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President's Message by Jim Byrne

The holiday season is upon us once again. How quickly the years pass by. But for each day that makes up those years, we should be thankful for all that we have been blessed with in our lives. This year, we weathered another legislative session without further restrictions, our association continued to sustain itself with willing hands and hearts, and we have deeper friendships to support us.

I continue to count those friendships and relationships formed over the nearly fifteen years in this industry as a true blessing from on high. It's the people who make up the industry with their encouragements and helping hands that make life so full and rewarding. The Minnesota Elk Breeders are the finest people I've ever had the privilege of being involved with on both the personal and business levels. Thank you so very much for your involvement with the association this past year. You have made the difference in so many ways.

We will be having our 2008 Annual Conference in Mankato, MN. January 10th is the day you want to highlight on the calendar. This is one you don't want to miss. This year NAEBA will be piggybacking their annual meeting with our meeting. The combination of these two meetings will give an even greater opportunity for finding out what is happening on the national level and for making new and renewing old friendships.

The 2008 fundraising raffle is well underway, and the speakers for this conference are lined up. Again we will have Dr. Paul Anderson, Board of Animal Health program director for farmed cervidae, at the meeting to talk about the current status of the farmed cervidae program and the recent events dealing with the status of TB in northern Minnesota. 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 the terms of Pat Prodzinski and Charles Frances will be ending. Both Pat and Charles have served your association faithfully over the last three years. Please make sure that you give them your heartfelt thanks for their constant effort and outstanding commitment to the future of 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 MnEBA the finest and strongest association in the country.

Happy Holidays!
May the Lord bless you all!

MnEBA News is a bimonthly publication of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association. It is mailed out on the first day of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Deadline for information, articles, and advertisements is the 15th of the preceding month.

Board of Directors

President

Jim Byrne
(507) 358-6505

Vice President

Mark Hendrickson
(952) 448-6336

Secretary/Treasurer

Pat Prodzinski
(507) 452-1282

Director

Charles Francis
(320) 524-2513

Director

Brian Wagner
(320) 543-2818

Executive Secretary to the Board

Brenda Hartkopf
(320) 543-2686

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 – Greetings to all Minnesota Elk Producers!

The November/December 2008 edition of MnEBA News has been mailed to all known elk producers in the state of Minnesota. This edition is packed with much local and national information all relating to the Minnesota elk industry.

There is definitely much excitement as the new year begins with the NAEBA January Jamboree and Select Elk Sale to be held on January 9th at the Holiday Inn in Mankato, Minnesota. This event is directly preceding the MnEBA Annual Conference on January 10th, also at the same location. This is a terrific chance for all Minnesota producers to come and learn what's going on in the industry, both locally and nationally, to meet industry leaders, and to mingle together. You never know what tidbit of information you may learn just from talking to a fellow elk producer, the right tip can be a very big deal!

Both conferences will feature membership meetings, seminars, and on Friday night, a Select Elk Sale sponsored by NAEBA. There is much to talk about and learn the weekend of January 9-10, 2009.

We all have a lot of time and money tied up in our operations. We have all put forth much effort in buying the right animals, setting up fence, gates and handling facilities, seeding pastures and buying feed and equipment. Staying informed helps us make the best decisions for our farm when it comes to feeding, making slaughter decisions, velvetting, selling hard antler bulls, everything. The best ways to stay informed are by attending association meetings and by being a member of your state and/or national organization representing your animals.

Every year there's lots of new information flowing out to members through MnEBA's bi-monthly newsletter and the MnEBA web site, 2009 will be no exception. Don't let your investment falter by not realizing what's going on. Attend the upcoming conferences, renew your membership, or become a MnEBA member for the first time. You will be GLAD you did!

Sign up for a MnEBA Membership at www.mneba.org, or fill out and return the application form on the back of this newsletter.

Sign up for the MnEBA annual conference at www.mneba.org, or fill out and return the enclosed registration form.

Find NAEBA January Jamboree & Select Elk Sale info at www.naelk.org.

Board Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2008 Phone Conference Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a phone conference on October 23, 2008. Jim Byrne, Mark Hendrickson, Pat Prodzinski, Charles Francis, and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Brian Wagner later joined during the Treasurer's report.

Byrne called the meeting to order at 8:06 p.m. He asked for additions or corrections to the May 3rd secretary minutes. Prodzinski moved to accept, Hendrickson seconded, motion carried. Byrne then asked for additions or corrections to the July 10th secretary minutes. Hendrickson moved to accept, Francis seconded, motion carried. The Treasurer's report was then reviewed. The current balance is \$20,892.54. Wagner moved to accept, Francis seconded, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Byrne followed up on some questions from the last meeting and asked Hartkopf if Vivid Image had been contacted to give a quote on adding a "remember password" function to the MnEBA web site. Hartkopf reported that the cost would be an additional \$125. The Board decided to hold off on adding this function at the present time. Byrne reported that he followed up with the Minnesota Deer Breeders Association regarding sharing MnEBA's lobbyist with the deer breeders. They had already decided to continue working with their current lobbyist. Wagner reported the registration pass associated with the MnEBA booth at the NAEBA convention was sold to a MnEBA member attending the convention.

Hartkopf reported the 2008 Raffle is on a normal pace with 20 tickets sold so far. There are 210 of the 250 tickets out to members at the present time. Hartkopf forwarded a request from Sportsman's Lodge and will follow up with a return reply.

Hartkopf updated the board on the Langenfeld Elk Charity Hunt for a disabled Vietnam veteran. The recipient has been chosen and the date set for December 5-7, 2008. Tony Beckel is donating his guide services and the bull is being donated by an anonymous donor. Langenfeld is working on finding a sponsor for transportation then will begin media promotion of the event.

Meat sales were reported to be almost a record year at \$7,250 in gross sales. After expenses, profit was just over \$2,100. A different booth set up is working much better in keeping theft loss to a minimum.

