



MnEBA News is sponsored in part by
Risk Management Agency (RMA)

Special Interest Articles:

- Attendance at the 2008 MnEBA Conference up 20% from last year
- Elk Meat Market is Strong
- Distillers Grain Warning

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President's Message *by Jim Byrne, MnEBA President*

January is the beginning of a new year, and with that comes new opportunities and new challenges. One of the most pleasant and exciting opportunities for me is working with such a dedicated group of board members. This year Mark Luedtke moves from association board member to a national board member on the NAEBA board. Mark, with his analytical approach and enthusiasm, has served this association with distinction for the last three years. We now welcome

Brian Wagner to the board and look forward to his input and experience, having served as the Minnesota delegate on the NAEBA board.

Another opportunity will be continuing to work closely with the MN Deer Breeders Association (MDBA) and strengthening the communication between our groups. February will give our associations two venues to work together. First, is an event initiated by the MDBA in which both associations

would host a "friendraiser" event for some members of the 2008 DFL Senate Caucus. This would be a low-key opportunity for some of our members to meet with some hand-picked members of their caucus so as to educate them in an informal setting. The MDBA is encouraging contributions from members to the DFL senate caucus. The proposed date for this "friendraiser" is February 5, 2008.

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2008 MnEBA Annual Conference Well Attended!

Attendance at the January 12, 2008 MnEBA Annual Conference was up 20% over last year! It was a special day of learning and fun for all who attended!

Because of grant funding available through Risk Management Agency (RMA), MnEBA was very fortunate to bring in several very high quality speakers including Joel Espe – NAEBA President and NTFARC Exec. Director; Bruce Friedel, educator and author in elk and antler production; Dr. Tom Gidlewski, USDA-APHIS; and Dr. Paul

Anderson, MN Board of Animal Health. Many aspects of elk production were discussed from nutrition, to genetics, to animal health and finally, new proposed rules for control of CWD, TB and Intrastate movement in Minnesota. An event evaluation form filled out by attendees indicated that on a scale of 1 (low) – 5 (high), every speaker averaged 4+.

MnEBA celebrated it's 15th year with a special anniversary cake after dinner, then began the fun auction. Many thanks to Joel

Espe for doing an outstanding job of entertaining and getting bidders to come out of their shells to raise the second highest conference fundraiser totals since 2000. All fundraiser's combined raised nearly \$6,000 for MnEBA. Thank you to all donors and bidders for making this a reality!

Thank you to Morrie & Daphne Evenson who expertly ran the "card" fundraiser which has become an annual favorite.

Continued Next Page

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

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Charles Francis and Mark Luedtke handing out 2007 NCAC Awards.

Annual Conference Continued –

Thank You to All Who Helped in Any Way!

Two great prizes were offered including a beautiful wood art piece with a painted elk scene on it. This piece was won by Ann Goebel. The second card game featured a beautiful flannel elk quilt handmade by Kaye Zebarth. Damon Melquist was the lucky winner of this prize!

Jim & Mary Kay Kotschevar sponsored a new contest which tested producer's knowledge of scoring hard antler bulls. The Kotschevars' donated two very sizable semen packages to the top two winners and also a \$50 prize in a random drawing of all entries. All proceeds were donated to MnEBA raising another \$340! Ken Arnzen was right on the money with his scores and won 1st prize. In a four way tie for 2nd prize, Jerry Beier came out the winner. Mark Lucas was the lucky winner of the \$50 third prize.

This year's conference also featured five vendors including Sunset Jewelry, ADM Alliance Nutrition, USDA-NASS MN Field Office, Elkhorn Ranch II, and MN Farmers Union.

Many people worked together to make the conference a success in so many ways. Thank you to the following for your assistance in making the conference a great event:



Pat Prodzinski taking part in fundraiser with Jim Kotschevar

- * **Morning Break Sponsors:** Jerry, Diane, Dick & Jill Strodman; Ken & Sandy Olson
- * **Elk Brats for Lunch:** Jim & Eileen Byrne
- * **Afternoon Break Sponsors:** Jim & Mary Kay Kotschevar; Morrie & Daphne Evenson; and Rick & Marlys Wollschlager
- * **Table Decorations / Door Prizes:** Paul & Lynn Hueg
- * **Elk Burger for Evening Banquet:** Lance & Brenda Hartkopf
- * **Raffle Ticket Table:** Eileen Byrne
- * **Registration:** Kaye Zebarth & Brenda Hartkopf
- * **Fundraising:** Rita Prodzinski, Kaye Zebarth, Patty VanGundy, Morrie & Daphne Evenson, Jim & Mary Kay Kotschevar, Duane Melquist, Joel Espe

Awards were a big part of the day as the 2007 NCAC awards were handed out by Mark Luedtke and Charles Francis during the noon lunch hour.

Later on after the evening banquet, association awards were presented to Tony Beckel (outstanding donor); Don Olson (outstanding committee); Kaye Zebarth (outstanding committee); Jim Byrne (Presidential lifetime membership); and Brenda Hartkopf (10 years of service).

A final THANK YOU to the committee of Kaye Zebarth (chair), Rita Prodzinski and Brenda Hartkopf for planning an excellent conference! Your work was very much appreciated by all!

Thank you to all who made this a conference to remember!



A special thank you to Risk Management Agency for making this outstanding lineup of speakers possible!

Conference Fundraisers Raise Nearly \$6,000!

All Conference Fundraiser activities were hugely successful bringing in nearly \$6,000! Many donors stepped forward with very desirable items. Two donations of semen alone brought in \$1,750! You know it's a good fundraiser when "nothing" brings \$71!

Some items were sold by silent auction, card raffle, and some later during the live fun auction. THANK YOU to all who helped organize the fundraising activities, donors, bidders, and buyers. A special thank you again to Joel Espe for an outstanding job hosting the live fun auction!



Joel Espe auctioning off fundraising items.

THANK YOU to the all the following:

2007 MnEBA Annual Conference Fundraising Auction Donors

Donor	Item	Buyer
Jim & Eileen Byrne	Jams & Jellies Basket	Fred Neubert
Gary Smith	Elk Skin Slippers	Ann Goebel
Pat & Rita Prodzinski	Watkins Spice Basket	Shirley Fredrickson
Jim & Eileen Byrne	Jams & Jellies Basket	Rita Prodzinski
Kenneth & Sandy Olson	Felco II Clipper	Rita Prodzinski
Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Soup Basket	Sue B. Kimnes
Mike & Pat Bollinger	Towels, Chocolates, Candles Etc. Basket	Paul Hueg
Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Wine Basket	Paul Hueg
Jerry, Joan & Troy Beier	Wine Basket	Mary Kay Kotschevar
Darrell Turek & Sheila Krukowski	Avon Basket	Mary Kay Kotschevar
Scott & Connie Salonek	Elk & Bison Gift Meat Box	Leo Windschitl
John & Shirley Fredrickson	(4) Elk Votives	Gary Smith / Brenda Hartkopf
Kenneth & Sandy Olson	Folding Saw	Joan Beier
Jim & Eileen Byrne	Honey Basket	Joan Beier
Jon & Richard Aase	Elk Statue	Dan Groothuis
Martin Zacharias	Pole Syringe	Mark Hendrickson
Pat Prodzinski	Vikings Basket	Mike Wagner
Paul & Lynn Hueg	Metal Elk Art	Ken Olson
Ted & Sheila Mehrkens / Mike Stelzner	Hand Crafted Elk Antler Banded Deer Grunt Call	Bill Knutson
Don & Joyce Kaplan	Antler Craft Gift Basket	Dennis Goebel
Glen & Kaye Zebarth	"There's More Than Meets the Eye" Gift Basket	Bill Bauer
Leo Windschitl	Wildlife Print	Rick Jensen
Martin Zacharias	"Thru the Fence" Feeder	Paul Hueg
Charles & Kim Francis	2 lbs. Lamb Chops	Paul Hueg
Glen & Kaye Zebarth	Metal Elk Hanging	Don Kaplan
Ken & Sandy Olson	Folding Saw	Brenda Hartkopf
Rick & Marlys Wollschlager	Metal Elk Basket	Jill Wagner
Larry & Patty VanGundy	Wolf Wood Art	Scott Salonek
Mark & Michelle Lucas and Dennis & Ann Goebel	Montana Marble Elk Art	Mary Kay Kotschevar
Morrie & Daphne Evenson	Wine Basket	Jim Kotschevar
Maurice Hager	5 lbs. Aged Sharp Cheddar Cheese	Mike Wagner
Leo Windschitl	(2) lots 10 bags ADM Alliance Nutrition 18% Complete Pellets	Dan Groothuis Lance Hartkopf
Pat & Rita Prodzinski	"His Majesty" Elk Print & Rug	Marlys Wollschlager
Joel & Cheri Espe	(2) Straws Drifter Semen	Jerry Beier
Bruce & Avis Friedel	(2) Straws 6-Pac Semen	Brian Wagner
Joel Espe	NOTHING	Paul Hartkopf
Glen & Kaye Zebarth	Elk Flannel Quilt – handmade by Kaye	Damon Melquist

January 12, 2008 MnEBA Membership Meeting Minutes

The membership of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held their annual meeting on January 12, 2008 at the Holiday Inn in Mankato, MN. Jim Byrne called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m.

