



Special Interest Articles:

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- Membership Meeting Minutes
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President's Message by Jim Byrne

Start of another year. The board met this last Saturday and said thank you for serving to Charles Francis who leaves the board after three years of faithful service. Once again thanks Charles for all your efforts. Replacing Charles is Kaye Zebarth, who I have had the privilege of serving with in 2003 when she served as president. The board officers remain the same as last year so you will have to put up with my ramblings for one more year.

CWD raised its ugly head again on a farm in Olmstead County just as January was

ending. On the day of the press release from the Animal Board of Health, we had a number of queries from the press and local television stations. Brenda and I answered media questions for most of that first day resulting with media exposure being minimal and an overall fair representation of the issue to the public.

This incidence is devastating to the individuals who own the herd, and I would like to extend my heart felt concern for their loss. I also want to thank them for

being in compliance which lessened the impact on the industry.

This one aspect, compliance with the CWD monitoring program, has helped keep this issue from escalating. Compliance with all of the aspects of the program from sample testing to herd movement is how we are going to continue to reduce the negative media. Remember, by adhering to the mandatory state programs (both for CWD and Tuberculosis) you are protecting the elk industry for everyone.



2009 Board of Directors Right to Left: Brian Wagner, Jim Byrne, Mark Hendrickson, Pat Prodzinski, Kaye Zebarth, & Brenda Hartkopf

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

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MnEBA

Mission Statement

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association represents a unified voice that strengthens the Elk farming industry in Minnesota by creating awareness about Elk production and promotion and consumption of Elk products.

2009 MnEBA Annual Conference

Out of State Attendees Offer Great Support!

The 2009 MnEBA annual conference took place one day after the NAEBA January Jamboree & Select Elk Sale. Many attendees stayed over and also attended the MnEBA conference, purchasing extra registration passes, bidding on auction items and also buying raffle tickets. It was a great form of unity as producers from several parts of the U.S. and even a visitor from Canada, joined MnEBA members to learn and have a great time together.

Many thanks to the great speakers who shared timely information with attendees. They included Shana Gillette, Colorado State University; Dr. Paul Anderson, MN Board of Animal Health; Paul Hugunin & Jessica Rovie, MN Grown; Paul Ristau, local antler crafter; and Charly Seale, Executive Director of the Exotic Wildlife Association.

Thank you to Kaye Zearth who made a beautiful couch quilt which was given away as part of the card raffle. Brenda Hartkopf was the lucky winner!

The raffle ticket table was busy selling tickets to visitors and collecting the final stubs and money from attendees. Thank you to Eileen Byrne for working all day to collect these items and for stepping in to help with registration.

Thanks to Rita Prodzinski & Kaye Zearth for organizing both the silent and live auctions. Thanks also to Patty VanGundy for assistance in obtaining select items for the auction. Joel Espe did an awesome job of providing entertainment and auctioning off beautiful items donated by participants at the conference.

This year's conference featured five vendors including Sunset Jewelry, ADM Alliance Nutrition, MN Farmer's Union, Paul Ristau Antler Crafts, & Elkhorn Ranch II. Thank you for your support!

The 2008 North Central Antler awards were also given out by WCDEFA representative's Bill Knutson and Joel Espe. Congratulations again to all winners!

The awards presentation recognized several individuals for outstanding contributions to the industry. They included the first ever Outstanding Media Award which went to The Land based out of Mankato, MN. Mark Luedtke received a thank you gift for serving three years on the MnEBA Board and Tony Kwilas & Glen Zearth received outstanding service awards.

There were many people who sponsored events all throughout the day. They include:

- **Morning Break Sponsors:** *Paul & Lynn Hueg, Roger Nietfeld and Jim & Mary Kay Kotschevar*
- **Afternoon Break Sponsors:** *Jim & Eileen Byrne and Ted & Sheila Mehrkens*
- **Table Decorations/Door Prizes:** *Paul & Lynn Hueg, Morrie & Daphne Evenson and AgStar Financial Services*
- **Elk Meat for Evening Banquet:** *Elk Marketing Council, Scott Salonek*

A final thank you to the committee of Kaye Zearth (chair), Rita Prodzinski and Brenda Hartkopf for planning a very successful conference! Thank you to all who attended, made donations, bid on fundraising items and helped in any way. It was all very much appreciated!

Conference Fundraisers Very Successful!

The 2009 conference fundraisers were hugely successful bringing in over \$7,000! Fantastic donations were made by both members and out of state visitors who attended the NAEBA January Jamboree and Select Elk Sale. Visitors also got into the spirit of the fun auction and many items went to out of state bidders.

Items were sold by silent auction, card raffle, and a live fun auction. THANK YOU to Rita Prodzinski and Kaye Zebarth who helped organize the fundraising activities. Thanks to Morrie & Daphne Evenson for conducting the card raffle and to all those who helped during the live auction. A special thank you to Joel Espe for an outstanding job hosting the live auction! It was fun and entertaining with good bidding all the way through. Finally, many thanks to all donors, bidders and buyers. It was a terrific fundraiser which will help get MnEBA started on the right foot in 2009!

