



## Special Interest Articles:

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- MnEBA Commentary
- Minnesota Grown
- Roseau County Iraq Veteran Experiences Elk Hunt
- Velvet Watch
- Ear Tagging Guidelines
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- Measure 2 Defeated
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## President's Message by Kaye Zebarth

Happy New Year!

Thank you to all who took time to attend the MnEBA meeting in Alexandria earlier this month. Nice crowd, informative seminars, good conversations and an upbeat, optimistic outlook; nothing better. Thank you all for your continued support of the industry.

Your Board of Directors recently met to plan 2011, and beyond. We want to work for you, so if you have suggestions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact a Board member so that your voice is heard.

FYI we once again will produce and sell a calendar. It's a great fundraising tool and we look for your continued support in this project, be it by sponsoring a month, buying a calendar, or selling calendars. Funds raised via sales go to many

worthwhile projects; a \$500 scholarship, an elk hunt for a disabled American Veteran, many educational brochures and pamphlets for you to use, and a lobbyist at the State Capitol, just to name a few.

Another project on the horizon in an Ag Stats survey, hopefully in the Fall of 2011. This survey gives you, the members, an invaluable tool to use when representing the industry at trade shows, farmers markets and state fair.

Rest assured, the recent report of CWD in one wild deer in SE MN is on our radar. The best, most responsible action we can take is to continue to test all elk, death loss or slaughter for CWD, just as you producers have been doing for over 10 years. The industry has a great track record of compliance

to BAH rules and regulations in regards to fencing, ID'ing, inventory, in addition to TB and CWD testing. Keep up the good work.

Many years ago, MnEBA was established as a PROactive association as opposed to reactive. This has worked and will continue to work. We have the best interest at heart for our members who are very directly affected by this recent finding of CWD in the wild. The Cervidae Advisory Committee will be meeting on Feb 18, in St. Paul and will work towards a good and fair solution to this recent finding.

*If you want to be successful, it's just this simple. Know what you are doing. Love what you are doing. And believe in what you are doing.*

**Will Rogers (1879-1935)**



Lance Hartkopf, Klint Wylie & Doug Larson studying antler for "Guess the Score"



Dr. Jim Warren, Jim Sours & Leo Windschitl, all from ADM Alliance Nutrition

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

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## MnEBA

### Mission Statement

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

## 2011 MnEBA Annual Conference

### Attendance was up 30% over last year!

The 2011 MnEBA Annual Conference took place January 8, 2011 at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria, MN with 73 people in attendance. There was much optimism in the air as the meat, hard antler and shooter bull markets are on the rise! And of course, who could forget the big gun calendar drawing later that evening!

There was a great line-up and variety of speakers at this year's conference. Dr. Anderson gave an overview of Draft Rules for the farmed cervidae industry. The information presented became extremely important just a couple weeks later as CWD was discovered in a wild deer in southeastern Minnesota. Dr. Jim Warren of ADM Alliance Nutrition gave an educational seminar on elk nutrition and Justin Gervais and Scott Gislason gave a timely presentation about Estate Planning for Farmers and Ranchers. The afternoon ended with a spirited roundtable discussion about Velvet Buying which also branched into the Shooter Bull market. Great discussion made this seminar go very long into the afternoon!

Activity was brisk at the calendar table as members concluded sales and purchased more calendars for the gun calendar raffle drawing that evening. Thank you to Eileen Byrne for help in manning the calendar table and helping with registration.

Congratulations to the lucky winners of the card raffles! Leo Windschitl won a beautiful quilt hand-made by Kaye Zearth and Sue Kautzman won an elk carved ceramic vase. Luck (or skill) was on the Kautzmans' side as Paul Kautzman won the "Guess the Antler Score" competition as well!

This year's conference featured three vendors including Sunset Jewelry, ADM Alliance Nutrition and Farm Bureau Financial Services. Thank you for your support!

The MnEBA awards presentation recognized several individuals for outstanding contributions to the industry. They included appreciation awards presented to Leo Windschitl of ADM Alliance Nutrition and Paul & Lynn Hueg. Both Mark Hendrickson and Jim Byrne received a thank you gift and were recognized for their years of service on the MnEBA Board.

Thank you to the many people who sponsored events all throughout the day. They included:

- **Morning Break Sponsors:** *Roger Nietfeld and Rick & Marlys Wollschlager*
- **Afternoon Break Sponsors:** *Jim & Eileen Byrne and Rich & Jan Forrest*
- **Table Decorations/Door Prizes:** *Paul & Lynn Hueg*
- **Elk Meat for Evening Banquet:** *Lance & Brenda Hartkopf*

A final thank you to the committee of Kaye Zearth, 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!

## Successful Conference Fundraisers!

This year's conference fundraisers were extremely successful raising nearly \$4,700! Many thanks to Rita Prodzinski and Daphne Evenson for organizing both the silent and live auctions. Thanks also to Patty VanGundy for assistance in obtaining select items for the auction. Thank you to Pat Prodzinski for conducting the card raffles, he is a born salesman! Brian Wagner did a great job of entertaining the crowd and auctioning off desirable items donated by participants at the conference. Thank you to Paul Hueg, Bill Knutson and Lance Hartkopf for helping with the Live Auction. It was amazing to see what Lance could find back in the rock pile!

