



Special Interest Articles:

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President's Message by Kaye Zebarth

Greetings;

Winter greetings, one would venture to say!!! At least we had a nice long fall season and for those of you that crop farm in addition to elk farm, there were favorable conditions to get crops in and field work done for next year.

In less than two months, it will be time for you all to head to the Holiday Inn in Alexandria for the MnEBA 2011 Annual Conference. The committee has been planning an interesting and informative program for you, in addition to the annual meeting and the chance to visit with friends. See you there!!!

A gentle reminder to you all; please sell as many calendars as you can. The calendar raffle is our main fund-raising project and the proceeds of the calendar sales help in so many ways. Not only do the proceeds enable us to co-sponsor a charitable elk hunt for a disabled American veteran, which is a very good project, but also this year, some of the money was used by the North Dakota Deer and Elk Farmers to buy advertisement before the election to turn back Measure 2, which would have banned harvest ranch hunting. The proceeds also keep elk farming in the public

eye with all the educational materials that are available to you, the members, as well as attendance at such events as Smokefest in Marshall. MnEBA needs, and more importantly, APPRECIATES your support.

Life gets busy and hectic; but after the Holidays, a trip to Alexandria on January 8 would be a good relaxing get-away. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas season, everyone.

Take care, travel safe, and we'll see you in January.

MnEBA Annual Conference

January 8, 2011

Holiday Inn
5637 Highway 20 South
Alexandria, MN 56308

(Conveniently located at the intersection of I-94 and Hwy 29)

See the insert to this newsletter for conference details!

Guest Room Reservations: (320) 763-6577, ask for the MnEBA room block to receive the discounted rate of \$89.99 per night. Room block expires on December 20th!

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

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 Holiday Inn in Alexandria, MN on January 8th for a full day of learning, networking and fun!

The past few months have shown an increase in activity and prices in all elk markets. Velvet was up from last year at \$20 per pound and meat animals are at a premium these days with a shortage of animals and increasing prices from buyers. Hard antler buyers are purchasing antler year round as the dog chew market is taking off in the U.S. thereby depleting supply. Even the shooter bull market saw an increase in prices from August to October and growing demand as the months went on.

What are you as a producer, going to do to take advantage of these opportunities? How will you prepare your marketing plan for next year and the year after? How do you make the most profit from the investment you now have in your facility and animals?

The absolute number one thing to do is to stay informed! Arm yourself with as much information as possible as this will help you make the best decisions. Renew or take out a new membership in MnEBA. Network with other producers as well as buyers of meat, velvet and shooter bulls. Many of these buyers will be at the upcoming Annual Conference in Alexandria. Many of these buyers advertise and send out email alerts through MnEBA. Don't miss out on the opportunities before you to capitalize on your investment. Now is the time!

A MnEBA membership application and conference registration form are both included in this mailing. If you prefer to use a credit card, memberships and annual conference registrations can also be completed on the MnEBA web site at www.mneba.org.

If you're unsure about a membership at this time, consider attending the upcoming convention. You don't need to be a member to attend. Come meet with fellow producers, network and learn. You will definitely go home having learned something new!

Board Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a phone conference on October 14, 2010. Kaye Zebarth, Pat Prodzinski, Mark Lucas, Brian Wagner and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Zebarth called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. Wade Schimmelpfennig joined the meeting at 8:15 p.m. and left at 8:50 p.m.

The July 7 phone conference minutes were reviewed. Wagner moved to approve, Prodzinski seconded, motion carried. The treasurer's report was then reviewed and discussed. Wagner moved to approve, Lucas seconded, motion carried.

Old Business

Hartkopf gave an update on the progress of the current calendar raffle. There are 506 calendars which have been circulated among members with only 18 stubs returned. There were 71 stubs returned by this time last year. Hartkopf to send out email alerts reminding members to continue their efforts to sell calendars and to let members know there are still calendars available.

Hartkopf reported that both the Federal Non-Profit application and the Attorney General report have been filed and accepted and that MnEBA is up-to-date on all required filings.

Zebarth and Hartkopf reported on the success of MnEBA's sponsorship of the Anything Elk category for the Smokefest competition at Southwest Minnesota State University. There was a lot of positive feedback by many barbeque teams as well as judges.

Hartkopf reported that Government Relations chair Jim Byrne is continuing to follow up with the Korean Trade Mission and the inclusion of elk velvet into the federal trade mission talks. Shawn Schafer of NADeFA has gotten their federal lobbyist involved and Byrne is following up with Dr. Klein of USDA and Dr. Burleson in Washington DC. Hartkopf to continue to update board as additional details become available.