THANK YOU to the all the following:

Donor	Item	Buyer
Leo Windschitl ADM Alliance Nutrition	(2) lots of 10 bags 18% complete ADM Alliance Nutrition Supplement	Kim Kafka Glen Zebarth
Joel & Cheri Espe	Step Thru Gate	Mark Lucas
Glen & Kaye Zebarth	More than Meets the Eye Elk Calendar	Paul Hueg
Larry & Mary Gerdes	Antler / Buffalo Shoulder Blade Art	Lynn Hueg
Martin Zacharias	Thru the Fence Feed Scoop	Brian Wagner
Brian Wagner	Calendar	Mark Luedtke
Richard & Jon Aase	Elk Statue	Charly Seale
Paul Ristau	Elk Antler Clock	Charly Seale
Pat & Rita Prodzinski	Elk Rug	Charly Seale
Kenard Kreycik	(2) Buffalo Skulls	Charly Seale purchased both
Mark & Michelle Lucas	Elk Print	Charly Seale
MnEBA	Large Metal Art Elk Herd Scene	Charly Seale
MnEBA	Large Wood Art Hand Carved & Painted Elk Scene	Charly Seale
Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Whitetail Antler Basket	Pat Prodzinski
MnEBA	Metal Art Paper Towel Holder	Charly Seale
MnEBA	Metal Art Napkin Holder	Mark Luedtke
Jim & Mary Kay Kotschevar	Metal Art Elk Bow & Arrow Holder	Brian Wagner
Larry & Patty VanGundy	Tin with (4) Elk Scene Jack Knives	Charly Seale
MnEBA	Metal Art Towel Holder	Paul Hueg
Exotic Wildlife Assoc.	(2) EWA 1 Year Active Voting Memberships	Kim Kafka Kelly Hebbert
Joel & Cheri Espe	(2) Straws Drifter	Jim Byrne
Jim & Mary Kay Kotschevar	(2) Straws Reno	Mark Hendrickson
Joel Espe	Birthday Wishes to Karen Knutson	Bill Knutson
Joel Espe & Kelly Hebbert	Veterinary Glove	Wade Schimmelpfennig
Larry & Patty VanGundy	Vet-EA Machine	Pat Prodzinski
Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Home Décor	Diane Strodman
Pat & Rita Prodzinski	Glass Viking Cutting Board	Lee Johnson
Larry & Patty VanGundy	Wine & Chocolate Basket	Brenda Hartkopf
John & Shirley Fredrickson	(2) sets Elk Metal Candle Holders	Laurie Prasnicky purchased both
Jim & Eileen Byrne	Summer Sampler of Sweets	Laurie Prasnicky
Paul & Lynn Hueg	Spa Basket	Rita Prodzinski
Morrie & Daphne Evenson	Coffee Table Book – Majesty	Paul Hueg
Pat & Rita Prodzinski	Wastebasket, Calendar, Shirt, Etc.	Paul Hueg
Jim & Eileen Byrne	Hot Pepper Jam & Cooler	Joey Lucas
Glen & Kaye Zebarth	Homemade Couch Quilt	Brenda Hartkopf

Membership Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2009 Membership Meeting Minutes

The membership of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held their annual membership meeting on January 10, 2009 at the Holiday Inn in Mankato, MN. Jim Byrne called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Jim asked for additions or corrections to the August 7, 2008 secretary report as presented. Pat Prodzinski moved to accept the report, motion carried.

The treasurer's report was reviewed. The end of the year checkbook balance was \$18,074.22. Glen Zearth moved to accept the treasurer's report, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Government Relations: Jim Byrne reported that while time was spent monitoring TB legislation, 2008 was a relatively quiet year for MnEBA at the state Capitol. Lobbyist Tony Kwilas predicts the budget will be the primary focus in 2009. Tony will continue to monitor all activity at the Capitol.

Health: Glen Zearth reported that the main topic at the recent USAHA Convention was TB. The federal government is concerned about too much funding being spent on depopulation of herds. There is a strong desire to search for better testing tools for all species. There are some promising blood tests, but they are not yet validated for cattle or cervids in the U.S.

The new CWD Supplemental Rule was scheduled to be out for public comment in 2008, however, it's not out yet. It's said to be coming out two weeks from now. Glen suggested MnEBA submit comments once it comes out.

Glen reported that the Animal Welfare Committee of the American Veterinary Medical Association has shown concern about animal welfare in the removal of velvet antler. He read their new position statement to the membership. Glen urged all elk producers to have a good working relationship with their veterinarian. Pain control aids used in velvet antler removal were also discussed.

It was also reported that the FDA has passed rules banning certain antibiotics in any food producing animal over concerns with antibiotic residues. While

these restricted antibiotics are not commonly used in the cervidae industry, this ruling had a strong impact on the swine, sheep and goat industries.

Fundraising: Brenda Hartkopf reported that the 2008 fundraising raffle is on track to sell as many tickets as last year. She recognized and thanked all donors. Wade Schimmelpfennig was also recognized as the leading ticket seller so far selling 21 tickets.

Kaye Zearth discussed a new idea for fundraising – a raffle calendar. Discussed finding a sponsor for each month and using MnEBA member pictures. Also discussed using guns, cash, or a combination of both as prizes. There was good discussion and members were in favor of this idea. The committee will continue to pursue it.

North Central Antler Competition: Brian Wagner reported that Wisconsin did a great job hosting last year's competition and that it looks like North Dakota is interested in hosting the 2009 competition. They have their membership meeting in February where they will make the final decision. More details will be forwarded to the membership when they become available.

Promotions: Brenda Hartkopf reported that MnEBA has been asked for the second year in a row, to give a presentation about opportunities to harvest elk close to home at the MN SCI Convention in Minneapolis on February 21st.