Jim asked for additions or corrections to the July 21, 2007 secretary report as presented. Glen Zebarth moved to accept the report, Morrie Evenson seconded, motion carried.

The treasurer report was reviewed showing a current balance of \$10,528.64. While the Profit/Loss statement showed a loss for the year, it was explained that the extra loss was due to the extra expense of the Ag Stats Survey and also paying for three raffle bulls (2005, 2006 & 2007) in the 2007 calendar year. Glen Zebarth moved to accept the treasurer report, Sue Hendrickson seconded, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Government Relations: Jim Byrne read a submitted report from Don Olson who was unable to be at the meeting. Don reported that MnEBA should expect to see some kind of legislation submitted by the MN Deer Hunters Association regarding cervidae harvest preserves again this year. He also stressed that all members should support legislators who support the cervidae industry. Actively communicate with them, allow them to post signs on property, and donate to their campaigns if possible. It is important to keep those legislators who support the farmed cervidae industry in office.

Jim further reported that the MN Deer Breeders Association has invited MnEBA to participate in a DFL Senate "Friendraiser" on February 5th at 11:30 a.m. in St. Paul. Volunteers are needed to attend. Monetary donations are also welcome. Contact Jim for more information.

Health: Glen Zebarth reported that the MN Board of Animal Health is proposing new rules regarding CWD, TB, and Intrastate Movement of farmed cervidae. He left details for Dr. Anderson to explain later in the day.

Glen spoke briefly about the status of CWD surveillance and testing in the U.S. He reported that MnEBA had the #2 man in the USDA/APHIS CWD program, Dr. Tom Gidlewski, speaking later that afternoon and that questions should be directed to him.

The new TB Federal Rule continues to be developed. Glen advised all producers to maintain their TB accreditation. The new program will require that ALL cervidae farmers do some kind of TB surveillance. Currently in the U.S., only 4% of farmed cervidae herds are TB accredited.

On behalf of the Elk Research Council (ERC), Glen thanked MnEBA for their monetary donation both in 2006 & 2007. He reported on several major studies the ERC has been undertaking including testing velvet antler for CWD prions, genetic CWD

susceptibility studies, TB blood test studies, and a study in which equine wounds were treated with velvet antler extracts.

Glen also reported that the state of Minnesota has moved to a three year brucellosis accreditation testing cycle similar to the TB accreditation testing cycle to aid in simplifying testing procedures for producers.

North Central Antler Competition: Jim Byrne reported that the 2008 North Central Antler Competition will be hosted by the WI Commercial Deer & Elk Farmers Association (WCDEFA) and held at HoChunk Casino near Baraboo, WI and the Wisconsin Dells area on August 6-7, just prior to the NAEBA Convention and International Antler Competition. Joel Espe, board member for WCDEFA, briefly spoke and asked for support, advice and volunteers from MnEBA members to help with this event.

Since the MnEBA summer meeting has traditionally been held during the NCAC, Jim asked the membership if they would prefer holding the Summer Meeting a different weekend in Minnesota, or in Wisconsin during the NCAC. After discussion, a show of hands indicated a preference to hold the MnEBA summer meeting during the NCAC in Wisconsin.

Fundraising Raffle: Brenda Hartkopf reported that ticket sales were lighter this year. Prior comments expressed were that there was no gun on the raffle and also that the economy is tighter this year. No further comments were offered by the membership. She reported that tickets were still on sale until the raffle drawing later that evening.

Raffle donors were recognized including Tony & Patty Beckel – hunt facility and guide service, Mark & Sue Hendrickson – Bahamas Treasure Cay Island Villa, Fred & Eleanor Neubert – Red Lake guided fishing trip, VanderWeyst family – pheasant hunt, guide and lodging, Pat & Rita Prodzinski – antler lamp. Other prizes purchased by MnEBA included a leather chair with embroidered elk design along with ottoman, and a \$500 Cabelas gift certificate.

Promotions: Brenda Hartkopf reported that there were many promotions activities since the July summer meeting. The newly updated Minnesota elk video is now available. Brenda thanked the many members who allowed MnEBA to come video their operations and also those who gave testimonials on the video itself. These people included Jim Byrne, Carl Denkinger, Jerry Beier, Patty VanGundy, Craig & Klint Wylie, Larry Winter, Glen Zebarth, Deloris Gockowski, and Perry Olson. The video was then viewed by all.

Brenda reported that the Deer Classic is coming up on March 7 – 9 and unfortunately coincides with the NAEBA March Mingle and Best of the Best Elk Sale on March 7-8. Perry Olson has agreed to chair this event. MnEBA has decided not to attend

Farmfest this year as the dates of August 5 – 7 interfere with the NCAC in Wisconsin on August 6 - 7. Farmfest has assured MnEBA that there will still be space available next year if desired.

A press release regarding increasing velvet antler sales was sent out in September through a publication put out by the MN Department of Ag called Marketing Minute.

Brenda reported that there has been increasing interest and recognition of elk farming as a major industry in Minnesota from organizations outside the elk industry such as the Farm Bureau, MN Safari Club, Ag Stats, Farmers Union, etc.

MnEBA was recently awarded a Risk Management Agency (RMA) Grant of \$10,375, to help fund the 2008 Annual Conference, (6) issues of the MnEBA newsletter, and also to create a "members only" section to the MnEBA web site. This grant was part of a collaborative effort put together by Minnesota Grown. Look for the "members only" section to be completed in the next few months.

This is the third RMA grant MnEBA has received over the past several years. These grants have amounted to over \$26,000 altogether. RMA representative Cindy Cruea was present and briefly addressed the membership with an explanation about what RMA was all about.

MN Grown is sponsoring "Pay Per Click" ads for some of its member organizations, including MnEBA. An elk meat ad has been running on Google and Yahoo since September. A velvet antler ad will be added in the new year. This campaign is an added bonus to the benefits MnEBA already receives through its affiliation with MN Grown at no extra cost to the association.

State Fair: Daphne Evenson reported that the elk headbands donated by the Elk Marketing Council and Sportsman's Warehouse were a very big hit in the MnEBA State Fair booth. She also reported that a sign up sheet was now available for the 2008 State Fair which runs from Aug. 21 – Sept. 1.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was brought forth.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Byrne thanked Mark Luedtke for his three years of service to the MnEBA Board of Directors and reported that Mark would not be seeking a second term. Mark Hendrickson indicated that Brian Wagner was willing to be placed on the ballot. Brian Wagner accepted the nomination. Jim made a call for additional nominations. Fred Neubert moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Brian Wagner. Bill Bauer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Jim reported that MnEBA has now successfully branded Minnesota elk in China in four categories. The Board will now be working to put together standards and guidelines for use of the MN elk brand.

Tony Beckel & Brenda Hartkopf spoke about the recent Langenfeld Foundation Elk Charity Hunt. The hunt was donated by Tony & Patty Beckel and the bull donated by Mark & Sue Hendrickson and Don & Perry Olson on behalf of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association. Tony relayed the story about the success of the elk hunt. This event has led to much positive awareness through a creation of a professional video of the harvest, possible exposure on Kent Hrbek's Outdoor Show, and a request to give a seminar about the MN elk industry and harvest preserves at the MN Safari Club Conference on February 23rd.

Members discussed ways to get more non-members to join MnEBA. Encouraged current membership to encourage others to join. Briefly discussed what to expect for next year's velvet market. Bruce Friedel reported that 20,000 lbs. of a 2007 Canadian velvet pool recently sold for \$28 Canadian, but there is still velvet left in Canada.

The current U.S. Ag Stats census was discussed. Members were encouraged to return their forms. It was suggested MnEBA use elk stats from this national census towards a future new project.

Morrie Evenson moved to adjourn the meeting, Glen Zebarth seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

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December 15, 2007 Board Meeting Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a board meeting at the home of Mark & Sue Hendrickson on December 15, 2007. Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Pat Prodzinski, Charles Francis, Mark Hendrickson and Brenda Hartkopf were present. The meeting began at 1:10 p.m.

The minutes from the October 6th board meeting were reviewed. Luedtke moved to approve the minutes as written, Francis seconded, motion carried. The treasurer's report was reviewed. Prodzinski moved to accept the report as presented, Luedtke seconded, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Reviewed the latest proposed Control of CWD in Farmed Cervidae rules that are being considered by the Cervidae Advisory Committee. Several sections were highlighted as needing more clarification and discussion. There was much concern for producers in far southeastern MN who are closest to the wild deer endemic areas in Wisconsin. Byrne is looking to organize an informational meeting with breeders in that part of the state after the conference.

