



## Special Interest Articles:

- MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar
- Board Meeting Minutes
- 5th Annual MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt
- Minnesota Cooks
- BAH News
- MnEBA Officer Blog
- In The News
- Vet Corner
- Committee Reports

## Membership Drive Edition

Greetings to all Minnesota producers from MnEBA!

### President's Message by Kaye Zebarth

Greetings! With 2012 just around the corner, it's time to think about MnEBA's annual conference on January 6-7 at the Crowne Plaza, Brooklyn Center. It seems like only yesterday we were encouraging you to head to Alexandria; time has a way of flying by, doesn't it?? There is information in this newsletter about the conference; it's a good chance to hear some good seminars, visit with friends, make the acquaintance of new members and generally have a good time.

If you are receiving this newsletter as not yet a member of MnEBA, we are very glad to have the chance to contact you, and encourage to you join us at the conference and perhaps become a member of MnEBA. MnEBA is a very strong industry voice with a presence in such organizations as Minnesota Board of Animal Health, Minnesota Grown, Minnesota Farm Bureau; all entities that work for the growth and well-being of our industry. Love to have you at the conference in January.

As a gentle reminder to members (I hate to nag!), sell, sell, sell, the

calendars. Reports are that they are going quite well. Remember, for every 10 you sell, your name is entered into a drawing for a \$500 cash bonus. Who couldn't use extra \$\$\$\$\$!!!!?? BUT, money has to be to Brenda by December 15 for you to be eligible for the prize.

We appreciate your support of this fund-raising effort. There are many worthwhile projects that are funded by the proceeds. To name a few: an elk hunt for a disabled American war veteran, a \$500 scholarship for a member's son/daughter, grandson/granddaughter, a presence at the Minnesota

State Fair, speakers at the annual conference, a bi-monthly newsletter and certainly, the means by which we can have a dedicated and hard-working and loyal Executive Secretary.

As we wind down the year, let me wish you a blessed Christmas season with family and friends. Travel safe wherever the holidays take you and we will see you in Brooklyn Center in January.

***"Learn to laugh at yourself; you will have a lifelong source of amusement."***

Thanks for your continued support.

Kaye

## MnEBA Annual Conference

### January 6-7, 2012

Crowne Plaza Hotel

2200 Freeway Blvd.

Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

**Room Reservations: (763) 566-8000**

Ask for the MnEBA room block to receive the discounted rate of \$79 per night.

Room block cut-off date is December 23rd!

***See conference insert for more details!***

**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 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

### Board of Directors

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Brian Wagner  
(320) 543-2818

#### Director

Wade Schimmelpfennig  
(612) 600-3888

#### 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.

## MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar Sales \$500 Cash Drawing Deadline December 15<sup>th</sup>!

There are nearly 600 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendars currently in circulation which is ahead of last year! However, with just a couple weeks left before the \$500 cash incentive drawing deadline, only 3 members have sent in enough stubs and money to be included in the bonus drawing! The names of the twelve farms who sponsored months in the calendar will also be entered. Now is the time to get busy selling calendars. Your chances at winning the \$500 cash selling bonus are currently excellent!

The good news is, there is still time to be included in this special cash drawing! For every 10 calendars a member sells by December 15<sup>th</sup>, their name will go into a \$500 cash drawing. Stubs and money for the sold calendars must be returned to the MnEBA Office by December 15<sup>th</sup> in order for your name to be included. There are also 150 more calendars available to sell for anyone who wants to purchase or sell them.

There are several other great reasons to sell calendars this year. Not only are there still 26 guns available, there are also 4 additional prize drawing days! Also, the person who sells the most calendars will receive a FREE one year membership to MnEBA!

Even if you don't get all sales concluded by December 15<sup>th</sup>, calendars can continue to be sold until the January 7, 2012 drawing date at the MnEBA Annual Conference.

The General Store (where gun certificates are redeemed), will allow the winner to trade the value of their winning gun for other store merchandise. This could be another gun or other hunting, fishing or camping gear, even clothing. Past winners have been very happy with the flexibility offered.

Contact the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 or [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org) to order your calendars today!

## A Change in NAEBA Registration Staff

The American Beef Records Association (ABRA) in Kansas City, MO has been providing North American Elk Breeders Association (NAEBA) registration, purity and DNA services for the past several years. Former NAEBA staff member, Tena Martin, has been the contact person for these areas of need.

