



Special Interest Articles:

- 2016 Annual Conference to Feature Today's Hot Topics
- Board Meeting Minutes
- Waseca Native Veteran Harvests Bull Elk
- In the News
- Board Blog
- Vet Corner
- Committee Reports

President's Message by Mark Lucas



Good Day All!

For this newsletter, I am going to deviate from my normal ramblings and focus on one item—the 2016 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. Since we have been using the gun raffle calendar as a main fundraiser for our organization, we have never sold out completely. This year's goal is to do just that. Sell out all 750 calendars. While 750 may not sound like a lot, we cannot do it without everyone doing their part. We all benefit in one way or another. To summarize the benefits and reasons to do your part, I thought a David Letterman style Top 10 list would be appropriate.

Top 10 reasons to sell all the MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendars as I possibly can.....

- #10 We shouldn't let Wade Schimmelpfennig have all the glory for being top salesperson so often.
- #9 Proceeds help fund FFA Blue Jacket donations.
- #8 Raises awareness of our elk industry and the products we produce.
- #7 Brenda's copy machine needs replacing once in a while.
- #6 Scholarship funds for MnEBA members kids and grandkids.
- #5 Sell 30 and get the funds to the office by December 31 - Free MnEBA membership for you!
- #4 Did I mention we can't let Wade be top salesman so often?
- #3 Your name goes in the hat for Ruger 204 American Predator Rifle drawing, once for each 10 calendars sold. (Funds in by December 31st to qualify.)
- #2 Funding for the annual charitable elk hunt for a U.S. disabled Veteran.

And the #1 reason to sell all the MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar's as I possibly can....

Help reach our goal of selling out all 750 as we have never done before!

I checked with our gun supplier and he had a heck of a time, taking over 6 months, to get his hands on this Ruger American Predator for us. It is a very hot item. This is a new added incentive to members this year thanks to a charitable donor. So take your MnEBA raffle calendars to work or wherever and get them sold. Each 10 sold puts your name in the hat for this drawing once, provided the funds are in to the office by December 31.



Cordially,
Mark Lucas, MnEBA President

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

Board of Directors

President

Mark Lucas
(952) 467-3303

Vice President

Jim Byrne
(507) 358-6505

Secretary/Treasurer

Brian Wagner
(320) 543-2818

Director

Wade Schimmelpfennig
(612) 600-3888

Director

Greg Lubinski
(507) 273-0525

Executive Secretary to the Board

Brenda Hartkopf
(320) 543-2686

2016 MnEBA Annual Conference to Feature Today's Hot Topics!

The upcoming MnEBA Annual Conference at the Willmar Conference Center in Willmar, MN on Saturday January 9th promises something for everyone! Each seminar is geared towards today's hot topics:

NAEBA Registration/DNA Training – With the shortage of elk products in all markets and prices at all-time highs, there's more demand for registered elk for both breeding stock sales and the newly expanded opportunities to sell trophy bulls to Idaho. Many breeders are behind in their registrations and purity and are wondering how to "catch up". This seminar will help answer those questions and others which have come up in the past year.

MN Board of Animal Health Updates – Dr. Paul Anderson will update everyone on current events and also discuss accomplishments made at the 2015 USAHA Conference this past October.

Shortage of Elk Meat Roundtable – MnEBA members in every part of the state are having a difficult time keeping up with the interest for elk meat from their usual restaurants and customers let alone new customers, and are at a loss to let people know where they can find elk meat. This roundtable setting will discuss as a group what might be done to help fulfill more orders as the industry attempts to rebuild the available supply of elk meat to consumers.

Maintaining Healthy Elk – Dr. Glen Zebarth will be on hand to discuss how to make sure our herd health maintenance programs are up to date to avoid some of the more frequent herd problems he's been seeing over the past year.

Valuing Elk in Today's Market – With breeding stock interest picking up over the past few years, many breeders are finding themselves in the position of trying to price their animals. Because there are very few auctions to base a meaningful price from, neither buyers nor sellers know what the prices should be. This seminar will explore valuing elk based on their production levels and attempt to put a credible market value on your breeding stock.

Being better informed in today's market can put real dollars in your pocket! Don't shortchange yourself; know what your animals and the products they produce are worth! Make sure you're up to date on the latest herd health problems so you can maintain a healthy herd and make the most of today's markets. Attending this year's conference will help you capitalize on the opportunities which lie before all of us! *See conference insert in this newsletter and register today!*

Your fundraising donations are needed!

Please bring an item or two to donate to this year's conference fundraisers. Your donations help raise much needed funds to continue the important projects of the association and development of the industry! They also bring variety to the usual fundraisers!

Could everyone bring at least one item?

Any and all donations would be greatly appreciated!

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.