MnEBA has also been requested to give a cooking with elk seminar at the upcoming Upper Midwest Restaurant Hospitality and Lodging Show on February 23 & 24. Anyone willing to help with this presentation was asked to contact the MnEBA Office.

The Minnesota Farmer's Union recently requested a source for a large elk roast to be served at their annual meeting last December. A great variety of Minnesota grown foods were served at this event.

The Minnesota Deer Classic will be March 13-15. Volunteers are needed to man the booth.

New meat brochures are now available. Changes recommended by the membership have been worked into the new design including a new look, more

recipes and an open space to put personal contact information.

Lastly, Brenda showed the membership a copy of the most recent Langenfeld Foundation newsletter featuring an SCI press release about the recent MnEBA sponsored elk hunt for a disabled Vietnam veteran. She also showed the latest SCI Foundation Humanitarian Services newsletter which went out to all SCI members worldwide. This newsletter contained an article about last year's MnEBA sponsored elk hunt for a blind man. Both of these hunts were co-sponsored by the Langenfeld Foundation, SCI and other contributors.

State Fair: Daphne Evenson reported that the MnEBA booth at the State Fair continues to be an outstanding opportunity to promote the Minnesota elk industry. She suggested bringing friends to help and that if people are not interested in direct interaction with the public, help is also needed with set up. She reported that MnEBA will be working on a new flag banner as the old banner was looking too worn to be put out this year. It was definitely missed! Discussed making elk antler headbands available once again, or perhaps a sticker giveaway.

NAEBA: Mark Luedtke reported that NAEBA ended their 2007-2008 fiscal year in the black. He also reported that the new board is working hard to be transparent and open. There are three primary financial opportunities for income: memberships, animal registrations and fundraisers. He encouraged everyone to support NAEBA in these ways. Finally, he reported that in the NAEBA membership meeting the day before, the membership had voted to reduce the number of elected board members to one per region with the largest region having two. This motion



will need further approval as it is a by-law change so it is not final.

NTFARC: Jim Kotschevar reported that NTFARC was still in the process of getting better organized. He encouraged everyone to check out the NTFARC web site on a regular basis as this site has all the latest information on situations around the country which are being monitored.

OLD BUSINESS

Jim Byrne thanked those who had recently contributed to the very successful Langenfeld elk charity hunt for disabled Vietnam veteran Jim Sursely. Elk industry donors included Tony Beckel (facility & guide service), an anonymous North Dakota elk breeder (a beautiful elk bull), and Mark Hendrickson (transportation of the bull from the North Dakota elk ranch to Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt ranch in Baudette, MN). This event created a lot of positive public publicity for the trophy bull industry.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Byrne thanked both Charles Francis and Pat Prodzinski for their years of service on the MnEBA board. Jim reported that Charles has elected not to run again. The nominations committee had two names for the ballot, Pat Prodzinski and Kaye Zebarth. Jim opened up the floor for additional nominations. Morrie Evenson moved to close nominations and accept the two nominees on the ballot. Sue Hendrickson seconded, motion carried.

Discussed the cost of having a booth at Farmfest and the membership was asked whether they would like to continue having a presence there. It was decided to discontinue a booth at Farmfest. The suggestion was made to look at food or human health shows.

Discussed animal movements out of state. Mark Hendrickson strongly cautioned producers to make sure all paperwork was in order. There are very stiff penalties for non-compliance. Discussed if anything could be done to lift restrictions of farmed cervidae movement past the 100th meridian.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2008 Board Meeting Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a board meeting on December 6, 2008 at the home of Lance & Brenda Hartkopf. Jim Byrne, Mark Hendrickson, Pat Prodzinski, Brian Wagner, and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Charles Francis was unable to attend.

Byrne called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. He asked for additions or corrections to the October 23rd phone conference minutes. Hendrickson moved to accept, Wagner seconded, motion carried. The Treasurer's report was then reviewed. The current balance is \$18,703.38. Wagner moved to accept, Prodzinski seconded, motion carried. Byrne asked Hartkopf to compile and send to him the final number for Year End Total Assets from the past five years for comparison purposes.

OLD BUSINESS

Board reviewed a draft copy of the new meat brochure and discussed suggestions for edits. Two changes were agreed upon.

Discussed publicity associated with the Langenfeld Elk Charity Hunt for disabled veteran Jim Sursley which is taking place December 5-7. Everything appears to be in place for a great experience for Mr. Sursley.

Discussed agenda for the upcoming conference. There is a possibility one of the speakers will not be able to secure funding to travel to the conference. Prodzinski moved to pay for up to \$700 for this speaker's travel expenses if needed. Any dollar amount above this expenditure would need further board approval. Wagner seconded, motion carried. Details for awards were also discussed.

Hartkopf reported on initial discussions with Wisconsin on hosting the North Central Antler Competition. Wagner to follow up with Wisconsin. Hartkopf was directed to make preliminary inquiries on space availability at Jackpot Junction and Treasure Island.

Discussed details of purchasing elk bulls for the raffle bull hunt and reviewed the current contract.

No changes were made, but details of the contract will be more strictly adhered to. Byrne and Hartkopf to follow up on additional directives from the board.

NEW BUSINESS

Hartkopf presented a new fundraising idea submitted by Kaye Zebarth. It involves sales of calendars which also double as raffle ticket entries with chances to win prizes such as guns or cash on designated days throughout the year. Discussed the calendar containing pictures of Minnesota elk. Wagner spoke of a similar fundraiser he was familiar with that did not utilize a calendar but similar chances to win cash prizes. It was decided to discuss this idea with the membership at the upcoming January membership meeting.