Hartkopf discussed details and fees involved in moving forward with trade-marking the MN Elk logo. Fees should be covered by MN Grown credits. Schimmelpfennig moved to take the next steps to trade-mark the MN Elk logo as discussed, Prodzinski seconded, motion carried.

Hartkopf gave an update on the State Fair booth. Meat sales went very well and the air conditioning unit worked great. MnEBA set a new sales record of \$9,012 versus \$8,157 of sales in 2009. There were no major issues to report.

Wagner recapped the MnEBA summer picnic. All agreed it was a fun event and that MnEBA would like to offer it again

next year. Board tentatively set the date for August 20, 2011, pending confirmation that this date will not conflict with the Wisconsin Commercial Deer & Elk Farmers Association (WCDEFA) picnic date. Hartkopf to confirm with WCDEFA.

New Business

Discussed ideas for speakers for the upcoming MnEBA Annual Conference. Prodzinski moved to budget \$500 for fundraising items for the upcoming conference, Lucas, seconded, motion carried. Also discussed awards. The committee will move forward with all recommendations.

Hartkopf discussed progress made in planning the 4th Annual MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt. Clint Wylie has donated a bull, the Lake Superior SCI Chapter will cover travel, lodging and meals and Tony Beckel is ready to book the hunt. Patty Beckel is working with their local Veteran's Service Office to offer recommendations on recipients to consider. Board suggested choosing the veteran which MnEBA was unable to award the hunt to last year. Hartkopf to follow up.

Board discussed a request from the Citizens to Preserve ND Property Rights (CPNDPR) to donate monetary funds to fight the public ballot initiative which will take place on November 2nd, a ballot measure to close hunting ranches in North Dakota. Lucas moved to have MnEBA send a check for \$1,500 for this cause, Wagner seconded. After more discussion, Prodzinski moved to amend the motion to change the dollar amount from \$1,500 to \$2,000. Lucas seconded the amendment. Motion carried to send a check in the amount of \$2,000.

Board began discussion about conducting a new Minnesota elk ag stats survey through the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS). Previous surveys took place in 2001 and 2006. Hartkopf to obtain a quote from NASS to conduct a new survey then report back to the board for further consideration.

Decision was made to hold the 2011 budget meeting after the upcoming annual conference when the new board takes office.

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) is working to update producer report forms and to compile more complete ear tag information on Minnesota's farmed cervids. Discussed BAH request for a listing of all Minnesota producers who use the NAEBA three-letter prefix for BAH cross-reference. Wagner to follow up.

Prodzinski moved to adjourn, Lucas seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf

A Look Back at 2010 Elk Markets and Possibilities In 2011

Submitted by Scott Salonek, Elk Marketing Council

The information in this article is to offer one person's opinion of what has happened in the elk markets from 2009 to 2010 and what to expect in the future to add more value to the producer.

Velvet has increased in value to the producer 35% since August of 2009, with prices to the producer in 2010 reaching the \$20 mark. However, we as producers need to see another 25% increase from 2010 prices to make velvet a viable cash market and sustain the elk market in general. We all need to cut velvet no matter what the price, it seems that a sustainable market price would be that \$25 number. This certainly does not suggest we can plan on that number for 2011, it is far too early to project at this point.

For this year primarily because all the talk early was velvet was going to see the \$30 prices, US velvet production went from around 35,000 pounds in 2009 to nearly 60,000 pounds in 2010. This is a very good thing for all US producers for two very important reasons; the first in that with the added supply, a buyer is much more willing to come to the US market when they know a container of 25,000 pounds can be filled and shipping costs are not increased because the container is not full. The other reason is showing up here in October of this year; with early speculation of \$30 velvet, many of the extra bulls were cut, which put added demand on shooting bulls. Increased demand results in higher prices and certain sizes of bulls moved up around \$500 per bull from early September numbers.