Tena has recently resigned from her position at (ABRA) and will be replaced by Katrisha Shoup. Below is Katrisha's contact information:

North American Elk Breeders Association  
P.O. Box 14100  
Kansas City, MO 64101-4100  
Phone: (816) 595-2446  
Fax: (816) 842-6931 (c/o Katrisha Shoup)  
[kshoup@hereford.org](mailto:kshoup@hereford.org)

## Board Meeting Minutes

### October 17, 2011 Phone Conference

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a phone conference on October 17, 2011. Kaye Zebarth, Wade Schimmelpfennig, Pat Prodzinski and Brenda Hartkopf were present to begin the call. Mark Lucas and Brian Wagner joined the meeting at a later time.

Zebarth called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. She asked for additions or corrections to the March 26 board meeting minutes. Prodzinski moved to accept, Schimmelpfennig seconded, motion carried. The 2011 financials to date were reviewed. Schimmelpfennig moved to accept as presented, Prodzinski seconded, motion carried. The October 12, 2011 checkbook balance was \$17,100.63.

### OLD BUSINESS

Discussed preliminary data relating to the Minnesota Farmed Cervid Industry Economic Impact Study. Compared some of the results to the Wisconsin study numbers but decided the data was not comparable because the Wisconsin data was gathered from 2009 numbers. A more complete draft of the Minnesota survey is expected from the study coordinator very soon. The goal is to have final copies of the study available to the membership for the January 7th MnEBA Annual Conference.

Hartkopf reported that there are over 400 calendars in the hands of the membership and that to date, stubs and money for 26 of those calendars have been turned in to the MnEBA Office. This return rate is just a bit higher than last year at this time. Hartkopf was directed to send a letter to last year's winners to see if they would like to purchase another calendar. Will continue to promote the fact that there is a chance for a \$500 bonus for each 10 calendars sold by any one member by December 15th.

Hartkopf reported that Charles and Kim Francis were very happy with the experience of participating in the Minnesota Cooks competition at the recent Minnesota State Fair. Their local newspaper and television station also did news stories about their participation in the competition.

Hartkopf also reported that the Farmers Feed Us experience was positive. The elk industry video of the Hartkopf family was shown in a rotation with about a dozen other farm videos in front of the Miracle of Birth Center and the Ag/Hort building at the MN State Fair. Hartkopfs' also worked a shift in the Department of Agriculture booth promoting the Farmers Feed Us

campaign. The Carver County Exhibit on elk farming was also very good exposure for the industry at the Fair.

The MnEBA Scholarship program was discussed. Was decided that there will be no future extensions of the deadline. Will re-visit rules currently in place to see if any changes should be made at the next board meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS

Discussed ideas for seminars for the upcoming MnEBA Conference in January. The committee will continue to focus on nutrition topics. Board also gave directives on fundraising ideas and budgets.

Discussed the 5th Annual MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt. Board stressed conducting the hunt and what is offered back to the recipient of the hunt as MnEBA has in the past. Zebarth offered assistance in making arrangements for the loading and transport of the bull from the Evensons' farm to the hunt ranch facility.

Board made the decision to hold the annual budget meeting within a few weeks after the MnEBA Annual Conference.

Dr. Glen Zebarth then joined the call to update the Board on several resolutions which passed out of committee at the recent USAHA meeting in New York. They included:

1. A resolution requesting USDA continue funding farmed cervidae CWD sampling.
2. A resolution requesting USDA to publish two parts of the Final CWD rule; those pertaining specifically to Interstate Movement and Herd Certification.
3. A resolution urging USDA to further the implementation of the rectal biopsy test as a CWD live animal test for use in suspect herds or already known positive herds.
4. Resolution to implement the Chem Bio TB Blood Test as an approved program disease test for cervid species including red deer and elk.

Glen would also like feedback from the membership on what people's thoughts are on using the new TB blood test instead of the current TB skin testing procedure.

Schimmelpfennig moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:20pm.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Hartkopf

## MnEBA Announces 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Charitable Elk Hunt

**Minnesota Elk Breeders Association (MnEBA), November 2, 2011** – Through the generosity of Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch, Prairie Hills Elk, the Lake Superior Chapter of SCI, Midwest Outdoors Unlimited and Oak Point Elk Farm, MnEBA is proud to announce the sponsorship of the 5th Annual MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt. This special anniversary hunt will offer a very deserving wounded veteran the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to harvest a beautiful bull elk, one of nature's most majestic animals!