Discussed a request from the MN Deer Breeders Association to take part in a "friendraiser" event for some members of the DFL senate caucus. Decision was made to respond with our willingness to send out a flyer to MnEBA members inviting them to participate in this event.

Discussed the success of the recent Langenfeld Foundation charity elk hunt in which MnEBA members Tony & Patty Beckel, Mark & Sue Hendrickson and Don & Perry Olson donated a beautiful elk bull and two day hunt on behalf of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association. It took two full days to take a shot at the elk, but they were successful in the end. The Minnesota chapter of Safari Club International (SCI) has asked MnEBA to give a presentation at their upcoming conference on February 23rd. Discussed possible topics and speakers. A video will also be developed from this experience through the Langenfeld Foundation. Will request a copy.

Hartkopf reported that all requested items have been submitted to brand Minnesota elk in China. The next step is to develop guidelines and standards for use of the branding logo. Byrne and Hartkopf will look into the former American Elk Products Board guidelines and work on putting together a draft to begin discussions with.

Hartkopf reported that 48 raffle tickets have been sold to date. Will continue to send out reminders to those who still hold tickets to complete sales by the January 12th drawing date.

Discussed plans for the upcoming MnEBA Annual Conference. Will look at having a "live" auction this year for the fundraiser. Hartkopf was asked to send a notice to MnEBA members requesting items as MnEBA will not be purchasing items to resell this year. Ideas for award recipients were also discussed.

Hartkopf reported that the Wisconsin Commercial Elk & Deer Farmers Association has not yet decided if they will host the 2008 North Central Antler Competition.

Decision was made to send a thank you and copy of the new Minnesota elk video to key legislators from both the House and Senate who have supported the cervidae industry in the past. Will ask lobbyist Tony Kwilas to make recommendations.

Hartkopf was reminded to send an invitation and complimentary Annual Conference pass to board members from the MN Deer Breeders Association.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussed the recent Brown county ordinance which would set restrictions on "all animals considered wild by nature". Mark Hendrickson has been in contact with the one MnEBA member and also a deer breeder in Brown county. There has been no new information.

Discussed an invitation by the Non Traditional Farmers and Ranchers Coalition (NTFARC) to select a member of MnEBA to be included on the board. Will discuss with the membership at the upcoming MnEBA Annual Conference.

The MnEBA Office has recently received a request for the names of all former and non-member elk breeders in the state of Minnesota. While current membership labels were approved by a past board directive to be distributed, no motion or decision regarding former and non-member addresses in the system were approved. The board is concerned about privacy issues. Hartkopf was directed to suspend the request until the Board can review the past motion.

A tentative 2008 budget was drafted. Hartkopf was directed to prepare the final report and send it out prior to the Annual Conference. The Board will meet briefly at the Annual Conference for budget discussion and ratification. Only the budget will be considered unless an emergency arises.

Hartkopf was directed to investigate the availability of a lifetime license for the MnEBA trailer. She was also directed to investigate pricing for a MnEBA audit.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf



NORTH DAKOTA ELK GROWERS' PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings From North Dakota,

I did manage to make it through the holiday season without too much trouble. I gained quite a few extra pounds and have already broke my New Year's resolution to stick to a diet, but I am sure I am not the only one to do so.

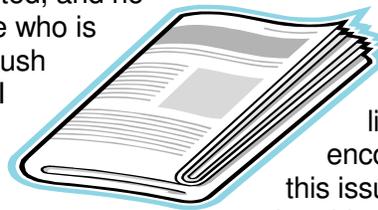
The NDEG had our annual meeting in January in Bismarck and I was pleasantly surprised by the turn out. We brought in a respectable dollar amount from the silent auction that will be used for our Campaign initiative battle. Pat Finken from Odney Advertising (a member of our public relations team) gave a short report on the strategy he and his company have planned to do to help us. We are hiring these professionals to respond to articles in the papers and other media. If you are asked for a quote on this issue, please remember to direct the investigator to Pat's office. They will be directing the public response to this issue on behalf of the ND Elk and Deer farmers, so let's do what we can to help them do their job. Bad publicity seems to spread much faster than good publicity, so let's make sure the information we are putting out there is the best it can be. We still do not know how many signatures the Hunters for Fair Chase have collected, and no one seems to have run into anyone who is collecting them. I expect they will push hard for signatures in August, and I sure hope they don't get the number they need, but raising awareness for our industry is something we will benefit from even if it's not being done to combat this petition. Please let me know right away if you get any new information on this petition drive.

I have come across a few more newspaper articles after the first of the year from the supporters of this High Fence Hunting Ban and I would like to share a few of their thoughts with

you. The most recent one I read was from the Valley City Times Record. In it, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Coordinator Lloyd Jones said that if canned hunting continues in North Dakota, it could be used as a political tool by animal rights groups to ban other hunts. The article goes on to quote Perry Kapaun, the Barnes County Wildlife Federation Coordinator, as saying "a wild herd is public property, theirs and mine. Some of them don't police themselves. Their animals get out and they don't keep records." He went on to say that in some canned hunts, animals are drugged to make it easier for the participants. He said, "They're even doing now in Texas, where you, a rich guy sitting in New York, can shoot an elk from your computer. Is that hunting?"

Articles like this show that the people who are pushing for this hunting ban really have no idea what happens at game farms in our state. This reinforces the need for us to educate the public as to what we do and how we are regulated. I keep hearing statements from these guys about computer hunting, drugging animals to make them easier to harvest, and genetically modified animals; but I have yet to hear them refer to anyone specifically here in North Dakota. They claim they are just trying to do what is ethically right, but don't seem to realize they are potentially jeopardizing those of us who are trying to scrape out a living on our own land. I would like to encourage everyone to keep talking about this issue to anyone who will listen to ensure that this misinformation does not continue to spread.

Another article is quoting the writing of the ballot measure which part of it reads, "a person other than an authorized government employee or agent, is guilty of crime if the person obtains payment for the killing or attempted killing of privately owned big game species or exotic



mammals in or released from a man-made enclosure." Supporters of the petition claim that this will not affect slaughter operation, but the language of the proposed law does not reinforce these claims, in my opinion, as just about every farm-raised elk is killed in some kind of man-made enclosure, (e.g., fence, barn, locker plant, etc.). We have to defeat this proposed bill here, so that it does not spread to other states (as it already has).

On a more positive note, I came across a column in my local paper that had some good points about our side of the story. In response to the argument that young hunters' skills do not develop well when hunting at game farms, the author argued that the opposite is actually true. How better to calmly (and safely) stalk and take game than in a controlled setting? There are no crowds, very little chance of property damage and injury, and it is highly unlikely that the animals have been harassed and chased. Most importantly, hunting on a private preserve is an opportunity for a young hunter to have an adult with them to guide them through the hunting process in a private manner. Not everyone who hunts has the opportunity to hunt on a piece of land that is reserved strictly for them. Going to a private preserve might not be the same as when they hunt in the wild, but the cornerstones of

gun safety, awareness of surrounding, and shot placement could be learned much easier in a controlled hunt other than opening day in "Deer Central" North Dakota. The author of this article goes on to say it's about personal choice. It's about private landowners having the right to legally conduct an activity on their property in the way they choose. It's about private citizens choosing how, when, and where they want to pursue their definition of happiness. If I don't agree with it, then I guess I won't be doing it. If others want to and it doesn't infringe on my right to do it the other way, then it's fine by me. I wished everyone would have such an open mind way of thinking.

But hunting initiative articles are not the only thing I read. (ha ha!) I came home tonight to find a new NAEBA magazine in the box. I still get excited every time I get one. I enjoy reading that thing front to back wishing I could raise some animals that look as good as the ones pictured. NAEBA has gone through some tough times but I hope most of you will continue to support our national organization, and make sure to read that excellent magazine.

Have a Happy Valentine's Day! -
Treat your sweetheart to a nice
Elk steak dinner!



Wayne

North Dakota Deer & Elk Growers' Classified Ads

Wanted: Shooter bulls for 2008 season to be delivered to Killdeer, ND before velvetting. Contact Dean Jensen at 747 14½ Ave E, West Fargo, ND 58078 or dean_jensen_361@msn.com.