Board Meeting Minutes

Conference Call October 7, 2015

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a phone conference on October 7, 2015. Mark Lucas, Jim Byrne, Brian Wagner, Wade Schimmelpfennig, Greg Lubinski and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Lucas began the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Lucas asked for corrections to the April 20th board meeting minutes as presented. Byrne moved to approve, Lubinski seconded, motion carried. The treasurer's report was then reviewed and showed a balance of \$23, 273.12. Byrne moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented, Wagner seconded, motion carried.

Hartkopf reported that meat sales at the State Fair were down but dog chew sales were up. Left over sausage is being sold at the close-out price of \$8.00 each with 40 chubs remaining. However, overall profit was up over last year as Greg & Roxy Lubinski donated an animal to be processed into sausage and jerky for meat sales at the State Fair booth. There were many positive comments made about the booth improvements.

Board considered list of possible topics for the 2016 MnEBA Annual Conference. Hartkopf to follow up with committee and potential speakers. Also discussed fundraising ideas.

Board reviewed a new promotional piece which highlights the markets and need for more elk to fulfill consumer demand for elk products. Hartkopf to work through list of changes and send out new proof.

Discussed MnEBA members who are attending the upcoming USAHA convention. Two members, Mark Luedtke and Glen Zearth plan to attend. Byrne moved to proceed with the \$1,500 budget allocation to be split equally between each member attending the convention and to revisit the designated budget allocation at the next budget

meeting. Lubinski seconded, motion carried. Wagner opposed. Board requests a verbal report be given by the USAHA attendees MnEBA is sponsoring, to the membership at the upcoming MnEBA conference.

Discussed finding a new hunting/fishing show to exhibit at in the spring. Do not want to go back to the Deer Classic. Decision made to look at other options.

Hartkopf reported there are 646 calendars in the hands of members to sell. There are 4 new sellers so far this year. There is a request for the final 100. Hartkopf to contact any members who sold last year who haven't yet ordered their calendars to make sure everyone who would like to sell calendars receives them.

Hartkopf reported all is ready for the 2015 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt which is scheduled to take place next week.

Discussed calling former MnEBA members who still raise elk as well as other elk producers in the database who have never been a member, to encourage them to become members of MnEBA. Lucas and Hartkopf presented a template of discussion points and the board made several other recommendations. Hartkopf to send out revised discussion template along with the list of names to call. Board members to choose names and report back to board so people aren't receiving multiple calls. There are 49 names on the list.

Byrne moved to adjourn, Wagner seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

MnEBA Offers Special Thanks!

Several members have given of their time, abilities and special donations to help serve the elk industry and MnEBA. In this season of thanksgiving, we especially thank you for your outstanding dedication to the industry!

Greg & Roxy Lubinski – Donated a whole animal to be used in the meat products sold at the Minnesota State Fair.

Paul & Lynn Hueg – Donated new signage and table cloths for the MnEBA State Fair booth.

Dr. Glen Zearth & Mark Luedtke – Attended the recent USAHA meeting in Rhode Island on behalf of MnEBA, partially sponsored by MnEBA.

Tony Beckel – Donated use of his facility and guide services to sponsor hunt for disabled veteran Tom Block on MnEBA's recent 2015 Charitable Elk Hunt. **Lance & Brenda Hartkopf** and **Mike Kettenacker (Innovative Lab Systems)** purchased the bull. **Klint Wylie** donated hauling of the bull to the Baudette facility. **Ron Welle (Midwest Outdoors Unlimited)** made arrangements for the hunt, accompanied Tom on the trip and donated funds to create a shoulder mount. The **Lake Superior SCI Chapter** donated funds to cover food, lodging, travel and meat processing.



NEWS RELEASE: Thursday November 18, 2015

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

Waseca Native Veteran Harvests Bull Elk

Minnesota Elk Breeders Association (MnEBA), November 18, 2015 – Each year, MnEBA selects a veteran with Minnesota ties, to be the recipient of a unique opportunity to harvest a majestic bull elk in the beautiful Lake of the Woods area of northern Minnesota. Sergeant Tom Block, a disabled veteran of the United States Army, who grew up in Waseca, Minnesota, was this year's special recipient. The hunt took place on October 9, 2015 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, Splendor Ridge Elk Farm, Mike Kettenacker of Innovative Lab Systems and Wolf Creek Elk Ranch.

Sergeant Tom Block was a U.S. Army Ranger from the 3rd Battalion, 75th Regiment who served in southern Afghanistan. He was seriously injured in October of 2013 when a suicide bomber blew herself up in front of him while his battalion was conducting a night raid where their mission was to prevent terrorists from targeting high-ranking Afghan officials. Block lost his right eye and most of his vision in the other, sustained severe leg injuries and suffered multiple shrapnel wounds and burns across his entire body.