Mike McElhiney is a retired Master Sergeant and 21 year veteran of the United States Army. Mike has been stationed in Germany, Fort Bragg North Carolina, Fort Campbell Tennessee, and Rochester, Minnesota. Over his illustrious 21 year career, he has either served or been in 24 different countries.

MSG (retired) McElhiney joined the United States Army in 1989, shortly after his high school graduation. Mike is part of a family with a rich military history and made the decision to join the army for "the adventure and college". Through the first twelve years of his military history, he rapidly rose through several ranks of the military and eventually became the Senior Weapons Sergeant for Operational Detachment Alpha (ODA) 574.

Just weeks after the attacks on "9-11", Mike's ODA along with a small number of other Special Operations Forces and Other Government Agencies deployed and infiltrated into Afghanistan at the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). ODA 574 was the first team to penetrate into southern Afghanistan bringing with them the current president of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai, leading the insurgency into the southern provinces of Afghanistan. On the morning of December 5, 2001, Mike and all of his team members were either killed in action or nearly fatally wounded in a battle north of Kandahar.

Upon healing from wounds sustained in OEF, Mike remained assigned to the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne), having duty in Rochester, Minnesota for the last six years of his military service. Mike has received numerous military awards including a Bronze Star with Valor Device and a Purple Heart. He now resides in Independence, Minnesota, is married to Dr. Judith McElhiney and has two children Maria and Michael. Mike holds a B.S. degree in Political Science from Austin Peay State University and currently works for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs as the Legislative Director where he actively continues to support Veterans.

There are many individuals and organizations involved in making this opportunity possible. They all want veterans such as MSG (retired) McElhiney to know they are deeply respected and appreciated. Morrie and Daphne Evenson of Prairie Hills Elk donated the bull for this special hunt and shared these thoughts, "We have been fortunate to raise elk and to be members of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association for 16 years. In donating our bull, we are expressing our appreciation to Mike for his service and sacrifice and to the Minnesota Elk Breeders for the quality of life we experience". The Lake Superior Chapter of SCI is also pleased to play a part in this hunt by helping to pay for expenses. "It's always a pleasure and an honor to give back to our wounded veterans who have given so much to our country," said President Dale Bruder. "Without them, we wouldn't have the freedom to have the hunting and fishing we do."

Tony Beckel of Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch has been an active participant in MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunts for the past five 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.

Midwest Outdoors Unlimited has been instrumental in helping to organize all the details along with securing lodging for the hunt. Oak Point Elk Farm will assist in transporting the bull to Baudette where the hunt will take place.

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



Mark your calendars for the 2012 NAEBA

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### North American Elk Breeders Association

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# minnesota cooks™

**M**nEBA members Charles & Kim Francis, along with Chef Shane Wichtendahl of Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria, MN recently took part in the 9th Annual Minnesota Cooks™ program at the Minnesota State Fair. At this event, chefs from restaurants around the state show how they use Minnesota-grown products from local farmers to prepare meals at their restaurant as the farmers and chefs answer questions about "buying local". At the end of each demonstration, fairgoers and a panel of Minnesota farmers and celebrity tasters have a chance to sample the dishes created onstage. A free calendar featuring all farmers and chefs is available and distributed to the public before and after the event.

The following is the write-up in the calendar about their businesses which are showcased in the month of March:

### **Doraisamy Elk Farm & Arrowwood Resort**

*Charles Francis and Kim Esala-Francis of Doraisamy Elk Farm in Garfield have been raising elk as a livestock since 1999. "It's impossible not to be awed by these majestic, highly adaptive, intelligent animals," Charles says. "For instance, they'll lie down in a patch of tall, prickly, thistles to protect themselves from the sun and biting flies, and before you know it those thistles are doubling as back scratchers!"*

*Charles and Kim sell their elk meat directly to restaurants, coops, and at the Alexandria farmers' market. Charles describes the meat as a heart-healthy red meat with a rich, high end taste, not gamey. They also offer another unexpected product - velvet elk antler, used widely in Traditional Chinese Medicine as a remedy for arthritis for both humans and pets.*