Item	Donor	Buyer
(10) bags 18% Complete ADM Alliance Supplement	Leo Windschitl	Glen Zebarth
(10) bags 18% Complete ADM Alliance Supplement	Leo Windschitl	Klint Wyie
Target shells	MnEBA	Mark Luedtke
Cardinal print	Leo Windschitl	Morrie Evenson
Basket of office supplies	Jim & Eileen Byrne	Brenda Hartkopf
Cutco knife set	Leo Windschitl	Dennis Engebretson
Elk Picture	Pat & Rita Prodzinski	Brenda Hartkopf
Ham	Leo Windschitl	Bill Knutson
Basket of goodies	Morrie & Daphne Evenson	Will Huston
Antler cribbage board	Paul & Lynn Hueg (MnEBA)	Sue Kautzman
Welcome stone	Dennis Engebretson	Sandy Olson
Ham	Leo Windschitl	Paul Hueg
Wolf metal art	MnEBA	Dan Parsons
Elk wind catcher	Larry & Patty VanGundy	Sandy Olson
Turkey call	MnEBA	Ron Welle
Elk Sweatshirt	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Ron Welle
Welcome stone	Dennis Engebretson	Leo Windschitl
Camp saw knife combo	MnEBA	Ron Welle
Meat assortment	Gerald Olson	Leo Windschitl
Wollrich fish & creel box	Leo Windschitl	Roger Nietfeld
Gun case	MnEBA	Perry Olson
Stone & metal elk statue	Dennis Engebretson	Paul Kautzman
1 straw Cadillac	Bill & Karen Knutson	Lance Hartkopf
Knife & light combo	MnEBA	Paul Kautzman
Meat tenderizer	Jerry Beier	Morrie Evenson
2 straws Undenyabull	Brian Wagner / Bill & Karen Knutson	Pat Prodzinski
Elk print bag	Pat & Rita Prodzinski	Lynn Hueg
Welcome stone	Dennis Engebretson	Paul Kautzman
Stone & metal elk statue	Dennis Engebretson	Pat Prodzinski
7" fillet knife	MnEBA	Leo Windschitl
Elk plate	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Greg Lubinski
5 straws Smokin' Ash	Glen & Kaye Zebarth	Mark Luedtke
Elk pillow	Morrie & Daphne Evenson	Greg Lubinski
1 straw Logman	Scott Salonek	Lance Hartkopf
Elk fleece throw	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Greg Lubinski
Stone & metal elk statue	Dennis Engebretson	Brian Wagner
Welcome stone	Dennis Engebretson	Brian Wagner
Browning cap	MnEBA	Brian Wagner
Rod & reel	MnEBA	Paul Kautzman
Stone & metal elk statue	Dennis Engebretson	Will Huston
Elk t-shirt	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Greg Lubinski
Welcome stone	Dennis Engebretson	Rich Forrest

A huge thank you to all donors, bidders and buyers,  
your support was greatly appreciated!

## Membership Meeting Minutes

### January 08, 2011 Meeting Minutes

The membership of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held their annual membership meeting on January 8, 2011 at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria, MN. Kaye Zebarth called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Kaye asked for additions or corrections to the August 21, 2010 secretary report as presented. Glen Zebarth moved to accept the report, the motion was then seconded and carried.

The treasurer's report was reviewed. The December 31, 2010 checkbook balance was \$20,517.32. John Johnson moved to accept the treasurer's report subject to audit, Mark Luedtke seconded, motion carried.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Health:** Glen Zebarth reported that there is a newly licensed TB blood test for elk and red deer from Chem Bio. USDA/APHIS is now working to validate this test to see if it will work as a field test in program diseases. They are in need of test herds. Glen went on to describe what's involved in being a test herd and encouraged members to think about participating, especially if their TB re-accreditation testing is due this winter.

Glen also reported that in discussions with Dr. Klein of USDA/APHIS, the CWD National Rule is out of USDA and is now at the Office of General Council. Once out of that office, it will go to the Office of Management and Budget, then become final.

Glen went on to offer general advice about being aware of rabies, anthrax, and to evaluate copper status in elk livers when butchering as blood samples are not as accurate.

**Government Relations:** Jim Byrne reported that at this time, there is a lot of election turmoil at the state capitol. Committee assignments are just now being made. He encouraged members to get involved with any new legislators in their district to make the first impression about the elk industry before someone else does. Jim and MnEBA's lobbyist Tony Kwilas plan to introduce legislators to the MN elk industry in the coming weeks.

**Fundraising:** Kaye Zebarth reported that last year's profit from the gun calendar raffle allowed MnEBA to sponsor a fourth charitable elk hunt with assistance from the Wylie family, Lake Superior SCI and Tony Beckel. It also allowed the association to offer a scholarship of \$500 to a college age child or grandchild of an active MnEBA member. Ike Pohlman, son of Perry & Sandy Olson was the 2010 recipient. Ike was in attendance and talked about his studies and thanked the membership for the scholarship he received.

Kaye asked the membership if they wanted to conduct another gun calendar raffle for 2011 or if there were other suggestions. No other suggestions were made and after discussion, the consensus was to conduct another gun calendar raffle fundraiser in 2011. It was suggested to add moon phases and hunting season openings. It was also suggested to find better ways to communicate with the membership on how sales are going.

**Promotions:** Brenda Hartkopf reported that MnEBA's participation in Smokefest this year was very popular with contest participants and judges. There may be interest in offering the "Anything Elk" category once again at the 2011 event.

Brenda also reported that the MN Deer Classic is coming up on March 11-13 at the MN State Fairgrounds. Attendees were encouraged to contact Perry Olson to sign up.

Minnesota Grown has increased to over 1,100 grower members and will be creating their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Directory this year. Brenda encouraged members who sell elk meat or velvet to join MN Grown and advertise in the Directory due to its low cost and high value to advertisers.