Block, who now lives in Alabama, has battled back from his injuries, using this entire experience to make him a better person. "It defines me now... It's a part of me as much as my beating heart," he says. Tom now speaks at leadership courses, mentors fellow wounded servicemen and serves as a motivational speaker. "I'm not going to let this be an excuse to hold me back. That's going to be the example I'm going to set for everyone around me, and hopefully I can inspire; motivate in any way possible."

Tom's incredible spirit helped earn him the *Army Time's* "Soldier of the Year" award in 2014, an honor voted on by his peers. Ron Welle of Midwest Outdoors Unlimited, who accompanied Tom on his hunt, also noted Tom's infectious spirit. "When I get to accompany disabled veterans who are so inspirational, that's what this is all about. You picked a really great one for this hunt."

The morning of the hunt dawned bright and beautiful for Tom and his step father Tim Collins, who also accompanied him on his trip. Although Tom's personal rifle got stranded back at the Atlanta airport, his step dad brought a spare, just in case. Shortly after lunch, they came across an elk cow, and not too far away, he found his prize. Even without his usual firearm, he quickly dispatched the bull, as well as the cow. Tom had a fantastic experience! After the hunt, he wrote, "We had a great time! One heck of an experience. I wish I could have kept hunting! My dad also had a blast!! Very excited to get it (the meat and mount) back! Thanks again!"

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



U.S. Army Ranger Veteran Tom Block (left) with his step father, Tim Collins.

STYX GENETICS ARE ON FIRE



- 626" at only 5-years-old with his actual spread of 61 5/8" unofficial
- 595 4/8" Official 1st place 2015 NAEBA 5-Year-Old NT
- Styx had 11 2-year-olds on our farm in 2015 - 3 cut 20+ lb.; 3 were grown out and scored 473", 431" and 427"; the other five were all over 16.95 lb. (Unofficial)
- This is the kind of genetic consistency that can have a real dollar and cents impact on a farm's program.



TINY

473" Styx 2-Year-Old Unofficial Special thanks to Herb Fritch of Two Feathers Elk & Bison for his purchase of Tiny. Make semen inquiries to Mohlman Elk Farm who retains 1/2 semen rights.



STRYKER

550" Styx 3-Year-Old Unofficial

MIDAS

475" Typical Styx 4-Year-Old Unofficial

DIESEL

431" Styx 2-Year-Old Unofficial
395" Typical frame at just 2 Unofficial



2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015
Velvet Premier Breeder Award Winner



2015 Non-Typical Hard Antler
Premier Breeder Award Winner
1st Two Class Winner in the Same Year

Eric, Kim, Chase and Kyra Mohlman

4985 West Blue Hill Road, Ayr, NE 68925 • 402-469-1831 • mohlmnelk@gtmc.net

In The News

Chronic Wasting Disease Vaccine Fails Elk Test

by Angus M. Thuermer Jr. | NOVEMBER 17, 2015

The state wildlife veterinarian told Wyoming Game and Fish commissioners that a vaccine to fight Chronic Wasting Disease appears to have failed in a test among live elk.

Dr. Mary Wood cautioned that her findings are preliminary, that they haven't been peer-reviewed or published, and that there is a hiccup in the study. Nevertheless, she said the live tests revealed a statistically significant difference showing the vaccine to be ineffective.

"We have not observed a protective effect associated with this vaccine," she stated in a PowerPoint presentation to the commission. "There may be a negative effect associated with this vaccine," she said, with inoculated elk about seven times more likely to develop CWD.

Thirteen surviving elk will continue to be studied in the test, she said. The trial also may help researchers better understand how genetic differences make some elk less susceptible, possibly immune, to the disease.

The news from Wood came as Game and Fish said it has found the incurable, always-fatal disease in several new deer hunt areas and a new elk hunting area. The new areas document the neurological disorder spreading farther west across the state. In 2014, Game and Fish

discovered 83 mule deer, 12 white-tailed deer, and 15 elk that tested positive for CWD.

However, no elk have yet been found with CWD west of the Continental Divide where the state operates 22 winter elk feedgrounds. Some people are fearful the withering affliction would spread rapidly once it arrives where elk are concentrated artificially.

Results are disappointing, but helpful

Wildlife managers hoped the vaccine might help contain CWD that's infected deer and elk across wide parts of eastern and central Wyoming. Made by the Canadian company Prevent, the recombinant protein fusion vaccine had shown potential. "They actually did some studies with domestic sheep and [deer-family] cervids," Wood told the commission. "It looked very promising. They had thought this vaccine might either protect against actual infection of CWD or potentially it might prolong survival."

But now, almost three years after the trial on 38 elk started at the agency's Tom Thorne and Beth Williams Wildlife Research Center, the results show otherwise. "I don't have the greatest news to give you today," Wood told the commission

Nov. 6. "I have not found the magic bullet to treat CWD."