Board reviewed the 2008 budget and set the 2009 budget. The Farmfest booth fee seems excessive. Decision was made to ask the membership at the upcoming January meeting if MnEBA should continue to have a presence at Farmfest or if these dollars should be invested at other recommended shows. In other budget issues, Hartkopf was directed to contact Glen Zebarth and inquire about a check sent to ERC at the beginning of the year which has not yet been cashed. Finally, Hartkopf was directed to follow up with Patty VanGundy on purchasing select fundraising items. Prodzinski moved to approve the budget as proposed, Wagner seconded, motion carried.

The upcoming board election was discussed. Hartkopf to follow up with nominations chairperson, Fred Neubert.

The date for the next meeting will be decided after January elections.

Hendrickson moved to adjourn, Prodzinski seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf

Board Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a board meeting on January 31, 2009 at the home of Pat & Rita Prodzinski. Jim Byrne, Mark Hendrickson, Pat Prodzinski, Charles Francis, Brian Wagner, Kaye Zebarth and Brenda Hartkopf were present.

Byrne called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He asked for additions or corrections to the December 6th board meeting minutes. Hendrickson moved to accept, Prodzinski seconded, motion carried. The 2008 year end treasurer's report was then reviewed. Wagner moved to approve as presented, Francis seconded, motion carried. The 2009 year to date treasurer's report was then reviewed. Hendrickson moved to accept as presented, Francis seconded, motion carried. The current checkbook balance is \$37,392.89.

OLD BUSINESS

Hartkopf reported that 201 of 250 tickets were sold by the membership for the 2008 raffle. Of that total, 95 were sold to members and 106 to non-members. Discussed an issue with the 2007 raffle. No further follow up needed.

Board reviewed raffle rules with all in favor of moving forward with a 2009 raffle. Zebarth & Hartkopf discussed possible ideas for a gun calendar raffle. Board approved the idea of a full 2010 calendar, with sales beginning in July of 2009 and the drawing to be held the day of the 2010 MnEBA Annual Conference. Wagner, Prodzinski and Hendrickson will put together a list of 26 guns, get quotes, and forward list to Zebarth. Byrne will forward list from a different raffle for gun ideas. Hartkopf & Zebarth will continue to work out raffle details and report back to Board at next meeting.

Discussed possibility of the North Dakota Elk Growers hosting the 2009 North Central Antler Competition. Their annual conference is February 14th where they are expected to make a final decision.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board expressed their appreciation to Francis for his three years of service on the MnEBA Board and welcomed Zebarth back to the Board. Election of officers was then held. Wagner nominated Byrne for President, Prodzinski seconded, motion carried. Wagner nominated Hendrickson for Vice President, Prodzinski seconded, motion carried. Wagner nominated Prodzinski for secretary/treasurer, Hendrickson seconded, motion carried.

Discussed current status of the Minnesota CWD investigation. The Minnesota Board of Animal Health is moving very quickly to resolve the issue.

Wagner and Hendrickson discussed on-going situation with NAEBA.

Discussed hiring an accountant to do a compilation of the MnEBA books. Hartkopf to follow up.

Byrne discussed a meat sales opportunity brought to MnEBA by a South Dakota producer. Decision was made to forward this information to Elk Marketing.

Byrne reported that MnEBA has been invited by the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation to take part in the Ag Day Rally at the State Capitol Rotunda on Wednesday March 18th. MnEBA will be given an opportunity to speak as well. Byrne will plan to attend. Hartkopf was directed to look into setting up an information table during this event.

Hendrickson reported that a MnEBA member is interested in using the MnEBA trademark logo. The logo is not yet officially trade-marked. Hartkopf was directed to check with AURI, MN Grown and the MN Department of Agriculture to determine if there is funding available to help pay the trade-marking fee. She was also directed to get a trade-mark quote.

It was decided to have a phone conference for the next meeting on Monday February 23rd at 8 p.m.

Wagner moved to adjourn, Prodzinski seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf



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Vietnam Veteran Takes Monster Bull

HASTINGS, Minn – Minnesota SCI – If life had been different for Mr. Jim Sursley, he would today stand 6'3" tall and weigh about 240 pounds. Instead, Jim is just 4'8" and weighs only 165 – an anti-tank mine changed all that.

Whenever American men and women enter the military service, sacrifice is implied. For Jim, his cost was very great in deed; he gave his left arm and both legs in service to our country.

But the Minnesota SCI and the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association want to say "Thank You" to Jim Sursley, born and raised in Rochester, MN, as well as all American veterans who have served and sacrificed. A big sacrifice deserves a big thank you, and with the help of Tony's Trophy Elk Hunts and The Langenfeld Foundation, Jim embarked on a trophy hunting trip, in pursuit of a big bull elk, December 5-7, in Baudette, MN.

The hunt was a fabulous success, with Jim taking a 1,000 pound monster bull on the second day of hunting. The elk carried a spectacular 7x7 rack of antlers that scored 360 inches. What's more is that Jim took the beast with a crossbow, and a 40-yard shot.



Jim Sursley & wife Jeannie

It was well below zero degrees in northern Minnesota that day, and Jim had to do everything he could just to keep his one remaining hand from freezing. His wife Jeannie accompanied him on the hunt and celebrated the success of the magnificent trophy – Jim's very first elk. Jim said, "I have watched hundreds of TV shows of elk hunting, but when you actually see one with your own eyes...right up close...they are so, so big that it almost stuns you for awhile. You can't believe that what you are seeing is real. It was the thrill of a lifetime. Thank you to all who made this possible."

