



## Special Interest Articles:

- 2014 MnEBA Gun Raffle
- Board Meeting Minutes
- 2013 Elk Markets in Review
- NAEBA Update USAHA Recap
- American Cervid Alliance Updates
- 2014 February Fling
- MnEBA Officer Blog
- Pine River Army Veteran Harvests Bull Elk
- Vet Corner
- Final MnEBA 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memory
- Committee Reports

## President's Message by Mark Lucas

Good Day All!

I don't know what happened to fall this year. Seems like just a couple weeks ago we were talking back to school shopping and working the state fair elk booth. The anxious anticipation of the deer season has come and gone and we are left staring Thanksgiving in the face. Time to get the Christmas lights hung before it gets too cold outside I suppose.

Speaking of Christmas, it's time again to get out and pedal the MnEBA 2014 elk calendars. They make great stocking stuffers and research shows outdoor folks prefer a gun calendar over a jelly-of-the-month club enrollment 6 to 1. I personally have a renewed enthusiasm for promoting the calendar sales as I was a recent winner. Yes, I know it is hard to believe as I am known for saying I never win anything. But, my name was drawn for a really nice 12 gauge Mossberg turkey gun that I will put to good use. Last year was my first experience turkey hunting and I bagged a nice 23 pound Tom. Now I am hooked on turkey hunting and have the proper gun to go with it.

The elk calendar fund raiser is critical for the ongoing survival of MnEBA as it is our primary fund raiser for the year. It supports many facets of operations within MnEBA including charitable efforts like the FFA Jackets donation and the elk hunt for a disabled veteran. We recently completed the elk hunt for this year as you will read more about inside the newsletter. I do want to take a minute to thank some very special people who have donated time, money and talents to make it a very memorable event for one of these nations' disabled veterans. Please note the following people and organizations that made it possible:

Tony Beckel - for once again guiding and hosting the hunt

Brain Wagner and Mike Kettenacker - purchasing the bull for the hunt

Lake Superior SCI - donating lodging, meals, travel and meat processing

Midwest Outdoors Unlimited - for helping locate the recipient, making arrangements for travel and lodging and also video of the hunt

Lance and Brenda Hartkopf - paying for the antler mount

You, the MnEBA Membership – without your help through fund raising and calendar sales, we would not be able to tackle this type of project!

As you can see it is a big undertaking with many people involved. You can all take pride in knowing that in a small way we have tipped our hats in thanks to those who have served in the U.S. military.

Do not forget to update your events calendar for the winter meeting in January. Last year was a blast and this year is shaping up to be just as good.

Have a safe and Blessed Holiday Season!

Mark Lucas

**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.

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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.

## 2014 MnEBA Gun Raffle

### 594 Calendars Out, 156 Still Looking for Homes!

There are currently 594 calendars in the hands of members who are hopefully all out selling calendars, and 156 calendars still in the box at the

MnEBA Office. Last year there were only 52 calendars left in the Office on December 1. If you've been thinking about taking advantage of the opportunity to earn a free 2014 MnEBA membership, this is your chance!!!

Anyone selling 30 or more calendars and returning stubs and money to the MnEBA Office before December 31<sup>st</sup> will receive a free membership for next year! The only limit to this is when calendars run out. With 156 calendars left, everyone has an opportunity, even if they have not yet begun selling!

December is a great month to sell calendars! Everyone needs a new calendar for 2014; in many homes, you need several! The calendar makes a great Christmas stocking-stuffer for those on your list who are hard to buy for, you know who they are!

The guns typically offered on this raffle have been extremely popular! No one has chosen the cash option in 2 years! They love the flexibility of being able to trade the value of the winning gun for another firearm or other store merchandise. Winners have proven to be extremely happy!

Even if you can't sell thirty calendars, no problem. Each and every sale is important to MnEBA and they add up in a big way. Even if you can only sell one or two or just buy one for yourself, it would be very much appreciated.

If you have not yet ordered your calendars and/or need more, please contact the MnEBA Office at [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org) or 320-543-2686 as soon as possible. They will continue to be available until the January 11<sup>th</sup> drawing date or they run out, whichever comes first. LET'S SELL OUT!!!

## MnEBA Annual Conference

**January 10-11, 2014**

River's Edge Conference Center  
& Best Western Plus Kelly Inn

100 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Cloud, MN 56301

**Room Reservations: (320) 253-0606**

Mention "MEBA14" to receive the discounted rate of \$95 per night. Room block cut-off date is **December 27th!**

*There is another conference which overlaps MnEBA's conference at the convention center. Make sure to book your room under the MnEBA room block by the deadline above to ensure a room is available!*

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

## Board Meeting Minutes

### October 8, 2013 Phone Conference Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a phone conference on October 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss a few upcoming activities of the association. Mark Lucas, Jim Byrne, Brian Wagner, Wade Schimmelpfennig and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Ron Welle was a guest. Lucas began the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

The upcoming MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt was discussed. Ron Welle presented two applications, one of which was submitted through a connection with a MnEBA member. After much discussion, Dan Walberg, a veteran of the U.S. Army, was chosen as the recipient.