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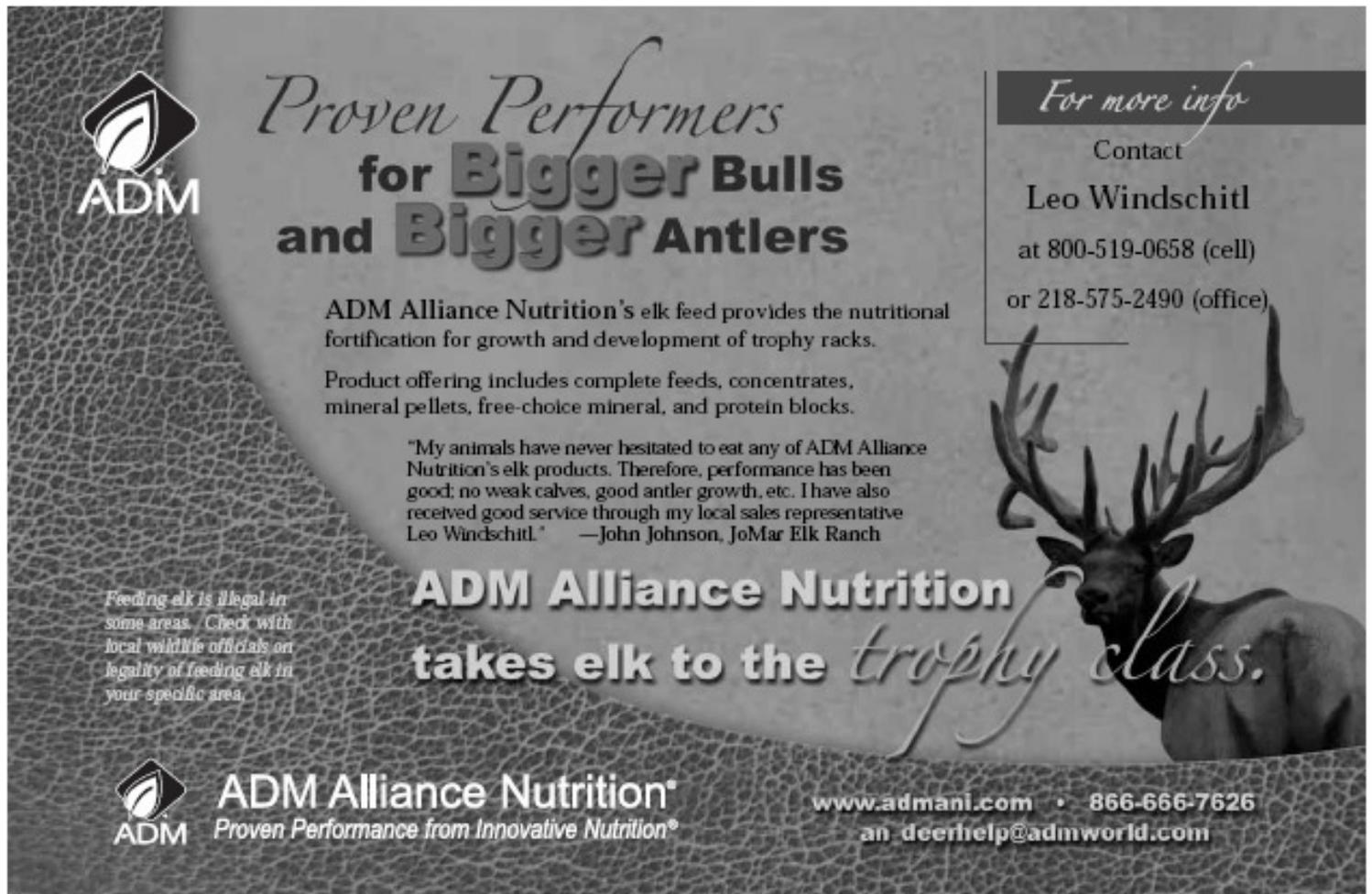
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Wet Cake Distillers Grain – Watch Mineral Levels!

I've been seeing some problems in a few herds who are feeding wet cake distillers grain. Wet cake distillers grain can be very high in sulfur and can also be quite variable in amounts. The sulfur binds up other important minerals which in turn causes them to become ineffective, potentially creating a dangerous nutritional imbalance.

This mineral imbalance can cause animals to get thin, and ultimately go down, similar to "milk fever". They are also more susceptible to bone fractures.

Make sure to check with a nutritionist if feeding wet cake distillers grain to ensure adequate nutrition levels are being maintained. A higher level of mineral supplement may be needed or more mineral added to the feed. Good quality forage may also help. Your nutritionist is the best source for this information.



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

ADM Alliance Nutrition
takes elk to the *trophy class.*

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

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

ADM **ADM Alliance Nutrition®**
Proven Performance from Innovative Nutrition®

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

Minnesota Board of Animal Health

Animal Bytes

January 22, 2008

Minnesota TB investigation discovers an additional infected cattle herd

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health announced today that a Roseau County beef cattle herd has tested positive for bovine tuberculosis (TB).

The Board TB-tested cattle herds within ten miles of an infected cattle herd or infected white-tail deer. The newly detected Roseau herd tested negative in 2005 and 2006, but during a third, follow-up round of testing in November, one animal tested suspect for bovine TB. Tissue samples were collected and submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, IA where a diagnosis of bovine TB was confirmed. Minnesota has now detected bovine TB in nine beef herds.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has begun the indemnification process, which consists of appraising the herd so that it can be purchased from the producers and put down.

At this time, Minnesota's Modified Accredited Advanced TB status will remain unchanged. Board Executive Director and State Veterinarian Dr. Bill Hartmann said that work will continue unabated to return the state to TB-Free status. However, the discovery of any additional herds could result in the downgrading of Minnesota's status. "We are discussing with industry representatives and USDA what to do if additional herds are found," said Hartmann. "And we are reviewing all options including split state status. It is important that we gather all the necessary information from USDA and we have to fully comprehend the needs of the industry statewide. At that time we would be able to address the best way to regain TB-Free status. Either way, we remain committed to working with all of our partners to eliminate this disease."

The state's multi-faceted TB eradication effort includes the following components:

- Area testing: cattle herds located within ten miles of a previously infected farm,
- Disease investigation: herds that have had contact with one of the previously infected farms, and
- Statewide surveillance: a sampling of 1550 cattle herds across Minnesota, all of which tested negative for bovine TB.

In all, approximately 347,000 TB tests have been performed since the disease was discovered in Minnesota in July 2005.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted TB surveillance of hunter-harvested white-tailed deer in the affected area of northwest Minnesota. Over 3,000 deer have been tested in this area since 2005, with 13 deer testing positive and an additional four testing presumptive positive for the disease this past fall.

Michelle Carstensen, DNR wildlife health program coordinator, said complete test results will be available within the next several weeks. "Although finding additional infected deer is obviously a concern, the good news is that the prevalence of the disease remains low and is confined to a small geographic region," Carstensen said. "The DNR is taking every precaution to prevent bovine TB from spreading through the deer herd."

More information on bovine TB in Minnesota and the testing campaign can be found at www.bah.state.mn.us by clicking Bovine Tuberculosis under the Hot Topics menu or by calling the Minnesota TB Hotline at 1-877-MN TB FREE (668-2373).

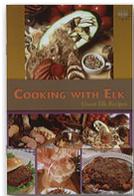
Minnesota Board of Animal Health
625 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55155
651-296-2942
www.bah.state.mn.us

MnEBA Promotional Materials

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

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

MEAT PROMOTIONS



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

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

3rd Edition "Cooking With Elk" Cookbook
1-9 copies, \$2.00/each; 10-99 copies, \$1.50/each; 100+ copies, \$1.00/each (*pictured*)

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

VELVET PROMOTIONS



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

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

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

GENERAL INFORMATION



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

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

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

Cookbook CLEARANCE Sale!

2nd Edition MnEBA Cookbooks **\$1.00** each, any quantity.
Limited amount available. Call 320-543-2686 to order.



The 2008 Minnesota Legislature convenes on February 12, 2008. MnEBA will keep you tuned in to any legislation which would affect the cervidae industry. Please be ready to contact your legislators if the need arises. To find out who your legislator is, go to www.leg.state.mn.us and click on "Who Represents Me".

NAEBA Update

North American Elk Breeders Association
P.O. Box 1640 * Platte City, MO 64079
(816) 431-3605 * Fax (816) 431-2705
info@naelk.org * www.naelk.org



NAEBA to Hold First Ever MARCH MINGLE & BEST OF THE BEST SALE

Plan to attend NAEBA's March Mingle and Best of the Best Sale on March 7-8 at the Argosy Hotel in Riverside, MO. In addition to the Best of the Best Sale this event will offer the Judging Schools and other educational seminars. See www.naelk.org or call (816) 431-3605 for more info.

This unique and inexpensive gathering is your opportunity to mingle with your fellow elk breeders all the while you enjoy a great auction featuring only the finest animals and/or semen in the elk industry.

If you have not consigned or donated your outstanding animal to the sale, please contact the NAEBA office to ensure proper advertising of you, your farm/ranch and your animal.

If you plan to attend the Hard Antler Judging School you MUST have an SCI kit and rulebook. You may obtain yours by contacting SCI at the following:

SCI Headquarters, Tucson, Arizona ~ Main Phone (520) 620-1220

For the Ladies ~

If you would like to enjoy a day at the spa please visit www.argosy.com and check out what they have to offer.