Board discussed a draft proposal of speakers and schedule for the upcoming MnEBA Annual Conference. Committee still working on fundraising ideas, the board was asked to also think of ideas for fundraising. Discussed award recipient ideas. Hartkopf to follow up.

Hartkopf reported Wapiti Labs is pursuing the pet market with velvet antler supplements and is experiencing upward growth. MN grown antler is not the primary focus of this product line. Branding activities for MN elk velvet are awaiting further development as needed.

NEW BUSINESS

Hartkopf updated the Board on a request from a Colorado member to promote Minnesota grown antler in Denver. Hartkopf to continue to assist in this effort and keep the board up to date on progress.

Discussed thoughts on the 2009 North Central Antler Competition. Will wait to see where NAEBA decides to hold the 2009 International Antler Competition then contact other states in region to decide when and where to have next year's competition.

Discussed opportunity to make an elk meat presentation at the upcoming Upper Midwest Foodservice & Lodging Show (UP's Show) in the Minneapolis Convention Center on February 23-24, 2009. Hartkopf to follow up.

Hartkopf reported there are approximately 1,000 elk meat brochures left in inventory. She reported that MN Grown credits are available to update the brochure and to place another order. This would need to be done before next year's State Fair. Membership input regarding changes were collected at the MnEBA summer meeting and would be incorporated into the new version. She asked to begin work on this in the next few months so new brochures could be available for the UP's Show in February. All were in favor of beginning work on the brochures. Board asked to view and approve final version before printing.

Discussed inquiry by NAEBA board members to piggyback NAEBA's winter meeting with the MnEBA Annual Conference on Friday, January 9th at the Holiday Inn in Mankato. After much discussion, the board was supportive of this idea. Hartkopf to follow up with NAEBA and report back to board.

Two board member terms will be expiring in 2009, Pat Prodzinski and Charles Francis. Byrne encouraged both to run again, and also asked everyone to be thinking about other nominations for these open positions.

Discussed when and where to hold the annual budget meeting. It was tentatively decided to hold it at the home of Lance & Brenda Hartkopf on Saturday December 6th beginning at 1 p.m. The budget will be the main item of business with other topics added as needed.

Wagner moved to adjourn, Hendrickson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Hartkopf



2009 MnEBA Annual Conference

January 10, 2009 ~ Holiday Inn, Mankato

MnEBA's Annual Conference will be in much the same format as in year's past. Many Jamboree attendees are expected to also stay for the MnEBA Conference which will give MnEBA members the opportunity to speak to industry leaders and learn from each other.

Tentative Agenda

Friday, January 9

ALL DAY NAEBA January Jamboree

Saturday, January 10 (Saturday activities take place in all banquet meeting areas.)

8:00 a.m. Registration and Morning Coffee
 9:00 a.m. Annual Business Meeting
 11:00 a.m. Seminar – CWD Bio Risk Management (TENTATIVE)
 ~ **Dr. Shana Gillette**, Colorado State University
 12:00 p.m. Lunch & NCAC Awards Presentation
 1:15 p.m. Seminar – MN Board of Animal Health Update
 ~ **Paul Anderson, DVM, BS**, MN Board of Animal Health
 2:15 p.m. Seminar – Google Ad Marketing
 ~ **Paul Hugunin**, Minnesota Grown, MN Dept. of Agriculture
 3:15 p.m. Afternoon Break
 3:45 p.m. Seminar – Antler Crafts 101
 ~ **Paul Ristau**, local antler crafter
 4:45 p.m. Social Hour
 5:30 p.m. Evening Banquet
 6:15 p.m. MnEBA Awards
 6:30 p.m. Key Note Speaker, Property Rights
 ~ **Charly Seale**, Executive Director for the Exotic Wildlife Association,
 also Board of Directors for NTFARC, USAHA, NAEBA,
 & Cervid Livestock Foundation
 7:15 p.m. Fundraiser
 8:00 p.m. Raffle Drawing
 8:15 p.m. Hospitality

See enclosed conference registration info for more details!

Seminar Topics:

- ✓ (This is a tentative seminar) **Shana Gillette** will be giving the CWD risk management presentation she gave at the recent USAHA convention in North Carolina. This seminar is especially meaningful for any producer who is near the immediate vicinity of CWD positive cervidae in the wild, however, CWD could pop up anywhere in the wild. All producers should have an idea of how to manage such a situation should it come up.
- ✓ **Paul Anderson** will be on hand to give an update on the Minnesota farmed cervidae program and other related animal health issues.
- ✓ A beginner's course in sponsored Google ads. Have you ever wondered how you get your name under a "sponsored" site? Did you know Minnesota elk meat and velvet antler products are featured under Google sponsored ads? **Paul Hugunin** of the Minnesota Grown program will give producers a crash course on how to create and maintain sponsored ads.
- ✓ A beginner's guide to creating antler crafts. **Paul Ristau** is a self-taught antler crafter who makes beautiful antler art items for the gift shop owned by Don & Joyce Kaplan.
- ✓ **Charly Seale** Executive Director of the Exotic Wildlife Association, NAEBA Board member and NTFARC Secretary will speak to attendees about the private property rights issue which is so important to all of us.

NAEBA's January Jamboree & Select Elk Sale

January 9, 2009 ~ Holiday Inn, Mankato, MN

Immediately precedes the MnEBA Annual Conference on January 10, 2009



NAEBA's January Jamboree will include a NAEBA membership meeting, seminars, evening banquet and select elk sale. Introduce yourself to industry leaders and learn about what's happening in the elk industry around the country. Be there in person to view the elk sale and get a picture of the trends in breeding markets.

Mark your calendar now to attend! For more information, contact a member of the January Jamboree & Sale Committee: Josh Lundberg (620) 224-3522, Eric Mohlman (402) 469-1831, Bill Knutson (608) 526-4477, or Mark Luedtke (320) 839-5335. Or see www.naelk.org for more information.

REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Name _____ Spouse Name _____
 Ranch/Business Name _____ Telephone Number _____
 Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Adult Full Registration

Single \$40 -----\$ _____
 Couple \$80 -----\$ _____

Children (12 and over) \$15 Registration

Child Name _____ \$ _____
 Child Name _____ \$ _____
 Child Name _____ \$ _____

Total Due \$ _____

Hotel Information

Holiday Inn — Downtown
 101 E. Main St., Mankato, MN 56002
 (507) 345-1234
 Room Rates: \$82/night • Room Block Release Date: December 22, 2008

Payment — USD Funds

_____ Check Visa/MC _____ Amex _____

Card Number _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____

Please remit payment to: NAEBA • P.O. Box 1640 • Platte City, MO 64079 • (816) 431-3605 • Fax (816) 431-2705

MnEBA Raffle Tickets Due December 31st!

Less than six weeks until the drawing!



The raffle ticket drawing date of January 10th is less than 6 weeks away!! All members who sold tickets last year have received tickets to sell this year. There are 24 tickets available which have not yet made it into the hands of members to sell! If you didn't receive any tickets but could sell a ticket or two, it would be much appreciated! Just contact the MnEBA Office to request them. We need to pick up the pace! And remember, for every 20 tickets sold, you will receive a FREE 1 year MnEBA membership!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

\$50 EACH / Only 250 tickets will be sold!

DRAWING held on January 10, 2009

MnEBA Annual Conference

Holiday Inn ~ Mankato, MN

Need not be present to win.

Contact the MnEBA Office TODAY to order your tickets, 320-543-2686 or info@mneba.org

Very Important Revenue Source!

Next to membership dues, the raffle is the second most income producing source of funding for MnEBA. MnEBA relies on these funds to keep the benefits of membership you enjoy such as bi-monthly newsletters, exec. secretary, lobbyist, web site, marketing materials, representation at the State Fair and other booth events, etc. Unfortunately, annual dues do not fully cover expenses for these essential items.

Please take the time and effort to sell your tickets over the next few weeks. Stubs and money collected are due back to the MnEBA Office by **December 31, 2008**. Many thanks for your efforts!!!

WIN one of these awesome vacation prize packages or \$500 cash!

MnEBA Fundraising Raffle

\$50

1st Prize: 2 person / 3 day Elk Hunt, 1 bull scoring 300 – 349 SCI at Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch in Baudette, MN (*sponsored in part by Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch*)

2nd Prize: 2 person / 3 day guided Kansas Turkey Hunt on 2,500 private acres at Timber Ridge Outfitters (*sponsored by Timber Ridge Outfitters*)

3rd Prize: Up to 5 people / 7 day Bahamas Treasure Cay Island Villa, airfare not included (*sponsored by Elk Unlimited*)

4th Prize: 2 person / 2 day / 3 night charter guided fishing trip at Sportsman's Lodge on Lake of the Woods (*sponsored in part by Sportsman's Lodge*)

5th Prize: 2 person / 2 day Red Lake guided fishing trip (*sponsored by Indian Hills Elk*)

6th Prize: \$500 cash

Drawing held on January 10, 2009 at 8 pm, Holiday Inn, Mankato, MN / Permit # X-34985-09-001

Prizes limited to description on the ticket. Some restrictions may apply.

2007 Elk Hunt Raffle Winner Receives an Amazing Opportunity

Editor's Note: Jason Grosland, raffle winner of the 2007 Elk Hunt, redeemed his prize on October 29-31, 2008. Below is a note of thanks sent back to MnEBA.

I would like to thank the Elk Breeders Association and Tony Beckel for an amazing opportunity. Winning the Elk Breeders Raffle allowed me to give something back to a man who has given me so much.

My father has been on many elk hunts to the mountains of Colorado and Montana through the years, coming home with some wonderful memories, but never able to harvest an animal. With passing years, his passion for hunting has not diminished, but his ability to traverse the mountains has.

Telling him I wanted to give him the opportunity to harvest a trophy bull elk, the time we spent together, and the smile on his face when our stalk ended successfully are memories I will cherish for many years. I would highly recommend a hunt with Tony's Trophy Elk Hunts.

Thanks again,

Jason Grosland



Jason & his dad after a successful hunt at Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch.

Velvet Watch

Wapiti Labs Announces Product Launch with Two Distributors in Chicago Area



Ham Lake, MN November 6, 2008 - To maximize the strong growth and tremendous product line potential, Wapiti Labs is pleased to announce the addition of two renowned distributors, Sweet Bay Hol-Sale, Inc. and Middle West Distributors, Inc. Both will immediately begin servicing retailers in Chicago, northern Illinois, southern Wisconsin and surrounding areas providing Wapiti Labs natural elk velvet antler and herbal nutritional supplements for pets.

Wapiti Labs is confident that these arrangements will capitalize on the experience of pet owners in the region by increasing marketing efforts and exposure to an outstanding market of pet retailers. "These two distributors are clearly the best in their markets. We appreciate the dedication of Sweet Bay Hol-Sale and MiddleWest to educate their networks on elk velvet antler and the benefits of Wapiti Labs' products," said Sarah Clemenson, Marketing Manager for Wapiti Labs.

Wapiti Labs is the sole marketer of six proprietary elk velvet antler and herbal formulas for natural increased health and performance of pets. Products include Mobility Formula, Renal Formula, Chest Formula, GI Tract Formula, Post Trauma Formula, and Strength Formula. Product benefits include increased joint mobility, reduced joint pain and inflammation, increased energy and endurance and rapid muscle recovery. Wapiti Labs has received extraordinary reviews from national pet publications, veterinarians and pet retailers nationwide and pet owners across the globe.

www.wapitilabsinc.com/animal



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

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

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

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

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

ADM Alliance Nutrition
takes elk to the trophy class.

