce velvet. Velvet buyers need stable velvet production from North American farms to continue making their yearly buying trip to the US and Canada. Consider harvesting velvet and make every dollar you can.

Elk Meat: There is a strong and growing demand for more animals to be culled for the elk meat industry. The public continues to look for healthier and fresh meat alternatives, of which elk and buffalo continue to be gaining interest. Prices on the rail are as strong as they've been in a long time. We are seeing \$4.00-\$4.50/lb. hot hanging weight. This market is not for the 'get rich quick' crowd, but offers a good floor for farms looking to move out their annual culls. Businesses and coops selling elk meat in Canada and the United States are all looking for animals and worrying about the supply for the near future. Currently it appears as if we are not able to fulfill all of the meat market demands. It could have negative effects on the industry for rail prices to get much higher as the end retail consumer will be priced out of the market.

Hard Antler: Antler sales continue to rise, mostly due to the new developed markets for dog chews. Antler from elk and several deer species are being cut and sold at local farmers markets, dog shows and even online. Hard antler is now selling for \$10-16 per pound, with \$14-16 now becoming a common average. This price has generally doubled if not tripled since 2010. If you aren't velvetting your bulls, don't be surprised if you have someone calling for your hard antler.

Breeding Stock: The high demand for trophy bulls has more people thinking about their herds again and how to grow big bulls fast. This has led to more producers considering using artificial insemination in their breeding program. The average semen price in the US and Canada has been between \$100-\$300 per straw and is an easy way to jump a few years ahead in genetics and get a return on investments. Bred cows are selling strong, especially when the seller can cite proven quality sons from the dam or grand dam. Breeding cows are starting from \$1,500 and have gone as high as \$5,000 for cows with proven production. Once again provable production pays. Bringing your bulls to the antler competition is a great investment if for no other reason than to have verifiable stats on your cow herd. You can get official NAEBA scores at the International Antler Competition for just \$25 per set.

And in Canada:

Bull markets are still strong. The local markets for trophy bulls, namely Saskatchewan, will have to increase the price if they want the lower class bulls with the recent increase of elk meat at now \$9.25/KG hot hanging here in the Western Provinces. An 850 lb. live weight bull will average 250kg hot hanging x \$9.25/KG = \$2,312.50 Add in velvet production for a three or four year old at around 18lbs which will average \$900 if we see the rumored \$50/lb for velvet. That's a total of \$3,212.50, so producers have to ask them self if it is worth growing out lower class bulls? The days should be gone of selling slicks for \$2,000 in SK. Some producers with larger carcasses and heavier velvet weights will break the \$4,000 mark but we might want to hold those bulls over to get some more age on the bulls and run the risk of growing them out to reach the full capital potential. The important point I am trying to make is that there has never been a better return on meat than we will see this year.

With it looking like a drought as I am writing this, producers should capitalize on culling aggressively as meat markets will take all you can supply right now. No sense in feeding two poor animals when you can feed one great animal well. Currently the slick price to export to the US is pushing the \$4,000 mark average with pricing higher depending on production history and genetics, velvet weights, age, style,

etc. There is high potential for producers to realize the same price as slicks without the headache and additional costs for testing and export fees by just putting them on the hook.

If you're in love with your bulls, then now might be the time to turn over some of the older cows in the herds if grass is low. AWAPCO stated that a 500 lb cow will average 130kg hot hanging x \$9.25/kg is \$1,202 and a young cow or heifer will average 95KG hot hanging X \$925/kg = \$878. Plan ahead, cull a few more cows to ensure the calves can be looked after well this fall and over the winter. Those calves are the best animals on the farm if you have been doing your job and will be worth the effort for the future production of your herd.