Lastly, Brenda reported that over the past year, MnEBA has been getting more involved with the MN Farm Bureau, specifically in their "Minnesota Farmers Care" campaign and in quarterly meetings where many Minnesota agricultural associations are represented.

**State Fair:** Daphne Evenson thanked everyone who helped work the MnEBA booth at the 2010 MN State Fair and had a sign-up sheet available for 2011. She also reported that due to health reasons, Morrie and Daphne will need additional help with set-up, specifically with putting the trailer in place. Daphne said that even if a member is unable to work a shift at the Fair, they can help out by setting up or taking down. She also asked for more people to consider being on the committee.

**NAEBA:** Brian Wagner reported that things ran smoothly for NAEBA over the past year and that they are financially cash-flowing once again. The 2011 convention and antler competition will be held in Waterloo, IA. Brian encouraged MnEBA members to attend as the location is relatively close.

Brian recognized the 2010 International Antler Competition winners from Minnesota in each class.

NAEBA continues to actively pursue purity testing alternatives. They have been unable to find a lab who is willing to get set up to test elk for purity. Thus, NAEBA has significantly reduced animal registration fees to help producers catch up with their registrations.

NAEBA was very active in the past year donating \$6,000 to North Dakota and \$1,000 to the Exotic Wildlife Association to help combat negative initiatives. NAEBA also sent representatives to most state association meetings and sent representatives to lobby in Washington DC. NAEBA has also reduced the price of their basic membership for one year from \$200 to \$150. Attendees were encouraged to take advantage of this cost savings!

**OLD BUSINESS**

Kaye reported the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Charitable Elk Hunt was a success and thanked the Wylie family, Lake Superior Chapter SCI and Tony Beckel for their participation in this project. A press release regarding the hunt was printed in the conference handout for attendees to review.

Brenda reported that 14 members registered to use the MN Elk logo. Registration is valid for one year so those who registered in 2010 will need to complete the application once again for 2011. Cost to apply continues to be free and is a benefit of membership. MnEBA is now beginning the process of officially applying for the trademark.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Looking for ideas for a 2011 MnEBA summer meeting as well as a host for the event.

Board elections were held. Brian Wagner was the only board member going off this year. He agreed to run again. Scott Salonek was also placed on the ballot by the Nominating committee previous to the meeting. It was moved, seconded and passed to close nominations. Brian Wagner was elected to another term.

Ron Welle of Midwest Outdoors Unlimited gave a presentation about their work in granting outdoor opportunities to disabled and terminally ill individuals as well as to veterans. Their group is looking to work with Minnesota elk producers to offer future elk hunts through this program.

Paul Hueg reported that he will be attending the NADeFA Convention in Nashville, Tennessee on March 18-19 and volunteered to represent MnEBA at a booth at the convention. Decision was made to take Paul up on his offer and be represented at the convention.

It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Hartkopf, Exec. Secretary

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## Board Meeting Minutes

### January 22, 2011 Meeting Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a board meeting on January 22, 2011 at the home of Lance & Brenda Hartkopf. Kaye Zebarth, Wade Schimmelpfennig, Pat Prodzinski, Mark Lucas and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Brian Wagner was present via speakerphone. Glen Zebarth was also a guest in attendance.

Zebarth called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. She asked for additions or corrections to the January 17, March 16, May 24 and October 14, 2010 board meeting minutes. Prodzinski moved to accept all reports, Lucas seconded, motion carried. The 2010 financials were reviewed. Lucas moved to accept as presented, Schimmelpfennig seconded, motion carried. The December 31, 2010 checkbook balance was \$20,238.19.

### OLD BUSINESS

Discussed final numbers for the 2010 Gun Calendar Raffle. A total of 505 raffle calendars were sold with final numbers indicating \$8,315 in profit. Discussed ideas for the 2011 Gun Calendar Raffle. Lucas will help to secure possible donations. Zebarth and Hartkopf to follow up with board recommendations.

Hartkopf discussed final numbers for the 2011 MnEBA Annual Conference. She reported 73 attendees compared to 55 last year. The conference broke even with the fundraiser being all profit. Discussed dates and locations for next year. Hartkopf to follow up.

Discussed the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt. Lucas moved to send a check for \$100 from MnEBA to the hunter to cover food and travel expenses. Prodzinski seconded, motion carried.

A bid was submitted by the Minnesota Ag Statistics Service office to conduct another 5 year statistical survey of the Minnesota elk industry. All agreed this was an asset to the industry. Cost was a concern. Decision was made to budget \$3,000 in this year's budget and find additional ways to try to secure funding.

Trade-marking the MN elk logo was discussed. Zebarth signed the lawyer's contract and the formal application process will now begin.

The board has fallen behind on updating MnEBA Goals & Objectives. Decision was made to make this the main topic at the next meeting tentatively scheduled to take place in March or April at the home of Pat & Rita Prodzinski.

### NEW BUSINESS

Election of officers was held. Prodzinski nominated Zebarth for President, Lucas seconded, motion carried.

Wagner then nominated Lucas for the office of Vice President, Prodzinski seconded, motion carried. Wagner nominated Prodzinski for the office of Secretary/Treasurer. All were in agreement.

Reviewed the copy of Draft Rules for farmed cervidae from the MN Board of Animal Health. It was the same document Dr. Anderson discussed with the membership at the recent MnEBA conference. Three areas were identified in which clarification was needed. Cervidae Advisory members to follow up.

Discussed the recent finding of a possible CWD positive wild whitetail in southeastern Minnesota. Discussed gathering statistics on wild cervidae populations in CWD eradication zones. Hartkopf to follow up. MnEBA will plan to have active participation in the upcoming Cervidae Advisory meeting. The exact date is yet to be determined.

