



Special Interest Articles:

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- MnEBA Annual Conference
- Vet Corner
- In the News
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- Velvet Watch



Partial funding for MnEBA News is provided through a cooperative agreement with the USDA Risk Management Agency.

President's Message by Jim Byrne

Is it me or are the years seemingly going by faster and faster? Writing this I realize that this is the last newsletter for 2009 and my 42nd President's message. It seems like only a couple of days ago I was asked to fill the shoes of Kaye Zebarth, the outgoing president. What a grand time I have had! Working with the most dedicated people I have ever known. It has been a learning experience, one that if you are given the opportunity to experience, you should grab and not let go. Need help? Just call and ask and you will have more insight, information and willingness to help than you will ever need to solve your problems. You make up a great association that more people need to know about.

How can we share this valuable expertise and friendship? I think we have to start by getting more young farmers and ranchers involved with the elk industry. We need to let them know that elk is a viable livestock and that through hard work and marketing they can be successful in this industry. I realize that economic factors have changed but we need to rekindle the enthusiasm and love of elk

we had when we first started. We need to take the energies we have used to focus on legislative and health issues and direct them now into bringing new people into our association. I think that this will take even more energy and resources to accomplish, but I firmly believe that this industry has a bright future. We need to share it.

We will be holding our 2010 Annual Conference at the Holiday Inn in Willmar, MN. January 9, is the day you want to set aside on your calendar. The calendar raffle is well underway, and the speakers for this conference are being lined up. Ian Thorliefson will be one of the key speakers for this conference. The program committee is working hard on the entire program and without a doubt will make this another exceptional conference, well worth your time.

During this conference we will have board elections. With this election Mark Hendrickson and I will be ending our terms. It has been a privilege to work

with Mark, who has served your association faithfully over the last three years. Please make sure that you give him your heartfelt thanks for his efforts and outstanding commitment to the association.

I ask you to start thinking of nominations for the openings on the board. Please do not eliminate yourself in your consideration of who should be running for the board. Your ideas, thoughts and energy can be of great value to the board and the overall success of the association. It's the willingness of each of our members to participate, support, and commit to the association that makes the MNEBA the finest and strongest association in the country.

Oh, by the way ... Over Thanksgiving week Eileen and I will be enjoying the raffle prize we won at last year's conference, the seven day stay in the Bahamas. We will share photos in the next newsletter.



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.

Membership Drive Edition Mailing

Happy Holidays to All Minnesota Elk Producers!

Holiday Greetings to all Minnesota elk breeders! The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association would like to share the December 1 edition of MnEBA News with all breeders in the state of Minnesota and would also like to cordially invite all elk producers to the upcoming MnEBA Annual Conference at the Willmar Conference Center in Willmar, MN on January 9th for a full day of learning and lots of good "elk" talk!

There is beginning to be a sense of optimism for the upcoming velvet season (see "Velvet Watch" Page 18). There is a sense that the recession is ending. Does this mean there will be a higher demand for shooter bulls next year? And if State Fair meat sales are any indication, the elk meat market is stronger than ever.

What is your marketing plan for next year? How do you make your decisions? Do you rely on what your neighbor tells you? Where does your neighbor get his information? All producers have experienced years where in hindsight, they wish they would have cut more or less velvet, grown fewer or more shooter bulls, or butchered that extra cow or two.

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association is your best source for current, up-to-date information through email alerts, bi-monthly newsletters, educational seminars, and the MnEBA web site at www.mneba.org. While it's not a bad idea to discuss marketing ideas for next year with other producers, you are leaving money on the table if you yourself do not stay informed through as many sources as possible.

Two great opportunities for staying informed are right in front of you. Renew or take out a new membership with MnEBA for 2010. Attend the upcoming MnEBA Annual Conference. With funding through USDA Risk Management Agency, MnEBA has been able to secure one of the most knowledgeable and respected North American elk producers in the industry and velvet market expert – Ian Thorliefson. Another learning opportunity involves maximizing your pasture potential through proper soil nutrition. This is the cheapest feed you own, make it work the best way it can for you!

There is not one of us who has all the answers, but together, we can make the best decisions possible with the information we have before us. Let's make 2010 a year to remember!



Minnesota
Board of Animal Health

Safeguarding Animal Health

www.bah.state.mn.us

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, October 30, 2009

Contact: Malissa Fritz, Board of Animal Health Communications Director, 651-201-6830

Elk from Olmsted County herd depopulated to control CWD

ST. PAUL, MINN – The Minnesota Board of Animal Health announced today that the farmed elk herd in Olmsted County has been depopulated and tested for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

In January, 2009, a female elk from the herd tested positive for CWD. The remaining elk in the herd were removed to minimize the risk of CWD spreading to other farmed deer and elk or to wild white-tailed deer in the area. Marksmen from Wildlife Services, a division of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), euthanized the animals in September.