In the research setting, infected elk first begin showing changes to their temperament. They appear dull and lose general awareness. They begin to waste, drool, don't shed winter coats, and start to shake.

Wood showed slides and videos of infected elk, warning commissioners that they were difficult to see and watch. "This really is an ugly disease," she said.

The live-animal trial

Wood outlined results from a "live animal trial" that began in 2013 with female elk calves captured on the Game and Fish South Park Feedground near Jackson. The trial was to start with elk that were not already infected with CWD.

"We do feel confident the elk we got for this study were negative for CWD," Wood told commissioners. There's no easy way to test a live elk for CWD.

The trial saw half the group inoculated with the vaccine while the other half would serve as the control group. Researchers accounted for genetic variances they believe make some elk less susceptible to CWD. The experiment took place at the research center at Sybille Canyon near Wheatland.

Wood admitted to a hiccup in the test, however. Elk were held in the infected Sybille pens for up to 20 days before the vaccine was first administered. "There is potential there might have been some level of exposure prior to vaccination, so that definitely is a big drawback for our study," Wood told commissioners. Ideally, the vaccination would have been given before exposure at Sybille.

"We like to control for every variable," Wood said in an interview. "The reality is research is somewhat messy." Once the live trials are concluded, the peer-review process will determine the significance of the flaw and whether the study should be published, Wood said. That could happen in about a year.

"Still, we have a statistically significant difference between groups," she said. Nesvik

agreed. "Despite that error, it still is going to be pretty compelling evidence this vaccine wasn't the answer," he said. Wood first presented the preliminary findings at a gathering of the U.S. Animal Health Association a few weeks ago.

"We thought it was important for the research community to just be aware of our preliminary work so they can take that into consideration as they move forward with other vaccines," she said. "This does not mean there are not opportunities for other vaccines." The result could help disease researchers, if only to spur them to look in different directions. "A negative result is still positive progress," Wood told Game and Fish commissioners.

Nesvik cautioned patience. "No silver bullet ever gets developed without a pretty long series of studies," he said. "We're going to learn a lot from this. It's going to inform the next study."

All the elk were exposed to CWD at pens at Sybille. That facility is contaminated with CWD, which is nearly impossible to cleanse from a site. The control group of elk was inoculated with a benign saline solution in an effort to ensure those animals endured the same amount of stress as ones with the vaccine.

Researchers documented the onset of the disease in the animals. In July, 11 of the vaccinated were infected while only 4 of the control group were sick with CWD, Wood's presentation showed. Vaccinated elk died an average of 58 days sooner than the control group. The testing of live animals for infection is complex and limited. It requires taking a biopsy of rectal tissue, which can only be done a few times.

As a veterinarian, Wood said, she strives to keep wildlife healthy. "I have no tools right now to treat or prevent CWD."

Eau Claire Co. Deer Herd Tests Positive for CWD

Wisconsin Ag Connection | NOVEMBER 19, 2015

A deer herd near Fairchild has been depopulated after a seven-year-old doe tested positive for chronic wasting disease in June. State animal health officials say the Eau Claire County herd of whitetails was owned by Richard Vojtik.

A team of veterinarians and health technicians destroyed 163 adult deer and 65 fawns this week using a combination of injectable euthanasia or sharpshooting, as necessary.

State Veterinarian Dr. Paul McGraw says two additional deer

from the farm also tested positive for the disease in September and October.

Preliminary tests from the first two days of depopulation indicate that 23 additional animals on the property were CWD positive.



The North American Elk Breeders Association is Proud to Announce the Creation of its New Elk Product Marketing Arms!



Two new affiliated organizations dedicated solely to promoting domestic elk product use with the public!



OBJECTIVES

- To educate the general public regarding the diversity and benefits of elk products.
- To educate the general public regarding the nutritional and dietary benefits of elk meat and the usefulness of its by-products.
- To educate the general public on the benefits of velvet antler as a wellness product and medicine for humans and pets.
- To educate the general public on the benefits of hard antler to the pet industry and as a natural source of minerals.
- To educate the general public on the values and virtues of conservation hunting of domestic elk.
- To educate the general public on the values and virtues of domestic elk breeding operations.
- To seek out and assist in the development of new products derived from elk.
- To assist in the creation of domestic demand for the aforementioned elk products.
- To assist in the development of consumer purchase opportunities for the aforementioned elk products.

DIRECTED BY TWO ADVISORY GROUPS OF INNOVATIVE NAEBA MEMBERS THAT HAVE DEVELOPED LOCAL MARKETS FOR ELK PRODUCTS.