Room Reservations ~ Friday & Saturday - \$124 + tax
Argosy Casino Hotel & Spa
777 N.W. Argosy Parkway
Riverside, MO 64150
Phone (800) 270-7711
Group discount reservation code – NE30708

In The News

Oregon Trophy Elk Sale on the Ochoco Valley Ranch Trophy Bull Sale Average Results ~ January 26, 2008

This sale was broadcast live on RFD TV and simulcast at www.superiorlivestock.com on January 26, 2008. Scores in the following chart are conservative and determined by rub down scores or their 2006 score if the 2007 set was too broken up to measure. Estimated scores were not used in these averages, however, estimated scores were higher in most cases.

The overall average score of all bulls in this chart was 382 SCI with an average price of \$4,066.

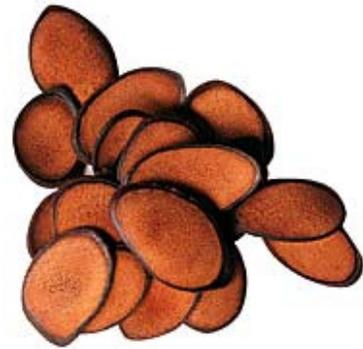
Score Group	# of Bulls	Average Price
440 – 465 SCI	4	\$14,000
420 – 439 SCI	14	\$6,339
410 – 419 SCI	8	\$6,156
400 – 409 SCI	12	\$4,313
390 – 399 SCI	5	\$4,000
370 – 389 SCI	30	\$3,350
350 – 369 SCI	17	\$2,850
330 – 349 SCI	1	\$1,500
310 – 329 SCI	10	\$1,055
253 – 303 SCI	4	\$725

Velvet Watch

Indicators for the 2008 Velvet Season

Deer Industry News, the official magazine of Deer Industry New Zealand and the NZDFA, reports in their December 27, 2007 issue that it has been a difficult start for the 2007/08 velvet season in New Zealand with demand for velvet more sporadic than the same time last year due to a combination of factors:

- A long summer and late start to winter affecting consumption of velvet through oriental medicine clinics.
- An increased volume of stock in Korea with some 06/07 New Zealand velvet, Chinese, Russian and other velvet present in the market.
- Sales of Russian and Chinese velvet in market are generally reported as slow.
- The value of Russian velvet has reportedly declined by about 11%.
- The exchange rate was 14% higher in November than the same time last year.



Velvet Stored in Canada – Velvet antler still remains in at least one large pool in Saskatchewan. While 20,000 lbs reportedly sold for \$28 Canadian, 20-30 tons of velvet antler still remains in this pool.

MnEBA Kitchen

E-Z Elk Stroganoff (crockpot)

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 – 1.5 lbs. elk steak cubes | 1 pkg. onion soup mix |
| Seasoned salt (optional) | 1 can Cream of Mushroom soup |
| 1/8 tsp. pepper | 2 Tbsp. water |
| 1/4 tsp. onion powder | cooked noodles or rice |
| 1/4 tsp. garlic powder | |



Brown cubed elk steak, seasoning while browning with seasoned salt, pepper, onion powder, and garlic powder (to taste). Place elk in crockpot. Add 1/3 package onion soup mix and can of soup, undiluted. Stir until all elk cubes are thoroughly coated. Add 2 Tbsp. water; stir again. Cover and cook on LOW for 6 to 8 hours. Serve with cooked noodles or rice.

President's Message

Continued from Page 1

Our second joint endeavor will be on February 13, 2008 as we meet with the MN Board of Animal Health board of directors to begin the establishment of Cervid rules and regulations.

The challenge for the New Year is a carry-over of the ongoing legislative move by the Minnesota Deer Hunters to abolish our right to harvest preserves. Rep. Rick Hansen introduced at the end of last year's session a bill to

effectively make harvest preserves impossible in our state. Although introduced late in the session, the bill carries over to this 2008 session and does not need to be reintroduced. We have been told that the Deer Hunters are again going to push for legislation this year. We will once again need to reaffirm our support in the House and Senate. We, as a Board, will continue to work with the Deer Breeders concerning this

legislation. However, I must once again remind you that five board members can only have limited effect without the support and involvement of the membership in this process.

As I look back, 2007 was a good year. Looking forward I see 2008 as an even better year. Now I need to stop rambling. Enjoy this wonderful industry and all that the year brings to you.

Elk Meat Market is Strong!

More Meat Animals Are Needed!!! by Scott Salonek

Elk Marketing is pleased the elk meat market is alive and product is selling very well. As many producers may already know, the consumer has accepted our product, with more and more farm raised elk making its way to the retail customer. This has resulted in the need for producers to be considerably more attuned to how to operate their farms in a way to generate as much income from that animal as possible.

Established Floor Value

It is very unfortunate that 3-5 years ago the meat market was not at the state it is today as these were the days of \$250-\$300 cows and producers just wanted to get rid of them to lessen the feed bill.

Today, that \$300 cow is now worth \$500 and the market is such that the industry has a floor salvage value and in my eyes should not go backwards from this salvage value because the consumer will support a meat market that is 2-3 times what we have now! This does not mean I expect to see \$1,000 salvage cows, but we will always have a salvage value.

Open Cows Cost Money

It is the same way in the dairy industry, the milk cow produces a product and has a salvage value at the end of her production. She produced a product which is what you made the profit on, add her salvage value and this is how to figure what value she had to the farm. It is still up to the producer to figure how to operate the farm to get the best value, making sure you breed that cow even though it is another feed bill with the calf. **If she is not producing, she is only costing and to hold her over another year is costing twice as much.** Every farm should be breeding every breeding age cow they have to get as much value as possible.

Use All Four Markets to Increase Profits

In the case of elk, I have always said do not try to support your farm on the meat market only. This animal has four markets and you need all four to get the best value possible. Let's say that we keep a cow for five years and in five years she has a bull, a heifer, and another bull. It cost \$200 per year to feed her and each of her calves. The heifer should be of better genetic quality because if you are not breeding better each year, you are going backward from the gate. This heifer should be her replacement, leaving you with income from the two bulls and this heifer's future offspring. You have velvet sales from the two bulls which will help to pay their feed bill, eventually selling them off to a shooting preserve – profit from them and income from the final salvage value on the cow.

Take out a year of breeding and now what do you have? The importance here is it costs considerably more to NOT breed than to breed. The meat market is here to stay AS LONG AS WE can supply it.

With the industry as it sits today a farm can be profitable, it just takes ALL four markets and some common sense to get all the value you can.

Animal meat prices are up. So are feed costs. Do not let feed costs keep you from getting all the value possible, be smarter on feed. Elk do not require dairy quality hay, or \$4.65 corn.

The industry needs good producing elk, producing and working in all markets. Breed your cows and consider culling open cows who are not producing. Animals are needed for the meat market and the value is not projected to go down anytime soon!

Adequate Feed Needed

We must however, not cut the feed bill on a meat animal to the extreme that we create poor quality. Nearly 80% of cows that are in a breeding program for 4-5 years should be 500 plus pounds live at this age, providing you are not cutting back on the feed too drastically. Decent hay and some feed before she leaves the farm and you will get that weight. It is this animal with a 286 – 375 lb. carcass that gives the meat market the best value. The cost is far more expensive on a 230 lb. carcass as a 500 lb. live animal because the meat to bone ratio is higher on the 500 lb. animal. I will give much better money on this animal than a 400 lb. live animal for the simple reason that the price per pound on the small carcass is higher after processing charges are added.

Plan Ahead

I still need some integrity from the producer and not allow that 10 year old to show up on a \$60 dinner plate at the Hilton. Plan ahead, know who stays and who goes. If I can go to the plant and make a schedule now for August – October for example, I can save some charges on the processing bill because a production plan for the plant has better value.

Pricing, Hanging Weight

<200 lbs.	\$1.25/lb
201 – 250 lbs.	\$1.40/lb
251 – 285 lbs.	\$1.65/lb
286 – 375 lbs.	\$2.00/lb
>376 lbs.	\$1.50/lb

The meat market is only one part of the value on your farm. It is up to the producer to supply that market, breed every female and rotate the herd. Open or small animals cost more than they are worth!

For More Info:

Scott Salonek
Elk Marketing Council
(763) 428-8561

Elk Charity Hunt a Success

Blind Hunter Shoots Elk!

HASTINGS, Minn.- December 10 (The Langenfeld Foundation) – Mr. Michael O. Hanson, age 42, has been completely blind since infancy. Despite his disability, he graduated from college and went on to complete law school, both at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. Last week, he again defied his limitations to engage in an elk hunt with The Langenfeld Foundation, December 7-9, 2007.

The hunt and guiding service was donated by Mr. Tony Beckel, of Tony's Trophy Elk Hunts in Baudette, MN. The elk itself was made possible through a contribution from Mark and Sue Hendrickson, through the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association. Mr. Hanson was assisted on his hunt by members of The Langenfeld Foundation. An assistant was Mike's eyes for him; looking over his shoulder and through a custom-mounted rifle scope, atop the firearm. This type of setup was designed specifically for Mike, allowing the blind hunter to hold the firearm himself, adjust his aim as directed by the sighting partner, and then fire the rifle

when told the cross-hairs are on the target.