*Shane Wichtendahl of Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria is a chef today because of the pancakes his grandma fixed him growing up. "I scratch cook because of her fresh, homemade cooking. Everything, every time, came straight off the farm to our plates." Shane began his restaurant career washing dishes in high school and worked his way to the role of executive chef by age 30. He loves what he calls the "controlled chaos" of restaurant kitchens and has always worked in environments where scratch cooking is valued.*

*Shane purchases Doraisamy's ground elk and steaks and enjoys dazzling Arrowwood guests with the noteworthy meat. Shane explains, "Doraisamy elk are ASH-free and fed non-GMO grain and hay, and they're raised in a beautiful environment, resulting in an amazingly delicious product." Shane is steadily including more locally sourced, scratch-cooked fare at Arrowwood, no small feat considering it's a 216 room resort. "Someday I'd like everything but my salt to be local."*

Minnesota Cooks™ is presented by Minnesota Farmers Union and receives major sponsorship from the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute ([www.auri.org](http://www.auri.org)). For more information about Minnesota Cooks™, please visit the website at [www.minnesotacooks.net](http://www.minnesotacooks.net).

Minnesota Farmers Union ([www.mfu.org](http://www.mfu.org)) is a nonprofit membership-based organization working to protect and enhance the economic interests and quality of life of family farmers and ranchers, as well as rural communities.



**Charles Francis (2nd from left) talking about elk. Celebrity tasters included MN Ag Commissioner David Fredrickson and Denny Timmerman from AURI (far right).**



**The crowd enjoying the demonstration.**

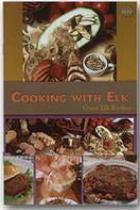
## MnEBA Promotional Materials

The following items are available for promotional purposes. To see the full line of MnEBA promotional offerings, check out [www.mneba.org](http://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](mailto:info@mneba.org) or call the MnEBA office at (320) 543-2686 with further questions.

### MEAT PROMOTIONS

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



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

**3<sup>rd</sup> Edition "Cooking With Elk" Cookbook**

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

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

### VELVET PROMOTIONS



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

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

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

### GENERAL INFORMATION



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

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

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

### HOME DÉCOR

Price includes shipping & handling.



**Elk Trashcan** (*pictured*) \$25 each

**Elk Rug (Small)** \$27.50 each

**Elk Rug (Large)** \$40 each

**Now Available!**

**Minnesota Board of Animal Health  
625 Robert Street North  
St. Paul, MN 55155**

Date: November 17, 2011

To: Farmed Cervidae Producers  
Farmed Cervidae Veterinarians  
Board of Animal Health Staff

From: Paul Anderson  
Minnesota Board of Animal Health  
Farmed Cervidae Program Director

Subject: **Laboratory fees for CWD testing of farmed cervidae.**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced that it will stop paying the laboratory fees for chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing of farmed cervidae at the end of this calendar year. This is significant because each test costs the laboratory about \$25.00 per sample to perform.

To help ensure compliance with Minnesota CWD testing requirements, the Board of Animal Health will begin paying the laboratory fees for CWD testing when federal funding ends.

Effective January 1, 2012, the Board of Animal Health will pay the laboratory fees for CWD testing under the following conditions:

1. Samples must be from Minnesota farmed cervidae.
2. Samples must be submitted to the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.
3. All laboratory fees will be paid by the Board for brain stem and lymph node samples that are extracted from an animal, placed in 10% buffered formalin and properly submitted to the laboratory.
4. There will be an additional charge of \$32.25 per sample if the entire head of an animal is submitted to the laboratory for CWD testing. This gross examination fee is needed to cover laboratory costs for brain stem and lymph node removal and disposal of the head. This amount will not be paid by the Board and will be billed to the submitter of the sample.

For CWD testing questions, call the Board of Animal Health Cervidae Division at 651-201-6804.

For laboratory submission questions, call the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at 800-605-8787.