American Elk Products Foundation (AEPF) Inaugural Board of Trustees

- Andy Azcarraga (CO)
- Rich Forrest (CO)
- Bill Knutson (WI)
- Dan Lonneman (IA)
- Rodney Miller (KS)
- Chase Mohlman (NE)
- Karen Thuerauf (IA)
- Craig Wylie (MN)

Canadian Elk Products Foundation (CEPF) Inaugural Board of Directors

- Holly Bamber (AB)
- Kelly Farmer (MB)
- Russell Gwozdz (AB)
- Harvey Petracek (SK)
- Ian Thorleifson (MB)
- Blaine Weber (SK)

MnEBA Kitchen

Here's a great comfort food recipe for the coming winter months!

Creamy Burrito Casserole

- 1 lb. ground elk
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 1 pkg. taco seasoning
- 6 large flour tortillas
- 1 can refried beans
- 2-3 cups shredded cheese of choice
- 1 can Cream of Mushroom soup
- 4 oz. sour cream



Brown ground elk and chopped onion.
 Add taco seasoning and 1 cup water and simmer 2-3 minutes. Stir in refried beans.
 Mix soup and sour cream in a separate bowl.
 Spread 1/2 sour cream mixture in bottom of a 9x13" casserole dish.
 Tear up 3 tortillas and spread over sour cream mixture.
 Put 1/2 the meat/bean mixture over that.
 Add layer of cheese.
 Repeat all layers.
 Sprinkle cheese over the top and bake, uncovered at 350 degrees for 20-30 minutes.

Have a delicious elk recipe to share?
 Please send it to the MnEBA office to be included in the next newsletter!

Leedstone
 Commitment. Relationships. Trust.

**Official Distributor of
 MN NUES Tags**

Switching to plastic tags or just need more?

*We can help!
 Call us to order.*

Animal Health & Pharmacy / Supplies

Leedstone.com Customer Care Order Line 877.608.3877 **wedocows!**

Board Blog by Jim Byrne, Vice President



Thanksgiving is in a day or two, then Christmas and the New Year. The holidays get hectic and sap our energy. But when you stop to think about it, the whole year is that way. However, this is the time of the year we set aside to say thank you and express gratitude to the Lord for all the help, support and favors we

receive the whole year around. Our friends, neighbors, and the people we interact with daily also deserve all the expressions of thankfulness we can give every time we interact with them. It's the feeling I get each time I deal with the members of the association.

I wish to thank all of the members both past and present for the friendship, insight and support you give throughout the year. The closeness that this association offers to everyone within our industry is the strength that makes us the leading elk association in the country.

Thank you for caring for those around you.

The Power of AgMax®

We created AgMax specifically to serve the unique needs of commercial agriculture operations and related businesses, including:



Wade Scott
111 Paul Ave North
Cologne, MN
952-442-4402

- Producers who process, retail or direct market
- Equine and kennel operations, including boarding, breeding and training
- Agritainment and agritourism
- Hunting and other farm-based recreation

Call today to learn how I can provide flexible, customized insurance protection for your operation.

AgMax®

www.AgMaxInsurance.com

AgMax is underwritten by Western Agricultural Insurance Company/West Des Moines, IA. CA019-ML-1 (4-12)



Proven Performers for Bigger Bulls and Bigger Antlers

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

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

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

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

ADM Alliance Nutrition takes elk to the trophy class.



ADM Alliance Nutrition®
Proven Performance from Innovative Nutrition®

www.admani.com • 866-666-7626
an_deerhelp@admworld.com



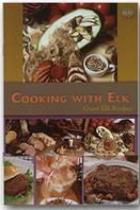
MnEBA Promotional Materials

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

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

MEAT PROMOTIONS

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



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

3rd Edition "Cooking With Elk" Cookbook

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

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

VELVET PROMOTIONS



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

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

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

GENERAL INFORMATION



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

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

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

HOME DÉCOR



Price includes shipping & handling.

Elk Trashcan (*pictured*) \$25 each

Elk Rug (Small) \$27.50 each

Elk Rug (Large) \$40 each

MNELK / MINNESOTA GROWN BOX

For meat sales or any other Minnesota grown elk products which can be boxed up. Box size 17"x10"x8.25". Designed to hold 30 lbs.

\$1 each



Vet Corner by Dr. Glen Zebarth

Mark Luedtke and I represented the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association at the recent USAHA Convention in Rhode Island. The wildlife contingency was a little lighter this year while the farmed cervid group was a little larger giving our industry nice representation at several key committee meetings. Good progress was made on several items USAHA has been thinking about doing. This was a good push to show USDA APHIS the importance to industry of getting these things done sooner rather than later. The following is a recap of the conference put together by the American Cervid Alliance.

Cervid Industry Secures Passage of Several Resolutions at USAHA Conference

PROVIDENCE- The 119th annual conference of the United States Animal Health Association has concluded after an active week of discussions and meetings. Fifteen representatives from the cervid industry traveled to Rhode Island for what turned out to be a successful conference for the industry.