USDA, Veterinary Services and Board personnel collected samples from each elk. Those samples were submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa for testing. Three additional elk from the 558-head herd tested positive for CWD, one male and two females.

In 2003, Minnesota implemented mandatory registration and CWD surveillance programs for farmed cervidae herds (members of the deer and elk family). When farmed cervidae over 16 months of age die or are slaughtered, herd owners must submit brain samples for CWD testing.

CWD is a fatal brain and nervous system disease found in cervidae in certain parts of North America. The disease is caused by an abnormally shaped protein called a prion, which can damage brain and nerve tissue. Infected animals show progressive loss of body weight with accompanying behavioral changes. In later stages of the disease, infected animals become emaciated (thus "wasting" disease). Other signs include staggering, consuming large amounts of water, excessive urination and drooling.

According to state health officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there is no evidence that CWD can be transmitted to humans.

For more information on CWD visit the Board of Animal Health website www.bah.state.mn.us.

Board Meeting Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a board meeting on October 31, 2009 at the home of Lance & Brenda Hartkopf. Jim Byrne, Mark Hendrickson, Brian Wagner, Kaye Zebarth and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Pat Prodzinski was unable to attend.

Byrne called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m. He asked for additions or corrections to the May 3rd board meeting minutes. Hendrickson moved to accept, Wagner seconded, motion carried. Minutes from the July 9th phone conference were reviewed. Zebarth moved to accept, Hendrickson seconded, motion carried. The 2009 year to date treasurer's report was then reviewed. Wagner moved to accept as presented, Zebarth seconded, motion carried. The current checkbook balance is \$23,705.71.

OLD BUSINESS

Hartkopf reported on gun raffle calendar sales. There are 577 calendars out in circulation with stubs and money for 99 calendars turned in to date. There are another 173 calendars left in the office which are still available to sell. Calendar requests continue to be steady.

Discussed the recent press release sent out by the Board of Animal Health pertaining to the euthanization of the Olmsted county elk herd found to have CWD. Test results have found three additional positives. The Board of Animal Health will continue to monitor the premise to ensure compliance in keeping fences up for five additional years, or relocating topsoil in areas which are opened up to development.

Discussed plans for the upcoming Annual Conference. Ian Thorliefson will be the key speaker. Board discussed bringing in additional speakers and suggested Del Glanzer be contacted to see if he would be willing to speak about soil nutrition. Also discussed fundraising. Hartkopf to check to see what the price would be to purchase a leather chair with an embroidered elk on the headrest to put on the fundraising auction. Award recipient candidates were also discussed. The committee will follow up.

Hartkopf reported on information and pricing for trade-marking stickers promoting the Minnesota elk branding logo. Decision was made to order 20,000 stickers, 3/4" x 1" in size, in the black colored version. Board discussed whether or not

there would be a fee to use the MN elk logo and also if there would be an application form involved. Board reviewed the Minnesota Grown application form. Decision was made to create an application form similar to the Minnesota Grown application form. It was decided that an applicant would have to be a MnEBA member to apply for and use the logo. There will be no charge to use the logo, it will be a benefit of membership. The logo will be made available electronically, or the recipient will be entitled for up to 1,000 trade-marking stickers per year. Any stickers needed above that amount would be available for \$20 per thousand. Hartkopf to follow up.

Reviewed meat sales at the Minnesota State Fair. An all-time sales record was reached with a total of over \$8,100 in product sold during the Fair. There was very little product loss, a credit to all volunteers who worked at the Fair. However, product ran very low several times during the event. Discussed ideas for keeping an adequate amount of products available during all days of the State Fair. This will be addressed at the upcoming Annual Conference and EMCC shareholder meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussed the upcoming Third Annual MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt which will be taking place on November 28-29, 2009. A press release was developed and placed on the MnEBA web site. Board asked that the press release be emailed out to an existing media email list. Board approved expenses of up to \$1,000 being donated by the Lake Superior SCI Chapter be processed through MnEBA and forwarded to SCI at the conclusion of the event for reimbursement. While bulls have been donated for the past three hunts, it has become increasingly difficult to find donated bulls. Decision was made to ask the membership about purchasing bulls for future hunts if donated bulls cannot be secured.

NAEBA has discontinued regional antler competitions and will only be sponsoring one competition, which is currently known as the International Antler Competition during the upcoming Annual Convention in August. Regions can still hold competitions, but they will not be directly affiliated with the NAEBA international competition. Decision was made to ask the membership if they still wish to hold a

regional antler competition and/or what kind of summer event they would like to have next year.

Hartkopf reported that the Lake Superior Chapter of SCI has offered MnEBA a free booth at their upcoming annual convention next April 3-4, 2010 in Hinckley, MN. Decision was made to take them up on their offer. Byrne, Wagner and Hendrickson all volunteered to help man the booth.