Encl: Farmed Cervidae CWD Sample Submission Form

**Minnesota Board of Animal Health  
Farmed Cervidae Chronic Wasting Disease  
Submission Form**

*Submit Samples and this form to:*  
**Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
1333 Gortner Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55108**

Phone: 612-625-8787 Toll free: 800-605-8787  
Fax: 612-624-8707 Email: VDL@umn.edu

*Lab  
Use  
Only*

Date Submitted or Sent: \_\_\_\_\_

|                   |                                                                                                  |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Premises ID:      | <i>Veterinarian Submissions<br/>(veterinarian will automatically receive copy if filled out)</i> |
| Premises Name:    | Veterinarian Name:                                                                               |
| Address:          | Address:                                                                                         |
| City, State, Zip: | City, State, Zip                                                                                 |
| Phone:            | Phone:                                                                                           |

**All applicable fields required:**

**Check all that apply:**

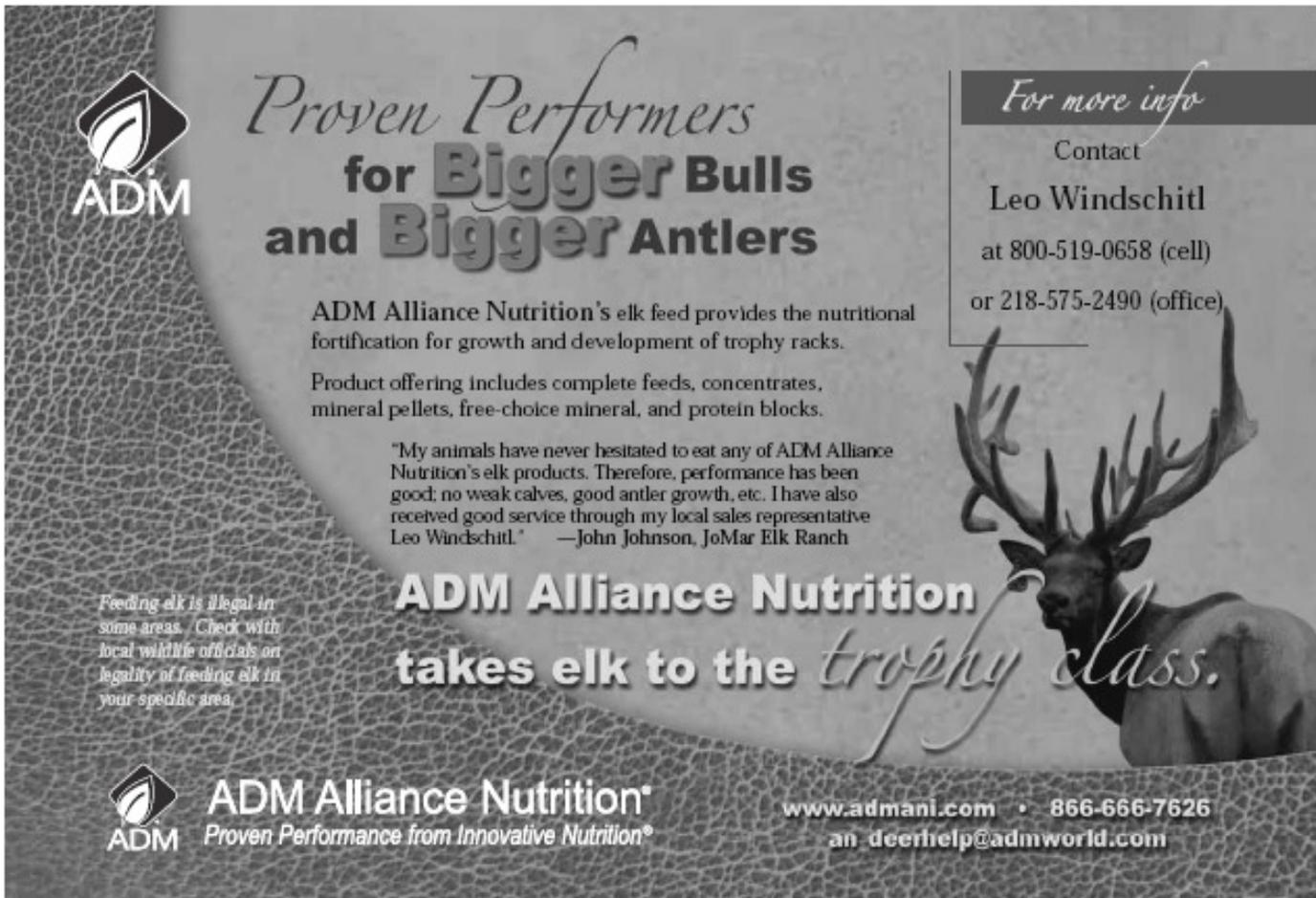
|    | ID tag 1 | ID tag 2 | Species | Age | Sex | Brain Stem | Lymph Node | Whole Head | Fixed Sample | Frozen Sample |
|----|----------|----------|---------|-----|-----|------------|------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1  |          |          |         |     |     |            |            |            |              |               |
| 2  |          |          |         |     |     |            |            |            |              |               |
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| 10 |          |          |         |     |     |            |            |            |              |               |