The meat market is here as long as we can provide animals, prices will move upward. Demand has been very strong and no slowdown is in the near future. It was just a few years back that most cows brought on average \$400-\$500 to the producer; it now ranges \$550-\$650. Some poor velveted two and three year old bulls will now bring near \$900 or better. It is also very possible to add an extra \$50-\$100 per animal by simply changing a couple things; getting elk changed with USDA to consider them an amenable product. This would add \$50 to the producer instantly, as it now costs for USDA inspection. The other way to avoid this charge is to use state inspection which is at no charge, however some customers will not take state inspected products even though the inspection process is the same. The other measure would be to set up better processing rates at a few plants and get on a set schedule with the plant. As an example, I have a plant in Minnesota that charges \$125 to slaughter and inspect the animal. For the same service at a plant in Wisconsin, it costs just \$66. This \$60 savings can go right to the producer which I do, but the producer has farther travel time and a slaughter exemption permit is required.

I am seeing low carcass weights in many of the animals that have been processed, 240-275 pounds on three to five year old cows. This low weight is the result of no or very little feed before taking her to slaughter. In the past this animal has been a \$450-\$550 animal. If the producer will put this animal on 4-5 pounds of grain 60-90 days before slaughter, two things will change; I get a better product to sell and the animal carcass weight will jump to 275-325, which will result in an animal return of \$625-\$725. And as I said above, with a few simple changes, this could move to \$700-\$800. To get the extra return it will cost the producer \$20 per month or \$40-\$60 per animal but the extra \$125-\$200 per head can add right to the bottom line. And possibly show a profit or a break even on a meat animal.

The main point of this information is to show that this year and in the future, the elk market seems to be moving upward over past years. Velvet prices and production has to stay at or slightly better than this past year, which will result in velvet buyer interest and higher trophy bulls. The meat market will continue to gain as long as we can supply the demand and provide an improved product than in the past. For any discussion or feedback, I can be reached during business hours @ 763-428-8561.

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Lessons from an elk

Excerpts from an original article written by Gordon Hoffert for "Together", a newsletter produced by the Lewiston Church of the Brethren.

...Hoss became an "orphan" the day he was born. Instead of nursing him, his mother took her calf by the neck and literally tossed him aside. As Mike began the task of bottle feeding, he realized he had an opportunity to forge a very special relationship with an animal that is normally difficult to domesticate. Elk bulls are unpredictable, their size and antlers make them dangerous.

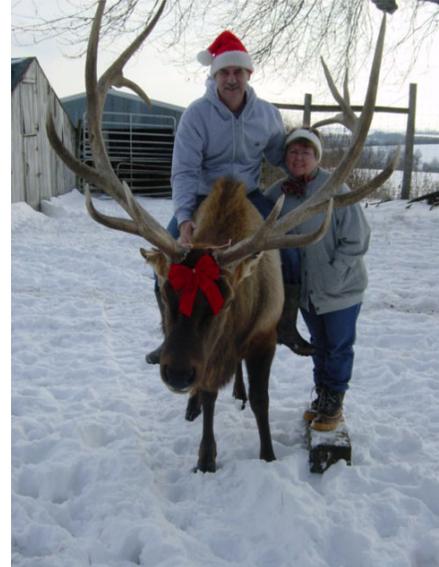
Mike explains his goal, "I always thought it would be cool to ride an elk. So when I fed Hoss, I would always stand over him, straddling him, and reach over his head to give him the bottle. And I'd always place my hands on his back and put some pressure on him, so he'd get used to feeling some weight while I was over him. Then when he went off the bottle, I'd stand by his side at every opportunity and place my upper body weight on his back."

By the time he was a year old and almost full grown, Hoss had completely accepted Mike and trusted him. And Mike trusted Hoss. So Mike thought it was time to try to saddle up his elk. "I borrowed a pony saddle," Mike remembers, "but Hoss hated the cinch on his belly." Mike had to discard the idea of a saddle elk. When Hoss was close to 18 months, Mike got up the courage to mount him bareback for the first time. He patted Hoss's back before climbing on, letting him know it was going to be okay. Since then Mike has never gotten on Hoss without first patting him on the back. "He always knows what's coming next when I do that."

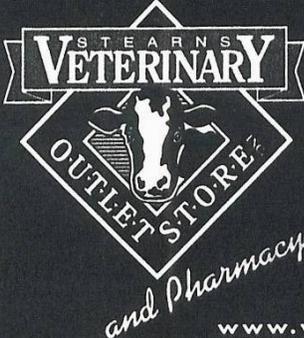
From that first day, Hoss has been comfortable carrying Mike. "Hoss has never bucked me off," Mike says, "but once a dog got too near when I was on him and Hoss must have gotten jealous because all of a sudden he took off after the dog. I was close to falling off that time."