Some interesting stats were published in the Wapiti Whisperings up here in Alberta. The total elk exported out of the province is going down with the increased demand on bulls. In 2013 a total of 1,116 elk were exported (1,095 males and 21 females); in 2014 a total of 829 elk were exported (698 male and 131 female) and in 2015, a total of 256 elk were exported as of April 30th. I suspect mostly male slicks. I expected the export numbers to be going up with the increased demand and price increase on both

slicks and trophy bulls. The opposite trend is happening which may point to the fact that the animal numbers are just not there to support the demand. The 2015 year totals will paint the picture clearly by the end of the year.

No concrete price on velvet in Canada as of yet (June 5th). It may be tight to get more than two containers filled. We had an offer of \$58 but not enough producers would commit to that price in April as it was early and producers were thinking the price would be higher by harvest so the buyer pulled the offer as the contract was not filled. Now prices are floating around \$50.

Livestock sales remain strong; this may be the year to catch a few good animals if you are looking to upgrade your sire or a few cows as the quality has been improving every year. Some of the breeders have been producing many great bulls from heavy velvet bulls to monster hard antler bulls. We will see a few more great bulls pop up and will be impressed by many of the existing ones as they gain with age.

The increases in prices are welcomed for the elk breeders that remember the "old days". While they are not to that point, money can be made for operations utilizing all the markets. NAEBA strongly recommends you breed all your cows, the demand is there.

2015 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt Ready to Go!



Thanks to the generosity of a number of MnEBA members and others, this year's MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt is scheduled to take place October 6-8th at Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch in Baudette, MN.

This year's hunter, Sergeant Tom Block, couldn't be more excited! He told MnEBA, "That's my birthday weekend. I would like nothing more than to bag an Elk on my birthday weekend!"

Sergeant Block is one of those special individuals who make a big impact on everyone they meet. Tom grew up in the Elysian, MN area and is friends of the family of MnEBA members Don & Joyce Kaplan. Tom was an Army Ranger and lost his right eye and most of his vision in the other, sustained severe leg injuries and suffered shrapnel wounds across his body when a suicide bomber blew herself up just feet away from his face. Tom has an incredible attitude and during his recovery, has spoken at leadership courses, mentored fellow wounded warriors and served as a motivational speaker. Last year he was named Soldier of the Year by Army Times.

MnEBA offers many thanks to everyone who is helping to make this year's hunt possible. They include Tony Beckel – Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch, Mike Kettenacker – Innovative Lab Systems and Lance & Brenda Hartkopf who are combining funds to purchase a bull, Clint Wylie who is transporting the bull to the facility, Lake Superior SCI who is funding travel, lodging, meals and meat processing, and Ron Welle of Midwest Outdoors Unlimited who is making all the final arrangements and accompanying Tom on the hunt. This marks MnEBA's 9th year of offering this opportunity!

Board Blog by Wade Schimmelpfennig, MnEBA Director



Hello everyone. By the time this gets to you, the summer picnic and the international antler competition will have both taken place, most of the velvet will have been sold, and we all should be weaning our calves and preparing for the breeding season. It was nice to see that the price of velvet stayed comparable to last year which makes it easier to pay the feed bill.

I hope that we have all gotten a chance to pick up our new gun raffle calendars from Brenda. As always, she has done a wonderful job of pulling together some very nice pictures from our sponsors. Don't forget to be taking pictures of your hard antler bulls to use in next year's calendar. It's always difficult getting hard antler pictures for the fall and winter months in the calendar, but they are very nice to see. Even if you don't plan to sponsor a month next year, good pictures can be hard to come by after the bulls are gone. This year the board has added an incentive to sell more calendars. For every 10 calendars you sell, your name will be added to the hat for a special drawing of a Ruger American Rifle Predator .204. So remember, sell, sell, sell!

I hope that everyone had a chance to make it to the 2015 NAEBA Convention and Antler Competition to admire all of the antlers and partake in the good conversations with our friends from so far away. I hope that everyone had safe travels to and from the event. I look forward to seeing you all again at the winter meeting at Willmar in January!