## MnEBA Officer Blog by Brian Wagner, MnEBA Board Member

A Fall to remember, everyone may have a different reason. But other than being very dry its been the perfect time for getting your outside work done. All in all its been a pretty good year at the elk farm, except for the high feed cost. With the perfect Fall I find myself making more fence and adding pasture ground, hoping to improve pasture quality and reduce feed cost. Somehow we need to make it work because producer and animal numbers are getting low.

I would like to talk a little about the donated time, money and elk bulls for the MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt for our wounded veterans. No one knows the reward of all of this until you have taken a close part in it. This Fall I was fortunate enough to guide a wounded veteran from Utah on a hunt that was filmed for an outdoor hunt show. Being able to spend a week with this brave man, I learned that he had a wife, children and family back home in Utah. I heard first hand how he was burned when his humvee was blown up by a suicide bomber in Afghanistan. It was a very rewarding week for me to take a part in this hunt.

I also spent a week in New Mexico on a deer hunt with Steve Berhow, one of the past donors of a bull for the MnEBA elk hunt. Steve told me about a letter Brenda had sent him from the Tim Merkens family about how much the hunt meant to Tim, and also what it really meant to Steve and his company to be able to give something back to our heroes that give so much. The letter is now framed and hung in his office for everyone to read what MnEBA and his company have done for our veterans. I would like to thank all the MnEBA members, and everyone involved for their support in making this special event possible. And urge everyone to get involved or stay involved!!



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# MnEBA Kitchen

Are you having extra family or friends visiting over the holidays? Here are a couple of easy, delicious meals which will feed a hungry crowd!

## Crockpot Lasagna

- 2 lbs. ground elk burger
- 10 lasagna noodles
- 24 oz. cottage cheese
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 32 oz. Ragu or Prego spaghetti sauce
- Parmesan cheese



Brown elk burger. Break up lasagna noodles to whatever size you'd like. Using half of the ingredients, layer them in a crockpot in the order listed (elk burger, noodles, cheeses and sauce). Repeat using other half of the ingredients. Top with parmesan cheese. Cook 5-6 hours on Low or 3-4 hours on High.

## Taco Bake

- 1 pkg. (14 oz.) Kraft Deluxe Macaroni & Cheese Dinner
- 1 lb. elk burger
- 1 pkg. taco seasoning
- 3/4 cup sour cream
- 1 1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, divided
- 1 cup salsa

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Prepare Dinner as directed on package. While macaroni is cooking, cook elk burger with taco seasoning as directed on package. Stir sour cream into prepared Dinner; spoon half the Dinner mixture into an 8" square baking dish sprayed with cooking spray. Top with layers of meat mixture, 1 cup shredded cheese and remaining Dinner mixture. Bake 15 minutes; top with salsa and remaining shredded cheese. Bake, uncovered, 5 minutes more or until cheese is melted.

# Minnesota Farm Bureau

- Supports farmed cervidae being regulated by the Board of Animal Health, not the DNR
- Supports consistency between state and federal rules regarding cervidae diseases
- Supports efforts to eradicate, contain and control chronic wasting disease
- Supports hunting of all species on licensed game farms
- Actively opposes overly restrictive local animal ordinances

**JOIN TODAY!**

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## In The News

### Chronic Wasting Disease Found in Captive Deer

**Missouri Department of Agriculture - October 20, 2011** -- The Missouri Departments of Agriculture, Conservation and Health and Senior Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that a captive white-tail deer in Macon County, Missouri has tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). CWD is a neurological disease found in deer, elk and moose.

The animal that tested positive for CWD was a captive white-tailed deer inspected as part of the state's CWD surveillance and testing program. Preliminary tests were conducted by the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa.

In February 2010 a case of CWD was confirmed in Linn County on a captive hunting preserve operated by the same entity, Heartland Wildlife Ranches, LLC. The Linn county facility was depopulated and no further infection was identified at that facility. The current case was identified through increased surveillance required by the management plan implemented from the previous CWD incident.