MnEBA lobbyist Tony Kwilas has forwarded a request by a broad coalition of Minnesota organizations ("No Cap-and-Trade Coalition") which has been formed to oppose Waxman-Markey, also known as "Cap & Trade", to join their coalition against this federal legislative initiative. There is no monetary requirement for joining. Since there was little time to form a board consensus, Byrne made an executive decision to allow the coalition to add MnEBA's name to the list of organizations against "Cap & Trade" (see

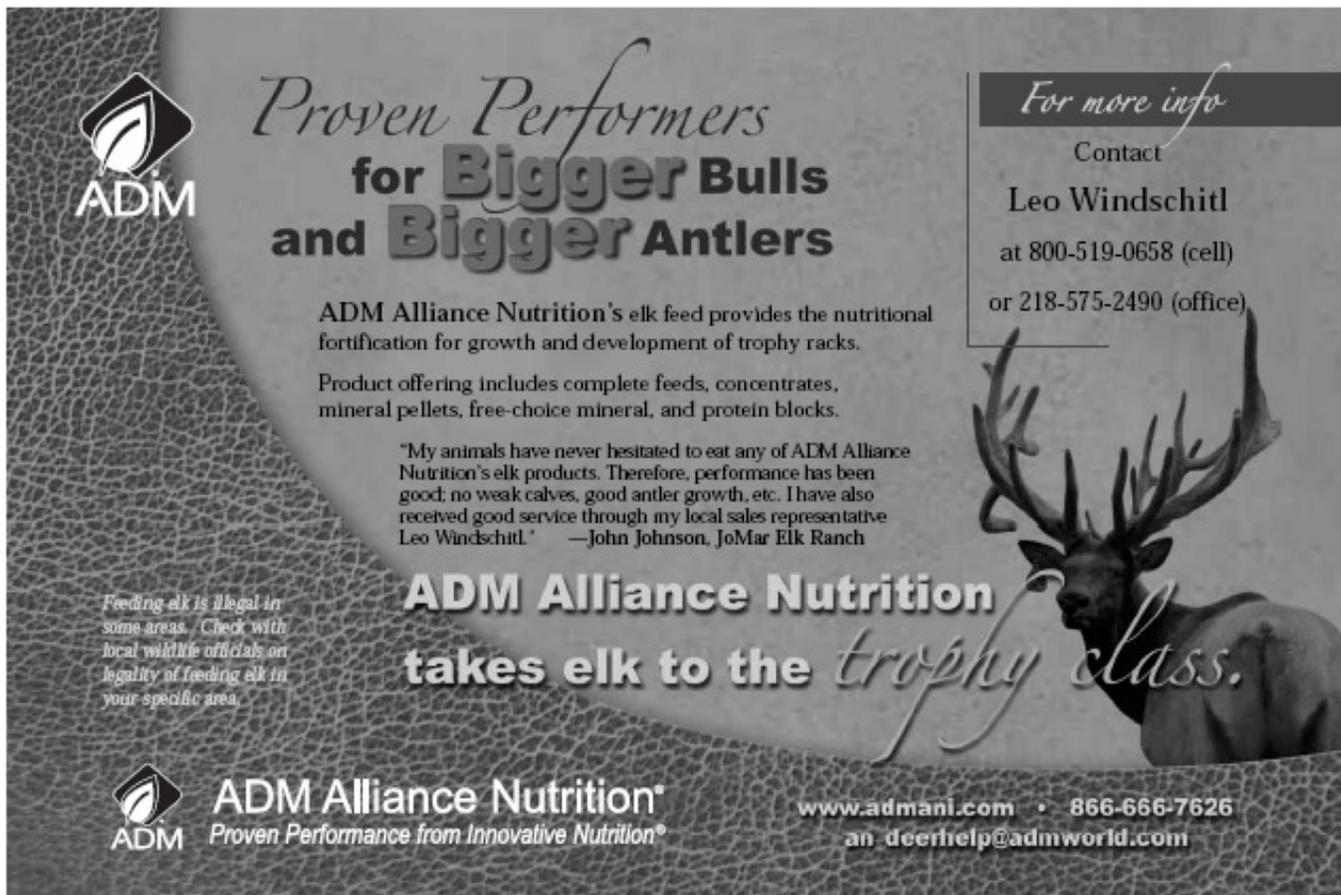
www.NoCapAndTrade.com). Board was supportive of joining the coalition to oppose "Cap & Trade". Byrne asked the board to forward any concerns. Hartkopf to forward emails to Board pertaining to this topic.

Board began the bi-yearly review of the most recent version of MnEBA Goals & Objectives by reviewing the first three categories. Will continue to review the rest of the document at future board meetings until completed.

Zebarth shared with the board details on an NVSL TB study in which a tuberculosis serum bank is needed. She asked that the information be put in the next newsletter. All were in agreement.