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MnEBA Kitchen

Who doesn't love a grilled elk burger in the summer? Here's a little twist on this classic favorite!

Grilled Elk Burgers

- 2 lbs. elk meat
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp. onion powder
- 1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- Salt & pepper to taste
- Hamburger buns
- 8 oz. pkg. sliced mushrooms
- Condiments of choice



Gently mix the first six ingredients together. Try not to handle the meat too much. Shape into patties.

Grill over medium heat 5 minutes per side or until done to your liking. Let sit for a couple of minutes before serving. While burgers are grilling, saute sliced mushrooms. Serve on hamburger buns, topped with sauteed mushrooms or other condiments of your choice.

MnEBA Scholarship

MnEBA is pleased to announce that this year, because calendar sales topped 700 calendars, MnEBA was able to award two scholarships, both valued at \$350.



Shelby Groen

Shelby is the daughter of Scott & Sue Groen. She will be a senior at the College of Saint Benedict majoring in Communications.

Shelby has a lengthy resume of being involved in leadership roles and in volunteerism. She has also spent time studying abroad in Gateway, Ireland.

Growing up on a family farm has taught Shelby the importance of being sustainable and resourceful in business, and also how progress and improvement are the keys to success.

MnEBA wishes Shelby all the best as she soon becomes a college graduate!



Kaitlin Bartelt

Kaitlin is the granddaughter of Don & Sharon Olson. She will be an incoming freshman at South Dakota State University majoring in Nursing.

Kaitlin is involved in a great variety of activities, works two jobs and has spent time helping her grandfather on the elk farm. Even with all this, she still finds time to volunteer in her community.

She thoroughly enjoyed working with her grandfather on the farm last summer which she says also brought her closer to him. She's looking forward to going to school for nursing and to someday become a pediatric oncology nurse.

MnEBA wishes Kaitlin much success as she begins her college career at SDSU!



The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association is one of many organizations and individuals who contribute to the national Public Relations Campaign organized by the American Cervid Alliance. This highly successful campaign is now beginning its second year!

The State of Healthy Deer Herds

By Scott Bugai - Guest Column
Victoria Advocate

June 28, 2015 - There is no quarrel about it; Texas is hands down the top destination for whitetail hunting in North America. This hard-earned notoriety isn't by chance, nor is it just the blessing of Mother Nature. With over 4 million deer roaming the Lone Star State, one might think that Texas is blessed with mild summers and winters, habitat ripe with nutrients and rainfall on demand to support a variety of ecosystems. Well, if you are a Texan, you know that's not quite how it goes.

Yes, Texas does offer some whitetail friendly habitat, but not without adversity. The state is known for harsh seasons that can burn you up for three months at a time, freeze the entire state in a matter of hours and make water scarce not only for the wildlife, but for over 26 million people (and counting) that depend on the state's precious water supply. Surprising, though, is that these harsh realities are well accepted and acknowledged by the champions of the state's deer population, the Texas landowners.

For decades, the success of intensive deer management has greatly changed the landscape for hunting leases and real estate in Texas, benefiting all landowners. In fact, in any given year, many small acreage landowners can now effectively produce the same amount of, or more, large bucks as those owning large tracts of land.

Yet as with any success story, there are those who wish to undermine these efforts and the advances that have been made in overcoming years of mismanaged Texas wildlife habitat - all for their own personal gain. Some groups claiming to promote our "hunting heritage" have ironically taken their talking points from the anti-hunting playbooks of groups all around this country. Yet even those who criticize the most vocally have benefited from the enhanced techniques that Texans are so well-known for.

Of course, Texas sportsmen understand the real threats to their hunting heritage are those who are trying to limit their access to the wildlife resources of this state. Texas sportsmen also understand the deer ranching industry is already highly regulated. Deer ranchers in Texas are required by law to have a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship prior to obtaining and administering prescription or scheduled medications. These pharmaceuticals are commonly used in other livestock species, including the cattle or beef ranches across this state.