Discussed a Minnesota Zoo proposal which would create separate rules to allow for the zoo to add cervids to their collection in the event that they cannot be obtained from a herd that is enrolled in a CWD herd certification program or had a whole herd TB test. Discussed possible concerns. These will be brought back to the Board of Animal Health and the Cervidae Advisory Committee.

Discussed finding a host for the 2011 MnEBA summer event. Plan to use the same format as last year. The date has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Suggestion was made to try to obtain recipes from Smokefest participants to share with MnEBA members.

Board set budget numbers for the 2011 calendar year. Hartkopf to put together numbers and forward to the board for review.

Lucas moved to adjourn the meeting, Wagner seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Hartkopf

**Editor's Note:** To request and review a copy of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health **Draft Rules** for farmed cervidae, contact the MnEBA Office at 320-543-2686 and a copy will be sent to you.



## **After 20 years NAEBA is still committed to develop, promote, and enhance the North American elk industry.**

**In 2010 NAEBA has engaged in numerous actions to further the elk industry including:**

- Donating over \$6,000 to North Dakota for their legislative battle,
- Donating \$1,000 to the Exotic Wildlife Association's Three Species legal aid fund,
- Representing elk breeders in Washington DC with at least one group lobbying every year,
- Attending numerous animal health meetings including having several members sitting on USAHA boards and committees,
- Working in conjunction with new CWD Program director Dr. Patrice Klein, to (hopefully) implement the CWD UM&R,
  - Representing NAEBA at the Cervid Congress every year,
  - Heading up an industry response against Missouri reintroducing wild elk,
- Having its most successful annual convention and antler competition in recent years,
  - Attending several state association meetings and conventions across the continent,
- Working with state associations and their members to promote the elk industry

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**NAEBA is currently offering discount membership renewals and registrations. Join NAEBA and carry on the traditions started by the founding fathers in 1990!**



## Preliminary test identifies CWD-positive wild deer in southeast Minnesota

**January 21, 2011** - A preliminary screening test strongly indicates that a deer harvested by a hunter last November near Pine Island in southeast Minnesota had Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). CWD is fatal to deer, elk and moose but not known to affect human health.

If the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, confirms the University of Minnesota's preliminary diagnosis, it marks the first time CWD has been found in Minnesota's wild deer herd. An official confirmation is expected by next week.

"This is very unfortunate," said Tom Landwehr, DNR commissioner. "Minnesotans have done much to prevent CWD from entering our wild deer population. The good news is that we are well prepared for an attempt to control the disease and to possibly eliminate it."

The DNR is already implementing the state's CWD response plan. In the weeks ahead, the DNR will take steps to learn more about how prevalent the disease is in the area and will take actions based on that information.

In states where CWD has become well established, efforts to eliminate it from wild deer populations have been unsuccessful. The disease, if unmanaged, can spread and occur at high enough rates to impact long-term deer populations.

"We found this case of CWD early because we were actively looking for it," said Landwehr. "Since 2002, we've tested more than 32,000 hunter-harvested deer, elk and moose as part of an early detection strategy. We've long believed the best way to manage this disease is to find it early and then react quickly."

The deer presumed to have CWD was taken by a hunter this past fall about three miles southwest of Pine Island in Olmsted County. The hunter allowed the DNR to take a lymph node sample from the deer when he registered it. Recent microscopic analysis of that sample strongly indicates that the animal had CWD. The hunter has been informed of the results. It is not known how the deer contracted the disease.

Lou Cornicelli, DNR big game coordinator, will lead the agency's CWD response team. He said the critical first step is to conduct an aerial survey to determine the number and distribution of deer in the Pine Island

area. Because this area of the state is almost entirely in private ownership, the second step will be to talk with landowners in the area to seek their cooperation in collecting additional samples and to identify where additional samples can be collected.

Sample collection could take the form of a late winter deer hunt, landowner shooting permits, or sharpshooting in conjunction with cooperating landowners who provide permission. The purpose of the sampling is to collect needed additional CWD samples to assess disease distribution, and also to reduce the potential for the disease to spread.

Michelle Carstensen, the DNR's wildlife health program leader, said the prevalence of CWD is likely low. "We sampled 524 deer this past hunting season in the Pine Island area and found only one that appears to have CWD," said Carstensen. She added that the DNR did not find CWD in a total of 2,685 samples taken throughout southeastern Minnesota in 2009 or 500 samples taken in 2008 along the Wisconsin border, from Houston County northward to St. Croix State Park in Pine County.

The DNR has been on the lookout for CWD since 2002, when it was first detected at a domestic elk farm in central Minnesota. In recent years it has put additional focus on southeastern Minnesota. That's because the disease was detected in 2008 at a domestic elk farm near Pine Island, and because southeastern Minnesota abuts Wisconsin which has had CWD for many years. The domestic elk herd at Pine Island was eliminated after a seven-year-old female was found to have CWD. Three other elk were found to have CWD during the removal effort.

Though it is not known exactly how CWD is transmitted, it is thought to be primarily from animal-to-animal by infectious agents in feces, urine or saliva. CWD can also persist in the environment and may be contracted from contaminated soil. The movement of live animals is one of the greatest risk factors in spreading the disease to new areas.

CWD is a fatal, animal brain disease. The National Center for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization have found no scientific evidence that the disease presents a health risk to humans. Still, the CDC advises against eating animals known to have CWD. The disease is found in 13 other states and two Canadian provinces, including Wisconsin, North Dakota and South Dakota.