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



ADM Alliance Nutrition®
Proven Performance from Innovative Nutrition®

www.admani.com • 866-666-7626
an.deerhelp@adnworld.com

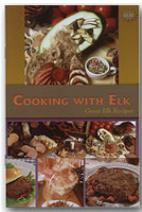
MnEBA Promotional Materials

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

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

MEAT PROMOTIONS

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



"ELK, Meat for a Healthy Life" Brochure 50 ct. bundle, \$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.

**To see a full line-up of products or to order,
see www.mneba.org!**

MnEBA Kitchen

The holiday's are a very busy time for everyone. Here's an easy idea for a quick meal that everyone will love!

Bubble Pizza

- 1 lb. ground elk
- 1 can (15 oz.) pizza sauce
- 1 tube (12 oz.) refrigerated buttermilk biscuits
- 1½ cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese



Brown the ground elk. Stir in pizza sauce. Quarter the biscuits. Place biscuits in a greased 9"x13" baking dish. Top with meat mixture. Bake uncovered at 375 degrees for 15 minutes. Sprinkle with cheeses and bake 5 minutes longer. Let stand 5 or 10 minutes before serving.

NOTE: Can add extra pizza toppings like onions, green peppers, mushrooms, black olives, etc. on top of meat mixture before baking if desired.

Farmed Cervidae Movement Form

Make sure to fill one out EVERY time you move animals!

Minnesota State Law requires all cervidae producers to fill out a farmed cervidae movement form (like the one below) every time farmed cervidae move to a new location, FOR ANY REASON. This includes farm to farm sales, slaughter, breeding, shooter bulls, ect., every movement off premise. A copy of this form is required to go with the driver and another to be sent to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health within 14 days of movement. A third copy should be retained by producers for their own records.

If you do not have any forms, go to http://www.bah.state.mn.us/animals/deer_elk/cervidae.html to download extra forms, or call 651-201-6802 to order as many forms as you need.



Minnesota Board of Animal Health
625 Robert Street North – St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-201-6804 Fax: 651-296-7417

FARMED CERVIDAE MOVEMENT FORM (live or slaughtered)

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Premises Number: | Destination (Name and Address): | Date of Movement: |
| Premises Name: | | |
| Premises Address: | | |

| Animal ID 1 | Animal ID 2 | Species | Sex | Age | Purpose of Movement |
|-------------|-------------|---------|-----|-----|---------------------|
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|--|--|-------|--------|
| I certify that the animals in this shipment are those listed on this movement form | | Date: | Phone: |
| Owner Signature: | | | |

Movement of farmed cervidae from any premises to another location must be reported to the Board of Animal Health within 14 days of such movement.
Complete this form and mail it to the Board of Animal Health.

White – Send to Board of Animal Health Yellow – To accompany Shipment Pink – Retained by Owner

Close Encounters of the Worst Kind

By Kenneth W. Olson, Grindstone Lake Elk Ranch

Editor's Note: *As we wrap up the rut season each year, stories begin to emerge of some "close" calls or worse when producers make a wrong decision when working bulls. We all need to think clearly, slow down and not allow ourselves to be put in a bad situation, especially during rut. MnEBA member Ken Olson has graciously agreed to share his story in hopes that we all take a moment to think and not rush into situations that could go very wrong...*

While moose hunting with a bow in Canada, I've been very close (5 to 8 yards) from a bull moose with nothing but thin air between us. Intimidating yes, but I was never really afraid. I've often dreamed of a bull moose or elk charging me so I could get a close shot bow hunting! Luckily, it was only a dream.

On Thursday, September 4th at about 4:30 p.m., I was nearly killed by a six point bull elk. This one was in the raceway at our farm. After shipping 13 hard horn bulls, we decided to dehorn the remaining eight. We had six in the barn and two reluctant ones out in raceway. I ran them with my four wheeler down the raceway where they have to make a 90 degree turn. When I made the turn, they came back at me and the smaller of the two jumped almost right over me while the other one hung up in the fence. He got loose and went the right direction and I closed the gate.

At this point, we have a boarded raceway that is approximately 30 feet before they enter the barn and get closed in. Kenny Jr., my son, Keith Bismark, an employee, and myself went in with him and tried to push him in. He came at us and we had to run around him and go into the barn as we were gated in. I told my son at this point I didn't really want to try again.

Against better judgment, we went back in. I approached the bull with a bamboo cane and whacked him on his nose. When I saw the look in his eyes I knew I was in big trouble! I always use pepper spray which is extremely effective, but the wind was blowing at me. When he came I stood my ground and sprayed but it came back into my face. I turned and tried to run. I'll never forget the impact of all those horns! I was slammed to the ground and he continued to maul me. Kenny Jr. somehow got on top of the wood fence; Keith ran into the facility and grabbed a huge club we had. He broke it over the bull's back and he helped me run into the facility.

I knew I was hurt but didn't know for sure where. I looked down at my pants and saw a rip and blood. I looked and there was a hole about 2 ½" wide that went into my thigh and went clear through. I thought my back was broke and I had another hole in my side that went in six inches just missing the kidney. I also had a gore wound in my right arm which felt like it was broken. 911 was called and an ambulance took me to Sandstone Hospital. Because of severe back pain, I was airlifted to St. Mary's in Duluth. A CT scan showed my back was okay and my kidney had not been punctured. After lots of stitches and morphine, I was finally done at about 1:00 a.m. They said if I was up to it I could go home that night and I did. I was very sore for quite a while and was black and blue from my shoulders down.

When I think of what could have been, it horrifies me. I could easily be in the cemetery.

We normally push bulls with a skid steer with a gate strapped on the loader. It was the end of the day and we took a short cut. I learned the hard way; experience is the best teacher but the most costly. I am very fortunate. I hope this serves as a reminder for all of us not to become to complacent. This was not the bull's fault but my own, but nonetheless he's in the freezer. Be careful!



North Dakota Elk Growers President's Message

Hello again from across the river.