Zebarth moved to adjourn, Wagner seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf



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See H.R. 2454, the
American Clean Energy
& Security Act
(ACES) at
www.govtrack.us

The "Cap & Trade" Debate in Washington

"Cap-and-Trade" is a new approach by the federal government designed to control carbon emissions. This proposed program would place a limit (cap) on the amount of emissions regulated businesses can emit. Companies exceeding this "cap" could purchase (trade) offsetting credits from other entities which are not exceeding their limits until they can meet reduction levels through technological upgrades.

There is wide-spread opposition to this proposed governmental program from many sectors in the U.S. Cap-and-Trade is estimated to impose huge costs to American citizens and would impose a carbon tax on all goods and services produced in the U.S. Because other countries have not implemented similar measures, the U.S. would face a huge disadvantage in the world trade marketplace.

MnEBA has agreed to join the **No Cap-and-Trade Coalition** (see nocapandtrade.com), an alliance of organizations concerned about the devastating impact that a cap-and-trade scheme could have on American families, businesses and the uncertain U.S. economy. Farm Bureau is also an organization which is strongly against climate change legislation. Please see the links posted to the left to learn more about "Cap-and-Trade" and how it might affect you.

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MnEBA Annual Conference

January 8-9, 2010

Willmar Conference Center
2100 E. Hwy 12
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NORTH AMERICAN ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION'S FEBRUARY FLING

February 12th, 2010

Marshfield, Wisconsin

Holiday Inn Convention Center

Reservations 715-486-1500 - Rooms \$89.99 - Cutoff Jan. 12th 2010

Full day of informative events planned including membership roundtable with industry leaders, seminars, benefit semen auction, and evening banquet.

Look for a schedule of events out soon.

Want to sponsor a break, seminar, or banquet meal: contact the NAEBA office.

For more information contact the NAEBA office at 402-756-3355 or

To consign semen to the benefit auction contact

Josh Lundberg at 620-224-3522

Don't forget to mark your calendar!!! **NAEBA's 20th Anniversary** **Conference and Antler Competition** **August 5-7th 2010** **Council Bluffs, Iowa** **Harrah's Hotel and Casino**

After the overwhelming success of last years convention and competition,

you won't want to miss out on

NAEBA's 20th Anniversary celebration.

It will be one for the ages!!

It's not too early to get your booth space reserved, sponsor one of many items, or make a donation.

Contact the NAEBA office for more details.

North American Elk Breeders Association

4985 West Blue Hill Rd

Ayr, NE 68925

P: 402-756-3ELK (3355)

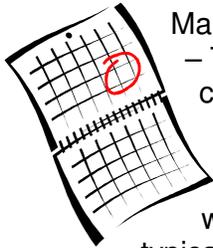
F: 402-756-4356

E: info@naelk.org

W: www.naelk.org

MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar

Drawing Date is January 9, 2010!



Many MnEBA members are working hard to sell MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendars – THANK YOU to all for your efforts! Currently, there are nearly 600 calendars in circulation which is great, but it would be even better to have all 750 calendars into circulation!

We are now at the time of year when we are thinking about hunting, wanting some extra cash, and needing a new calendar for 2010! Also we typically see many friends and relatives over the holidays! There's no better time to stock up and complete calendar sales in time for the new year, the drawing date is just around the corner!

You can request your calendars from the MnEBA Office or any board member. Calendars are \$40 each and include a full 12-month 2010 calendar complete with pictures of Minnesota elk, along with a gun give-away OR cash prize every other Wednesday throughout the year. Only 750 calendars have been printed and there are 26 guns or cash prizes available to win!

Remember... the person who sells the most calendars will receive a FREE one-year MnEBA membership! Order your calendars today!!!

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MnEBA Kitchen

Another two recipe bonus for this issue as the focus is on one of the all-time best foods to warm up your family on a cold winter night, elk roast! The first recipe is one that I served at our daughter's graduation party last summer, really simple and very delicious! The second recipe uses a few more ingredients but the end result is well worth it!

Simple Elk Roast

3 lbs. elk roast
1 package Hidden Valley Ranch dressing mix
1 package Good Seasons Italian dressing mix
1½ cups water

Place elk roast in crock pot. Mix both packages of dressing together and sprinkle over roast. Add water around the edges. Cook on low for 8-10 hours. Makes delicious gravy or serve au jus.



Delicious Elk Roast

4-5 lbs. elk roast	Liquid: 1 can Cream of Mushroom soup
Rub: ¼ tsp. pepper	¼ cup red wine
¾ tsp. seasoned salt	2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
2 tsp. garlic powder	2 tsp. boullion granules or base (chicken or beef)
1 tsp. paprika	2 bay leaves
2 Tbsp. olive oil	¾ cup water
1 large onion, sliced	
4 garlic cloves, minced	
2 cans sliced mushrooms, drained	

Mix rub ingredients together and rub into top and bottom of roast. In frying pan, heat pan and then add olive oil. Place roast in heated pan and sear both sides. Transfer to crock pot. Add onions, garlic and mushrooms to pan and cook about 3 minutes making sure to get all pan drippings mixed in. Mix together soup, wine, Worcestershire sauce and boullion granules. Add to onion/garlic/mushroom mixture. Pour this liquid mixture over roast. Add bay leaves and water. Cover and cook on low for 8-10 hours. Remove bay leaves, cut and serve.