"It was a busy week to say the least," said Charly Seale, Executive Director of the Exotic Wildlife Association. "At times some of our issues were behind in the count but there were good comments from various attendees that helped keep things going."

Seale serves as one of the co-chairman for the USAHA Subcommittee on Farmed Cervidae. The subcommittee meeting was very well attended by USAHA members. Eric Mohlman, Dr. Glen Zebarth and Shawn Schafer also sit on the subcommittee as industry representatives.

Several resolutions were proposed by cervid industry leaders throughout the week that addressed the USDA CWD Program Standards, interstate movement of wild elk, TB testing and live CWD testing. Three of the four resolutions proposed were passed by the USAHA membership.

The approved resolutions are as follows:

CWD Program Standards Reform: In several of the committees, USDA APHIS publically acknowledged the CWD Program Standards are not working like they had hoped and are often confusing and inconsistent with the language in the CWD Federal Rule. After much discussion, a resolution was adopted by USAHA to urge USDA Veterinary Services to amend the CWD Program Standards by deleting all language in Part B (Guidance on Responding to CWD Affected Herds) and rewrite Part B under the guidance of a new working group of state and federal regulatory officials and representatives from the farmed cervidae industry. Although Part A and Part B have severe flaws, Part B has been the most problematic section of the document relating to trace outs from CWD positive herds. USDA APHIS' cervid team leader stated she would like the process to happen very quickly.

Wild Elk Movement: North American Elk Breeders Association Executive Director Travis Lowe carried a resolution to help close the loopholes in USDA policy that allows interstate movement of wild elk by state wildlife agencies that does not follow USDA interstate movement rules for farmed cervidae. There was robust discussion after the resolution was initially introduced in the USAHA Committee on Wildlife Diseases but was tabled to give time to craft amendments. The resolution was then offered in the Farmed Cervid Subcommittee where it was adopted and also approved in its parent committee. This resolution, if adopted by USDA, will hold wildlife agencies more accountable by urging USDA Veterinary Services to work with stakeholders to develop a guidance document on determining CWD risk levels of source herds for interstate cervid restoration projects.

Live CWD Testing: Dr. Keith Roehr, the state veterinarian from Colorado, presented a resolution to the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials to ask state veterinarians to consider use of the rectal biopsy procedure as a tool in their State CWD programs when making regulatory decisions about the disease status, management and control of CWD exposed animals and herds as needed. The discussion was well received. Similarly, after a presentation on another live CWD test option, a resolution was adopted in the Captive Wildlife and Alternative Livestock Committee to urge the USDA and State Animal Health Officials to continue and expedite discussions and evaluation of ante mortem collection procedures for medial retropharyngeal lymph node (MRPLN) tissues for the Live Testing for Chronic Wasting Disease in White-Tailed Deer.

A resolution failed on a 22-28 vote in the USAHA Business Meeting dealing with the TB Blood Test. The DPP® (dual pathway platform) test, referred as the TB Blood Test, has been used for three years to test farmed cervidae in the United States for tuberculosis. Approximately 31,000 animals have been tested using this blood test. Though the DPP test has proven to be a very good test, several cervids have been depopulated that were false positive. Because some animals can be extremely valuable, Laurie Seale of the Whitetails of Wisconsin association carried a resolution urging USDA to amend testing and classification protocol for tuberculosis in farmed cervidae by allowing the use of an alternative test prior to final classification following non-negative DPP® test results. The resolution was adopted in two committees but fell short on the final day of the conference.

These resolutions approved by the USAHA membership will be sent to the USDA APHIS for formal response. The American Cervid Alliance thanks all of the committee leadership and USAHA members that supported the cervid industry issues. A special thank you to Dr. Paul Anderson for his help on the cervid resolutions.

Cervid leaders worked well to push industry issues at the conference. First time attendees instantly saw the value of the conference. "With my first year under my belt, it could not have been more evident how important it is to be at this meeting," said Patrick Tarlton, who serves as Texas Deer Association's Executive Director. Mark Luedtke of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association and Jacques deMoss of the Missouri Deer Association also completed their first conference.

Thank you to the cervid industry representatives and their respective associations for ensuring proper representation at the conference.

2015 Cervid Industry Attendees:

Tim Condict, Deer Breeders Corp
 Jacques deMoss, Missouri Deer Association
 Todd Landt, Iowa Whitetail Deer Association
 Travis Lowe, North American Elk Breeders Association
 Mark Luedtke, Minnesota Elk Breeders Association
 Eric Mohlman, Elk Research Council
 Gary Olson, Minnesota Deer Farmers Association
 Shawn Schafer, North American Deer Farmers Association
 Charly Seale, Exotic Wildlife Association
 Laurie Seale, American Cervid Alliance
 Daryl Simon, Reindeer Owners & Breeders Association
 Patrick Tarlton, Texas Deer Association
 Skip West, North American Deer Farmers Association
 Kyle Wilson, Reindeer Owners & Breeders Association
 Dr. Glen Zearth, Minnesota Elk Breeders



L to R: Dr. Glen Zearth, Mark Luedtke and Charly Seale reviewing documents at the USAHA meeting.