The trophy-class bull has been generously donated by a couple from North Dakota, through the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association, and then transported to Baudette by Mark Hendrickson, also of the MnEBA. Tony Beckel of Tony's Trophy Elk Hunts then donated his guiding and outfitting services to make this a real elk hunting experience for Jim. (These two donations together carried a value of about \$5,000.) Lodging, in the use of a cabin accessible to people with disabilities, was donated by Sportsman's Lodge.

Jim Sursley was wounded in combat during the Vietnam War, while on a mission in 1969. After returning to Minnesota, he has been helping other disabled veterans through the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and taken on leadership roles to assist others. So much so that Jim was elected chairman of the DAV Board of Directors in 1997, and as National Commander in 2004 (their highest possible office). He has now retired to Florida, but is a frequent visitor to the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.



Thank You to Tony & Patty Beckel for donating the elk hunt, an anonymous North Dakota elk producer for donating a beautiful bull, and also to Mark Hendrickson for transporting the bull from the North Dakota elk farm to Baudette. Your gracious generosity is very admirable and appreciated!

2008 Raffle a Success!



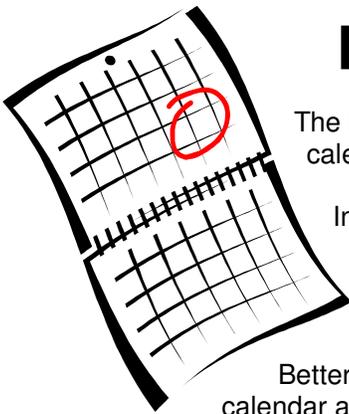
The 2008 MnEBA Raffle was a great success! Members sold 201 of the 250 tickets available which totaled \$10,050 in sales! Congratulations to Wade Schimmelpfennig who led all sales by selling 21 tickets! Other top ticket sellers included Jerry & Troy Beier, Pat Prodzinski, Mark Luedtke, Don Kaplan and Jim Byrne all selling 10+ tickets.

Raffle winners were drawn at the conclusion of the MnEBA Annual Conference on January 10th. Winners included: *1st prize Elk Hunt: **Martin Zacharias**; 2nd prize Turkey Hunt: **John Wells**; 3rd prize Bahamas Treasure Cay Island Villa: **Jim Byrne**; 4th prize Lake of the Woods Fishing Trip: **Paul Eley**; 5th prize Red Lake Fishing Trip: **Dennis Goebel**; 6th prize \$500 Cash: **Mark Lucas***

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

- 1st prize:** (2) person / (3) day elk hunt at *Tony's Trophy Elk Ranch* guide service and facility donated by **Tony & Patty Beckel**
- 2nd prize:** (2) person / (3) day guided Kansas turkey hunt on 2,500 private acres at *Timber Ridge Outfitters* donated by **Josh & Jackie Lundberg**
- 3rd prize:** Up to (5) people / (7) day Bahamas Treasure Cay Island Villa donated by **Mark & Sue Hendrickson & Jerry & BJ Hendrickson**
- 4th prize:** (2) person / (2) day / (3) night charter guided fishing trip at *Sportsman's Lodge on Lake of the Woods* sponsored in part by **Sportsman's Lodge**
- 5th prize:** (2) person / (2) day Red Lake guided fishing trip donated by **Fred & Eleanor Neubert**
- 6th prize:** \$500 cash donated by MnEBA

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 it's best efforts forward in the coming year.



New Raffle Idea for 2009!!!

The Fundraising committee is working on a new raffle idea for 2009 – a gun calendar raffle.

Instead of selling a raffle ticket, members will sell a calendar with a raffle ticket to be filled out on the back and turned in just like in previous raffles. The buyer keeps the calendar. Prizes given away will be guns which will be awarded on select days of each month.

Better yet, MnEBA members will have a chance to sponsor a month on the calendar and feature a picture from their farm!

Members will receive an opportunity to sponsor a month in the calendar by mail in March. Be watching your mailbox so you don't miss out!

Calendars will be available for sale at the North Central Antler Competition and sold until the drawing date of the next Annual Conference or until they run out.

Further details are still being decided. If you would be interested in helping organize this raffle, your help would be greatly appreciated! Contact Kaye Zearth at (320) 834-4064 or the MnEBA Office to offer your assistance.



The Minnesota Grown Program

Why Should I Join?

Membership with Minnesota Grown is only \$20 per year.

With it you will be able to:

- ✓ Use Minnesota Grown's trademarked logo, which can be put on packaging, websites, signs, etc. to assure customers that your products are grown and raised in Minnesota.
- ✓ Obtain FREE promotional items like stickers and price cards to advertise your products.
- ✓ Participate in our annual Minnesota Marketing Conference featuring expert speakers on marketing strategies, profitability secrets, and much more; and have a chance to network with other producers. A recent marketing conference participant remarked: "Great info! Brainstorming *and* ideas abounded during the sessions and between them."
- ✓ Receive quarterly newsletter for updates on upcoming events, promotions, and program activities.
- ✓ List your farm and products in the Minnesota Grown Directory which is distributed statewide at farms, churches, the state fair, libraries, travel information centers, and by extension agents and realtors, just to name a few. In 2008, 180,000 were distributed statewide and over 150,000 consumers visited the website. For a cost of only \$40, your listing will be included in both the printed book as well as online with a map and direct web links.