The net result of all this regulation is that farmed deer are likely the healthiest deer in Texas and the rest of the country. Recruitment numbers in breeding operations far surpass those of pasture herds. Through the success of innovative management principles, ranch managers can now maintain the overall health of a deer herd - whether in the pasture or in breeding pens - and can greatly increase fawning success. This leads to increased recruitment and creates a larger sustained yield for harvest in future years.

So the next time you are out hunting, whether on your own land or on a lease, take a moment to think about where we are today, how we got here and what role the landowner has played in our success. Regardless of where the opponents stand, it's up to, and the right of, each landowner to decide which method they will use and how they will benefit from the choices available to them. A right, and choice, that is to the benefit of all Texans and hunters.

Scott W. Bugai, DVM, is the owner of Parkview Veterinary Center and Flying B Ranch Whitetails in Seguin, Texas and a vice-president of the Texas Deer Association. He may be emailed at docbatm90@aol.com.

<https://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2015/jun/28/the-state-of-healthy-deer-herds/>

Food Safety News

By Charly Seale
Opinion

June 22, 2015 - A recent Food Safety News piece examining chronic wasting disease (CWD) brought up the question about how to manage the disease. As noted, CWD has never infected humans. The difficulty with CWD, however, is the fear that it could harm free-ranging deer and elk populations combined with the fact that there is no live animal test for the disease, making it hard to track. Everyone is for the eradication of CWD. No one wants it around. However, there are different philosophies for how to battle it.

One of them was offered by a spokeswoman for the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, who praised a law banning new deer and elk farms in the state as of 1993. It's a common refrain heard in debates in statehouses today: That deer farms are the problem when it comes to CWD.

However, given how regulated deer farms are, it's rhetoric over substance.

Safeguards already exist to mitigate the risk of farms spreading CWD by accident. Any private facility transporting deer or elk across state lines must be CWD-certified, a program administered by USDA. Certification requires that a facility has tested all of its mortalities over 12 months of age for a minimum of five years with no positive CWD results. In fact, most farms in the U.S. have been testing more than 10 years in the certification program. Individual animals must be inventoried and tracked so that, if an animal is ever tested positive for CWD, it can be traced back to its origins and the facilities quarantined and depopulated.

The program certainly seems to have worked. According to USDA data collected between 1998 and 2012, the prevalence of CWD on deer and elk farms was half that of free-ranging deer and elk.

Because farms are controlled environments and are required to strictly monitor for CWD, it's easier to detect CWD. It's also easier to control it than in free-ranging populations.

Banning deer farms, by its very nature, does nothing to solve the problem of free-ranging deer spreading the disease.

You don't hear about it much, but free-ranging animals have quietly spread CWD all across America. Free-ranging animals spread CWD into western Texas from New Mexico. They've spread it across Wyoming (which

has no game farms). They've spread it into Virginia (which also has no game farms).

It's basically impossible to stop CWD from spreading once it's in free-ranging animals. With that in mind, states should focus on detection and prevention.

Currently, there is no live-animal test for CWD, so state wildlife agencies have to test deceased animals. The trouble is, they're not testing very many.

By 2010, Washington state had only tested 5,000 animals for CWD over a 10-year period - a tiny percentage of the state's deer population. Washington state might justify this by noting that CWD has never been found in Idaho and Oregon. But other state agencies have an equally abysmal testing record.

The Missouri Department of Conservation, for instance, is located at ground zero of the CWD debate and yet it only tests a few thousand free-ranging animals a year. Michigan has tested 20,000 deer and elk on farms - yet the state only tested 38 free-ranging deer and elk in all of 2014.

You can't track a disease unless you're testing for it. The only thing this regimen produces is skewed results.

States need to test more animals to get a better idea of where CWD is. They also need to invest in developing both an accurate live-animal test and a vaccine. Researchers from Kansas State University and USDA recently announced progress on a live-animal test.