Seeing Mike and Hoss together, you can forget that the man is sitting on a wild animal. "He acts more like a dog," Mike says, "and he responds to me like his mother. He seems to know when I need protection. If another bull seems threatening, Hoss steps between us."

EDITOR'S NOTE: MnEBA in no way encourages elk producers to bottle feed or ride a bull elk. In fact, bottle-feeding elk bull calves is strongly discouraged. However, this story is intriguing to read about and is a very rare sight indeed!



Mike Bollinger sitting on Hoss, along with his wife, Pat.



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NAEBA Update

NAEBA Special - Limited Time Offer

Here at NAEBA we value our members and are aware of the tough economy. To show our appreciation we are cutting the cost of a basic membership from \$200.00 to \$150.00. This one-year special is good from November 1st 2010 until October 31st 2011.

Animal Registrations

We would also like to remind everyone that the cost of registration services has been lowered. With the difficulty of having animals purity tested right now, there is no better time to get your herd registry caught up to date.

0-14 months	\$20.00	
14 months and up	\$30.00	(this is a savings of up to \$45.00!)
All transfers	\$20.00	(this is a savings of up to \$30.00!)

Contact the NAEBA Office for more information:
 4985 West Blue Hill Road
 Ayr, NE 68925
 Ph: 402-756-3355 / Fax: 402-756-4356
 Email: info@naelk.org

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Invitation to Join MN Grown

Do you direct market elk meat and/or velvet antler? Advertising in the MN Grown Directory is one of the least expensive and most effective uses of your advertising dollars!

The Minnesota Grown Program would like to invite Minnesota elk ranchers - and markets offering elk meat - to join a grower-directed organization that helps connect you with consumers looking for local healthy foods and other products such as antler velvet.

Minnesota Grown has been around since the 1980's and has grown to include over 1,100 members. For a very small commitment, we would love to feature your farm or ranch in the Minnesota Grown Directory, provide access to marketing materials that help you promote your elk products, and otherwise help you build your elk business.

A few good reasons to join Minnesota Grown:

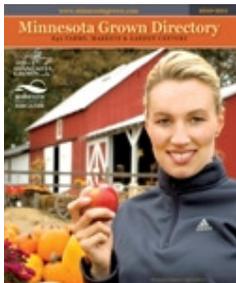
Free Marketing Materials

Stickers, posters, price cards, twist ties, table talkers, and other items are all free to members. Those items can be offered to your retail customers for free as well!

Very Popular Website

200,000 "unique visitors" have already found us at www.minnesotagrown.com in 2010 (up from 150,000 in 2009). Those web users stay on our site for over 4 minutes while viewing 7.5 different web pages on average. *Those numbers are roughly twice the average for similar websites - according to Google.*

Widely Distributed Minnesota Grown Directory

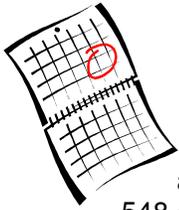


For an additional \$40, if you sell direct to the consumer, you can list your farm/products in the 2011 Directory. This year, 190,000 hard copies of the Minnesota Grown Directory will be distributed for free by tourist information centers, farms, libraries, by real estate agents and retailers that support the local foods movement. This is a unique advertising tool that, on average, gets used more than 4 times and kept for more than 12 months by each user. The 2011 volume will be widely promoted as the 30th Anniversary Directory – resulting in increased consumer attention in the year to come.

New Wholesale Directory

Coming soon – an online directory listing member products that are available to "large-quantity" buyers such as wholesalers, retailers, schools, and other institutions. The online directory is ready and is currently being populated with product information from growers. There will be no additional charge to be in this directory for MN Grown members.

Current Minnesota Grown members receive renewal forms in the mail in late November. New members, and growers who are renewing their license, may sign up and pay online by clicking on the "Members" box at www.minnesotagrown.com, or call 651-201-6469 and leave a message with a complete mailing address to receive an application by mail. Producers wishing to be listed in the 2011 Minnesota Grown Directory should apply by March 1, 2011.



MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar

Drawing Date is January 8, 2011!

The MnEBA Gun Calendar Raffle drawing is almost upon us, just a few short weeks away! THANK YOU to all who are working on selling calendars! Currently, there are 548 calendars in circulation which is great, but it would be even better to have all 750 calendars which were printed being actively sold!

Hunting is in full swing, we're seeing many friends and family over the holidays and everyone needs a new calendar for the year 2011. There's no better time to stock up and complete calendar sales in time for the new year!