CWD is transmitted by live animal to animal contact or soil to animal contact. The disease was first recognized in 1967 in captive mule deer in the Colorado Division of Wildlife captive wildlife research facility in Fort Collins, Colorado. CWD has been documented in deer and/or elk in Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and the Canadian provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. There has been no evidence that the disease can be transmitted to humans.

"Missouri's proactive steps to put a testing protocol in place and create a contingency plan years ago is proving beneficial. We are in a solid position to follow pre-established steps to ensure Missouri's valuable whitetail deer resource remains healthy and strong," said Jason Sumners, Missouri Deer Biologist, Missouri Department of Conservation.

For more information regarding CWD, please contact Missouri's State Veterinarian Dr. Linda Hickman at (573) 751-3377.

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## Sampling of 1,300 deer shows no sign of CWD so far

*(Released November 16, 2011)*

None of the 1,300 deer tested in and around the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management zone in southeastern Minnesota have shown signs of the disease, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Hunters have harvested 780 deer so far within the CWD management zone, which stretches from Wanamingo, Zumbrota and Zumbro Falls southward to Kasson, Byron and Rochester. Negative results have been returned for 638 deer.

In the areas adjacent to the CWD zone, 671 of 1,053 deer harvested during the now-concluded first season have tested negative.

Results on the remaining deer in both areas are pending.

"Collections are going well and hunters are very cooperative," said Lou Cornicelli, DNR wildlife research manager. "We'll continue working check stations in the CWD zone through Sunday, Nov. 27, when the season there ends."

All hunters who harvest deer within the CWD management zone must register their deer in person at check stations located throughout the area. Registration is necessary so DNR can extract a lymph node tissue sample for CWD testing.

Hunters who harvest deer within the CWD management zone (deer permit area 602) cannot remove the carcass from the zone until a CWD-negative test result is reported. Testing typically takes three business days to complete and results can be accessed by hunters online.

Other deer permit areas where in-person registration is required for CWD testing, but which do not have carcass movement restrictions, are areas 341, 342, 343 and 344. Although closed to hunting now, those areas will reopen to hunting from Saturday, Nov. 19, to Sunday, Nov. 27. Check stations will reopen in those areas with the season.

Electronic registration via telephone or Internet is not available in these areas. Check stations will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### Updated numbers as of 11/29/11

*Michelle Carstenson of the Minnesota DNR reports that as of November 29th, the DNR has collected 2,346 samples from free-ranging whitetails in the overall surveillance zone in SE Minnesota. Of that, 1,083 came from Permit Area 602 which is known as the CWD Management Zone. So far, there have been 1,773 negative tests in total with 940 of those from Permit Area 602. No positives have been found in this round of testing anywhere in the surveillance zone to date.*

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**Thank you for your support!**

## Vet Corner by Glen Zearth, DVM

### Updates from the Recent USAHA Annual Meeting

September 29 - October 5, 2011 ~ Buffalo, New York

**Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD):** The federal budget for CWD will be cut from \$13 million in 2011 to \$1.92 million in 2012. We were told that this funding will primarily go towards administrative costs. What this cut in funding means is that there will be no federal money for indemnity, lab test costs or reimbursement to wildlife agencies for free-range surveillance.

In Minnesota, the Board of Animal Health has agreed to pick up the costs for lab test fees (at the University of Minnesota Diagnostic Lab only) for CWD testing for at least one year.

While the news about the cuts to federal funding is discouraging, we need to realize that states will continue to require CWD testing to transfer live animals, some even to slaughter. Import requirements will not change. It will be very important to maintain your status so you can continue to move your animals as you do now.

Also discussed at the meeting was the movement to continue researching ways to make the live animal CWD test (rectal biopsy) work better. It is 100% accurate at finding positive cases, but does not detect them as early in the course of the disease as the current brain stem testing procedure.

**Tuberculosis (TB):** There was some movement towards implementing Chem Bio's Stat-Pack test as a serology blood test for TB in elk and red deer. Work still needs to be done on implementing it into the control program. This will take some time, perhaps 6 months to a year. Tests on elk and red deer have shown good results. The advantage of this blood test will be one trip through the chute instead of two.

If you're considering switching to the TB blood test, it might be a good time to also complete your Brucellosis Accreditation if you have not already done so. Brucellosis Accreditation would require two whole herd tests, one year apart, then whole herd testing once every three years. The benefit of this would be that you would not need to bring your animals in (especially shooter bulls) for blood testing before transfer if you were already accredited.