The Duck

submitted by Larry & Mary Gerdes

There was a man who had a pet duck that he loved. He kept his pet duck in the back yard. One morning, he went outside to check on his pet duck and found his duck lying on its side. He picked up the duck and took it to the vet.

The Vet asked the man, "What can I do for you?" The man said, "I believe that my beloved duck is dead." The Vet looked at the duck in the man's hands and said, "Why yes, your duck looks like it is dead." The man exclaimed to the Vet, "But you didn't do anything but look!"

The Vet took the duck from the man and laid it on the exam table. The Vet went over to the side of the room and opened a door. In through the door walked a big black Lab. The black Lab went over to the table, walked around the table a couple of times sniffing, looked at the Vet and turned around and walked back through the door. Next, through the door walked a cat. The cat walked over to the table, jumped up and walked around the duck a couple times sniffing, looked at the Vet, jumped off the table and walked through the door.

The Vet said to the man, "Your duck is still dead and you owe me \$125." The man said, "\$125??!" The Vet said, "If you would have listened to me in the first place it would have only cost you \$25, but because you wanted lab work and a cat scan, it will cost you another \$100."



2010 MnEBA Annual Conference

January 8-9, 2010 ~ Willmar Conference Center, Willmar, MN



Ian Thorlietson, key speaker for the 2010 MnEBA Annual Conference will talk about "The Velvet Antler Market – Past, Present and Future" and "Managing Elk for Improved Antler Production".

MnEBA is excited to have Ian Thorlietson, co-author of the "Elk Farming Handbook" and a substantial number of articles pertaining to successfully raising elk, as the key speaker for the upcoming MnEBA conference. Ian will cover two topics for the day, "The Velvet Antler Market – Past, Present and Future" and "Managing Elk for Improved Antler Production".

Ian is widely considered one of the most knowledgeable producers in the North American Elk industry. One of the biggest issues in the elk industry is trying to figure out what next year's velvet market will be. Ian is heavily involved in the Canadian velvet industry and also very in tune with what's happening in the New Zealand and overseas markets. This is your chance to get a jump start on planning which bulls to cut and which bulls to grow out. Matching your program to forecasted market conditions can mean extra \$\$ in your pocket!

Another seminar for the day will deal with soil nutrition. Del Glanzer of Brookside Labs Soil Consulting and Scott Phalen of Anez Consulting will speak about the importance of reaching proper soil nutrition levels in our fields and pastures. Investing some thought into maximizing your land's potential is a good way to save money in the long run!

An information sheet and registration form have been included in this mailing. Please contact Kaye Zebarth at 320-834-4064, or Brenda Hartkopf at 320-543-2686 with any questions.



Partial funding for the 2010 MnEBA Annual Conference is provided through a cooperative agreement with the USDA Risk Management Agency.

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What veterinarians say:

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Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

USAHA Recap

I recently represented the elk industry and NAEBA at the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) annual meeting in San Diego, California on October 8th-14th. The cervidae industry was also represented by NADeFA, EWA, reindeer producers and other state deer breeder associations. The meeting was non-controversial for the most part. It was cuts in funding for every program which heavily dominated discussions.

Animal ID: Government funding has been cut way back. They are concentrating now on a voluntary program and urging people to obtain a premise ID. This does not have much effect on cervidae producers as unique identification is already required to be in a CWD monitoring program.

Government Programs: All government programs dealing with CWD, TB and Brucellosis are being looked at again with a new concept in mind – how to effectively manage these programs with less funding. The bottom line is that fewer whole-herds will be depopulated and more quarantines and test out programs for infected herds will be utilized. Final rules are not yet known, but decisions will be made in the coming year. One dairy herd in California needing to be depopulated because of TB is valued at \$54 million dollars. The money is simply not available. This is a step back in the current eradication program.

The hope is to use new advanced tests, preferably live animal tests. There are currently three companies who are well on the road to a good TB blood test. The first tests will likely be approved for use in cattle, then deer and elk. There are companies which are showing better results with the TB blood test than with the current skin testing method, however, results are still not 100%. It is essential for testing procedures to work effectively to avoid depopulating entire herds.

TB: More cases have been showing up in cattle and deer herds in several states including Minnesota, Michigan, Texas, California, Nebraska and Indiana. This is an unusual increase from what it has been in recent years. It will continue to be important for cervidae producers to keep up TB accreditation to be able to ship to other states. It could be eventually required to move within state. Testing is still being conducted in northern Minnesota and will likely involve several more years of testing to ensure TB is completely eradicated in this area.

The Elk Research Council and Cervid Livestock Foundation have both contributed money to Pre Test, Chem Bio and other companies who are currently researching effective blood tests for TB.