Hartkopf then explained that the funding option for offering a shoulder mount of the bull is no longer an option. As of this time, no other funding options have been found. Byrne moved to continue to supply the elk hunt, but to leave the mounting expenses up to the

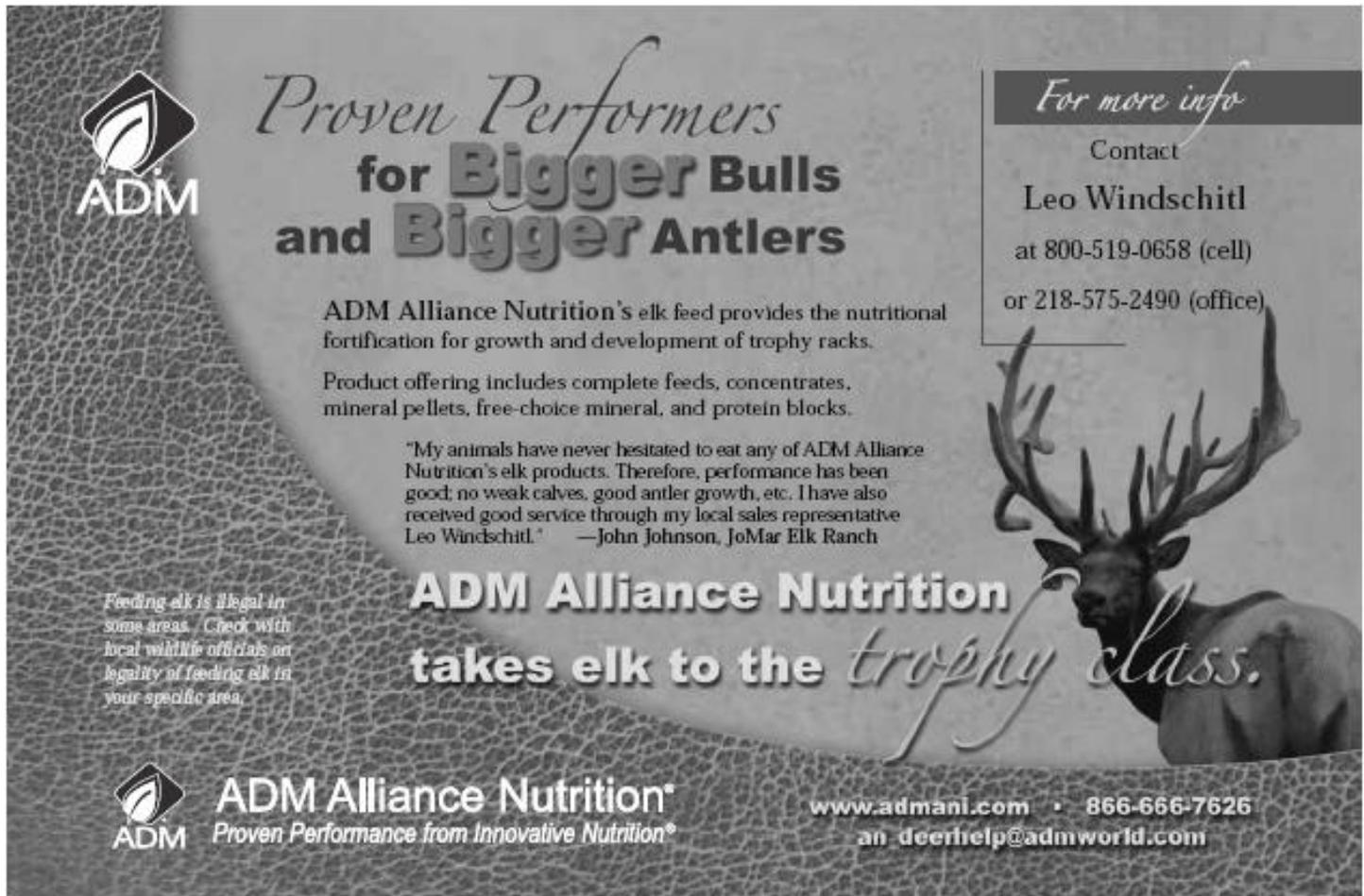
hunter if no other funding options could be found. Wagner seconded, motion carried.

Hartkopf talked about ideas for the upcoming MnEBA Annual Conference. Board offered suggestions for seminars.

Board discussed ideas for updating the MnEBA web site. Would like to begin work on this project soon. Byrne and Lucas agreed to be on the committee to update the web site. Hartkopf to solicit other MnEBA members to also join the committee.

Byrne moved to adjourn, Schimmelpfennig seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary



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## 2013 Elk Markets in Review

*Editorial by Scott Salonek*

The elk industry has seen the best markets in all categories over the last two years compared to what we have seen in the last 10 years. The meat business is certainly here to stay and I do not see any pull back in prices. I also do not see any increase from the current \$3.00 -\$4.00 prices being paid depending on carcass size. A very important factor on your meat animals is to plan ahead and give them 90 days or so on good feed to get that carcass to top weight as this is where you will get the best return. With feed costs moving down in the future, an extra \$.75 per day for 90 days will add \$150 to your check, resulting in nearly a \$100 extra return per animal.

Velvet has over the last 2-3 years been very consistent between the \$25-\$30 range and I do not see anything in the future to say that will go down. I also do not believe we will see a push over the \$30 mark. This may get very tough moving forward with total pounds produced in the US moving below the 40,000 pound mark. It creates a problem for more than one buyer to be happy with not getting enough volume to cover shipping costs thus resulting in a lower price to compensate. Producers need to get very serious about their programs, cut your normal bulls @ 2-3 years old and make your decision on what to do with him @ 2; I will get into depth on this in the shooter segment.

The shooter market was very active this past fall with many sizes showing very little difficulty selling. The most sought after bull was 360 inches and down, which is a very tough bull for most breeders to make cash flow. Bulls that are 330-360 are bringing \$2500-\$3500 and if you factor a \$700 per year feed cost, a four year old will have very close to \$2800 into him just in feed cost, minus what velvet he produces @ 2 and 3. Now if you still have him at 5 or 6, more likely than not you will in the long run lose money on him unless your genetics will get him past the 400 inch mark. Also something to consider is though this year most everything has been sold, the larger demand is for the smaller bull. Keep in mind that if you plan to raise and sell 360 type bulls, you MUST get them there by 3 years old to make them cash flow and if you have them at 360 @ 4, 5 and 6, you are best to velvet him @ 2 and meat him to cut your loss.



The main point here is if you cannot get 350 inch 3 year olds, look at improving your herd through better cows, AI, or better breeding bulls. Cows producing 360 inch 5 year olds will not cash flow, same applies to breeding with less than 400 inch bulls. I am not suggesting we try producing ALL 450-500 inch bulls, but getting them to sale quality FASTER is vital to cash flow on your farm. The industry markets are here and elk can cash flow, but management is a must to make it work.