For more information, visit the members section of www.minnesotagrown.com or call (651) 201-6510 or (651) 201-6539.

Upcoming Educational Events and Conferences

Sponsored by Minnesota Grown

- **Farmer Chef Networking Sessions.** Think of it as "speed dating" for farmers and chefs. These workshops link restaurants, schools and other food service accounts who want to purchase locally with local farmers. Hosted by Renewing the Countryside in conjunction with Minnesota Grown, Green Routes and the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture.
 - [February 9, 2009 in Bemidji](#)
 - [February 16, 2009 in Lanesboro](#)
- **Minnesota Grown Marketing Conference**, featuring David Stillman "Generational Marketing" March 10, 2009 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.



NAEBA's January Jamboree & Select Elk Sale Results

January 9, 2009 ~ Holiday Inn, Mankato, MN

NAEBA held a select elk sale on January 9th in conjunction with the January Jamboree in Mankato, MN. It was primarily a semen sale.

Category

(24) lots semen
(5) lots bred females

Price Range

\$35 - \$310 per straw
\$950 - \$1,600



North Dakota Elk Growers President's Message

Hello for the last time from Park River. It is with mixed feeling that I write this last article, but I am glad to have served the ND Elk Growers over these past 2 years. We have our annual meeting scheduled for February 14 at the Doublewood Inn in Bismarck, and we will be electing new officers at that time. If you, or someone you know, would be willing to contribute some time and energy to serving on the board, I encourage you to do so. It has been a very challenging but rewarding position for me, but I am no longer able to contribute the time and energy that I feel are necessary to keep our industry thriving in these changing times.

As I said, we will have our annual meeting and silent auction on February 14. Hope to see you all there. We will be discussing hosting the Regional Antler Competition in July and looking for people to help with this project. It has been a number of years since North Dakota hosted this event, and I am confident that it will be a fun event and generate some positive publicity for our industry among the general public.

Educating the public is one of our primary goals. As usual, we have also been hard at work trying to educate our lawmakers during this legislative session. Recently, a group of legislators introduced house bill 1210 which purported to cut off all state and federal funding for non-traditional livestock and farmed elk facilities in North Dakota. I attended the committee hearing which considered this bill last week. I was very

pleased to see such a diverse and numbered group of people who also opposed this bill. The ND Wildlife Federation, ND Game and Fish, ND Board of Animal Health, and the United Sportsmen of Jamestown, joined us in speaking out against the bill. I would like to report that the bill was killed in committee, but unfortunately that is not the case yet. The bill's proponents are planning an amendment to the bill, but from what I heard at the committee hearing, the amendment will have to be very significant if this bill is to survive. The primary issue is that the state cannot redirect the use of these federal funds. Essentially, the proponents are trying to shift the funding for regulating our industry from the Game and Fish's department to the state's general fund. Unfortunately for those who are trying to get the law changed, the Game and Fish has a multi-million dollar surplus which needs to be spent somehow.

When I was in Bismarck, I also spoke with Beth Carlson, the ND State Deputy Veterinarian. She will be attending our annual meeting next month and will be talking to us about TB rules and regulations as well as annual inventories. Please make sure to get your inventories in to the Board of Animal Health right away, if you have not done so already, since they were due at the beginning of the year.

That's all I've got for now. Keep warm and hope to see you in Bismarck next month!

Wayne Laaveg

Classified Ad: Quality bulls and cows for sale. All ages. Monitored and tested herd. Contact Duane Bring at Wicked Winds Elk (701) 488-2784.

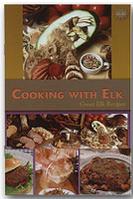
MnEBA Promotional Materials

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.



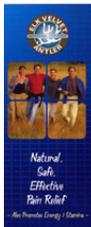
"ELK, Meat for a Healthy Life" Brochure 50 ct., \$10/each **Newly revised!**

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

Now Available!

MnEBA Kitchen

Still too cold to grill a good steak? Here's an oven steak recipe everyone will love. Leftovers from this dish make a delicious topping on homemade pizza!

Oven Barbqued Elk Steak

3 lbs. elk round steak	1 Tbsp. brown sugar
2 Tbsp. oil	1 Tbsp. dry mustard
½ cup onion, chopped	1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
¾ cup ketchup	½ tsp. salt
1/3 cup apple cider vinegar	¼ tsp. pepper
¾ cup water	



Heat oven to 325 degrees. Cut steak into 10 equal portions. Pour oil into skillet. Sear each piece of steak on both sides. Transfer steak to baking dish. Add onions to oil in skillet and brown lightly. Add rest of ingredients to skillet and mix well to get all pan drippings. Pour sauce over steaks in baking dish. Cover. Bake two hours or until meat is fork tender.



Help Needed at the Minnesota Deer Classic!

Your help is needed at the Minnesota Deer Classic on March 13-15. ALL times are open!

Fri. March 13: 3 pm – 9 pm
Sat. March 14: 9 am- 2 pm
 1 pm – 6 pm
Sun. March 15: 10 am – 5 pm

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

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Vet Corner by Glen Zearth, DVM

(This information was also passed on to the membership by fellow MnEBA member and veterinarian, Delores Gockowski, DVM.)

Cutting Velvet Antler Recommendation from the American Veterinary Medical Association

Over the past year, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has been researching the practice of cutting velvet antler and has released a policy recommendation regarding this practice. It's important to note that this is a policy, not a law. Minnesota breeders should be in pretty good shape with the updated policy if they are working closely with their veterinarian and are following their recommendations.