**Federal laboratory confirms CWD diagnosis**

**January 26, 2011** - The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received confirmation from a national laboratory on Jan. 25 verifying that the sample from a southeastern Minnesota white-tailed deer tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

The finding by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory at Ames, Iowa, had been expected and confirms a preliminary diagnosis by the University of Minnesota.

The DNR announced on Jan. 21 that a deer harvested by an archer in November 2010 near Pine Island likely would test positive for CWD, a fatal brain disease that affects deer, elk and moose but not cattle or humans.

The DNR is implementing its CWD response plan, the first step of which involves an aerial survey of deer numbers in the Pine Island area. During the next two weeks, DNR will be working with landowners, collecting additional information and will share its plans and findings at a public meeting in February.



**NAEBA's 4th Annual  
March Mingle & Benefit Semen Auction  
March 11th, 2011  
DoubleTree Hotel, Grand Junction, Colorado  
Registration Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

Ranch/Business Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Full Registration (Includes evening banquet meal, seminars, and benefit semen auction)

Adult \$40 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Child (12<) \$15 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Hotel Information:**

DoubleTree Hotel  
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Grand Junction, CO 81506  
970-241-8888

Room Rates: \$92 before Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> - \$109 after – so make your reservations early  
Mention Colorado Elk Breeders Association for block pricing

**Payment Info**

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**Minnesota**  
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## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, January 21, 2011**

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

### **Board steps up requirements for farmed cervidae located near CWD-positive wild deer**

*Herds within a ten-mile radius of CWD positive deer will have movement restrictions*

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today announced that a wild white-tailed deer in Olmsted County tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). As a result of the DNR's finding, the Minnesota Board of Animal Health has established a 10-mile radius CWD-endemic area in southeastern Minnesota.

All captive deer and elk herds within the CWD-endemic area will have movement restrictions. Farms within this area must maintain their animals in such a way that ensures commingling of farmed and wild cervidae does not happen.

"We have been working alongside farmed deer and elk producers for years to develop a plan for this exact situation," said Minnesota Board of Animal Health Assistant Director Paul Anderson. "We will continue to work with them through this situation to ensure the safety of Minnesota's wild deer population and the viability of our farmed cervidae industry."

In 2003, Minnesota implemented mandatory registration and CWD surveillance programs for farmed cervidae herds. In addition, cervidae must be kept inside an eight-foot tall fence, complete annual inventories and inspections, and submit paperwork within 14 days of moving an animal. 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.

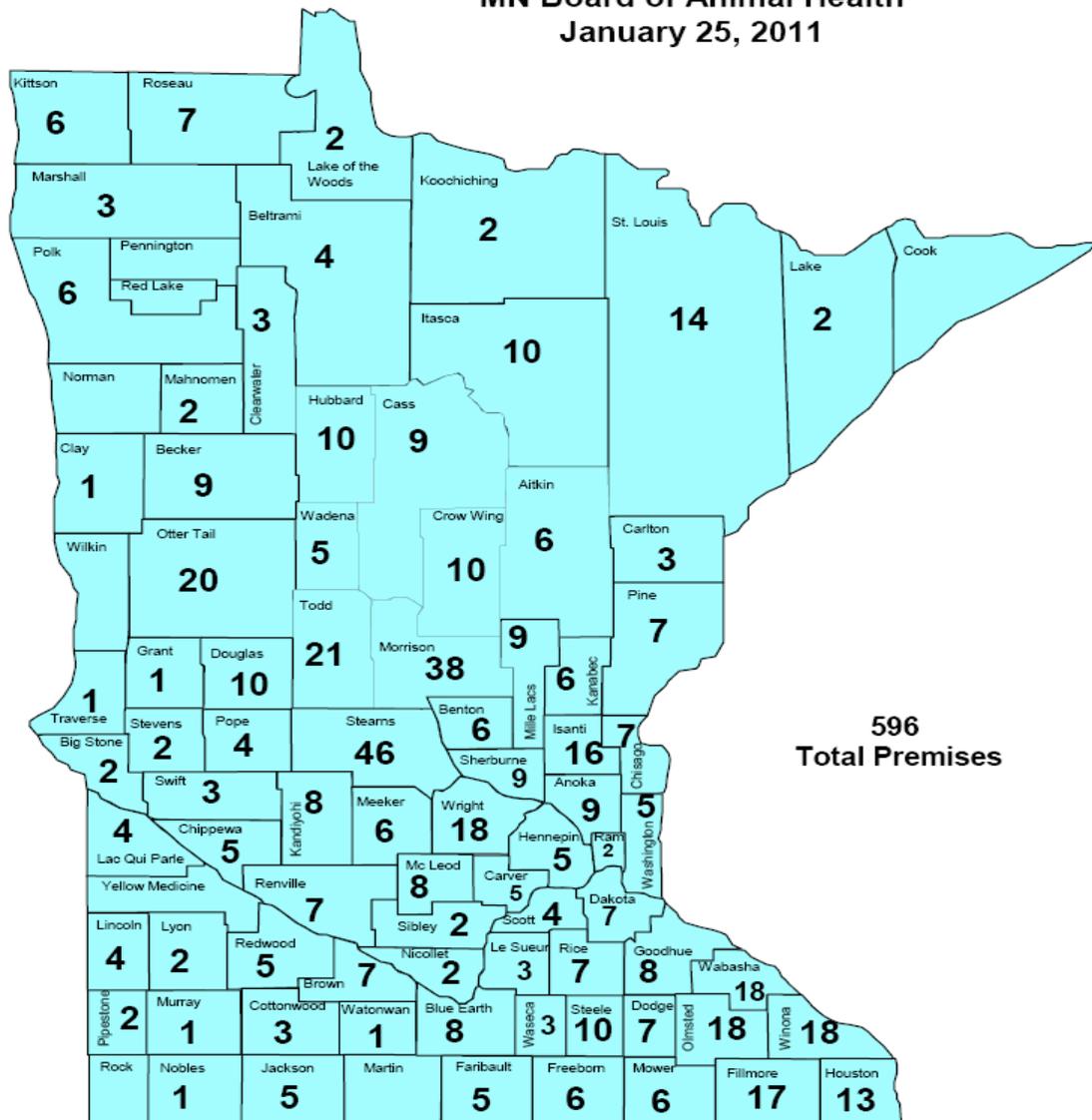
According to state health officials and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there is no evidence that CWD can be transmitted to humans.