It seems like everywhere I look I see blaze orange these days. In our area, most of the corn crop is still in the fields (due to our wet weather last month), so the deer harvest is not going as well as the Game and Fish department probably anticipated. The main health concern with deer in our area is TB, and the Game and Fish department has issued extra tags in hopes of testing more animals than before. With the slow progress in the corn harvest, I believe the Game and Fish department must consider either extending the season or adding another season to meet their goals for harvest. Nothing has been found in our state yet, but there is an additional concern, and we should keep on top of it.

Get to Know Your Legislators

Speaking of sickness, I'm really glad that when I turn on the TV now, I don't have to listen to mud-slinging from politicians trying to win our votes. Now that the election is over, please let me know if you have any new legislators in your area. Please make an effort to introduce yourself to the freshman congressmen and maintain the relationships we have with those senior lawmakers. We need to educate them as to who we are and what we are trying to do. I think the more educated folks are about our side of the story, and the more actual concrete facts (rather than exaggerated generalities) we can get to those who are making the laws, the easier our fight will be in the coming months. I am certain that there will be legislation proposed that will impose limits on game ranches and elk and deer growers. Some of these may not seem to

directly affect your operation, but I think we must keep in mind that once the ball starts rolling down the hill to "put us out of business" (as our opponents are fond of saying), the harder it will be to stop it.

File Annual Reports on Time

Speaking of cutting off arguments of opponents of our industry, I must again stress the need to file your annual reports with the Board of Animal Health (BOAH). I know that many of you have not filed your annual reports on time because you don't work your animals until mid-winter. I don't question the timing of that (who wants to fight with bulls if you don't have to?) but you really should try to file some kind of preliminary report on time, and finalize it in the spring. The BOAH is not worried so much about whether the ear tags are in place, but they are **very** concerned about inventory count and CWD testing. They are not hard to get along with, so if you have questions or concerns about how to fill out your report, I would recommend giving them a call (but please try not to call on the day the report is due or when it is overdue). Keep in mind that these are the ones who generally support our industry.

Call if You Need Help

Dr. Susan Keller, the ND State Veterinarian, recently spoke to the ND Stockmen's Association. In her remarks, she noted that her office had received an unusually high number of calls regarding inhumane treatment of animals over the past year. I have received emails from her deputy, Dr. Beth Carlson as well indicating that the public was concerned about thin, sickly-looking animals in pastures.

Please do your best to monitor the health of your herds, and if you find yourself in a situation where you need some help in working or caring for your herd, please let someone know. One of the benefits of raising deer and elk in a state as small as North Dakota is the fact that most of us know each other and are willing to help our neighbors. It's pretty clear that the Humane Society is looking for an industry like ours to exploit and shut down, so it's important to keep our guard up and stick together. Ok, I'm getting off the soapbox now. Thanks for listening. But I am serious about making sure to communicate if you have any questions or concerns about your animals or the industry.

Generating Interest in Deer & Elk in Kids

One highlight in our industry is the work that has been happening with NADeFA (North American Deer Farmers). Particularly impressive is the work that is being done by Steve Porter. Steve is chief deputy for Kittson County Sheriff's Department, and has been working to generate interest in deer and elk in kids. He brings live deer and an impressive horn collection around to area schools, and talks to them about deer behavior, and how whitetail biology fits into hunting strategy. Shawn Schafer, the executive director of NADeFA, and I have been exploring the possibility of bringing Steve's presentation to

sportsmen's shows in North Dakota. I think this would be an excellent opportunity to provide public exposure of our industry in a positive light, and would welcome any comments anyone has about this idea. To learn more about Porter and his presentation, visit his website at www.porterwhitetail.com.

Upcoming Annual Meeting

We are working on organizing an annual meeting for sometime in January. Last year, we had the meeting in Bismarck. The facility was very good, but the price was a little high as well. We are looking into other locations, and would appreciate any input you'd like to provide. We're not broke, but I don't think it's a good practice not to at least look into other locations that might be just as good with a lower price. Please get in touch with either me or Brenda Guthmiller with your ideas about other locations. We will also be having election of officers, so be thinking about who you'd like to lead our group in 2009. We'll send out postcards when the plans are finalized. Please look for them in the mailbox around Christmas, and keep those unwanted Christmas gifts as we will be having our annual silent auction at the meeting! ☺ (Ho ho ho!)

Hope all of you have a blessed holiday season and a happy and safe 2009.

Wayne

Laavegelk@polarcomm.com



Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

Report from the 2008 United States Animal Health Association Meeting

One of the main topics at USAHA this year was animal identification. It was discussed in the alternative livestock committee and animal identification committee. The main emphasis still is promoting premise identification. This will in the future be a requirement for moving animals interstate and perhaps even for intrastate movements. There is going to be more promotion of using RFID (radiofrequency identification) with an 840 number of 15 characters. This will enable identification and tracing animals within the goal timeframe of 48 hours in a disease outbreak.

Another main topic at USAHA was Tuberculosis. There seems to be a consensus that a new approach is needed. The large size of herds is making depopulation more expensive and less feasible. See enclosed article from California dairy producer Doug Maddox, Riverdale, California (see Page 15).

Specifically affecting cervids in regards to TB is an increased emphasis on developing better tools and tests. The Elk Research Council (ERC) in cooperation with Cervid Livestock Foundation (CLF) have funded Phase I of the cervid research project conducted by Pritest. Pritest is one of several companies developing TB tests that can be done on serum. Therefore, you would only handle your animals one time. And also these tests appear to offer the promise of better sensitivity and specificity. ERC and CLF have been actively involved with USDA in developing a serum bank at Ames, Iowa of negative and positive samples to assist in the validation of these tests.

Chembio, another TB blood test research company, has done a substantial amount of research on cervids and is ready to apply for the license to sell their product. At the conference, Chembio also presented data on a new stat pack test that is even more accurate than the stat pack used for the original cervid research.

Brucellosis remains a huge problem in the Greater Yellowstone Basin in free ranging bison and elk with spill over into domestic cattle herds. There are presently no farmed cervid herds with brucellosis.