Return Your MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar Stubs and Money by December 31st!!!

After President Lucas's rousing Top 10 list, need we say more about the benefits of getting the stubs and money from your 2016 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar sales in to the office by December 31st to be eligible for a FREE 2016 MnEBA membership and/or be eligible for the Ruger 204 American Predator Rifle drawing?

All 750 calendars have been put out into the hands of the membership, none remain at the office. This is our year to SELL OUT!!! If you have calendars you don't think you'll be able to sell, please send them back to the office ASAP so they can be mailed out to others who might be able to!

You can still turn in stubs and money after the December 31st incentive deadline up until the time of the drawing on January 9th. Every sale is important and very much appreciated! Thank you for your efforts!!!

*Spring Coulee
Velvet Capsules*



N7447 Cty Hwy D
Holmen, WI 54636
Phone (608) 526-4477
Cell (608) 792-4477
Fax (608) 526-2055
miniman41@centurytel.net

Bill & Karen Knutson
Home of Spring Coulee Elk



Calling all elk producers... NOW IS THE TIME TO JOIN MINNESOTA GROWN!

The Minnesota Grown Program invites Minnesota elk producers to join a producer-directed organization that helps connect you with consumers looking for elk meat, velvet antler capsules, hides or farm tours. Our program has over 1,200 members ranging from Christmas tree growers, meat producers, vegetable farms, orchards, nurseries and much more. All work together to help engage buying local. Any members who grow anything in Minnesota and sell it directly to consumers are eligible to have a listing in the Directory. There are two levels of membership in the Minnesota Grown Program:

The Minnesota Grown License. \$20

This is an annual license (expiring Dec 31st of the year in which you apply). With it, you receive the right to use the trademarked and highly trusted Minnesota Grown logo. You can use this logo on any products that were grown or raised in Minnesota (a product that was grown in another state and processed here is *not eligible* to be labeled as Minnesota Grown).

This license will also give you access to unlimited *FREE* promotional materials. This includes an assortment of stickers, price cards, posters, table talkers, rubber bands and plant stakes. Do you sell to a farmers market? The price cards are dry-erasable and great for easily letting people know what the product is and how much it costs. You are also entitled to participate in a cost-share program for labeling/permanent signage. Minnesota Grown will reimburse you for 50% of the cost, up to \$200. Please reach out to Cassie Dahl for more information prior to starting any work.

(Cassie.Dahl@state.mn.us)

Minnesota Grown Directory Listing. \$40

For just \$40 more, we can feature your farm and link you directly to consumers through our annual printed and online Directories. Do you have grower-owned market stands? You may purchase a listing for your main location and for individual retail locations for \$40/per location. This way, they would each be listed in their geographical location – so consumers will find them faster! We distribute the Directories statewide through tourism centers, libraries, individual members and direct orders. This is a great, affordable advertising tool that, on average, gets used more than 4 times and is kept for over 12 months. Our online Directory is also very popular. We launched a new and improved website in August of 2014 and have had over 290,000 unique annual visitors so far in 2015! Our page load time improved by 43% and time spent on the site increased by 26%! You must carry a valid Minnesota Grown license and sell your product directly to consumers to be listed in the Directory. In order to guarantee a spot in 2016's printed Directory: **Sign-up by Jan 31, 2016!**

For only \$60, you can get a year of advertising to consumers who are interested in buying locally and directly from the grower. So what are you waiting for? Join today! New members may apply online by clicking on the

"Members + Retailers" tab at www.minnesotagrown.com, or contact Jessica at 651-201-6170 or jessica.miles@state.mn.us to request an application by mail or for additional questions.

NEW Proud Member Signs! In 2016, each member will receive an aluminum 18"x14" sign. These are durable, weather resistant signs that are meant to be displayed for consumers to see.



Advertiser Index

Mohlman Elk Farm

Page 5

Leedstone

Page 9

AgMax

Page 10

ADM Alliance Nutrition

Page 10

Spring Coulee Velvet Capsules

Page 13

Thank you for your support!

Committee Reports

Board Nominations Needed

This coming January, MnEBA has two director's whose terms expire, President Mark Lucas and Director Wade Schimmelpfennig. Both Mark and Wade have been tremendous assets on the MnEBA board. Please take a moment when you see them to thank them for the time and dedication they have provided to MnEBA.

Nominations for these open positions are now being accepted. If you know of anyone who would be a good candidate, or you as a member are willing to run, please contact the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 or info@mneba.org. Elections will be held at the MnEBA Annual Conference on January 9, 2016 at the Willmar Conference Center in Willmar.