As the official animal disease control and eradication agency of the State of Minnesota, the Board was created over 100 years ago to safeguard the health of the state's domestic animals. In carrying out its mission, the Board is a part of a network of state agencies protecting public health and providing an abundant, wholesome food supply to Minnesota consumers.

For more information on CWD and the BAH, visit their website at [www.bah.state.mn.us](http://www.bah.state.mn.us).

625 North Robert Street • St. Paul, MN • 55155 • 651-296-2942 • 651-296-7417 FAX • 1-800- 627-3529 TTY  
In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, an alternative form of communication is available upon request.

### Farmed Cervidae Program MN Board of Animal Health January 25, 2011



596  
Total Premises

<b>Premises with farmed deer or elk</b>	<b>596</b>
Number of elk	199
Number of white-tailed deer	376
Number of other species	73
<i>Note: Some premises may raise more than one species</i>	
<b>Total number of farmed cervidae</b>	<b>15,134</b>
Number of elk	6,467
Number of white-tailed deer	7,058
Number of other species	1,609
Farmed cervidae tested for CWD since 2002	19,392
Farmed cervidae tested for CWD 2010	2,501
Farmed cervidae tested for TB 2010	1,160
Farmed cervidae tested for Brucellosis 2010	1,462
Imported cervidae 2010	186
Exported cervidae 2010	1,124

## Commentary on the potential chronic wasting disease positive wild whitetail in SE Minnesota

*This commentary was sent out from MnEBA to major newspaper sources and used to educate legislators at the Minnesota State Capitol.*

**MnEBA ~ January 25, 2011** -- It was a sad day last Friday for Minnesota elk and deer enthusiasts of every kind as word came that a potential chronic wasting disease (CWD) positive wild whitetail was found in southeastern Minnesota. This was news that no one in Minnesota wanted to hear.

The Minnesota farmed cervidae industry has diligently worked with the Minnesota Board of Animal Health and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for over a decade to help protect the state's farmed cervidae and wild deer population from all diseases which might impact the species, including CWD. The good news in all of this is that when CWD has been found, the low incident rates show that the programs in place in Minnesota are working; they are finding the disease where present at extremely low infection rates.

The Minnesota farmed cervidae industry is no rogue industry. It is the most highly regulated animal industry in all of Minnesota and has been aggressively looking for CWD for years. It was the farmed cervidae industry who approached the Board of Animal Health over 10 years ago asking them to propose a plan by which CWD surveillance would be mandatory in Minnesota instead of voluntary and to also propose an import plan which would restrict elk from entering Minnesota that are not from a CWD monitored herd. These programs were later enacted, with full support from the industry. Statistics show that since 2002 when computer records began, there have been a total of 19,392 farmed cervidae tested for CWD. The total number of cervidae behind fence in Minnesota currently stands at 15,134 animals. It is clearly in our best interest to ensure that our herds are healthy and we will do whatever it takes to achieve this goal.

The farmed cervidae industry is one of the few agricultural industries in which the farmer does not receive a direct government monetary subsidy. Each and every positive case of CWD in a farmed or wild cervid has a negative effect on the industry, especially those closest to the finding. This most recent case in a wild deer is the most devastating of all because it immediately affects a number of producers. Even if they have been completely compliant in all aspects of governing rules, they are now subject to dealing with an issue completely out of their control which will take absolute economic control of their livelihoods.

Over the coming weeks, many will question how a Minnesota wild deer could have contracted CWD. The Minnesota DNR has publically stated that it is impossible to know where the disease came from. When you look at CWD incidence in the United States, you will find states that have only found cases in wild cervids, states where it has only been found in farmed cervids and states where it has been found in both. The fact is that all cervidae, whether farmed or wild, are susceptible to CWD and capable of spreading it. It is everyone's responsibility to enact the best practices possible to protect Minnesota's wild and farmed cervidae herds.

Part of that job includes testing and with testing, we need to be prepared to find a positive. Minnesota is extremely fortunate that both the Minnesota DNR and Minnesota Board of Animal Health have diligently prepared for this possibility and are now ready to deal with the findings. These organizations have a strong track record of dealing with animal disease, most recently the TB outbreak in northern Minnesota, and they will expertly deal with CWD as well.

Please support the state agencies who are dealing with this issue and let us work together in a positive way to protect Minnesota's farmed livestock and wildlife resources, both now and in the future.