Submitted by Glen L. Zebarth, DVM

Committee member of
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Producer calls for improvements to TB program

By Dairy Herd staff | Tuesday, November 5, 2008

The U.S. needs to rethink its bovine tuberculosis program, says a producer who has special insight into the matter.

"Six months ago, I didn't know I had a bovine TB problem," Doug Maddox, of Rivedale, Calif., told audiences at the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin Dairy Policy Summit last week. His family's Maddox Dairy and RuAnn Dairy became involved in California's latest outbreak during the investigation of another herd that tested positive for bovine TB in 2007. That herd had bought four replacement heifers from Maddox Dairy. Since cattle occasionally move between Maddox Dairy and RuAnn Dairy, all animals in both herds had to be tested.

Surprisingly, an eight-year-old cow from RuAnn Dairy that had tested clean in 2002 and 2003 tested positive for bovine TB in late April. Maddox had tested his herds regularly and had previously maintained a Certified TB-free herd.

Interestingly, DNA analysis showed that this strain did not match the strain found in previous positive bovine TB cases in California or the rest of the country. It most closely matched strains found in Mexico. It is suspected, but not proven, that bovine TB entered his herd via an employee.

The current standard-herd plan generally offers owners two options if a positive animal is found:

- Depopulate the entire herd upon a positive test. This is voluntary.
- Follow a test-and-removal plan, which requires a herd quarantine and repeated testing that can last for years.

Maddox is in talks with animal health officials to determine his options. A full depopulation would cost about \$40 million in indemnity payments and destroy 50 years of herd genetics. However, an extended quarantine-and-testing program would not allow Maddox to merchandise cattle and possibly mar his reputation.

"The rumors have been terrible already," he notes. "I thought by the time I came to this meeting, I would be able to describe for you our herd plan, but we don't have one yet," he says. A resolution is expected soon.

Meanwhile, he has completed a second herd test. All caudal fold reactors have been depopulated (664 animals). No additional infected animals have been found and no additional infected animals have been found in herds traced in or out of Maddox and RuAnn Dairies. No replacement cattle have been sold by Maddox since April.

Maddox proposes the following changes to improve the current TB program:

- Re-evaluate program protocols.
- Develop an accurate bovine TB test.
- TB herd-testing program must be on-going.
- Eliminate whole-herd depopulation.
- Only depopulate positive reactors.

Furthermore, Maddox recommends that the dairy industry adopt mandatory animal ID and calls for USDA to initiate a strategic plan for the control of infectious diseases on dairies.

He suggests that individual dairies

develop on-farm plans to prevent bovine TB, as well.

The basic tenets include:

- Maintain a closed herd, if possible.
- Record individual-animal ID and maintain accurate records.
- Isolate and test purchased animals.
- Test and isolate cattle re-entering the herd, such as heifers returning from a heifer grower.
- Arrange for professional diagnostic work-ups for suspected TB-infected sick or dead animals.
- Establish a TB-testing policy for employees.
- Enhance and enforce premises biosecurity. Prevent contact with cattle that are of unknown TB status.

The efficiency of the current TB program is less-than-desirable, says Maddox. "That said, the people working the program are working hard and are sincere in their efforts — everyone we've worked with has acted prudently.

"Still, we need an accurate test for this and other diseases. Johne's disease, for example, is of great concern," Maddox adds. "Disease control in our herds should be of prime importance. The public wants to know that their food is safe and it's up to us to provide that."

A series of listening sessions will be held around the country next month regarding bovine TB.

For more information about the TB program, go to:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/content/printable_version/faq_tb_indem.pdf

Here's an interesting comparison on the effectiveness of several CWD testing methods from a white-tailed deer farm in Wisconsin.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE IN A WISCONSIN WHITE-TAILED DEER FARM

Postmortem surveillance should be conducted on captive deer of any age.

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy of mule deer, white-tailed deer, Rocky Mountain elk, and moose. CWD was first recognized in the early 1980's in Colorado and was not identified east of the Mississippi until it was discovered in 3 free-ranging white-tailed deer bucks shot in Wisconsin in February 2002. The disease was subsequently diagnosed in a 3.5 year old white-tailed buck in a deer farm in Wisconsin in September 2002 and the farm was quarantined. Depopulation was not achieved until 2006, when the remaining 76 deer on the farm were euthanized by gunshot and sampled extensively for presence of the prion protein of CWD.

None of the deer showed clinical signs suggestive of CWD at the time of depopulation. Tissues collected included medulla at the level of the obex, palatine tonsil, numerous lymph nodes, and recto-anal associated lymphoid tissue as well as the eye.

A deer was considered to be positive if any tissue was positive, and 60 animals (79%) were positive by immunohistochemistry of at least one tissue. The retropharyngeal lymph node was positive in 58 of 60 and the tonsil was positive in 56 of 60. The obex was positive in 49 of 56, and recto-anal tissue in 48 of 58. Furthermore, considering the deer from which a full set of samples were taken, 48 had deposits of CWD prion protein in obex and lymphoid tissue, 7 in lymphoid tissue only, and 1 in brain only. Prion protein was detected in the retina of only 4 deer, all of which were strongly positive in the obex.

The genotype of the deer did not seem to affect the infection rate. Young (less than 2 years) captive deer in this herd had an 0.68% annual probability of retropharyngeal lymph node infection, substantially higher than the infection rates for wild fawn (<0.005) and yearling (0.03-0.04) deer in Wisconsin reported by others. The extremely high infection rate in this captive white-tailed deer herd may be caused by rapid disease transmission and/or high exposure to CWD prions on the farm.

The case of collection of lymphoid tissue from the recto-anal mucosa of live deer makes this technique useful for surveillance of captive deer that may have experienced environmental exposure, even though it is not as sensitive as retropharyngeal lymph node for detecting infection.

D.P. Keane et al.