This calendar raffle is MnEBA's main fundraiser for the entire year. These funds are used to complete MnEBA's mission of awareness and promotion of the Minnesota elk industry through the web site, newsletter, promotional materials, state fair booth and other shows, donations, the annual conference and summer meeting, charitable elk hunt and so much more!

You can request your calendars from the MnEBA Office or any board member. Calendars are \$40 each and include a full 12-month 2011 calendar complete with pictures of elk produced by MnEBA members, 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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Feeding elk is illegal in some areas. Check with local wildlife officials on legality of feeding elk in your specific area.

MnEBA Kitchen

Warm up your family and friends during the holidays with a delicious new homemade recipe for spaghetti!

Ground Elk Spaghetti Sauce

1½ lbs. ground elk	2-3 tsp. dried oregano
1 medium onion	2-3 tsp. dried basil
3 Tbsp. minced garlic	2-3 tsp. dried thyme
2½ cups tomato sauce	2 Tbsp. sugar
1 – 16oz. can diced tomatoes	1-2 tsp. salt
1 small can tomato paste	1 tsp. pepper
1 – 14oz. can mushrooms	½ to whole green pepper, chopped
1 small can black olives, sliced or diced	



In large Dutch oven or pot, cook meat until almost brown. Add onions and garlic. Cook until meat is thoroughly browned and crumbled well. Add remaining ingredients and, ideally, let simmer for 2-4 hours to let seasonings permeate. Taste often and add more spices toward end if not enough "Italian" seasoning. Dry seasonings vary greatly, depending on the age and quality of the product. Tasting is necessary. Try fresh seasonings, but be prepared to use more if needed.

Serve over spaghetti noodles with a simple lettuce salad, garlic bread and dry red wine.

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MnEBA Announces 4th Annual Charitable Elk Hunt

Minnesota Elk Breeders Association (MnEBA), November 11, 2010 – Through the generosity of the Lake Superior Chapter of SCI, Wolf Creek Elk Ranch Inc., and Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch, MnEBA is excited to once again sponsor a once-in-a-lifetime elk hunt for a very deserving Minnesota veteran.

Specialist Jeff Srisourath joined the Minnesota National Guard in February 2000 and graduated from Warroad High School in 2001. Jeff was a member of the Red Bull Unit, Bravo Company serving in Bosnia from 2002-2003, then deployed to Iraq in October of 2005. It was while serving in Iraq in the Infantry unit that Jeff's life was changed forever. On the morning of November 18, 2006, Jeff's platoon, stationed near Fallujah, headed out on patrol. The Bradley Jeff was driving hit an improvised explosive device causing a huge explosion. Jeff was rushed to Camp Fallujah where it was determined he lost most of his left heel.

Over the past four years, Srisourath has spent much time at multiple military hospitals undergoing more than a dozen surgeries to save his foot. Severe setbacks and excruciating pain are Jeff's constant companions; so much so that he's still seriously contemplating amputation. The pain and lack of mobility has left Jeff unable to leave the house much of the time.

Three of Srisourath's Bravo Company comrades lost their lives to similar blasts. Sergeant Bryan McDonough of Maplewood, Corey Rystad of Red Lake Falls and Jim Wosika of St. Paul were all killed in Iraq. Sergeant McDonough's family set up the Sergeant Brian McDonough Foundation to assist veterans when they return home. When Jeff came home, this foundation generously donated a four-wheeler to Jeff so he could continue pursuing one of his favorite pastimes, hunting whitetail and small game.

Jeff has always been an avid hunter and when out in the woods, is able to enjoy life once again. "When hunting, I don't think about the pain because I'm so focused on hunting," Jeff says. He's very happy about his upcoming elk hunt and is looking forward to getting out of the house and forgetting about the pain for awhile.

This is the second year in which Roseau County Veteran's Service Officer Jeff Parker has nominated Srisourath for this opportunity. Parker states, "Jeff is a local young man who likes to hunt. He's the son of Laotian parents who came to America with nothing, raised a family and watched their first generation American son serve their new country." Parker goes on to say, "Since being injured, Jeff has endured an incredible amount of difficulties and is a very deserving recipient".

There are many individuals and organizations involved in making this opportunity possible. They all want veterans such as Specialist Srisourath to know they are deeply respected and appreciated. Wolf Creek Elk Ranch Inc., a family owned Minnesota elk farm, has generously donated the bull. The Wylie family is pleased to be a part of this project. Klint Wylie explains, "My dad and my wife's dad both served in Vietnam. We're happy to be a part of this project as a patronage to the military." The Lake Superior Chapter of SCI is also pleased to play a part in this hunt by helping to pay for expenses. President Dale Bruder was very excited to partner with MnEBA to sponsor an elk hunt to benefit our nation's veterans. "The Lake Superior Chapter of SCI is honored to join these other great organizations to help make this hunt possible for one of our nations' heroes," said Dale.