## Welcome New Members!

**\*Grande Natural – Elk USA**  
Rich & Jan Forrest  
P.O. Box 10  
Del Norte, CO 81132  
(719) 657-0942 (Home & Work)  
(719) 657-2113 (Fax)  
[antler333@amigo.net](mailto:antler333@amigo.net)

**\*Spring Coulee Elk Farm**  
Bill & Karen Knutson  
N7447 County Road D  
Holmen, WI 54636  
(608) 526-4477 (Home)  
(608) 792-4477 (Cell)  
(608) 526-2055 (Fax)  
[miniman41@centurytel.net](mailto:miniman41@centurytel.net)

**\*Brian & Gerald Lawler**  
Hidden Island Elk Ranch  
10868 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE  
Hansboro, ND 58339  
(701) 266-5391  
[ruby.lawlar@sendit.nodak.edu](mailto:ruby.lawlar@sendit.nodak.edu)

**\*Midwest Outdoors Unlimited**  
Ron Welle  
28791 325<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Melrose, MN 56352  
(320) 987-3526 (Home)  
(320) 260-6023 (Work)  
[midwestoutdoorsunlimited@yahoo.com](mailto:midwestoutdoorsunlimited@yahoo.com)

**Will & Tammy Huston**  
17559 360<sup>th</sup> Street  
Avon, MN 56310  
(320) 845-7636  
[wrhuston@hotmail.com](mailto:wrhuston@hotmail.com)

\* Associate membership level



## 2011 MnEBA Gun Calendar Members Make it a Great Success!

After several months of sales, the drawing was held on January 8<sup>th</sup> for the second annual MnEBA gun calendar raffle at the conclusion of the MnEBA Annual Conference. A total of 505 calendars were sold, down from 525 last year, but nevertheless, successful!

Many MnEBA members stepped up to sell calendars but it was Brian Wagner who sold the most calendars for the second year in a row selling a total of 66 calendars. That distinction earned him a free 2011 membership! Other notable sellers included Ken Arnzen selling 51 calendars, Glen & Kaye Zebarth selling 39 calendars and Morrie & Daphne Evenson selling 37 calendars.

Several other members sold 15 or more including Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Pat & Rita Prodzinski, Mark Lucas, Don & Joyce Kaplan, Martin Zacharias, Paul Hartkopf and Paul & Sue Kautzman. No matter how many calendars were sold by any one individual or couple, every sale was important and the group effort was tremendous! THANK YOU to all!!!

Monthly winners will be posted every other Wednesday on the MnEBA web site at [www.mneba.org](http://www.mneba.org). Check back frequently to see who the new winners are!

### Preview for the 2012 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar...

There has been great membership feedback and board discussions about new ideas for the 2012 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. Moon phases and hunting openers will now also be listed in each calendar month. But even more exciting than that... there will be a very BIG incentive to sell calendars. For every 10 calendars you sell, your name will go into a drawing for a very desirable prize! Also, each person who sponsors a calendar month will have their name go into the drawing as well. You will definitely want to have a chance to win this item (and no, it is not a free membership, it's even bigger than that)!!!

The committee is also looking at other options such as "cash only" winning days, other prizes and perhaps "bonus" days. Stay tuned for additional details!

Sponsorship applications for the 2012 gun raffle calendar will be mailed out with the April 1 newsletter. Also, if you would be willing to help on the committee, please contact the MnEBA Office. It would be great to have more help and ideas so MnEBA can put forth the best fundraiser possible.

## 2011 MnEBA Summer Picnic LOOKING FOR A HOST!

Looking for a host for the 2011 MnEBA Summer Picnic.  
Saturday, August 20, 2011

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



## Invitation to Join MN Grown

*Do you direct market elk meat and/or velvet antler? Advertising in the MN Grown Directory is one of the least expensive and most effective uses of your advertising dollars!*

The Minnesota Grown Program would like to invite Minnesota elk ranchers - and markets offering elk meat - to join a grower-directed organization that helps connect you with consumers looking for local healthy foods and other products such as antler velvet.

Minnesota Grown has been around since the 1980's and has grown to include over 1,100 members. For a very small commitment, we would love to feature your farm or ranch in the Minnesota Grown Directory, provide access to marketing materials that help you promote your elk products, and otherwise help you build your elk business.

A few good reasons to join Minnesota Grown:

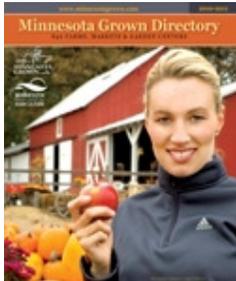
### Free Marketing Materials

Stickers, posters, price cards, twist ties, table talkers, and other items are all free to members. Those items can be offered to your retail customers for free as well!

### Very Popular Website

200,000 "unique visitors" have already found us at [www.minnesotagrown.com](http://www.minnesotagrown.com) in 2010 (up from 150,000 in 2009). Those web users stay on our site for over 4 minutes while viewing 7.5 different web pages on average. *Those numbers are roughly twice the average for similar websites - according to Google.*

### Widely Distributed Minnesota Grown Directory



For an additional \$40, if you sell direct to the consumer, you can list your farm/products in the 2011 Directory. This year, 190,000 hard copies of the Minnesota Grown Directory will be distributed for free by tourist information centers, farms, libraries, by real estate agents and retailers that support the local foods movement. This is a unique advertising tool that, on average, gets used more than 4 times and kept for more than 12 months by each user. The 2011 volume will be widely promoted as the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Directory – resulting in increased consumer attention in the year to come.

### New Wholesale Directory

Coming soon – an online directory listing member products that are available to "large-quantity" buyers such as wholesalers, retailers, schools, and other institutions. The online directory is ready and is currently being populated with product information from growers. There will be no additional charge to be in this directory for MN Grown members.

Current Minnesota Grown members receive renewal forms in the mail in late November. New members, and growers who are renewing their license, may sign up and pay online by clicking on the "Members" box at [www.minnesotagrown.com](http://www.minnesotagrown.com), or call 651-201-6469 and leave a message with a complete mailing address to receive an application by mail. Producers wishing to be listed in the 2011 Minnesota Grown Directory should apply by March 1, 2011.