It may take years to make a breakthrough, but fortunately there's time to develop practical solutions. CWD can be in an animal for years; often, animals with CWD will die of something else first (predation, vehicles, etc.). Research into CWD's effect on populations in

Wisconsin and Colorado failed to turn up evidence that CWD had caused a population decline.

The debate over CWD is too often centered on politics, in particular deer farming and private hunting ranches. These facilities are controlled and regulated. If the broader hunting community wants to get serious about CWD, it needs to look at solutions that fit the bill.

<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2015/06/battling-cwd-effectively/#.VYrJtkZZLsQ>

Letter: Free Animals Spread CWD

Holland Sentinel (MI)

June 15, 2015 - The Sentinel's guest editorial on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) makes a mistaken assumption in saying that the "only way" for the disease to come to Michigan is by someone bringing an infected deer to the state ("Guest editorial: Deer illness poses dire threat to Michigan," June 7). That simply isn't true. It is well documented that free-ranging animals have spread CWD across the country from Texas to Wyoming to West Virginia.

The Sentinel's conclusion that the legislature should have banned deer farms is also incorrect. Farms involved in the interstate transport of deer have strict requirements administered by the USDA that they must meet. Individual animals must be tracked, and farms must test 100 percent of eligible mortalities (animals over 1 year of age) for CWD for a minimum of five years with no positive results in order for a farm to move animals across state lines.

Ironically, it is the fact that farms test so closely for CWD

that they are blamed for it when it is found on rare occasions. Free-ranging deer quietly spread the disease without headlines. Additionally, new research shows that plants can spread CWD, meaning it could be spread through the movement of hay, and CWD has also been spread by hunters transporting carcasses between states.

The solution isn't to ban or unfairly focus on deer farms or private hunting ranches. First, the Department of Natural Resources hardly tests any free-ranging deer for CWD, and it should do more in order to better track the disease. Second, the state needs to invest in a live-animal test and CWD vaccine to help better manage the disease in the future.

Charly Seale
American Cervid Alliance

<http://www.hollandsentinel.com/article/20150618/NEWS/150619232/-1/opinion>

Welcome New Members

Jeremi & Sarah Rollings, Rollings Farm, 43893 Reeds Lake Road, Janesville, MN 56048, (507) 304-3614

*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
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STYX



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

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

13 cows have had 19+lb. twos

17 cows have had 18+lb. twos

24 cows have had 17+lb. twos

28 cows have had 16+lb. twos

35 cows have had 15+lb. twos

CHERNOBULL

525" - 4 -Year -Old - Unofficial

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



MIDAS

487" - 3 -Year -Old - Unofficial

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



50 CAL.

441" - 2 -Year - Old - Unofficial

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

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

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

MOHLMAN ELK FARM

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

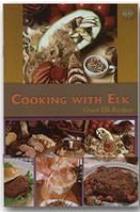
MnEBA Promotional Materials

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

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

MEAT PROMOTIONS

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



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

3rd Edition “Cooking With Elk” Cookbook

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

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

VELVET PROMOTIONS



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

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

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

GENERAL INFORMATION



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

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

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

HOME DÉCOR



Price includes shipping & handling.

Elk Trashcan (*pictured*) \$25 each

Elk Rug (Small) \$27.50 each

Elk Rug (Large) \$40 each

MNELK / MINNESOTA GROWN BOX

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

Designed to hold 30 lbs.

\$1 each



In The News

Chronic Wasting Disease Detected in Medina County Captive Deer [TX]

Texas Animal Health Commission News Release

July 1, 2015 - AUSTIN - A two-year-old white-tailed deer in a Medina County deer breeding facility has been confirmed positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). This is the first case of CWD detected in captive white-tailed deer in Texas. CWD was first detected in Texas in 2012 in free-ranging mule deer in the Hueco Mountains in far West Texas.