The following is a synopsis of AVMA's updated policy regarding removal of velvet antler:

The AVMA recommends that if amputation of the growing, living antler of a member of the family Cervidae (e.g., deer, moose, elk, caribou) is to be performed, it must be conducted humanely, and within the bounds of a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship. The procedure must minimize stress and pain to the animal with the use of humane handling and analgesia, while protecting the animal against excessive blood loss, risk of infection, or fly strike.

Velvet refers to the entire antler of a range of cervid species, including deer and elk. Most velvet antler is exported to Asian markets, particularly Korea. It is also sold in the United States as a complementary medicine or dietary supplement.

During their deliberations, committee members considered information from the peer-reviewed literature. (An AVMA backgrounder on the topic is available on the AVMA web site.)

Velvet antler is innervated and vascularized tissue, and its removal without analgesia causes pain. Velvet removal and associated handling and restraint also cause physiological and psychological stress.

Since the benefits of consuming velvet antler are still in question, the AWC believes that in adopting related policy, the AVMA must be careful not to lend legitimacy to undocumented therapeutic effects of the product. The statement was revised to reflect the committee's thinking, and to ensure that protecting the welfare of the animal during the process of harvesting velvet is not an option, but a requirement.

Go to <http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/jan09/090101i.asp> for the complete policy.

Pain relief options

The most simple pain relief method is using a lidocaine nerve block. New Zealand studies show lidocaine pain relief effects in as little as 30 seconds. If you've not used this method and want to learn more about it, contact your local veterinarian.

Another pain relief method is the high pressure caltrate bander. This method requires an approximate 4 minute wait until pain relief is felt. The use of the high pressure caltrate bander is relatively unknown in the U.S., but I do have one. If anyone is interested in learning more about this pain relief method, feel free to contact me.

Other timely hints

Now is the time to be looking at the body shape of your cows in preparation for calving. If they are looking fat, take them off grain and give them only hay and mineral. If they are looking too thin, give them more grain and better hay, also make sure they are getting enough copper in their diet.

Bulls should also begin getting better nutrition in preparation for growing velvet. Begin increasing their nutrition level with grain, supplement, and higher quality hay.

In The News

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, January 26, 2009

Contact: Malissa Fritz, BAH Communications Director, 651-201-6830

Chronic Wasting Disease found in a farmed elk from Olmsted County
Mandatory surveillance program leads to detection of positive elk; state initiates investigation

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Board of Animal Health today announced that a farmed elk from an Olmsted County herd tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

The brain stem and lymph nodes from a 7-year-old female elk were submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa, after the animal was slaughtered. NVSL confirmed the animal had CWD. The Board of Animal Health quarantined the herd on January 23, 2009. This quarantine means no cervidae (members of the deer and elk family) can move on or off the farm. Meanwhile, officials continue to investigate the source of the infection and whether other cervidae may have been exposed.

In 2003, Minnesota implemented mandatory registration and CWD surveillance programs for farmed cervidae herds. When farmed cervidae over 16 months of age die or are slaughtered, herd owners must submit brain samples for CWD testing.

CWD is a fatal brain and nervous system disease found in cervidae in certain parts of North America. The disease is caused by an abnormally shaped protein called a prion, which can damage brain and nerve tissue. Infected animals show progressive loss of body weight with accompanying behavioral changes. In later stages of the disease, infected animals become emaciated (thus "wasting" disease). Other signs include staggering, consuming large amounts of water, excessive urination, and drooling.

According to state health officials and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there is no evidence that CWD can be transmitted to humans.

For more information on CWD and the BAH, visit their website at www.bah.state.mn.us.

CWD Update 1

January 29, 2009, MnEBA -- There seems to be some confusion about what happens now that CWD has once again been found in a Minnesota elk herd. Here's a bit of clarification on a few things.

There is only one farm in quarantine and as of yesterday, there were no plans to quarantine any other elk or deer farms relating to this case. There will be no radius drawn around this area as this is an issue behind fence. If this case were in the wild, then the radius quarantine would apply.

The DNR did do some CWD surveillance in the wild in Olmsted county last Fall with all negative results. As of yesterday, the Board of Animal Health was not notified of any intensive testing of wild deer planned in the near future for this area. As of this time, it is thought the DNR will wait until next Fall to conduct further surveillance.

MnEBA lobbyist Tony Kwilas has been working on our behalf at the Capitol to assure legislators that the CWD surveillance program is working and that the Board of Animal Health is hard at work to carry forward their investigation. Legislators have been sympathetic and have shown confidence in the system put in place in 2003.

There are still a lot of unanswered questions about where things go from here. We need to give all parties involved time to sort through the issues and hopefully things will be resolved soon.

Deer smugglers sentenced to prison

December 5, 2008, Austin, TX (AP) – Two men have been sentenced to federal prison for illegally transporting white-tailed deer across state lines, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department said last week.

The deer were transported from Minnesota to Texas for trophy hunts.

A federal district judge in Plano last week sentenced Robert Eichenour, owner of Circle E Ranch in Bedias in Grimes County, to 1 ½ years in prison. He must also serve three years probation after his release and pay a \$50,000 fine.

Brian Becker of Madelia, Minn., was sentenced to two years and nine months in federal prison, followed by three years of probation.

Both men were convicted of felony violations of the federal Lacey Act, which prohibits the transportation of illegally captured or prohibited animals across state lines.