Tony Beckel of Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch has been an active participant in MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunts for the past four years by offering not only a beautiful 900 acre hunting facility for the hunt, but also his guide services for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hunt a Minnesota elk. Tony's father was a WWII war veteran and this is an opportunity for Tony to support servicemen and women who richly deserve our appreciation.

MnEBA wishes Jeff improved health and the best of luck in his upcoming elk hunt. We also offer our heartfelt thanks, support and gratitude to Jeff and all United States military men and women for their service to our country.

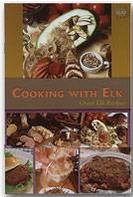
Marketing Materials

For all your marketing needs! Order online and pay by credit card at www.mneba.org or call (320) 543-2686 to place your order!

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 are a general velvet antler brochure. \$12.50/pack of 50 (pictured)



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

Velvet Antler Brochures are a general velvet antler brochure, originally 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.

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 is a DVD promoting all elk markets, with special emphasis on promoting Minnesota grown elk. Great tool for speaking to civic groups and classrooms. \$5 each.

HOME DÉCOR

Price includes shipping & handling.



Elk Trashcan (pictured) \$25 each

Elk Rug (Small) \$27.50 each

Elk Rug (Large) \$40 each

2011 MnEBA Summer Picnic LOOKING FOR A HOST!

Looking for a host for the 2011 MnEBA Summer Picnic.
Saturday, August 20, 2011

MnEBA will help plan the program and assist with details as needed.
Please contact the MnEBA Office by April 1st if interested!

Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

USAHA News

I just returned from the USAHA Convention in Minneapolis and have a couple of quick updates and an interesting study on the Minnesota wild moose population.

CWD Rule

There is progress being made on the national CWD rule. The CWD rule has left USDA as of November 12th and is now at the Office of General Council. It can be there up to 90 days, then will be going to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Once it leaves OMB, it will become final, approximately six months from now.

TB Blood Test

There is now an official TB blood test licensed for elk and red deer (they are working on licensing it for white tail deer as well). The next step is to conduct field trial work to see if this test can be used in program diseases and how it would be used.

Cases of morbidity and mortality in moose (*Alces alces*) from Minnesota

Arno Wunschmann¹, Anibal Armien¹, Mike Schraege², Erika Butler³, Michelle Carstensen³

¹Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, 1333 Gortner Ave., St. Paul MN 55108

²Fond du Lac Resource Management Division, 1720 Big Lake Rd., Cloquet, MN 55720

³MN Department of Natural Resources, 5463-C West Broadway, Forest Lake, MN 55025

The moose population in Minnesota is decreasing. Diseases are considered to contribute to this decline. Current data regarding diseases in Minnesota's moose are lacking. The carcasses of 32 moose were submitted to the Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for necropsy including histopathology and ancillary testing (e.g. parasitology, bacteriology, and toxicology). Twenty seven animals [10 adults (≥ 3 years), all four subadults, twelve of fourteen calves (≤ 1 year), and one animal of unrecorded age] had an inadequate nutritional state. Brains of 18 moose (4 adults, 3 subadults and 11 calves) had evidence of larval migration (presumptive *Parelaphostrongylus tenuis* infection) that was associated with significant histologic brain lesions in 13 moose. Fourteen moose (8 adults, 2 subadults and 4 calves), had significant hepatitis consistent with *Fascioloides magna* infection. Significant winter tick (*Dermacentor albipictus*) infection was detected in 9 animals (1 adult and 8 calves). Vehicular trauma was the reported or suspected cause of death in 4 moose while one calf likely died due to complications of a presumptive predator-induced wound. The cause(s) of disease remained undetermined in 2 adult animals.

In conclusion, concurrent significant parasitic infection is highly prevalent in Minnesota's moose population and affects all age groups. Continuing postmortem work up of moose is required to obtain more data and should include moose that are sick or died of natural causes and moose that died of anthropogenic trauma (hunter and vehicle killed). Efforts to conduct necropsies of radio-collared moose are essential to reduce data bias as a result of random submissions.