I see an extremely strong demand for hunt bulls in 2014, prices probably move a bit higher from this year's levels. I will also add that these are strictly my views from the markets I am a part of.

Scott Salonek

## NAEBA Membership Drive! Recruit Members and Win Big!

*The North American Elk Breeders Association is offering a contest for the member that can recruit the most new members by the 2014 Convention.*

**Who can participate?** Any NAEBA member

**How does it work?**

NAEBA members recruit elk breeders to join or re-join NAEBA. When they sign up, make sure they note you referred them. Members can sign up at [www.naelk.org](http://www.naelk.org), click on About NAEBA, then click on Join NAEBA. They can also contact the NAEBA Office at 320-543-3665.

**Who qualifies as new members?**

- Elk breeders that are new active members to NAEBA (must own elk) count as one point
- Former NAEBA members who have not been active since 2011 or before count as one point
- Any new member who does not raise elk or raises other deer species counts as ½ point

**When does the contest begin and end?**

The contest begins on November 1 and ends Wednesday, July 30, 2014

**When will the winners be announced?**

On Saturday night of the NAEBA Convention, August 2, 2014

**Is there a minimum amount of points which needs to be achieved to be eligible to win a prize?**

Yes, to be eligible, a member must have no less than 5 accumulated points based on the point system above. The highest point achiever will be considered the top winner, 2<sup>nd</sup> place to the second highest point achiever and 3<sup>rd</sup> place to the third highest. *The top winner gets to choose their choice from the following prizes, 2<sup>nd</sup> place chooses from the two remaining prizes and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, the final remaining prize.*

*Any NAEBA member can participate! The contest ends Wednesday, July 30, 2014. Winners will be announced on Saturday night of the NAEBA Convention, August 2, 2014.*

### CHOOSE FROM THESE GREAT PRIZES!

**MONTANA MULE DEER HUNT** – Donated by Diamond K Elk Ranch, Kim & Cindy Kafka

(5) day Mule Deer Hunt for two people, lodging & meals included, license not included. Hunt will be for 2015.

**SOUTH DAKOTA PHEASANT HUNT** – Donated by Ken & Sandy Branine

Pheasant hunt for (3) people for three days of hunting. Buyer will be responsible for lodging, meals and licenses.

**MONTANA PRAIRIE DOG HUNT** – Donated by Diamond K Elk Ranch, Kim & Cindy Kafka

(4) day Prairie Dog Hunt for 3 guns, no lodging or meals included.

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# North American Elk Breeders Association

DEVELOPING & PROMOTING THE NORTH AMERICAN ELK INDUSTRY

## NAEBA Praises Industry's Accomplishments at USAHA Conference

### *NAEBA Leaders Return Home after Successful Week*

**October 25, 2013, HOWARD LAKE, MN** – NAEBA leaders returned home after what many consider to be one of the most successful USAHA conferences for the industry in recent memory. NAEBA Executive Director Travis Lowe, Board Director Eric Mohlman, and long-time industry veterinarian Dr. Glen Zearth, joined a dozen other industry leaders for five days of committee work attempting to improve the industry's voice and regulations.

NAEBA leaders felt the conference gained several, major accomplishments for the industry. The American Cervid Alliance gained a new USAHA board seat, a resolution was adopted recommending Brucellosis testing requirements for interstate travel for whitetail and mule deer, and resolutions improving TB regulations that also add more cervids to the TB Stat-Pak. In addition, an agreement was made by the USDA to delay the CWD Program Standards from moving forward to public comment while they personally review the document.

Other concepts for potential change were introduced and may receive progress in future conferences. Industry leaders attempted to include elk in the resolution approved by the USAHA membership that exempted whitetail and mule deer for Brucellosis testing requirements for interstate travel, but was too controversial at this time. There was concern due to Brucellosis cases in elk within the Yellowstone area.

NAEBA leaders are excited about this year's accomplishments and look forward to next year's USAHA conference. Travis Lowe said, "This week at USAHA will go a long way in helping the cervid industry improve its voice and ensure our regulations are based on common sense and science. It is so important for NAEBA to be involved with USAHA and we were proud to be there."

Below is a summary of the conference's activity.

## USAHA Conference Considered Overwhelming Success for Cervid Industry

**SAN DIEGO** – After five action-filled days at the United States Animal Health Association conference (USAHA), industry leaders concluded the conference with several successes for the cervid industry. Several industry resolutions were approved that will strengthen the overall voice of our industry and assist in reducing burdens on producers.

During the American Cervid Alliance meeting last week several proposed resolutions were approved by the ACA council members. This approval allowed industry leaders to submit these resolutions to the various committees within USAHA. Once our industry resolutions were approved by various committees, they were then sent to the full USAHA membership where they easily passed.

The American Cervid Alliance's application for a position on the USAHA board of directors was unanimously approved. This now gives the ACA a voice and a vote on all USAHA matters affecting not only the cervid industry, but all agricultural industries as well.

The request for a farmed cervid committee, which was approved by the ACA at last week's council meeting, was presented to the USAHA Executive Committee. A decision will be made within the next few days concerning this request.

The resolutions approved at this year's conference include a resolution that urges the USDA/APHIS to eliminate Brucellosis testing requirements for interstate movement of whitetail deer and mule deer. This will have a great impact on deer producers.

Originally, the ACA Council sought to extend Brucellosis certification requirements from 36 to 60 months. After consulting with several state veterinarians, ACA leaders offered a more encompassing resolution which urged USDA/APHIS to eliminate the Brucellosis testing requirements for whitetail and mule deer.

In the TB committee, a resolution was approved that requests USDA evaluate the Cervid TB Stat-Pak and DPP for use in sika and mule deer. Another TB resolution approved that same day urges USDA to allow a designated TB epidemiologist to consider the herd and animal history in addition to the TB test results when arriving at the final TB classification of a cervid. This could mean the difference between an animal being considered TB negative by the epidemiologist, or having to be killed and necropsied for that determination.