Brucellosis: The industry will need to continue testing as brucellosis is still prevalent in the greater Yellowstone area. There is a northern herd and a southern herd. One herd is said to have an 8% prevalence, the other 30%. The numbers of elk in these areas have decreased primarily due to wolves. There is more and more concern that brucellosis will eventually effect cattle.

CWD: CWD indemnity was funded in the upcoming budget for \$16 million, only a \$2 million dollar decrease over the last budget. This is good considering the economy we're in. Half of this money will be available for wildlife programs and the other half for the farm program. The good news is that there will be money for one more year. However, even though the money is there, USDA officials are becoming less willing to depopulate herds. They still support funding for TB and Brucellosis, but are not as supportive of CWD funding.

The Final Rule for CWD is not yet available, but proposed amendments are said to be coming out the beginning of the year. There was a directive from the President that the pre-emption of state's rights will be dropped. This was always a big hold up. Other changes include not allowing an infected CWD herd to add more animals. This is a big deal for hunt ranches in Colorado.

Continued on Page 15

The following information was supplied by Dr. Zebarth, who would encourage any elk producer who is due for routine TB testing to consider taking part in this project.

Bovine Tuberculosis Serum Bank Project Standard Operating Procedures

April 22, 2009

NVSL is conducting an important Tuberculosis study in which samples are needed from 1) uninfected cattle and white-tailed deer and 2) TB suspects and reactors, for cattle and white-tailed deer. If you are due for routine TB testing this year, please consider taking part in this study. Elk samples would be welcomed.

Animals from which to collect blood samples include cattle (beef or dairy) or white-tailed deer being tuberculin tested in states and zones that are TB-accredited free. Collect blood from both juvenile (test eligible) and adult animals.

Focus on collecting blood from herds or animals at routine TB testing (negative animals/herds).

- Collect three 10 ml red-topped or serum separator tubes
- Collect blood the day of tuberculin injection (not the test read day)
- Collect approximately 50 blood samples from cattle in 1 or more herds, per state
- Collect approximately 50 blood samples from white-tailed deer in 1 or more herds, per state
- Sample juvenile (test eligible) and adult animals

NVSL will supply blood collection equipment and pay for shipping costs. Contact Dr. Jeff Nelson, the TB Serum Bank Coordinator at (515) 337-7966, before collecting blood samples, to obtain complete details, supplies and shipping account information, and to schedule sample arrival at NVSL.

For a more complete explanation of the study and what steps are needed to satisfactorily submit samples, or for any further questions, contact Jeff Nelson at the number above or Kathy Orloski at (970) 494-7221.

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In the News

High court ends 9-yr. game farm court fight

By EVE BYRON Independent Record | Posted: Friday, October 16, 2009 12:05 am

The U.S. Supreme Court has decided not to hear arguments involving Montana's 2000 game farm initiative, known as I-143, effectively ending all constitutional challenges to the case.

By not considering the appeal by game farm owners, the Montana Supreme Court decision stands, in which the justices decided 4-3 that the initiative did not constitute a "taking" of property and that the ranchers weren't due any compensation.

In June, several elk farmers asked the U.S. Supreme Court to issue a "writ of certiorari" that would have brought the case before them. That request was denied in a list published on Tuesday.

I-143 has been upheld in state district courts, federal district court, the 9th Circuit of Appeals and the Montana Supreme Court.

State officials said they are pleased that the dispute has been resolved.

"This ends the saga of litigation over that initiative," Bob Lane, chief legal counsel for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks said on Thursday. "This was the last legal issue remaining."

Chris Tweeten, chief civil counsel for the Montana Department of Justice and the lead attorney for the state on the game farm cases, added that it was gratifying to have the courts vindicate the state's initiative process.

He said the three cases that remain in Montana district courts should wrap up quickly.

"The Montana Supreme Court's decision - from December of last year - should resolve the other three cases still in district court and we are taking the steps necessary to dismiss these other cases," Tweeten said.

Art Wittich, a Bozeman attorney who represented game farm owner Len Wallace, said he's disappointed with the decision to not hear the case, and that he felt they had some strong arguments to present. Wallace has since sold his ranch and moved to Idaho.

"The Montana Supreme Court had a split decision on this and it took them two years to decide it," Wittich said. "We thought there were some good constitutional questions that were raised, but obviously it didn't make the cut.

"... Suing the government is always tough, and I think we gave it a good effort, but it's over."

Kim Kafka, owner of the Diamond K Ranch in Havre and one of the plaintiffs in the case, also was unhappy with the outcome. He still feels as though he was robbed by the people who drafted the initiative and that they misled the voters.

"The people who crafted the initiative admitted to intentionally crafting it to take away people's livelihood and not pay them for it,"

Kafka said. "I thought honor and truth, science and the facts would prevail.

Unfortunately, the people (who wrote the initiative) got me the first time, but they won't get me again."