**Johne's Disease:** There was discussion as well as new papers on Johne's Disease. There is still some evidence of Johne's showing up around the country. Elk and red deer are susceptible to developing Johne's. This disease is widespread in farmed cervidae in New Zealand. If anyone ever has a problem with a Johne's Disease outbreak, the University of Pennsylvania and Cornell have a particularly strong interest in research and aiding in this disease.

**Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD):** There was a big push for the development of an EHD vaccine for whitetail deer. EHD is a huge problem for both free-ranging and farmed whitetail deer. There is work currently being done to come up with a commercial vaccine for it.

**Brucellosis:** There will not be much changing for the farmed industry concerning Brucellosis in the near future. Brucellosis is becoming an increasing problem around the Yellowstone area in free-ranging elk.



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## Committee Reports

### 2012 MnEBA Board Elections

Two director positions will be expiring this year, Kaye Zearth and Pat Prodzinski. Both Kaye and Pat have served multiple terms and have made outstanding contributions to MnEBA! Please take a moment when you see them and/or all board members to thank them for the time and dedication they have provided to MnEBA.

### Board Terms

|                                      |                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Kaye Zearth, <i>President</i>        | Term ends 2012 |
| Mark Lucas, <i>Vice Pres.</i>        | Term ends 2013 |
| Pat Prodzinski, <i>Sec/Treas.</i>    | Term ends 2012 |
| Brian Wagner, <i>Director</i>        | Term ends 2014 |
| Wade Schimmelpennig, <i>Director</i> | Term ends 2013 |

Nominations for these open positions are now being accepted. If you know of someone who would be a good candidate, or you as a member are willing to run, please contact the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 or [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org). Elections will be held during the upcoming Annual Conference at the Crowne Plaza in Brooklyn Center, MN on January 7, 2012.

### Minnesota Farmed Cervidae Economic Impact Study Update

Last June, every cervid farmer in the state of Minnesota received a survey which would help the Minnesota cervid industry determine the economic impact value of farmed cervidae to the Minnesota economy. This survey was a joint effort put together by the Minnesota Deer Breeders Association and MnEBA.

Results have been tabulated and the author is in the process of completing the report. The expectation is to have the final report available to the membership at the upcoming MnEBA Annual Conference in January.

The economic impact question is something the industry receives a lot of inquiries about! It will be extremely helpful to have this information available when needed. Having answers to questions such as this shows credibility and promotes positive awareness of the cervid industry in Minnesota. Many thanks to all producers who completed and returned their surveys to help accomplish this effort!

### 2012 MnEBA Summer Picnic

The past two years, MnEBA has moved from holding an antler competition summer gathering, to having a summer picnic. It's been a relaxed, fun time to gather together to tour other elk farms, enjoy great food and catch up on the news of the industry.

MnEBA is once again looking for a farm or group of farms to host the 2012 event. The date has not yet been set and can be flexible to work with the host farm's schedule. In the past, the host farm has provided the main meat dish with visitors bringing potluck items to round out the menu.

If you would be willing to be the 2012 host farm, please contact the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 or [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org).

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## Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

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[info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org)

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

## Calendar of Events

**January 6 – 7, 2012** – MnEBA Annual Conference, Crowne Plaza, Brooklyn Center, MN

**March 9 – 11, 2012** – Minnesota Deer Classic, State Fairgrounds Coliseum, St. Paul, MN

**March 31, 2012** - 5th Annual NAEBA March Mingle, Doubletree Hotel, Overland Park, KS

**August 2 – 4, 2012** – NAEBA Annual Convention & International Antler Competition, Northland Inn, Brooklyn Center, MN

**August 23 – September 3, 2012** – MN State Fair, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

## Classified Ads

**For Sale:** Used fencing wire. 8 ft. woven wire approximately 3,500 feet. Asking \$0.75 per foot. Call Jim Byrne at (507) 358-6505.

**Wanted:** Wolf Creek Elk Ranch is buying hard antler at \$8 per pound delivered to the ranch in Sturgeon Lake or to Wapiti Labs Inc. in Ham Lake. Must also include copy of CWD certification from the MN Board of Animal Health. Call Klint at (877) 497-9653.

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

**For Sale:** (2) Kiwi squeeze chutes. Call Larry Gerdes at 715-594-3534.

**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](http://www.usafoxx.com) or email [info@usafoxx.com](mailto: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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