A resolution to extend TB testing intervals from 36 to 60 months was not approved at this time. Several health officials expressed interest for the idea, but only after more TB testing has been completed using the Stat Pak (TB blood test).

USDA/APHIS Deputy Director Dr. John Clifford offered to delay the publication of the CWD Program Standards and offer a personal review of the document. Dr. Clifford was aware of the industry concerns. Because of the offer made by Dr. Clifford, no resolution was offered dealing with the standards.

The attendance at this conference by industry leaders is vital in building strong relationships with state and federal health officials as well as wildlife representatives. Every industry association should consider budgeting for a representative from their respective association to attend next year's conference in Kansas City, Missouri.

The ACA appreciates the time and effort of everyone involved.



**Farmed cervid representatives attending the USAHA Conference**  
**from L to R:** Daryl Simon, Rhonda Brakke, Todd Landt, Curt Waldvogel, Shawn Schafer, Skip West, Dick Winters, Warren Bluntzer, Eric Mohlman, Charly Seale, Travis Lowe, Glen Zebarth, Kyle Wilson, Bill Pittenger, & Laurie Seale.



## USDA to Delay Advancement of CWD Program Standards

### *Dr. John Clifford to Give Personal Review of Standards Document*

**October 23, 2013, SAN DIEGO** – This week, during the United States Animal Health Association annual conference, USDA's Dr. John Clifford announced he would hold the Chronic Wasting Disease Program Standards and offer a personal review of the document prior to releasing them for public comment. The announcement came in a regional meeting of the North Central District after several cervid industry leaders expressed numerous concerns with the document. Dr. Clifford will compare CWD Standards Document 23, which is currently being cleared by USDA for the 90 day public comment period, with an earlier version submitted by cervid industry stakeholders, known as Version 18.

The resolution to urge the USDA to withdraw the Chronic Wasting Disease Program Standards, which was approved by the ACA council, was not offered at the conference because of Dr. Clifford's offer to hold and review them at this time.

During subsequent presentations at the conference updating CWD policy, USDA officials updated and verified their intent to wait until Dr. Clifford's review before offering the document for public comment. As soon as the review is complete and the document is submitted by USDA for public comment, the ACA will meet and discuss the proposed Program Standards and industry's response. "We are thankful for this opportunity and sincerely appreciate Dr. Clifford offering to personally review the document", says Charly Seale, an ACA council member.

## New 'Farmed Cervid Sub-Committee' Approved by USAHA Exec Committee

**Nov. 6, 2013, AYR, NE** – During the annual United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) conference, the creation of a new sub-committee within USAHA was approved by the Executive Committee. The new "Subcommittee on Farmed Cervids", will officially begin at the 2014 USAHA Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. This will be a subcommittee within the Captive Wildlife and Alternative Livestock Committee, with is currently the official committee charged with addressing issues within the deer industry.

The idea of a separate committee for farmed cervids was proposed and endorsed by the American Cervid Alliance Leadership Council before leaders arrived in San Diego last month. ACA leaders, during their council meeting, believed that having a separate committee that addressed only cervid issues at USAHA would be a tremendous benefit for the industry. The USAHA Executive Committee decided to start with a farmed cervid sub-committee and asked ACA leaders, who were at the conference, for input on possible committee members. As an additional benefit to the cervid industry, there will be three co-chairs of the subcommittee, two of which will be state agriculture veterinarians and one representative from the cervid industry. This marks the first time the cervid industry will have an opportunity to have any type of its own forum and be able to co-chair a USAHA sub-committee.

The leadership of the subcommittee is as follows:

- Dr. Paul Anderson, State Veterinarian, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Co-Chairman
- Dr. Bret Marsh, State Veterinarian, Indiana Department of Agriculture, Co-Chairman
- Charly Seale, Executive Director, Exotic Wildlife Association, Co-Chairman

The balance of the subcommittee members will be released in the near future.

The subcommittee's purpose will be to provide a national forum to (1) discuss scientific, regulatory and political issues affecting the cervidae industry, (2) evaluate state and federal regulatory programs, (3) develop effective programs that contribute to the growth and prosperity of the farmed cervidae industry.

Cervid leaders were elated to hear that the Executive Committee had approved the new sub-committee. Todd Landt, an ACA councilman representing the Iowa Whitetail Deer Association, stated, "This is my second year attending the USAHA Conference and I can't stress how important this sub-committee will be to our industry. USAHA is very important and now we can move to have more in-depth discussions regarding issues affecting our industry."

The American Cervid Alliance is thankful to USAHA for the opportunity.

## **ACA Council Convenes to Assess Federal CWD Reform Possibilities** *Claims USAHA Trip a Success; Looks for Options to Assist States with Border Issues*

**November 18, 2013, AYR, NE** – The American Cervid Alliance Leadership Council convened Monday, November 18, 2013, to review the USAHA conference and discuss options in regards to Federal CWD policy and state border closings.

The council examined possible scenarios that could exist in regards to the CWD Program Standards. In San Diego at the USAHA conference, Dr. John Clifford said the final version of standards, known as Version 23, was ready for public comment. After several concerns from industry leaders, Dr. Clifford offered to hold the advancement of the standards and offered to give a personal review and compare to Version 18. Version 18 was the version crafted by cervid industry representatives and state veterinarians last April. ACA council members speculated there could only be a few possible outcomes: Dr. Clifford could send Version 23 forward to public comment, create a blend of Version 23 and Version 18 and then move forward, or ask for a new document to be re-drafted. Council leaders discussed the pros and cons of each scenario.

Clint Patty and Kevin Fowler of the ACA's law firm on retainer were on the call to answer questions from council members regarding various scenarios that could potentially occur. Travis Lowe, who takes notes and minutes of the council meetings, is distributing a complete list of the scenarios for the members to share with their home association board of directors. Moderator Eric Mohlman advised the council members to start discussion with their home boards to know how they feel about each scenario.