J Vet Diagn Invest 20:698-703, 2008

*As printed in **Wool&Wattles** July – September 2008*



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Wyoming: Ongoing CWD Study Gives Researchers a Glimpse Into How the Disease Affects Elk Populations

Source: Wyoming Game & Fish Department

**October 15, 2008
CHEYENNE, WY – A long-term study looking at the effects of Chronic Wasting Disease on elk populations suggests the always-fatal disease may not cause precipitous declines in those populations.**

Researchers at the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Tom Thorne/Beth Williams Wildlife Research Center at Sybille have been looking at the long-term effects of CWD on an elk population since 2002. "Though the study is not yet complete, there has been significant public interest in the study and what it might tell us about how CWD could affect overall populations of elk, especially elk that are artificially concentrated on Wyoming's winter feedgrounds," said Eric Keszler, WGFD's Public Information Officer. "We know that CWD is always fatal to individual animals, but we also know that animals may be infected for five years or more before they succumb to the disease, so they have a chance to reproduce multiple times. There has never been any research to look at how these factors might affect overall elk population trends in the presence of this disease. Our researchers did some preliminary estimates on the data we have so far to help give the public at least some initial ideas about what this study is telling us."

In 2002, 40 elk calves were captured at the National Elk Refuge and brought to Sybille for additional brucellosis research. Because of new federal regulations restricting research on brucellosis at that time, researchers decided to instead use the elk for a long-term CWD research project.

CWD has existed at Sybille for almost 30 years and most, if not all, elk and deer housed at Sybille eventually contract CWD, either from the environment or from other infected animals. CWD affects elk in the wild differently, and experts do not yet understand why some wild elk contract CWD and some don't—or why some elk contract CWD before others. Researchers designed this study to allow the elk to live at Sybille until they became infected with CWD and died; document each animal's age, cause of death, and other data; and then develop models to help predict how elk populations might rise or fall as a result.

"We assume that the CWD mortality rates observed at Sybille would represent the most extreme exposure to the CWD infectious prion, because the elk would be exposed to the prion continuously throughout their lives," said Terry Kreeger, Veterinary Services Supervisor for the WGFD. "Thus, this research would be used to design a model to predict the effects of CWD on a wild elk population representing a worst-case scenario."

Thirty-one of the 40 original elk in the study have died so far, all from CWD. But most of the elk had one or more calves (not all of the elk were allowed to be bred every year). Researchers have used this data to estimate any future changes for this population of elk. "Accounting for calf production and recruitment and using simple life-table analysis, we estimate there would have been a 47 percent increase in this population," said Kreeger. "That is, there would be 59 elk surviving today from the original population of 40."

Kreeger warns that these data are preliminary and that it would be speculative at this point to try and extrapolate these data to any wild elk populations. Once all of the elk in the original study population have died, WGFD researchers will use data from wild elk populations to account for additional factors such as predation mortality, hunting mortality, production, and recruitment to model what effects CWD would have on a free-ranging population using state or federal feedgrounds, where elk are concentrated during the winter.

According to WGFD Assistant Wildlife Chief Scott Talbott: "Based on these preliminary data and our life table analysis, in the presence of CWD it appears the elk in this study would maintain a stable or increasing population."

In The News

State Finds Tuberculosis In Captive Fallow Deer [NY]

New York State Dept. of Agriculture and Markets Press Release

October 16, 2008, ALBANY, NY -- The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets today reported the finding of tuberculosis (TB) in a captive red and fallow deer herd in Columbia County. The finding of TB is the result of routine disease testing conducted by the Department.

While commonly thought of as a lung disease, TB may affect nearly any organ in livestock. Animals infected with TB may at first look normal, but as the disease progresses, they may become thin and weak.

During routine testing, one fallow deer in the herd had a positive reaction to a TB screening test and was subsequently euthanized. A post mortem examination, along with laboratory testing at the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa confirmed the State's diagnosis. Further testing is currently underway to identify the specific strain of TB affecting the animal.

The presence of TB in this captive deer herd could threaten the health of wild deer populations, as well as the health of nearby domestic animal populations. Thus, the affected herd has been quarantined and animals on nearby farms will undergo testing over the next few weeks to ensure that the disease has been contained to this one herd.

Full text: <http://tinyurl.com/47e8f5>

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CWD-positive white-tailed deer found in Junction City hunting preserve

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/press_release/result.jsp?prid=2229:

Contact: Donna Gilson (608) 224-5130

October 10, 2008, MADISON, WI -- A white-tailed deer on a Portage County hunting preserve has tested positive for chronic wasting disease, State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Ehlenfeldt announced today.

The National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, reported the test results Thursday, Oct. 9. The animal was a 7½-year-old doe owned by Alligator Creek Whitetails LLC and was one of about 150 deer in the preserve. The 119-acre preserve is located near Junction City in the town of Eau Pleine in Portage County.

The deer was killed on Sept. 20. The Animal Health Division of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer

Protection's investigation will look at the animal's history and trace movements of deer onto and off the property to find out whether other herds may have been exposed to CWD.

Deer herds on hunting preserves are generally not on the state's CWD monitoring program. However, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection rules require that all farm-raised deer and elk 16 months or older must be tested when they die, go to slaughter or are killed.

Ehlenfeldt quarantined the Alligator Creek herd immediately. The quarantine stops movement of live deer off or onto the property

without written permission from the department. The business will be allowed to conduct hunts through Jan. 15, because properly handled dead animals leaving the premises do not pose a disease risk. Hunters must be notified of the quarantine and the reason for it. This is the first new CWD-infected herd on a Wisconsin farm since January 2005.

To date, 97 farm-raised animals in Wisconsin have tested positive for CWD on eight farms and hunting preserves, including 82 on a single Portage County operation. One of the infected animals was an elk; the rest have been white-tailed deer. To date, more than 21,500 farm-raised deer and elk have been tested.

TB Split State Status Approved

October 10, 2008 --- Three years after detecting bovine tuberculosis (TB) in northwest Minnesota, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved Minnesota's Split State Status effective October 10, 2008. With the approval of Split State Status, a large part of the state will upgrade its classification to Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA), and a smaller section of northwestern Minnesota will remain at the Modified Accredited (MA) classification. This status will help the state target its resources where they are most needed, while also saving producers outside the affected area from the additional testing requirements that accompany MA status.