Measure 2 defeated (North Dakota)

By: **Brad Dokken**, Associated Press

November 3, 2010 ~ With 434 of 505 precincts reporting, Initiated Measure No. 2 trailed by a margin of 111,639 to 86,728, or 56.28 percent to 43.72 percent.

Casting a "yes" vote meant support of the ban; a "no" vote, opposition to the measure.

Measure 2 pitted proponents of "fair-chase hunting," as advocated by conservationists such as Aldo Leopold and Theodore Roosevelt, against livestock producers, shooting preserve operators and landowners who said a ban would violate their property rights.

North Dakota has about a dozen big game shooting preserves, which are licensed by the state agriculture department.

Roger Kaseman, Bismarck, president of North Dakota Hunters for Fair Chase, called Tuesday's results disappointing. Kaseman led the petition drive to collect the nearly 13,000 signatures that were required to put Measure 2 on the ballot.

"We gave it our best shot," Kaseman said Tuesday night in a phone interview. "We were out spent. We didn't have the money to run a campaign. Where we ran campaigns, like in Cass County and Fargo and Grand Forks, we won. But we just didn't have it to carry over to Bismarck and Minot."

Kaseman and other proponents had said Measure 2 was necessary to keep North Dakota from turning into another Texas, a state known for high-fence shooting operations that have all but eliminated the heritage of public

hunting North Dakotans take for granted.

Opponents saw the measure as a threat to their livelihoods and property rights. Shawn Schafer, director of the North Dakota Deer Ranchers Association, said Tuesday night he was relieved Measure 2 was defeated. Schafer, Turtle Lake, N.D., served as a spokesman for Measure 2 opponents throughout the debate.

"Am I surprised at the results? Probably not," Schafer said, adding he was glad voters didn't buy the argument that North Dakota would be filled with shooting preserves if Measure 2 didn't pass.

"It's a smokescreen, and that's all it was," he said. "There've been 12 game farms in this

state for over 20 years, and the number hasn't changed."

Tuesday's ballot measure wasn't the first attempt to ban big game shooting preserves. In 2007, lawmakers overwhelming defeated a bill in the state Legislature. That led supporters to attempt to pass the ban through the state's initiative and referendum process.

With the defeat of Measure 2, Kaseman said North Dakota Hunters for Fair Chase will dissolve as an organization today Wednesday. For his part, Kaseman said he doesn't plan further efforts to ban high-fence hunting.

"I don't know about everybody else, but I'm done with it," he said.

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DNR to continue CWD testing in southeastern Minnesota

DNR Press Release

October 27, 2010 -

Surveillance of hunter-harvested deer for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) will continue this deer season in an area of southern Minnesota near Pine Island where captive elk infected with the disease were discovered in 2009, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The captive elk were depopulated in 2009 and DNR conducted extensive testing for CWD in southeastern Minnesota wild deer during last fall's firearms deer hunting season. Test results on 2,685 deer were negative.

To help ensure no wild deer were infected with CWD, DNR staff will again staff deer registration stations around the previously infected farm to sample deer for the disease. Lymph node tissue samples will be collected at eight deer registration stations and one meat processor near the Pine Island area.

Tissues will be tested for CWD, an animal disease that was discovered in Wisconsin in 2002.

The DNR will be staffing registration stations during four weekends in November. With the assistance of University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine students, DNR staff will be examining deer at the following stations:

Red Wing - Four Seasons Sports
 Lake City - Big Bear
 Millville - Becklund's Auto
 Rochester - Gander Mountain
 Rochester - Archery Headquarters
 Pine Island - Greenway Coop
 Zumbrota - Pellicci Ace Hardware
 Kenyon - Kenyon Meats
 Mantorville - Casey's General Store

Hunters who take deer in permit areas 233, 293, 341, 342, 343, and 344 should register those deer in person at one of these stations, which allows samples to be collected for CWD testing. All hunters who submit a deer for sampling will receive a cooperator patch and a chance to win a muzzleloader donated by the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association.

DNR will continue targeted surveillance, meaning it will investigate reports of live deer that appear to be sick and obtain samples if possible. The public is encouraged to report sick deer to their area wildlife office. Office locations are available online.

To date, CWD has not been found in a wild deer in Minnesota. More than 32,000 deer have been tested for CWD statewide since the disease was detected in Wisconsin in 2002. CWD is an infectious neurological disease that occurs in deer, elk and moose and belongs to a group of diseases called transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs). Chronic wasting disease is progressively fatal and has no known immunity, vaccine or treatment.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other public health officials have concluded there is no link between CWD and any neurological disease in humans. The DNR is undertaking this year's effort because of its presence within the captive elk herd and the proximity of southeastern Minnesota to free-ranging deer in Wisconsin.