The ACA recapped the recent border shutdown to CWD-susceptible cervid species in New York and discussion centered around whether or not shutting down interstate commerce was legal. The council also received updates on the pending wild elk relocation project from Kentucky to Wisconsin. Cervid leaders feel Wisconsin's importation of wild elk should be held to the same importation requirements as farmed cervids. Rhonda Brakke gave an update that the second Iowa legal case with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources is currently underway.

Discussion was held on the ongoing assault of inaccurate negative press in Missouri by conservation groups seeking to shut down borders to cervid movement into that state. Travis Lowe stated at the cervid leaders/USDA meeting in September in Washington DC, that USDA/APHIS was asked to help with messaging to the state agriculture and conservation agencies. Lowe, representing the Kansas Cervid Breeders Association, stated the KCBA is preparing to send a letter to Dr. TJ Myers of USDA/APHIS requesting the USDA to help reinforce that there is no science to prove that CWD has had any significant impact on wild deer populations. A motion was made by Charly Seale, representing the Exotic Wildlife Association, for the ACA to draft a letter to be sent to Dr. TJ Myers requesting USDA/APHIS to assist by offering a positive statement to the Missouri agencies, and encourage ACA member associations to do the same. Donald Hill, councilman for the Missouri Whitetail Deer & Hunting Ranch Association, seconded the motion and stated his association would greatly welcome the help. The Seale motion was unanimously adopted.

ACA leaders extolled the recent trip to San Diego for the United States Animal Health Association conference as a huge success. Almost all of the proposed objectives previously approved by the council had been accomplished. ACA Leaders stressed the importance of USAHA and urged state associations to budget for a representative next year. Charly Seale told the council, "As an industry we would not have the opportunities we had this year if our industry did not have several representatives attend the conference. We need more faces under their own state association flag to press our issues with key decision makers." Next year's USAHA conference is in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Editor's Note:** At the request of the American Cervid Alliance, MnEBA drafted and sent out the following letter to USDA/APHIS requesting assistance to Missouri cervid producers regarding potential border closure to farmed cervid imports.



# MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

November 19, 2013

Dr. TJ Myers  
Associate Deputy Administrator  
Room 317-E Whitten Building  
1400 SW Independence Avenue  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Dr. Myers,

As you are most likely aware, several states including Florida and New York have recently closed their borders to the importation of farmed cervidae due to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) concerns. The state of Missouri is currently in the process of considering a similar closure. Much of the reason for this overreaction to CWD stems from misinformation by wildlife and conservation groups to policy makers and the general public about the impacts of CWD to the state's wild deer population and economy. The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association (MnEBA) would respectfully request USDA/APHIS to assist Missouri cervidae producers in accurate, scientific messaging regarding the possible closure of the Missouri border to farmed cervidae importation.

MnEBA represents elk farmers in the state of Minnesota and is very active on the national level as well. We are also members of the American Cervid Alliance (ACA). It was brought to our attention that in a meeting which took place on September 18, 2013 in Washington DC, between USDA/APHIS officials and industry representatives, that it was the desire of USDA/APHIS to partner with and support the farmed cervid industry. We sincerely appreciate the support of USDA/APHIS and are hopeful that you can and will respond to this request for assistance.

To our knowledge, there is no science to support that CWD has had or will have an impact on wild deer populations or wipe out a state's economy. We would respectfully ask that USDA/APHIS make a statement to the Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri Department of Agriculture to the effect that USDA policy in regard to CWD is now control, not eradication (as stated on record by Dr. Clifford) and that there is no evidence to prove CWD will "wipe out a state's economy" or "devastate the wild cervid population." It simply has not done that in any state in which CWD has been discovered. The state of Colorado stands as a great testament to that fact as CWD has been known to be present since the mid 1960's and their wild cervid population and state economy are thriving.

The closing of the Missouri border would not only have a devastating effect on Missouri farmed cervid producers, but on Minnesota producers as well. Farmed elk and deer are frequently shipped to the state of Missouri from the state of Minnesota.

There is simply no factual basis for these closures. It would be tremendously helpful to the farmed cervid industry if USDA/APHIS could make a public statement, or create a public press release stating their position on the validity of the concerns causing these state closures. Having accurate information available from a credible agency such as USDA/APHIS would be very important in helping state legislators and policy makers avoid making uneducated decisions and putting cervid breeders around the country out of business with no credible justification.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,  
Mark Lucas, President  
Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

**North American Elk Breeders Association  
&  
Iowa Elk Breeders Association & Iowa Whitetail Deer Association**

## 2014 February Fling

February 21, 2014  
Honey Creek Resort  
12633 Resort Drive  
Moravia, IA 52571

NAEBA would like to invite all elk enthusiasts to come join us for an entertaining and informative day. In continuing with the tradition of teaming up with a state association to hold a winter meeting that is accessible as well as affordable, NAEBA has joined with the Iowa Elk Breeders & Iowa Whitetail Deer Association annual conference. In working together it allows all members the best opportunity to learn or exchange new ideas, socialize, and make new friends. Make sure to check out the Iowa Whitetail Deer Association at [www.iawhitetaildeerassociation.com](http://www.iawhitetaildeerassociation.com) for their meeting schedule of events on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and make a weekend out of it. There will several worthwhile presentations both days! A BIG THANKS goes out to the Iowa Elk Breeders & Iowa Whitetail Deer Associations for making this joint event possible!

The Registration Form for this event will be available soon! Please see the January 2014 NAEBA Newsletter or go to [www.naelk.org](http://www.naelk.org) for more information.