The Medina County tissue samples submitted by the breeder facility in early June as part of routine deer mortality surveillance revealed the presence of CWD during testing at the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) in College Station. The National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, confirmed the findings on Tuesday, June 30.

An epidemiological investigation to determine the extent of the disease, assess risks to Texas' free ranging deer and protect the captive deer and elk breeding

industry is being led by the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), in coordination with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Veterinary Services (USDA/APHIS/VS).

Officials have taken immediate action to secure all cervids at the Medina County breeder facility with plans to conduct additional investigation for CWD. In addition, those breeder facilities that have received deer from the Medina County facility or shipped deer to that facility during the last two years are under movement restrictions and cannot move or release cervids at this time. TPWD is disallowing liberation of captive deer from all breeder facilities into the wild at this time pending further review. Additional measures to further minimize risk of CWD spreading into Texas' free-ranging white-tailed deer herd, and to protect the captive deer breeding industry, will be considered.

"This is a terribly unfortunate development that we are committed to addressing as proactively, comprehensively, and expeditiously as possible. The health of our state's wild and captive deer herds, as well as affiliated hunting, wildlife, and rural based economies, are vitally important to Texas hunters, communities, and landowners. As such, our primary objectives are to determine the source of the disease and to identify other deer breeding facilities and release sites that may have received deer from affected facilities," said Carter Smith, TPWD Executive Director. "Working collaboratively with experts in the field, we have developed protocols to address CWD, and our implementation efforts are already well under way."

Full text:

http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/news/pr/2015/2015-07-01_NewsReleaseCWDTestPositiveMedinaCounty.pdf

CWD-positive white-tailed deer found on Eau Claire County farm [WI]

DATCP News Release / Leader-Telegram

June 24, 2015 – MADISON A white-tailed deer from a breeding farm in Eau Claire County has tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD), Wisconsin State Veterinarian Dr. Paul McGraw announced today. The National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, confirmed the test results.

The 7-year-old Eau Claire County doe, which died on the farm, was one of about 167 deer reported to be on the 12 acre farm, according

to the farm's March 2015 registration.

Samples were taken from the doe on June 8 in accordance with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's (DATCP's) rules, which require testing of farm-raised deer and elk when they die or are killed.

McGraw quarantined the Eau Claire County herd, which stops movement of live deer from the

property, except to slaughter. Disposition of the remaining deer will depend upon the outcome of the investigation. The DATCP Animal Health Division's investigation will also examine the animal's history and trace movements of deer onto and off the property to determine whether other herds may have been exposed to the CWD test-positive deer.

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/q6oqmrr>

Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

The American Animal Society of Small Ruminant Practitioners (AASRP) have had concerns about the practice of harvesting velvet antler from bull elk for the past several years. Dr. Zebarth, along with Dr. Cliff Shipley and Dr. Cindy Wolf, recently hosted and performed a lab for veterinarians to learn the proper techniques for velvet harvest.

Velvet Antler Production & Harvesting Seminar

By Dr. Cliff Shipley

On June 20th, 2015 a seminar on Velvet Antler Production and Harvesting was held at Dr. Glen Zebarth's elk farm in Brandon, Minnesota.

Dr. Zebarth, Dr. Cindy Wolf and Dr. Cliff Shipley hosted participants from California, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Topics of discussion included Antler Growth and Anatomy, Physiology of Antler Growth, Uses of Velvet Antler, Proper Harvesting and Antler Handling Techniques, Handling and Restraint including Remote Injection and Anesthesia, Local Anesthesia and Welfare.

At the wet lab, each participant was able to apply local anesthesia and a tourniquet and harvest velvet antler as well as score antlers. A demonstration of general anesthesia was done on one bull so the group could observe general vs. local anesthesia plus restraint.

A meal of elk roast plus other goodies was served by Mrs. Zebarth. Velveting has been a topic of concern for the AVMA Welfare Committee and this lecture and wet lab seminar addressed many of the concerns over velvet harvest.