Mr. Hanson has used this technique in the past to take a whitetail deer, but has never been given the opportunity to hunt something as grandiose as the North American Wapiti. As an avid outdoorsman, hunter, and fisherman, Mike has truly been granted the trip of a lifetime; something he never would have dreamed of being able to do because of his disability. Also participating in the charity adventure was a second hunter with special needs: Mr. Jon Zirngible, age 45, who has a mental disability. Jon's hunt was also donated by Mr. Beckel, and he was assisted by his brother Mr. James Zirngible.

Dr. Daniel G. Carey, PhD, of the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN wrote, "These are valuable experiences that carry over to other aspects of life... The striving for excellence and pursuit of a goal is every bit as important to them, and maybe more so, as it is to us."

The Langenfeld Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in

Hastings, MN, and works to open hearts and open opportunities for special people with special needs. They enrich lives by helping people be involved in nature, fishing, hunting, sport, and music. They hold out hands to people of all ages and disabilities.

In August 2007, Jon and Mike participated in The Langenfeld Foundation sponsored...and Minnesota's first-ever...Firearms Safety Course taught exclusively for people with disabilities. All students take a written final exam for safety certification from the MN DNR. Jon got 98% on that test, and Mike achieved a perfect 100%.

Interview Contacts: Paul S. Langenfeld, President and Founder, The Langenfeld Foundation.
Telephone: 651-491-8410
TheLangenfeldFoundation@gmail.com
<http://www.TheLangenfeldFoundation.org>

The Langenfeld Foundation,
1911 Eddy Street, Hastings,
MN 55033, Voice 651-491-8410



Thank You to Tony & Patty Beckel for donating the elk hunt and also to Mark & Sue Hendrickson and Perry & Don Olson for donating the bull on behalf of MnEBA. This event has created an opportunity for MnEBA to make a presentation at the MN Safari Club Conference in February and also video opportunities with Kent Hrbek's Outdoor show!

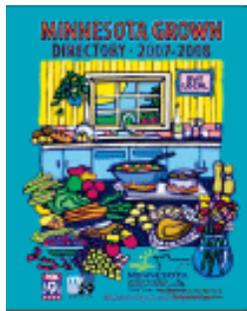
Minnesota Grown

Growing Opportunity to Promote MN Grown ELK!

Minnesotans are increasingly aware of the personal, environmental and economic benefits of buying from *local* providers. The concept and practice of "Buying Local" is very hot. In fact, the 2007 "word of the year" according to the New Oxford American Dictionary, was "locavore".

You could say these dedicated consumers are "eco-eaters". The challenge for these eco-eaters, and others who just want to make a difference: How do you find local food beyond the area farmers' market - beyond the bounty of summertime? Fortunately, in Minnesota the State Department of Agriculture (MDA) has a program designed to get growers together with consumers who are looking for "local" products like elk.

MDA Marketing Specialist Brian Erickson said, "*Minnesota Grown* is synonymous with *local* in this state." "We can help *local* growers get together with *local* consumers looking for their products through events such as the state fair, our point-of-sale materials (free to members), as well as the printed and online Minnesota Grown Directory."



Elk ranchers can join the Minnesota Grown Program for only \$20. For those who sell direct to the consumer, licensing also entitles them to list their products in the Minnesota Grown Directory for an extra fee of only \$40. Participation in this program doubled in the past decade. (There are currently 13 Minnesota elk growers listed in the directory.) Hits to the website www.minnesotagrown.com tripled in 2007, and almost 175,000 Minnesota Grown Directories (a guide to all things local) were distributed throughout the state. At that website, consumers may order a free 2008 Directory (printed in April) and producers will find information on how to join this exciting program.

Licensed growers get free merchandising materials such as price cards, posters and stickers that feature the Minnesota Grown logo, distinguishing their products from others that may have been trucked-in from a distant port. Those free point-of-sale materials may be shared with your retailers as well. Growers may register and pay online at www.minnesotagrown.com, or call 651-201-6469 and leave a complete mailing address to receive a packet in the mail to return with a check. Applications for the 2008 Directory must be mailed no later than March 1, 2008.



Minnesota Grown Marketing Conference – March 11, 2008

Featuring... Joseph Pine II - Author, Speaker, Management Advisor

Joseph Pine II is an internationally acclaimed author, speaker, and management advisor- but is himself Minnesota Grown, now living in Dellwood, with two daughters who worked at the Costa Farm & Greenhouse, one of whom also worked at the Pine Tree Apple Orchard. He is co-founder of Strategic Horizons LLP, which helps businesses conceive and design new ways of adding value to their economic offerings. Mr. Pine is the author of three path-breaking books, *Mass Customization*, *The Experience Economy*, and his latest, *Authenticity: What Consumers Really Want*, which recognizes that in a world of increasingly paid-for experiences, people no longer accept the fake from the phony, but want the real from the genuine.

Today, goods and services are no longer enough; what people desire most of all are experiences – memorable events that engage them in an inherently personal way. We're shifting into an Experience Economy where experiences are becoming the predominant economic offering. This six-hour workshop, conducted by the man who

discovered the Experience Economy, ensures that you gain the full benefit of such opportunities for generating demand for your agricultural output. Further, through the frameworks and ideas in his latest book, he will show you how to render all your offerings authentic. Here is where businesses that gather harvests have a powerful advantage over all others, for few experiences are considered more authentic by consumers today than those that connect them with the earth itself. Learn how to harness that advantage, developing specific ideas for what you should do differently to prosper in the Experience Economy.

The conference is at the Continuing Education and Conference Center (formerly known as the Earl Brown Center) on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul Campus.

For more information, call 651-201-6510 or see www.minnesotagrown.com.

NTFARC Steps up to Assist Producers In Oregon

What is NTFARC?

The **Non-Traditional Farmers and Ranchers Coalition** (NTFARC) is a non-profit organization representing an industry that has an annual economic impact on this nation's economy in excess of three billion dollars, an industry made up of more than 45,000 non-traditional farmers, ranchers and other industry related personnel across this great nation.

NTFARC is a political voice for this industry on both a state and federal level. NTFARC is determined to protect and promote this industry when ever and where ever the need arises and to seek fair treatment for the non-traditional farmers and ranchers that it represents. NTFARC will work to see that government agencies enforce the regulations fairly and that no special treatment is offered to government wildlife agencies that would in any way jeopardize this industry or the health of livestock and wildlife in this country.

NTFARC - Mission Statement

In an effort to protect the private property rights of individual members of our collective organizations; and in an effort to preserve the private businesses of our members in breeding, raising, harvesting and marketing of fenced farm and ranch raised wildlife; we ally ourselves and our organizations for the beneficial interests of the majority of our membership.

Minnesota Representative

Jim Kotschevar has stepped up to be a Director from Minnesota on the Non Traditional Farmers & Ranchers Coalition (thank you Jim!). Jim has asked MnEBA to forward the following request to the membership and ask that you write letters in support of our fellow elk producers in Oregon. A **sample** letter written by David Autry is found later in this email.

A note from the coalition: *Please send your letter ASAP. The email address is odfw.comments@state.or.us. Letters can be written to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissioners, Wildlife Division, 3406 Cherry Avenue NE, Salem, OR 97303. The deadline for comments is February 8, 2008.*

The Issue

Oregon Fish and Wildlife made up of 10 Commissioners are trying to make our 15 fellow elk breeders do the following:

1. Double fence
2. Forbid us from selling what they call our shooter bulls out of state for "canned" hunts. They compare these "canned" hunts to dog fighting and cock fighting. This is a low blow.
3. They want us to test all our calves that die for CWD. As of now we test everything that dies 12 months and older.
4. They really want to regulate us out of business.
5. Forbidding us from transferring any of our 15 permits to anyone else.

See www.ntfarc.com for more information.

We need 1,000+ letters to get their attention!!!!

odfw.comments@state.or.us

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissioners,

It has come to my attention that you are considering new regulations that would have a major negative impact on the Elk Farmers and Ranchers in Oregon. After reviewing these proposed regulations, it is very obvious that these regulations serve no real purpose except to place such a hardship on these non-traditional farmers and ranchers that they will be forced out of business. If these regulations go into effect, this would result in the loss of private property rights and when challenged in court could be ruled as a takings and the state and your department could be held liable for the resulting damages, millions of dollars, caused by these unreasonable and unnecessary regulations.