### Schedule of Events

Friday, February 21, 2014

10:30- 11:30	NAEBA Board Meeting ( <i>Tentative</i> )
12:00-1:00	Registration
1:00- 2:00	SEMINAR- EHD and Its Growing Effect on Elk- <i>Speaker TBD</i>
2:00- 3:00	SEMINAR- Marketing Elk Meat- <i>By Henry Bohlen, Karen Thuerlauf &amp; Greg Kenyon</i>
3:00-3:30	Break
3:30-4:30	SEMINAR- Industry Issues & Goals Roundtable- <i>Moderator Travis Lowe</i>
4:30- 5:30	Iowa Elk Breeders Association Membership Meeting
5:30-6:00	Cash Bar Opens
6:00- 7:00	Dinner
7:00- 8:00	Benefit Semen Auction
8:00	Hospitality Room



#### NAEBA

**North American Elk Breeders Association**

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[gnkenyon@gmail.com](mailto:gnkenyon@gmail.com)



#### IWDA

**Iowa Whitetail Deer Association**

Todd Landt, President  
641-330-1416  
[tllandt@landolakes.com](mailto:tllandt@landolakes.com)

## MnEBA Officer Blog by Wade Schimmelpfennig

Hello fellow members,

As always, Old Man Winter seems to be upon us once again. If any of you are like me, he always seems to arrive before I have gotten my pre-winter farm projects completed. The snow fences need to be assembled, waterers need to be cleaned, hay needs to be purchased, etc. By now the calves should be weaned, harvest ranch bulls should be shipped, registration and transfer papers should be mailed, and the breeding bull should be pulled.

One nice thing that I have noticed is the lower price of corn has started to reflect on the feed bill. The price of hay appears to be staying high, at least from local producers. I have been finding that some good quality hay can be found at reasonable prices, even after shipping has been included, from out of state producers.

I just talked to Brenda and she says that calendars are selling, but there are a bunch still remaining in the office. According to her records we have over 100 more calendars in the office than we did at this same time a year ago. If you can sell a few more, I'm sure she can get them mailed out to you. Remember, this is our biggest fund raiser and anyone who sells 30 calendars or more and returns stubs and money for them before December 31 gets a free annual membership.

I look forward to seeing you all in January in St. Cloud. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Wade Schimmelpfennig



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## NEWS RELEASE: Wednesday November 27, 2013

Contact: Brenda Hartkopf, Minnesota Elk Breeders Association, 320-543-2686

### Pine River Army Veteran Harvests Bull Elk

**Minnesota Elk Breeders Association (MnEBA), November 27, 2013** – Dan Walberg, a disabled veteran of the United States Army from Pine River, Minnesota, recently experienced a day unlike any other as the recipient of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt. The hunt took place on November 7, 2013 and was coordinated by MnEBA and generously sponsored by Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch, Lake Superior Chapter of Safari Club International (SCI), Midwest Outdoors Unlimited, Black Velvet Elk Ranch, Mike Kettenacker and Splendor Ridge Elk Farm.

Dan Walberg served in the U.S. Army from 1965-1969. In those four short years, Dan served three tours overseas in Vietnam, Korea and Panama. He was wounded in Korea resulting in total hip disability. In Panama, Dan served as an instructor on escape and evasion. He has breathing difficulties to this day as a result of a faulty gas mask.

These hardships have not lessened Dan's willingness to continue serving his country. He is a lifetime member of the American Legion, VFW and DAV and has also served in the capacity of color guard for all three organizations for the past 13 years. He is a past Senior Vice for American Legion Post 49, Past Commander and now Senior Vice in DAV Post 22 and also Past Junior Vice and currently serves as Senior Vice for VFW Post 3839.

As Dan made the trek to Baudette and Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch in the early morning hours of November 7<sup>th</sup>, excitement was building on what promised to be very special day. Later that morning, Dan, assisted by Ron Welle and Leroy Wiener from Midwest Outdoors Unlimited along with guide Tony Beckel, began their search for the elusive bull elk. Five hours later, after making nearly a full circle, they spotted the beautiful 7x7 bull along a ridge in the brush. They got into position and Dan took the animal in one shot. Guide Tony Beckel later explained, "My main man (Dan) made a pretty decent shot from about 75 yards. He got him down with one shot and just had to do one more final shot in the end." Tony further echoed the sentiment of the whole group, "It was a pretty good day today. It didn't rain on us, didn't snow on us and the sun is shining."

After taking a few pictures to remember the day by, Dan took a moment to thank all those who helped make this day a reality for him. "I want to thank Brian and Mike for donating this beautiful bull, SCI Lake Superior Chapter for food, lodging, my travel and processing of the meat, Tony here, Brenda and Lance Hartkopf for the antler mount and Ron Welle and Leroy Wiener for helping me get here today. Thank you very much." Dan is known as a man of few words, but his broad smile said it all, this was a good day!

Tony summed up the feelings of all the donors to this adventure by saying, "I want to thank Dan for all his years of service. If it wasn't for you, we wouldn't be able to do the things like we're doing right now. We had a pretty good hunt today!" Mike Kettenacker, President/CEO of Innovative Laboratory Systems based out of Rockford, MN, wanted to get involved in a great project. He shared a similar sentiment, "I just want to give back to those who allow us to enjoy the freedoms we have today."

MnEBA offers our heartfelt thanks, support and gratitude to Dan and to all United States military men and women for their service to our country.



# MnEBA Kitchen

## Mexican Stuffed Shells

16 oz. jar picante sauce  
 8 oz. can tomato sauce  
 ½ cup water  
 22 large pasta shells  
 1 lb. ground elk

Salt & pepper to taste  
 16 oz. pkg. shredded cheddar/jack cheese  
 1 can French fried onions  
 4 oz. can mild green chilies



Cook shells in large pot of salted water. Drain. Combine picante sauce, tomato sauce and water. Set aside. Brown ground elk with and season with small amount of salt and pepper. Turn off heat. While hot, add ½ pkg. cheese, ½ can fried onions and chilies. Add ½ cup sauce mixture and set aside.

Put ½ remaining sauce in bottom of a 9x13" pan. Stuff shells with meat mixture and arrange in pan. Cover shells with remaining sauce. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Uncover and add remaining cheese and fried onions. Return to oven for 5 minutes and serve.