Recent Stats Courtesy of the MN Board of Animal Health

As of 10/19/10

Total number of farmed Elk in MN	6,876
Total number of premises with Elk	206
Total number of herds accredited for Tuberculosis	115
Total number of herds certified for Brucellosis	18

Committee Reports

Government Relations by Tony Kwilas

We just wanted to give you a brief update on the elections held on November 2. The election was a historic one since for the first time since party designation in 1972; Republicans will be the majority party in the Minnesota Senate. Additionally, the Republicans took control of the Minnesota House of Representatives. With this change, there will be all new committees and all new committee chairs in both the House and Senate. Of the 201 legislators, 60 will be freshmen in the class of 2011-2012.

We encourage you to go and meet with your Representatives and Senators before the start of the 2011 Legislative session, especially if they are newly elected. Let them know of the industry and educate them on the impact that we have in our respective communities.

Editor's Note: *If you don't know who your legislators are, you can find names, contact information and much more at www.leg.state.mn.us.*

More legislative news from MDA Newslink

November 4, 2010 – The 2010 election results are in (mostly) and there are plenty of changes to the agricultural landscape in Minnesota.

While the Minnesota Governor's race remains too close to call as of November 3, the immediate development of note is the shift in power in the Minnesota House and Senate. For the first time in decades, Republicans will control both houses of the state legislature. More specifically, retirements or election results will mean that eight of the 15 members of the Senate Ag Committee will no longer be in office, four of the 11 members of the House Ag Committee will no longer be in office, and eight of the 14 members of the House Ag Finance Committee will no longer be in office.

Regarding the Governor's race, the results appear close enough to trigger an automatic recount. It is impossible to know how long it will take for the process to play out, but the state constitution dictates that the sitting governor (in this case, Governor Pawlenty) retains the position until a new governor is sworn into office.

2011 MnEBA Board Elections

Only one director position will be expiring this year – Brian Wagner is completing his first term in office. Brian has made great contributions to the Board of Directors. Please take a moment when you see him and/or all board members to thank them for the time and dedication they have provided to MnEBA.

Nominations for this open position 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 Fred Neubert at (320) 352-6733 or indianhillselk@mainstreetcom.com. Elections will be held during the upcoming Annual Conference at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria, MN on January 8, 2011.

MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Annual Conference	Kaye Zearth (320) 834-4064
Nominating	Fred Neubert (320) 352-6733
Government Relations	Jim Byrne (507) 358-6505
Antler Competition	Kaye Zearth (320) 834-4064
Health	Dr. Glen Zearth (320) 834-4064
Auction	Jerry Strodtman (507) 451-3107
Awards	Patty VanGundy (507) 896-2380
Promotions	Brenda Hartkopf (320) 543-2686
State Fair	Morrie & Daphne Evenson (320) 354-5156
Fundraising	Brenda Hartkopf (320) 543-2686

Board Terms

Kaye Zearth, <i>President</i>	Term ends 2012
Wade Schimmelpfennig, <i>Vice Pres.</i>	Term ends 2013
Pat Prodzinski, <i>Sec/Treas.</i>	Term ends 2012
Brian Wagner, <i>Director</i>	Term ends 2011
Mark Lucas, <i>Director</i>	Term ends 2013

Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

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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 7 – 8, 2011 – MnEBA Annual Conference, Holiday Inn, Alexandria, MN

March 11 – 12, 2011 - NAEBA Winter Meeting (in conjunction with the Colorado Elk Breeders Association Elk Expo), Doubletree Hotel, Grand Junction, CO

March 11 – 13, 2011 – Minnesota Deer Classic, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

August 4 – 6, 2011 – NAEBA Annual Convention & International Antler Competition, Ramada Waterloo Convention Center, Waterloo, IA

August 25 – September 5, 2011 – MN State Fair, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

Classified Ads

Wanted: Grande Natural will be buying Hard Antler from all deer species at the MN Elk Breeders Convention this January 8, 2011. We buy drops, cutoffs, spikes, broken pieces (at least 4 inches long, please) at competitive prices, but not fancy sets, infected nor dirty antler. Will take a limited quantity of chalky antler. 1-719-657-0942 or Antler333@amigo.net

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

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.

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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