He added that while the court's decision may wrap up this part of the issue, he's still talking with his attorney about possible other ways to address the issue of game farms. He's still in operation and sells his livestock to out-of-state entities, like restaurants or other farms.

"So I'm still in operation, but I used to be able to generate thousands of dollars for my hometown" in revenues from hunters coming to shoot elk at his ranch, Kafka said. "I'm still generating income, but it's not for my town."

The initiative, passed by 51 percent of Montana's voters in November 2000, was aimed at phasing out alternative livestock ranches - mainly, farms where elk were raised - by prohibiting all new game farms and the shooting of livestock for any type of fee. Existing game farms are allowed, but their licenses can't be transferred to anyone else.

Since the initiative, about half of Montana's 90 game farms have gone out of business.

One of the reasons for the initiative came from hunters who feared the elk raised on the farms could escape into the wild and mate with Rocky Mountain elk, producing unwanted hybrids. There also were concerns that elk

in enclosed areas could be more susceptible to chronic wasting disease, and pass that to wild elk.

But Kafka said his operation, which is one of the largest in the state, was vigilant in testing the elk and fencing them.

"I put a lot of time into it," he said, noting that FWP referred to his ranch as "the ones that did it right."

Still, Craig Sharpe, executive director of the Montana Wildlife Federation, was pleased to hear of the court's decision.

"We are just thrilled," Sharpe said. "The people of Montana have spoken, and the law was upheld in every case where it was challenged."

Reporter Eve Byron: 447-4076 or eve.byron@helenair.com

ADWA Renews Title Sponsorship of Deer & Wildlife Stories

The American Deer & Wildlife Alliance proudly announces it has renewed its title sponsorship of Keith Warren's Deer & Wildlife Stories television program for 2010.

"Deer & Wildlife Stories debuted in 2009 and immediately received an outpouring of positive responses from deer enthusiasts and sportsmen across the country that care deeply for wildlife and conservation efforts," says John Meng, president of ADWA. "The show continues to help educate viewers on

issues affecting whitetail deer, habitat management, land fragmentation and other important topics, and we are extremely proud to bring these issues to the forefront."

Deer & Wildlife Stories currently airs on the Outdoor Channel three times every week — Tuesdays at 9am EST, Fridays at 2am EST and Saturdays at 5:30pm EST. However, the highly acclaimed show will be airing on the Pursuit Channel in January 2010 and will Wednesdays at 7:30pm, Fridays at 6pm and Sunday at 12am.

With more than 7,000 ranch operations and 2,000 hunting preserves, the deer (aka cervid) industry today has emerged with a strong national presence and many economists believe the deer industry is the fastest growing industry in rural America. Plus, the number of hunters served by the deer breeding market continues to grow and the total economic impact of the cervid industry — combining the farming and hunting components — is now estimated to be more than \$3 billion annually.

* * * * *

Vet Corner – USAHA Recap continued from Page 12

There are currently 3-4 herds who are still operating shooting preserves even though positives have been found in their herds. Another change is that no new cervidae farms can begin operation in CWD endemic areas, however existing herds would be grandfathered in. No allowance is made for double fencing. There seems to be a double standard in all of this as CWD does not shut down or minimize hunting for wildlife, but it can completely shut down even the most vigilant operation.

There is no guarantee the amendments will go through. In fact, there is a growing sentiment that there should be no federal program at all. This would be bad for cervidae producers as then federal funding would disappear, although a herd would still be quarantined and not allowed to do business. There are also those who believe a federal CWD program would greatly increase our chances of getting U.S. velvet back into the Korean marketplace.

Live animal tests for CWD are still being researched. Rectal biopsy tests are the furthest along by far and it's continuing to look like a good test, but still not 100%. Blood tests appear to be a long way from being usable.

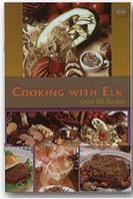
MnEBA Promotional Materials

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.

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Elk Trashcan (*pictured*) \$25 each

Elk Rug (Small) \$27.50 each

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Committee Reports

Nominations for 2010 Board of Directors

Two director positions will be expiring this year – Jim Byrne is completing his third term in office while Mark Hendrickson is wrapping up his first term. Both have contributed greatly to this organization. Please take a moment when you see them to thank them for the time and dedication they have given to MnEBA.

Nominations for these open positions are now being accepted. If you know of someone who would be a good candidate, or you as a member are willing to run, please contact the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 or info@mneba.org. Elections will be held during the upcoming Annual Conference on January 9, 2010.