During the probation period, neither man will be allowed to sell deer.

The department said in a news release that Eichenour and Becker were caught smuggling 14 white-tailed buck deer from Minnesota to Eichenour's ranch. Investigators say the plan was for Eichenour to bring in hunters and sell hunts for the trophy Minnesota bucks. The investigation found that over a four-year period, the two smuggled in about \$300,000 worth of white-tailed bucks.

The men were caught in an October 2006 smuggling sting operation Texas Parks and Wildlife conducted along with U.S. Fish and Wildlife agents.

Committee Reports

Government Relations

Prior to the discovery of CWD in a Minnesota elk, this session was largely thought to be directed towards the economy in general. It is still not known if this discovery will have a significant impact for the elk industry at the Capitol.

MnEBA lobbyist Tony Kwilas has been the point person in meeting with legislators and assuring them that the CWD surveillance program is working in Minnesota and that the Board of Animal Health is conducting a thorough investigation of this case. So far, legislators have been very understanding. This is a credit to Tony and also to the membership for developing strong relationships with their representatives. At times like this, these relationships are invaluable.

Tony will continue to monitor any and all discussions having to do with the elk industry as the session continues on.

2009 North Central Antler Competition



The North Dakota Elk Growers have expressed interest in hosting the 2009 North Central Antler Competition. They have their annual membership meeting on February 14th where they will discuss this idea in more detail.

Promotions

Minneapolis SCI Convention – Tony Beckel and Brenda Hartkopf will be giving a presentation on elk hunting opportunities close to home at the upcoming SCI Convention on February 21st at the Northland Inn, Minneapolis, MN.

UP's Show – MnEBA will be giving an elk meat presentation at the upcoming Upper Midwest Restaurant, Hospitality and Lodging Show (UP's Show) on February 23-24, 2009 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. This trade show is primarily attended by restaurant & hotel owners, chefs, students, etc. The presentation will center around benefits of cooking with elk, how to prepare elk meat, cuts available, and other items of interest. This opportunity is being sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

This will be a new presentation for MnEBA and help is needed to organize and give the seminar. If you would be willing to help in ANY way, please contact the MnEBA Office.

Newly Updated Meat Brochures Are Now Available! They have a whole new design, more recipes, and an open area to attach a business card, stamp, or other personal information. Contact the MnEBA Office to order.

Minnesota Deer Classic – HELP IS NEEDED! The Minnesota Deer Classic takes place on March 13-15th. Help is needed at the MnEBA booth! Show times are as follows:

Friday March 13: 3 pm – 9 pm **Saturday March 14:** 9 am – 6 pm **Sunday March 15:** 10 am – 5 pm

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

MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Annual Conference	Kaye Zearth (320) 834-4064
Nominating	Fred Neubert (320) 352-6733
Government Relations	OPEN
Antler 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

Thank You from the Minnesota Farmers' Union



The Minnesota Farmers Union recently held their annual State Convention where Minnesota-grown, locally raised elk was served. It was a great way to showcase the availability of elk, and the farmers who raise them, including the Elk Marketing Council Corporation in Rogers, who provided the delicious food for us.

Together, we can work to promote the importance of supporting Minnesota farmers, and our local economy. The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association, and the Minnesota Farmers Union should continue to work together to educate the general public about the choices they have when choosing their meat, and the importance of making those choices local. I look forward to working with you in the future and advocating for our common interests.

Warmest Regards,

Doug Peterson
President, Minnesota Farmers Union



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

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In Memory

Bob Briggs, long-time elk producer and former MnEBA member, passed away Sunday, January 25, 2009, after a courageous 17 month battle with pancreatic cancer.

Bob is survived by his wife, Susan; son Stephen (Jenel) Briggs; and grandsons, Carter & Rory Briggs, all of Winona; as well as several neices, nephews & aunts.

Memorial services for Bob were held on January 31 at Central United Methodist Church in Winona. After the service, members of the American Legion Post No. 9 Winona conducted military burial honors.

Words of sympathy and remembrance may be left at www.fawcett-junkerfuneralhome.com.



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Your 2009 MnEBA Membership

All 2008 MnEBA memberships expired on December 31, 2008. 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

Calendar of Events

February 6 – 7, 2009 – WCDEFA Annual Conference, Ramada, Stevens Point, WI

February 20 - 21, 2009 – MN SCI Convention, Northland Inn, Minneapolis, MN

February 23 - 24, 2009 - Upper Midwest Restaurant, Hospitality & Lodging Show (UP Show), Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, MN

March 10, 2009 - Minnesota Grown Marketing Conference, St. Paul, MN

March 13 – 15, 2009 – Minnesota Deer Classic, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

March 13 – 15, 2009 – Minnesota Deer Breeders Conference, Cragun's Resort, Brainerd, MN

August 27 – September 7, 2009 – Minnesota State Fair, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

Classified Ads

For Sale: 10 & 12 foot wooden posts, miles of high tensile single strand wire and strainers. (507) 448-3694

For Sale: Home sawn red oak, air dried 20+ years, 1½ " thick, straight & clean. (507) 448-3694

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Elk Hide Tanning: Elk hide tanning, \$325 hair off or \$12.50 per square foot, hair on. We can also make jackets, vests, gloves and more from your hides. Call for free catalog or for more information at (800) USA-FOXX. Check out our web site at www.usafoxx.com or email info@usafoxx.com. USA Foxx & Furs, Duluth, MN.

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

MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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