MnEBA Conducting Membership Drive – You Can Help!

One of MnEBA's major goals in 2015 was to increase its membership. While membership is currently up three members over last year, MnEBA has 54 Active members (members who own elk in MN) while as of July 2015, there were 120 premises in Minnesota raising elk.

The MnEBA Board of Directors is working on a calling campaign to contact as many non-member elk producers as can be located, to talk about MnEBA's role in the Minnesota elk industry and the benefits of being a member. Here's where you can help! If you know of any elk producers who are not currently MnEBA members, please encourage them to join and/or let MnEBA know their contact information and we will personally contact them. *For anyone selling breeding stock to a new buyer, make sure to sign them up for a new membership to get them started on the right track with their operations!*



Now is great time to join as the new 2016 membership cycle begins on January 1st. With industry markets being stronger than ever, there's no more important time to make sure all elk farmers in Minnesota are making the most of their investment by being informed about the industry! Here are just a few of many great reasons to be a MnEBA member:

1. Great information source for the latest elk industry news in Minnesota and also nationally!
2. Receive 6 newsletters per year plus e-blasts for late breaking news.
3. Receive emails when buyers have immediate needs for velvet antler, meat, trophy bulls and other items.
4. Better profit potential on sales of breeding stock, trophy bulls, velvet and meat by being better informed.
5. Education through annual conference seminars and newsletters on marketing, animal health, promoting the industry, etc.
6. Promoting elk products to consumers and getting the word out about the need for more elk to help fill market needs – more elk are needed!
7. MnEBA web site is second to none in promoting elk!
8. Be part of a network of producers who join together in promoting the industry, learn better management strategies, network and share knowledge, lifelong friendships and weathering crisis together.
9. MnEBA booth at the State Fair is a great public education experience.
10. Development of promotional materials to help market elk products not found anywhere else.
11. Local state lobbying to ensure longevity and success of the industry.
12. Monetary contributions to the work of the American Cervid Alliance and Elk Research Council.
13. Annual Charitable Elk Hunt and MnEBA Scholarship program.

And don't forget to invite anyone you know who raises elk or is thinking about it, to the upcoming Annual Conference at the Willmar Conference Center on January 9th in what promises to be a great event! *Thank you for your efforts!!!*

Board Terms

Mark Lucas, <i>President</i>	Term ends 2016
Jim Byrne, <i>Vice President</i>	Term ends 2018
Brian Wagner, <i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Term ends 2017
Wade Schimmelpfennig, <i>Director</i>	Term ends 2016
Greg Lubinski, <i>Director</i>	Term ends 2018

Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

9086 Keats Avenue SW
Howard Lake, MN 55349

PHONE:
320-543-2686

FAX:
320-543-2983

E-MAIL:
info@mneba.org

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

Calendar of Events

January 8 – 9, 2016 – MnEBA Annual Conference, Willmar Convention Center, Willmar, MN

March 19, 2016 – 2016 NAEBA March Mingle, Doubletree by Hilton, Edmonton, AB

July 28 – 30, 2016 – 26th Annual NAEBA Convention & International Antler Competition, Ramada Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, Omaha, NE

Classified Ads

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 or email info@usafoxx.com. USA Foxx & Furs, Duluth, MN.

Wanted: Grande Natural buys Elk or Whitetail meat animals delivered to Crescent Meats, Cadott, WI or Eickman's, Steward, IL. We will meet or beat the competition on the rail price. Looking for fleshy critters generally 3 years and older on cows, 2 year and older on bulls. Call 719-657-0942 or email Rich@ElkUSA.com.

For Sale: (1) two year old bull for meat. TB Accredited, CWD monitored since 1999. Contact Ray Smothers at 507-340-7119.

Wanted: Looking for a future herd sire, breeding stock and a used semen tank. You can e-mail me at bruce@kruegerlumber.com. Or at 920-772-4487 in the evening.

For Sale: Distributor for Franklin Waterers, energy efficient PC & AP Models, also standard waterers. Rely on Franklin Waterers. Contact Jay at Pronschinske Elk, 507-458-7970.

Wanted: Any and all elk meat animals, trophy bulls, breeding stock or whole herds. Brian Wagner, 612-366-5078

Wanted: Grande Natural pays competitive prices for Elk Hard Antler drops or cutoffs, spikes, buttons, etc. AND we will pay UPS shipping if you cut them down and pack 'em up. Call Rich at 719-580-0661, or email Rich@ElkUSA.com.

Advertise Here Free: If you are a MnEBA member, you can advertise here free of charge. If you are not a member but are interested in advertising, the cost is \$25 up to 25 words and \$.45 per word over 25 words. For more information, contact Brenda Hartkopf at (320) 543-2686.

MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

9086 Keats Avenue SW
Howard Lake, MN 55349