Double fencing is certainly not needed if the enclosures are in a CWD monitoring program. There has never been a known case of CWD, in a non-endemic area in the United States, in an enclosure that has completed five years of CWD

monitoring, where every cervid has been accounted for each of those five years and every deceased cervid, over 16 months of age, has tested negative for CWD. Also, there is no scientific reasoning for testing elk calves as other states only start testing at 12 to 16 months of age. The five year CWD monitoring program has been tested over and over again and proves a herd to be free of this disease. The real threat of CWD is in wild, free roaming cervids, animals controlled by state and federal wildlife agencies. The only enclosure in Oregon, that I am aware of, that may need to be double fenced is the Starkey enclosure where the cervids have not been completely or properly monitored, inventoried or tested for CWD. It's an eight-foot-high fenced enclosure that encircles 40 square miles, or 25,000 acres and controlled by the government. If double fencing was really needed, why has

this government run facility not been double fenced? When this case is challenged in court, it may be impossible for you to explain to a Judge why privately owned elk ranches, that have been properly monitored, inventoried and tested for CWD, needs to be double fenced when the government managed enclosure, Starkey, is not double fenced and yet the Starkey cervids are not properly monitored, inventoried and tested for CWD.

Your attempt to prevent these elk farmers and ranchers from selling their live elk out of state has no merit. Most states recognize the value and benefits of these captive raised cervids and have made it possible to legally import these captive raised animals. It goes beyond your jurisdiction to try and control what other states can import. These captive raised cervids are considered, by the Federal Government, to be livestock and you have no legal ground to stand on in this attempt to prevent others states from importing these elk. Please refer to the note below to see the Federal Governments position on farm raised elk being considered livestock.

You seem to have concerns about captive raised cervids being harvested and the only reason that I can see for that is when someone harvests a captive raised elk, he or she probably won't purchase a hunting license from a government wildlife agency and wildlife agencies do not want to compete for those sales. Many hunters, when given a choice, will choose a captive raised cervid from a disease free herd rather than spend several thousand dollars to hunt a wild free roaming elk from a herd that may be infected with TB, Brucellosis or CWD only to find out later that his kill was diseased and is not safe to eat. Free range hunters are tired of receiving calls, from government wildlife agencies a few weeks after they have had their kill processed, to hear that their kill has tested positive for a disease and that they will only be reimbursed a few hundred dollars, the cost of their hunting license. Also, your wild free roaming cervids can not compete genetically with captive raised cervids and this is just another reason why many hunters prefer a captive raised cervid that has been properly managed and has reached its full potential.

Your position of "No Meat Sales" is, at best, unreasonable. Tons, of captive raised venison, are consumed each year in the U.S. and the non-traditional farmers and ranchers in Oregon should be allowed to sell their elk venison both in state and out of state if it meets state or federal meat inspection regulations. There is no justifiable reason to prevent these meat sales.

It is also unreasonable for you to limit the number of captive elk producers in your state and not allow the existing captive elk producers to transfer their permits. It seems as though you have no reasonable regulations in regard to captive raised elk and yet you are now proposing more unreasonable regulations with only one true motive, to force these non-traditional farmers and ranchers out of business and eliminate the government wildlife agencies's only competition. Our Government should be working for the people and not be in competition with the people. Your unreasonable regulations are not about disease issues, it is about your agenda to eliminate government wildlife agencies's competition!

My suggestions to you and the elk producers in Oregon, is to sit down together and create reasonable regulations that will allow these hard working non-traditional farmers and ranchers to remain in business so as to avoid a long costly legal battle that will likely prove my case above.

Respectfully,

David L. Autry

Executive Director, TN Elk Breeders Association
Director, North American Elk Breeders Association
Director, Non Traditional Farmers and Ranchers Coalition
Lifetime Member, TN Elk Breeders Association, North American Elk Breeders Association and Southern Game Ranchers Association

Respectfully,

Joel Espe

Executive Director, Non Traditional Farmers and Ranchers Coalition
President & Director, North American Elk Breeders Association

Respectfully,

Scott Heinrich

Vice President, Southern Game Ranchers Association
Director, Non Traditional Farmers and Ranchers Coalition

Respectfully,

Wm. David Miller

Director, Non Traditional Farmers and Ranchers Coalition
Vice President, Idaho Elk Breeders Association
Member, North American Elk Breeders Association

Respectfully,

Erin E. Miller

Member, Idaho Elk Breeders Association
Member, North American Elk Breeders Association

Respectfully,

Daryl Simon

Director, Non Traditional Farmers and Ranchers Coalition
Director, Reindeer Owners and Breeders Association
Member, United States Animal Health Association
Member, Minnesota Board of Animal Health Cervidae Advisory Committee

NOTE: USDA now defines farm raised Elk, Reindeer and Bison as Livestock

The US Department of Agriculture will now consider elk, reindeer, and bison as livestock in the administration of certain programs within the department. When Alaska Senator Ted Stevens learned that some farmers and ranchers were being denied access to the livestock assistance programs being administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), he included language in the Omnibus Bill, HR 4818, to correct this inequality. Specifically, the Act directs the Secretary to include elk, reindeer, and bison under the definition of "livestock" in carrying out livestock assistance, compensation, or feed programs. Elk, reindeer and bison ranchers who want to participate in USDA programs should contact their local county FSA office for information and to sign up for available assistance. It may require both patience and persistence on the part of the producer to obtain benefits as this will be a new addition to FSA and it may take time for staff to understand the needs of the elk, reindeer and bison industry. The livestock programs that are available will vary by region but it is important that every elk, reindeer and bison rancher contact their local office, update their records, and provide data to assist in the implementation of the programs.

Raffle Raises Important Funds for MnEBA!



The 2007 MnEBA Raffle once again raised very important funds for MnEBA. Members were able to sell 177 of the 300 tickets which amounted to great odds plus \$8,850 in sales!! Congratulations to the Parsons family who topped tickets sales at 11 tickets. The Beier family and also Jim Byrne both sold 10 tickets each.

Raffle winners were drawn at the conclusion of the MnEBA Annual Conference on January 12th. Winners included: 1st prize Bahamas Treasure Cay Island Villa: **John Stellman**; 2nd prize elk hunt: **John Grosland**; 3rd prize fishing trip: **Bob Laing**; 4th prize pheasant hunt and lodging: **Paul Hueg**; 5th prize leather embroidered elk chair: **Bonnie Mulluihill**; 6th prize \$500 Cabelas gift certificate: **Pat Prodzinski**; and 7th prize handmade antler lamp: **Lisa Luedtke**.

THANK YOU to the following donors who helped MnEBA put on a fantastic list of prizes:

- 1st prize: Up to (5) people / (7) day Bahamas Treasure Cay Island Villa donated by **Mark & Sue Hendrickson & Jerry & BJ Hendrickson**
- 2nd prize: (2) person / (3) day elk hunt at Tony's Trophy Elk Ranch donated by **Tony & Patty Beckel**
- 3rd prize: (2) person / (2) day Red Lake Guided Fishing Trip donated by **Fred & Eleanor Neubert**
- 4th prize: (2) day pheasant hunt, (2) nights lodging for (2) people at Ringneck Acres, donated by the **VanderWeyst family**
- 7th prize: hand-crafted antler lamp, hand-made and donated by **Pat & Rita Prodzinski**



Raffle Prizes on display at conference.

Last but not least, **THANK YOU** to all who sold and purchased tickets!!! The funding raised will be a tremendous financial help and will enable MnEBA to put our best efforts forward in the coming year, no matter what the task.

Help Needed at the St. Paul Deer Classic!

Your help is needed at the St. Paul Deer Classic on March 7-9. ALL times are open!

- Fri. March 7: 3 p.m. – 10 p.m.**
- Sat. March 8: 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.**
1 p.m. – 6 p.m.
- Sun. March 9: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Please contact Perry Olson at 507-220-4515 (cell), 800-999-6188 (work), or perryo@taylore elk.com

REGISTERED
Rocky Mountain Elk



N.A.E.B.A. Herd # 1189
**Mark, Sue & Jeremy
Hendrickson**
952-448-6336
15590 County Rd. 40
Carver, MN 55315

- * **Buying** Hard Antler Bulls – Paying Top \$\$\$
- * **Measuring** Hard Antler Bulls
- * **Hauling** Hard Antler Bulls
- * **Selling** Velvet Antler, Breeding Stock, Elk Meat, Hard Antler, Semen, & Breeder Bulls
- * **Seven** years CWD Monitoring

Committee Reports

Government Relations - 2007 Wrap Up

by Don Olson

We had a very good year as for new government actions against the elk industry. By being a part of the rule making process, actively responding with honest communications to legislators when asked, and building on years of respect built by MnEBA's past actions, the Minnesota Elk Industry's voice and concerns were heard in St. Paul. As a result of our member's actions past and present, few negative actions were taken against our industry.

In 2007, the MDHA again came to St. Paul to try to pass anti-shooting preserve legislation through the Minnesota House and Senate. I believe their past actions, specifically their cries of disease issues directed at the Rancher cervidae industry, but then their failing to participate in health and disease related solutions have hurt them. Specifically MDHA failed to fully participate in the Cervidae Advisory Committee process with their anti-shooting ideas and then they tried to force legislation without building a solid constituent base, causing the MDHA's desires to go unfilled.