State Animal Health Officials Discuss Live CWD Test

NAEBA Suggests Live Test Use for Herd Management

July 14, 2015 – DENVER - Progress was made this week in hopes of finding better ways to manage elk and deer farms that are affected by Chronic Wasting Disease. Finding Chronic Wasting Disease in farmed herds is extremely rare but the lack of an approved ante-mortem (live) test leaves the producers to deal with a financially devastating procedure.



As the cervid industry keeps a close eye on Texas as it deals with the recent positive CWD case in a whitetail herd, discussions took place in Denver regarding the potential of vetting an ante-mortem test for Chronic Wasting Disease.

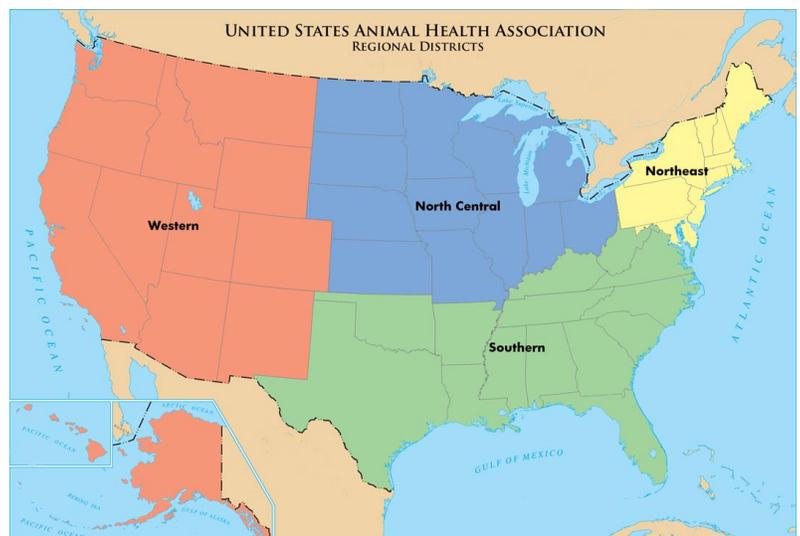
The Western District of the United States Animal Health Association and Western States Livestock Health Association met in Denver this week for their 2015 annual meeting. During the business meeting, Travis Lowe - Executive Director of the North American Elk Breeders Association, Eric Mohlman - Chairman of the Elk Research Council and Wyoming Assistant State Veterinarian Bob Meyer gave a presentation illustrating the success of the rectal biopsy in elk and deer research.

In the last several years, research has been completed using many different methods of a live test for CWD. Researchers from Kansas State University and Colorado State University have helped take hundreds of samples from farmed deer and elk herds when herd depopulations were ordered. These research opportunities have been made possible by funding assistance from industry producers along with the Elk Research Council and the North American Deer Farmers Association.

The Elk Research Council, which serves as the North American Elk Breeders Association's 501(c)(3) foundation, asked Dr. Bob Meyer to compile the results of the research's numerous studies. Dr. Meyer, who has decades of experience as an epidemiologist, presented summary conclusions to state animal health officials that results of the rectal biopsy test have been very positive as an ante-mortem test. NAEBA Executive Director Travis Lowe followed up Dr. Meyer by stating the rectal biopsy could be useful for CWD positive/exposed herds rather than the usual practice of complete depopulation followed by expensive cleanup. Since indemnity at the state and/or federal level is questionable at best, better long-term solutions need to be available. It was stated there is no intention of having the rectal biopsy test replace the existing monitoring programs or for certification purposes. Comments from the audience were supportive of keeping the conversations moving over the coming months.

These discussions come at a time when the Texas Deer Association, Deer Breeders Corporation, Exotic Wildlife Association and the North American Deer Farmers Association are working to look for the best approaches possible in dealing with Chronic Wasting Disease for the first time in farmed whitetail deer within Texas' borders. Chronic Wasting Disease has previously been found in free-ranging Mule Deer in far west Texas.