More information on TB is available on the State of Minnesota bovine TB website at www.mntbfree.com.

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Judge dismisses challenge to deer, elk ban

The Associated Press

September 1, 2008, LOUISVILLE, KY — A federal judge has dismissed a challenge to Kentucky's ban on transporting deer and elk into the state, saying the lawsuit was premature because a state court has already struck down the law.

U.S. District Judge Danny Reeves on Tuesday at least temporarily turned away a challenge to the law brought by the North American Deer Farmers Association.

Reeves, who is based in Frankfort, cited a ruling in April by McCracken Circuit Judge Craig Clymer that said the law was vague and therefore unconstitutional. Until there's a final appellate ruling on the law in state court, any federal challenge is untimely, Reeves said.

Reeves wrote that it's uncertain whether the law would be enforced if members tried to transport deer and elk along Kentucky roadways.

The dispute arose in September 2007 after officers from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife arrested Timothy Cory Looper of Livingston, Tenn., as he passed west of Paducah with a load of elk and deer.

The animals were headed from Hostetler Wildlife Farms in Miller, Mo., and destined for a hunting lodge in Tennessee, but the state destroyed the animals.

Looper was charged with six felony counts of illegally importing elk and deer into Kentucky. Looper challenged the indictment and law in state court and the Lake City, Minn.-based deer farmers association attacked the law in federal court.

Kentucky state law banned the importation of elk and deer to protect the state's elk and white-tailed deer herds from chronic wasting disease. State officials had enforced the law to prohibit anyone from bringing deer or elk across state lines, even if the animals were destined for another state.

Violating the law is a felony, punishable by up to \$10,000 in fines and five years in prison. Looper attacked the law as being vague because it doesn't give fair notice of what activities are prohibited or include language that would prevent arbitrary enforcement.

The deer farmers attacked the law on the grounds that it violates the Commerce Clause of the Constitution.

Lawyers for the state asked Reeves to dismiss the challenge in federal court because the constitutionality of the law was being questioned in state court and a final ruling had not been handed down.

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Committee Reports

Nominations for 2009 Board of Directors

Two director positions will be expiring this year - Pat Prodzinski is completing his second term in office while Charles Francis 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 yourself, please contact Fred Neubert at (320) 352-6733. Elections will be held during the upcoming Annual Conference on January 10, 2009.

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 2009 |
| Charles Francis, <i>Director</i> | Term ends 2009 |
| Brian Wagner, <i>Director</i> | Term ends 2011 |

MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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| Antler Competition | Kaye Zearth (320) 834-4064 |
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| 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 |

2009 North Central Antler Competition



The 2009 NAEBA International Antler Competition and Convention will be held in Omaha, Nebraska on July 29 – August 1 next year. Thus, it's looking like the North Central Antler competition will be a separate event from the International in 2009.

MnEBA is currently in contact with other North Central states to see if anyone is interested in hosting this event and where it might be held. It is expected that more discussions will take place as a group while everyone is together in January.

Promotions

UP's Show – MnEBA will be giving an elk meat presentation at the upcoming Upper Midwest Restaurant, Hospitality and Lodging Show (UP's Show) on February 23-24, 2009 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. This trade show is primarily attended by restaurant & hotel owners, chefs, students, etc. The presentation will center around benefits of cooking with elk, how to prepare elk meat, cuts available, and other items of interest. This opportunity is being sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

This will be a new presentation for MnEBA and help is needed to organize and give the seminar. If you would be willing to help in ANY way, please contact the MnEBA Office.

Newly Updated Meat Brochures – The MnEBA meat brochure is by far the most popular promotions piece MnEBA sells. Almost 40,000 meat brochures have been distributed to date and quantities are once again running low. MN Grown is currently assisting MnEBA in creating a new version of the MnEBA meat brochure. These brochures are scheduled to be available at the upcoming MnEBA Annual Conference in January!

Congratulations Happy Land Tree Farms Inc!

MnEBA members Ken & Sandy Olson of Grindstone Lake Elk Ranch also own and operation Happy Land Tree Farms Inc. in Sandstone, MN.

Ken & Sandy recently won both the Grand champion and Reserve champion awards for the annual Christmas Tree competition during the 2008 MN State Fair. It is not very common for the same farm to win BOTH top awards. As winner of both these prestigious awards, their tree farm will be providing trees and wreaths for both the Governor's residence and the Capital building this holiday season. Congratulations!



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**THANK YOU
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Thank You to Dr. Glen Zebarth

This past October, Dr. Glen Zebarth once again represented the elk industry at the national USAHA Convention, this year held in Greensboro, North Carolina. As you can see from his recap of the convention, Glen is also a committee member on several key committees which are very important to all elk producers.

MnEBA and the entire elk industry is very fortunate to have someone such as Glen with the knowledge, skill, ability and strong desire to pursue advances in the elk industry. He works quietly and tirelessly to help the industry, traveling all over the United States several times a year to continue to be an advocate for and pursue advances in animal health related issues.

There's really no way to adequately thank Glen, but please take a moment or two next time you see him to thank him for all he does. And don't forget to thank Kaye for "holding down the fort" and supporting Glen as well!

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Calendar of Events

January 9, 2009 – NAEBA January Jamboree & Select Elk Sale, Holiday Inn, Mankato, MN

January 10, 2009 – MnEBA Annual Conference, Holiday Inn, Mankato, MN

February 23 - 24, 2009 - Upper Midwest Restaurant, Hospitality & Lodging Show (UP Show), Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, MN

March 10, 2009 - Minnesota Grown Marketing Conference, St. Paul, MN

March 13 – 15, 2009 – Minnesota Deer Classic, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

August 27 – September 7, 2009 – Minnesota State Fair, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

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MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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