## MnEBA Annual Conference ~ January 10-11, 2014 River's Edge Convention Center/Best Western Plus Kelly Inn St. Cloud, MN

*You won't want to miss it!!!*

- ⇒ Great seminars and speakers to help you manage your farm more effectively!
- ⇒ The opportunity to network with buyers of meat, velvet and shooter bulls. You might even find someone looking for breeding stock!
- ⇒ The chance to visit with other elk producers and find out how they are dealing with high feed prices. You may even find a lead on a good hay deal!
- ⇒ Annual meeting where you can get more involved and discuss what issues are important to you and your business so that MnEBA can better serve its members!
- ⇒ See if you or someone you sold a calendar to will win a gun in the MnEBA Gun Raffle drawing!
- ⇒ Fundraising games to win great cash & prizes including Deal or No Deal!
- ⇒ Great food and hospitality!
- ⇒ You don't have to be a current member to attend. All are welcome!

**Your fundraising items are needed!**  
 Please consider bringing an item or two for the Silent or Live Auction. Any and all items are needed!  
 Theme baskets are also encouraged!

**See insert to this mailing for more information on the schedule and speakers.**

**Guest Room Reservations:** Best Western Kelly Inn, (320) 253-0606. Mention "MEBA14" to receive the discounted rate of \$95/night. This room block will be released on December 27<sup>th</sup>. You will want to make sure to make your reservations before that time as there is another larger convention overlapping MnEBA's at the convention center, so the demand on guest rooms will be high that weekend!

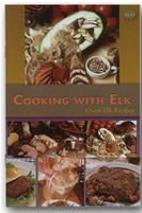
## Elk Marketing Promotional Materials

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 any 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

## **Vet Corner** by Glen Zebarth, DVM

*This month's Vet Corner features a couple of interesting things coming out of the publication Wool & Wottles, the American Association of Small Ruminant Practices (AASRP) Newsletter, July-September 2013, Volume 41, Issue 3*

### **Reproductive Cycles of Deer**

*Manipulation of the cycles of gregarious temperate species is relatively easy.*

There are over 40 species and 200 subspecies of deer. They can be roughly divided into r-strategy species that maximize the reproductive capacity of individuals and potential growth rate of the population, and k-strategy species that maximize the competitive ability of the individuals and the stability of the population. The r-strategies exhibit multiple births, early sexual maturation (< 1 year) and a short breeding life (< 10 years). They are typically browsers or concentrate feeders and are adapted to early successional habitats. Examples include the white-tailed deer, moose, and numerous tropical, forest-dwelling deer. The k-strategy species have lower fecundity (single births) and later sexual maturity (> 1 year) and do well in late-successional or climax habitats. They are gregarious mixed grazers/browsers and adapt well to domestication. Examples include red deer, wapiti, sika deer, reindeer and caribou. These are the species whose reproductive cycles have received the most research. They also are amenable to artificial insemination and embryo transfer techniques to manipulate the genetic composition of the population.

Species of northern temperate or arctic origin are under photoperiod control and typically conceive in the fall and calve in the summer and they show a 6 month phase change if transferred across the equator. Species with a longer gestation length breed earlier in the fall, to still calve in summer. The Pere David deer is an exception. It has a long gestation length (280 days) and breeds in early summer, to calve in late spring. Different subspecies of red deer raised in New Zealand can show a 2 to 3 week difference in rut and calving periods, even when raised on the same farm. Species of tropical origin are relatively seasonal, but some show reverse seasonality if transferred across the equator. In the absence of photoperiodic rhythms, their reproductive patterns may have evolved in response to seasonal availability of food times or predation pressure, factors often related to rainfall patterns.

The sambar deer and chital deer in Nepal live in the same habitat but fawn 6 months out of phase with each other. Cervids are usually polyestrous, with some tropical species showing continuously repeated estrus cycles while temperate species typically alternate periods of oestrus cyclicity and anestrus. Red deer and fallow deer typically express 5 to 8 cycles. The transition to the breeding season is characterized by silent ovulations and short-lived corpora lutes. The average duration of the estrous cycle is 17 days in axis deer, 18-20 days in red deer, 21-23 days in fallow deer and 24-27 days in moose and black-tailed deer. In red deer and fallow deer, overt estrus correlates with the preovulatory LH surge and is generally terminated immediately after successful copulation. Maximum blood concentration of progesterone occurs at between 10 and 16 days of the cycle. In red deer, fallow deer and wapiti, 2 to 4 waves of dominant follicles have been observed in estrous cycle, as in cattle. Progestogens can be used to stimulate a luteal cycle and prostaglandins can be used to control luteal longevity. Red deer hinds have high conception rate (>85% per mated estrus) and <1% early embryonic loss. In red deer and white-tailed deer, the corpus luteum is known to be required to maintain the pregnancy. The roe deer is the only ruminant species to exhibit delayed implantation.

Cervid gestation lengths range from 200-280 days. In some studies, deer fed reduced nutrients in the last trimester of pregnancy exhibited a longer gestation length, presumably to optimize birth weight. However, in red deer, hinds conceiving early in the season have a longer gestation while those conceiving late have a shorter gestation period. A change of 10 days in conception date may result in a 2 to 5 day change in gestation length. Relatively little is known about the reproductive cycles of the aseasonal tropical species, many of which are threatened with extinction.

G.W. Asher  
Animal Reproduction Science, 124:170-175, 2011

**VET CORNER by Glen Zebarth, DVM continued** – There have been some recent questions about the effectiveness of using Ivomec Plus as a treatment for both worms and liver flukes. It is my understanding that Ivomec Plus is not as effective in treating liver flukes in elk as Valbazen. A producer would need to use Ivomec Plus at three times the recommend dosage to have an effect on liver flukes in elk. This is not very cost effective.