The American Cervid Alliance Leadership Council will discuss updates from Texas and the USAHA Western meeting during its next meeting. The ACA thanks Dr. Meyer for his efforts over the last several months.



Aug. 27-Labor Day, Sept. 7, 2015

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

It's almost State Fair time!

August marks the time to make plans to attend the Minnesota State Fair! Below is the MnEBA booth schedule to date. There are still a couple openings and shifts that are a little short-handed. This is the best venue to reach Minnesotans to educate them about America's Greatest Animal – ELK! Plus, there's great food and fun for everyone in your family to thoroughly enjoy your day at the fair!

Even if you've never worked the MnEBA State Fair booth before, no worries! Greg Lubinski would be glad to work with you or schedule you with someone who can help train you in. 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 elk snack sticks, sausage and jerky along with elk antler dog chews once again this year. There will be two kinds of jerky (traditional & teriyaki) this year in just the 1 oz. flat stick. Meat sales were up significantly last year and we're looking to keep raising the bar on sales. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we'll enjoy another record breaking event!

Paul Hueg is working on some new banners to give the booth a fresh look. Paul is full of ideas and it's always fun to see what he comes up with to make the booth new and exciting.

Many thanks to all who have already signed up! If you can help out on any of the open days, or would like to work a shift to get trained in, please contact Greg Lubinski at (507) 273-0525.

Date	Time	Workers	Date	Time	Workers
Pre-Fair		Set Up – Paul Hueg, Greg & Zach Lubinski, Kraig Wurst	9/2	8 – 2	Kraig & Jenny Wurst, Greg Lubinski
8/27	8 - 2	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf		2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	Mark & Michelle Lucas	9/3	8 – 2	Jim Byrne, Norm Schimmelpfennig
8/28	8 – 2	Aase Family		2 - 9	Jim Byrne, Ray Smothers
	2 – 9	Don & Joyce Kaplan	9/4	8 – 2	Jim Byrne, Martin Zacharias
8/29	8 – 2	Don & Joyce Kaplan		2 - 9	Jim Byrne, Martin Zacharias
	2 – 9	Don & Joyce Kaplan	9/5	8 – 2	Lubinski Family
8/30	8 – 2	Wade Schimmelpfennig		2 – 9	Turek Family
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/6	8 – 2	Prodzinski Family
8/31	8 – 2	Jim Byrne, Greg Lubinski		2 - 9	Brian & Holly Harguth, Greg Lubinski
	2 – 9	Dennis Wernsing, Greg Lubinski	9/7	8 – 2	Greg & Roxy Lubinski
9/1	8 – 2	Damon & Duane Melquist		2 – 9	Paul & Lynn Hueg
	2 – 9	Mark & Lisa Luedtke			

Many thanks to all who have signed up so far! Enjoy your day at the Fair!!!

Committee Reports

WANTED – Your ELK Photos



MnEBA is looking for elk pictures from MnEBA member farms and ranches to showcase on MnEBA's Facebook page and web site. Pictures can be recent or from longer ago and can be about anything elk related!

Please think about what photos you could send to the MnEBA Office. It's a great way to showcase and promote the great elk raised all across Minnesota!

2016 MnEBA Annual Conference

Now that the Summer Picnic is over, it's time to be thinking ahead to the 2016 MnEBA Annual Conference! Mark your calendars for a full day of learning, networking and fun on January 9, 2016! This event will take place at the newly remodeled Willmar Conference Center in Willmar, MN. Attendees will be surprised to see how much everything has changed since the last time MnEBA was there!

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!

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 Howard Lake, MN

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

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

January 8 – 9, 2016 – MnEBA Annual Conference, Willmar Convention Center, Willmar, MN

March 19, 2016 – 2016 NAEBA March Mingle, Doubletree by Hilton, Edmonton, AB

Classified Ads

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

9086 Keats Avenue SW
Howard Lake, MN 55349