In 2008 we may again see the MDHA try to pass anti-shooting legislation. With the outstanding ground work done almost on a daily basis by our lobbyist Tony Kwilas (who after all these years in probably known as Mr. Elk at the Capitol), MnEBA is in good hands. Please be ready for legislative requests from Tony.

We need to continue to be actively supporting our legislators both financially and with regular communication. Each legislator has to run for re-election. If you know of a legislator who has helped our industry in the past, support them; call them and offer to have a re-election sign placed on your property, tell your neighbors about how good a legislator has worked for you, and give them some money to help pay some of their election costs.

If we don't elect and keep the legislators who work for us, those who oppose us will elect their people.

MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Annual Conference	Kaye Zearth (320) 834-4064
Nominating	Fred Neubert (320) 352-6733
Government Relations	OPEN
Velvet Competition	Kaye Zearth (320) 834-4064
Health	Dr. Glen Zearth (320) 834-4064
Auction	Jerry Strodman (507) 451-3107
Awards	Patty VanGundy (507) 896-2380
Promotions	Brenda Hartkopf (320) 543-2686
Shows	Morrie & Daphne Evenson (320) 354-5156
Fundraising	Brenda Hartkopf (320) 543-2686

February 5th Meeting with DFL Senate Leadership

The Minnesota Deer Breeders Association has invited MnEBA members to join them for a "Friendraiser" with the DFL Senate Leadership on February 5th at 11:30 a.m. at the Mai Village restaurant in St. Paul. There will be a small luncheon meeting to give deer and elk breeders an opportunity to meet with select legislators to talk about the farmed cervidae industry. *We need volunteers to attend this meeting!*

The goal is to demonstrate to Senate Majority Leader, Larry Pogemiller (DFL-Minneapolis) our interest in having open communications with him and his fellow majority colleagues as we go into the 2008 session.

If you are willing to contribute your time to meet with key members of the DFL Senate Caucus, please contact Jim Byrne at (507) 358-6505 as soon as possible.

2008 North Central Antler Competition



The 2008 North Central Antler Competition will be hosted by the Wisconsin Commercial Deer & Elk Farmers Association (WCDEFA) and held on August 6-7 at Ho-Chunk Casino near Baraboo, WI and the Wisconsin Dells resort area.

WCDEFA is looking for volunteers to help out with this event. If you are willing and/or able to help out, please contact Bill Knutson at (608) 526-4477.

MN Farmed Cervidae Advisory Committee Minutes

January 10, 2008

The Board of Animal Health advisory committee on Farmed Cervidae met on January 10, 2008, at the Freeman Office Building in St. Paul.

In attendance - Paul Anderson, Carl Denkinger, Bethanie Docken, Carissa Allen, Heidi Kassenborg, Glen Zebarth, Brenda Hartkopf, Donovan Olson, James Byrne, Daryl Simon, Scott Salonek, Mike DonCarlos, Denny Niess, Jim Rasmussen, Lynne Osterman, Stacey Schwabenlander, Dennis Udovich, Leroy Haffner, Tony Kwilas, Barb Greig, Mark Hendrickson

Introductions – Members introduced themselves and talked briefly about their involvement with the Farmed Cervidae Advisory Committee.

Purpose of the meeting – The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussion on proposed language for promulgation of farmed cervidae rules. Specific language (attached) for management of the farmed cervidae program in Minnesota, for CWD surveillance and for importation of farmed cervidae was discussed. Draft rules for control of tuberculosis were also discussed.

Overview of the Minnesota Farmed Cervidae Program – Paul Anderson summarized the number of farmed cervidae herds currently enrolled in the program and herd statuses for CWD, tuberculosis and brucellosis.

**Very Important,
Please Read!**

Discussion on draft rules – Draft rules for farmed cervidae and CWD surveillance programs were reviewed by the committee for the second time.

The definition of “CWD endemic area” was discussed in great detail. The challenge for the committee was to arrive at an acceptable formula for determining the size of a CWD endemic area. It was finally agreed that if the board determines that CWD is endemic in Minnesota, all locations within “ten miles” of a confirmed case of CWD in Minnesota wild cervidae must be designated as part of the

CWD endemic area. It was further agreed that the Board may designate larger geographic areas of Minnesota as part of a CWD endemic area if necessary to prevent the spread of CWD.

In regard to restrictions on movement of animals from CWD endemic areas, committee members agreed that restrictions are necessary to prevent the spread of CWD in Minnesota. Members also expressed concern for producers that may become included in a CWD endemic area. Would there be a way for them to stay in business? Would producers have to alter pen designs to ensure separation of farmed and wild cervidae before CWD is detected in wild cervidae? Could producers have a grace period following detection of CWD in wild cervidae to alter pen designs and ensure separation of farmed and wild cervidae?

The committee felt that farmed cervidae could be moved safely out of a CWD endemic area in Minnesota if producers could demonstrate that their animals had been maintained separate from wild cervidae. USDA regulations require 10 feet of physical separation to ensure that farmed cervidae are maintained separate and not commingled with or exposed to wild cervidae in regard to CWD transmission. In order to adhere to USDA regulations, it was agreed that 10 feet of separation would be the standard for Minnesota rules.

The idea of a grace period following designation of a CWD endemic area in Minnesota was suggested. Such a provision would give producers a short period of time to react if CWD is found in Minnesota wild cervidae.

After much consideration, it has been suggested that farmed cervidae that originate from a CWD endemic area in Minnesota could safely be moved to other locations in Minnesota if it could be demonstrated that the herd of origin was maintained in such a way that commingling of farmed cervidae and wild cervidae had been prevented for at least 60 consecutive months or for a continuous period

of time that began no later than 90 days following the initial designation of the area as CWD endemic. Under these requirements, producers would have a grace period of 90 days following the detection of CWD in Minnesota wild cervidae to alter their pen designs and still maintain their ability to move animals within the state.

A new schedule for reduction of CWD program status for producers who fail to test eligible animals for CWD was agreed upon by the committee. The schedule will take into account the surveillance level of the herd and penalties will become smaller as the herd surveillance period increases. Each time a producer fails to test an eligible animal for CWD, the CWD surveillance period for a herd will be shortened by (1) the length of the surveillance period for herds in status level 1, or (2) 365 days for herds in status levels 2-3,

or (3) 180 days for herds in status levels 4-5, or (4) 90 days for herds in status level 6.

Committee members discussed the possibility of requiring tuberculosis testing for intrastate movement of farmed cervidae. After lengthy discussion, this issue was tabled for possible consideration at some time in the future.

It was suggested that language be added to the section for CWD testing requirements to allow for the use of alternative tests as they are developed and approved for CWD detection. The rectal biopsy test for CWD appears to be a possibility for use as an effective live animal test. Language will be added to allow for incorporation of new technology for CWD testing.

Next Meeting - The next meeting of the advisory committee will be scheduled in April, 2008.

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Ads must be camera ready. To place an ad, call the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686.

Your 2008 MnEBA Membership

All 2007 MnEBA memberships expired on December 31, 2007. Your membership is important to MnEBA. If you have not yet renewed, please return your payment by mail or pay by credit card at www.mneba.org.

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

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.mneba.org

Calendar of Events

March 7 – 8, 2008 – NAEBA's 1st Annual March Mingle & Best of the Best Sale, Argosy Casino Hotel, Riverside, MO

March 7 – 9, 2008 – Minnesota Deer Classic, St. Paul, MN

March 11, 2008 – MN Grown Conference, Continuing Education & Conference Center, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

August 6 – 7, 2008 – North Central Antler Competition, Ho-Chunk Casino Hotel & Convention Center, Baraboo, WI

August 7 – 10, 2008 – NAEBA Annual Conference & International Antler Competition, Ho-Chunk Casino Hotel & Convention Center, Baraboo, WI

August 21 – September 1, 2008 – Minnesota State Fair, St. Paul, MN

Classified Ads

Wanted: King semen. Contact Mark Hendrickson at (952) 448-6336 or email elkherd1189@aol.com.

For Sale: Hydraulic Squeeze Chute and Handling System. The handling system is an NV Modular system with seven pens. Size is 40 feet by 24 feet. (7) sliding modules, (7) swinging modules and four corner modules – three gates – entrance, exit and load out. The squeeze is an Elk-N-Z Monty North built chute. Contact Pat Prodzinski at (507) 452-1282 or pvre@hotmail.com.

For Sale: Elk rings for men & women. 14 kt solid gold bandset with an ivory tooth, or, elk antler bandset with an ivory tooth. Call Okaman Elk Farm for pricing at (507) 267-4054.

Elk Hide Tanning: Elk hide tanning, \$150 hair off or \$7.50 per square foot, hair on. We can also make jackets, vests, gloves and more from your hides. Call for free catalog or for more information at (800) USA-FOXX. Check out our web site at www.usafoxx.com or email info@usafoxx.com. USA Foxx & Furs, Duluth, MN.

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

MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

9086 Keats Ave SW
Howard Lake, MN 55349