Here is another viewpoint on treatment of liver flukes in elk from AASRP-L Question and Answer – Treating Liver Fluke in Elk (Wools & Wattles)

**QUESTION:** Trying to treat some liver flukes in elk. Large herd in large area of northern Wisconsin. No facilities. Searches have come up with 3 possible products. Ivomec Plus as injectable – can it be given orally as no way to capture and treat? Valbazen – oral but how effective is it for flukes? Curatrem (clorsulon) which my contact w/one supplier said has been discontinued. What is being used and how is it being dosed?

**ANSWER:** Regarding the fluke situation in Northern Wisconsin, *Fascioloides magna* (deer fluke) was the focus of considerable research by Dr. Bill Foreyt in the 1970's. He found that *F. magna* was the only fluke present at that time in Northern Wisconsin and that Valbazen was 90% effective in deer at 15 mg/kg.

*F. magna* is probably the only fluke present at this time in this region. The label contraindication for use of Valbazen in pregnant animals should probably be observed in female elk. The Valbazen label dose is 10 mg/kg so the Foreyt work does indicate a higher doses when treating animals with *F. magna*.

Gil Myers, Magnolia, Kentucky



## Elk Wanted

Midwest Outdoors Unlimited is a non-profit organization providing outdoor recreational activities for Disabled American Veterans, disabled individuals and disabled youth in Minnesota.

We continually receive requests for elk hunts and are looking to purchase elk from breeders in Minnesota to fulfill these needs! These elk do not have to have perfect antlers. If you have a bull with damaged antler, or that is too small for your market, give us a call! We will take cows as well. We'd love to work with you!

Currently, we are looking to purchase a bull with any kind of rack, spiker through mature, for a terminally ill 40 year old man who has been given 6 months to live. This is an immediate situation where we need to find an animal quickly. We'd also like to have 1 or 2 others on hand for when the need arises.

Please contact Ron Welle of Midwest Outdoors Unlimited @ 320-260-6023 if you can help!

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## Final MnEBA 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memory...



### 2000 NAEBE Annual Convention Group Picture of MnEBA Members!

*One of the best MnEBA memories ever! This photo was taken at the 2000 NAEBE Convention at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Every person on the picture was a Minnesota elk producer who had attended the convention. There were still other Minnesota producers who were there for portions of the conference but were not available for the picture! Were you there?*

## 2014 MnEBA Summer Picnic LOOKING FOR A HOST!

Looking for a host for the 2014 MnEBA Summer Picnic.  
Date yet to be determined, but typically takes place in mid-late July.

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

## Committee Reports

### 2014 MnEBA Board Elections

This is the year where only one director position expires. Brian Wagner's board position will be up for re-election at the upcoming MnEBA Annual Conference on January 11<sup>th</sup> at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud. Brian has been a tremendous asset on the MnEBA board. 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](mailto:indianhillselk@mainstreetcom.com).

### MnEBA Web Site Updates

It has been 10 years since MnEBA's web site had major work done to it and the functionality is outdated! A task team has been assembled to form ideas for what content to add, keep or eliminate. More importantly, the committee is looking at moving into the social media arena with Facebook to bring even more attention to Minnesota elk and the great products we all produce!

First and foremost, the committee looked at data from the past three years looking for the ten most researched pages. They discovered that 5 of the top 10 pages viewed had to do with meat, and another 3 of the top 10 pages were related to a membership directory page. Those two areas have become a special focus of interest for the updated site. The other main objective of this project is to make sure that when a consumer comes to the MnEBA web site looking for members who sell any variety of elk products, they can find the products they're looking for and who sells them in one or two clicks! The site already contains a ton of good info, the committee is just looking to have it redesigned into a new, more mobile, social, user friendly way.

Committee members include Jim Byrne, Mark Lucas, Mark Luedtke, Kaye Zebarth and Brenda Hartkopf. If you have thoughts or ideas to share, contact any of the committee members with your suggestions!

*Thank You!*



*Thank you to all the Minnesota elk breeders who sent Helena & I their greetings and well wishes on a card signed at the MnEBA summer picnic and NAEBA convention. It meant the world to us and we really appreciated your warm thoughts!*

*Sincerely, Cliff & Helena Mulder*

### Board Terms

Mark Lucas, <i>President</i>	Term ends 2016
Jim Byrne, <i>Vice President</i>	Term ends 2015
Brian Wagner, <i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Term ends 2014
Wade Schimmelpfennig, <i>Director</i>	Term ends 2016
Richard Zajac, <i>Director</i>	Term ends 2015

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**Thank you for your support!**

## 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 10 – 11, 2014** – MnEBA Annual Conference, Best Western Plus Kelly Inn/Rivers Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud, MN

**February 21, 2014** – NAEBA February Fling, Honey Creek Resort, Moravia, IA

**March 7 – 9, 2014** – Minnesota Deer Classic, National Sports Center, Blaine, MN

**July 31 – August 2, 2014** – NAEBA Annual Conference & International Antler Competition, Harrah's, North Kansas City, MO

**August 21 – September 1, 2014** – MN State Fair, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

## Classified Ads

**Wanted:** Grande Natural needs Elk or Whitetails for meat delivered to Crescent Meats, Cadott, WI. We will meet or beat the competition on the rail price. Looking for fleshy critters 3 years and older on cows, 3 years and younger on bulls. Call 719-657-0942 or email [Rich@elkusa.com](mailto:Rich@elkusa.com).

**Wanted:** Grande Natural buys Elk Hard Antler for \$10.00 per lb on browns, \$7 for good hard whites, and we will pay UPS shipping if you can cut them up and pack them. Call Rich at (719) 580-0661, or email [Rich@elkusa.com](mailto:Rich@elkusa.com).

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

**For Sale:** Distributor for Franklin Waterers, energy efficient PC & AP Models, also standard waterers. Rely on Franklin Waterers. Bale feeders available. Contact Jay at (507) 458-7970.

**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.

**Wanted:** Looking for a future herdsire, breeding stock and a used semen tank. You can e-mail me at [bruce@kruegerlumber.com](mailto:bruce@kruegerlumber.com). Or at (920) 772-4487 in the evening.

**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

9086 Keats Avenue SW  
Howard Lake, MN 55349