Board Terms	
Jim Byrne, <i>President</i>	Term ends 2010
Mark Hendrickson, <i>Vice Pres.</i>	Term ends 2010
Pat Prodzinski, <i>Sec/Treas.</i>	Term ends 2012
Brian Wagner, <i>Director</i>	Term ends 2011
Kaye Zebarth, <i>Director</i>	Term ends 2012

MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS	
Annual Conference	Kaye Zebarth (320) 834-4064
Nominating	Fred Neubert (320) 352-6733
Government Relations	OPEN
Antler Competition	Kaye Zebarth (320) 834-4064
Health	Dr. Glen Zebarth (320) 834-4064
Auction	Jerry Strodtman (507) 451-3107
Awards	Patty VanGundy (507) 896-2380
Promotions	Brenda Hartkopf (320) 543-2686
Shows	Morrie & Daphne Evenson (320) 354-5156
Fundraising	Brenda Hartkopf (320) 543-2686

2010 Summer Gathering / Antler Competition

NAEBA has decided to hold only one formal antler competition which will take place during the NAEBA 2010 Annual Convention on August 5-7 in Council Bluffs, Iowa. It will be up to each individual region if they wish to continue to have regional antler competitions. Even if a regional antler competition is held, the results will not be forwarded to NAEBA, antlers will be judged independent of any other competition at the NAEBA event.

The MnEBA Board would like to know what you, the membership, would like to do next summer? Do you want to continue having a regional competition? Would you like a summer meeting or picnic? Both? Other ideas? Feel free to contact any board member with your ideas. This topic will also be discussed at the upcoming winter membership meeting.

* * * * *

In Memory

Two former MnEBA members have passed away in the past few weeks. Please keep their families and loved ones in your thoughts and prayers. Blessed be their memory.

George VanderWeyst - George Francis VanderWeyst, 77, of Benson, died November 21, 2009 at Swift County Benson Hospital. George is survived by his wife Sharon, one son and seven daughters, many grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. He is further survived by three brothers and six sisters. His funeral was held on November 24th at St. Malachy Catholic Church in Clondtarf, MN.

Floyd Anderson - Floyd Anderson, 69, of rural Ashby, died Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009 at the ELEAH Medical Center in Elbow Lake. Funeral service will be 11:00 am Friday, Dec. 4, 2009, at the Peace Lutheran Church in Ashby with Pastor Carol Olson officiating. Visitation is at the church one hour before the service on Friday morning.

Velvet Watch

New Zealand cervidae producers are currently in the midst of their summer velvetting season. All reports seem to show New Zealand product experiencing a lift in demand as well as velvet prices over last year. This activity is a good sign for an increase in pricing for North American velvet next year!

The October 2009 issue of *Deer Industry News* also offers insight into New Zealand's velvet market this year. See the following excerpts from their *Velvet Market Report*:

Global velvet stocks: "Most Korean importers suggest that the potential for reduced volumes from North America, China and New Zealand has increased retail prices.... Velvet stocks in New Zealand and Korea are low. While there may be stocks in China, some Chinese importers suggest that going into the main season the quantity is down on global inventory compared with previous years."

Market activity – Korea & China: "There has been a flurry of activity as importers gear up to secure stock for next season. Some are citing reasonable confidence with the recession over and there has even been talk about a potential for a positive impact on velvet consumption due to H1N1 virus. The spread of H1N1 is of great concern to Asia as they move toward peak flu season."

Market reports from PGG Wrightson to date have velvet grades showing a lift in pricing over last season and remaining steady over the past few weeks with AS and Super A grades achieving a steady price of \$36-\$39 per pound US.

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

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Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

9086 Keats Avenue SW
Howard Lake, MN 55349

PHONE:
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FAX:
320-543-2983

E-MAIL:
info@mneba.org

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

Calendar of Events

January 8 - 9, 2010 - MnEBA Annual Conference, Holiday Inn & Convention Center, Willmar, MN

February 12, 2010 – NAEBA February Fling, Holiday Inn Convention Center, Marshfield, WI

February 13, 2010 – WCDEFA Annual Convention, Holiday Inn Convention Center, Marshfield, WI

March 12 – 14, 2010 – Minnesota Deer Classic, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

August 5 – 7, 2010 – NAEBA's 20th Annual Convention and International Antler Competition, Harrah's, Council Bluffs, Iowa

August 26 – September 6, 2010 – Minnesota State Fair, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

Classified Ads

For Sale: Matejcek Squeeze Chute. Call Rick Hafstad at (507) 456-8656.

For Sale: (8) open elk cows, Daughters of Jesse, Revolution, Smokin' Ash, Hank, Beamer and Flash. TB and CWD program closed herd. \$750/offer. Contact Mark Lucas at (952) 215-1313 or markl@fcstone.com.

For Sale: (2) Kiwi squeeze chutes and (1) Monte North hydraulic chute. Contact Larry Gerdes at (715) 594-3534 or mjsder@redwing.net.

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

For Sale: (8) unbred heifers – excellent genetics – 450+ sires – (1) heifer from Frisco – (5) heifers from Gunner – (1) heifer from Joker and (1) heifer from Bruce - \$500 each. Also (15) spikers \$1,000 each and (37) 2 year old hard rack bulls \$1,000 each. Contact Don & Jane Berg at (641) 682-4185 or oakcreekelkranch@aol.com.

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

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