**NEWS RELEASE: Thursday, December 30, 2010**

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

## Roseau County Iraq Veteran Experiences Elk Hunt

**Minnesota Elk Breeders Association (MnEBA), December 30, 2010** – Jeff Srisourath, a disabled Iraq veteran from Roseau County, recently experienced the hunt of a lifetime as the recipient of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt. The hunt, coordinated by MnEBA and generously sponsored by Wolf Creek Elk Ranch Inc, Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch and the Lake Superior Chapter of Safari Club International, took place on December 3-4, 2010.

Specialist Jeff Srisourath, a graduate of Warroad High School, joined the Minnesota National Guard in February 2000. He was a member of the Red Bull Unit, Bravo Company serving in Bosnia from 2002-2003, then deployed to Iraq in October of 2005. Jeff was serving on an infantry unit in Iraq when one day, the Bradley Jeff was driving hit an improvised explosive device causing a huge explosion. Jeff was rushed to Camp Fallujah where it was determined he lost most of his left heel.

Over the past four years, Srisourath has spent much time at multiple military hospitals undergoing more than a dozen surgeries to save his foot. Severe setbacks and excruciating pain are Jeff's constant companions; so much so that he's seriously contemplating amputation. The pain and lack of mobility has left Jeff unable to leave the house much of the time.

Jeff has always been an avid hunter and this medical disability has hindered one of his favorite passions in life. However, Tony Beckel of Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch didn't let that stop Jeff from enjoying this very special hunt. Through the help of motorized vehicles and a small amount of tracking by foot, Jeff spent the whole first day looking for the elusive elk. "We tracked the elk all day on Friday but I never saw him," Jeff said. "The elk was like a 'ninja', back-tracking on his own tracks or following other deer tracks." Jeff returned home to catch a good night's sleep then returned early the next morning. This time, Tony brought in additional guides to help find the elk. It wasn't until about noon that Jeff got the first glimpse of his prey. "We came upon the elk and he was bedded down in the brush. He stood up and I took my shot. He took about 4 steps, turned and looked at me, then I shot again and this time, he dropped," Jeff said. Jeff was feeling pretty calm during the hunt, but after he fired the last fatal shot, he said to himself, "Holy cow, I just shot an elk. I was really stoked after the shot." Tony dressed the elk for Jeff and had it transported to a local meat locker for processing. Jeff liked the look of the elk so much that he decided to have the head mounted.

Today, the words he uses to describe his hunt are "really fun" and "awesome". As he tells friends the story of the elk hunt he experienced, Jeff says his friends don't believe he actually shot an elk in Minnesota. But once he brings home the elk head, his friends will become believers.

There are many individuals and organizations involved in making this opportunity possible. They all want veterans such as Specialist Srisourath to know they are deeply respected and appreciated. Wolf Creek Elk Ranch Inc., a family owned Minnesota elk farm, has generously donated the bull. The Wylie family is pleased to be a part of this project. Klint Wylie explains, "My dad and my wife's dad both served in Vietnam. We're happy to be a part of this project as a patronage to the military." The Lake Superior Chapter of SCI is also pleased to play a part in this hunt by helping to pay for expenses. President Dale Bruder was very excited to partner with MnEBA to sponsor an elk hunt to benefit our nation's veterans. "The Lake Superior Chapter of SCI is honored to join these other great organizations to help make this hunt possible for one of our nations' heroes," said Dale.

Tony Beckel of Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch has been an active participant in MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunts for the past four years by offering not only a beautiful 900 acre hunting facility near the Lake of the Woods for the hunt, but also his guide services for this very special hunt. Tony's father was a WWII war veteran and this is an opportunity for Tony to support servicemen and women who richly deserve our appreciation.

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



*Specialist Jeff Srisourath*

## MnEBA Kitchen

Here's a delicious chow mein recipe to warm you up as winter winds down and we begin to think about spring!

### Elk Steak Chow Mein

1½ lbs. elk steak

1 medium onion, sliced

2 cups celery, chopped

1½ cups chicken broth

8 oz. fresh mushrooms, sliced

2 Tbsp. water

2 Tbsp. corn starch

2 Tbsp. soy sauce

½ tsp. garlic powder

¼ tsp. pepper

1 tsp. sugar

1 large can Chop Suey vegetables

chow mein noodles



In large fry pan or wok, stir fry elk steak and onion in olive oil until just browned. Remove from pan. Place celery and broth in pan, simmer for 5 minutes; add mushrooms and simmer 5 minutes more. Remove vegetables from broth and set aside. Combine water, corn starch, soy sauce, garlic powder, pepper and sugar. Add to broth in pan and stir until thickened. Add meat, celery mixture and can of chop suey vegetables. Gently simmer for 2 minutes. Serve over chow mein noodles.

## Velvet Watch

*Editor's Note: As discussed at the MnEBA Conference, the buying season in New Zealand appears to have begun and stayed at the pricing levels it ended on last year. The following is an excerpt from the **Deer Industry News, Dec./Jan.** newsletter published by Deer Industry New Zealand.*

### Velvet

With the 2010/2011 velvetting season in full swing, the fundamental factors influencing velvet's prospects in the Korean and Chinese markets are mostly positive. However, uncertainty around the selling systems in New Zealand, the strong New Zealand dollar and possible instability on the Korean peninsula are three primary areas to keep an eye on. Promotion continues to ensure New Zealand velvet is supported in the market.

### New Velvet Season

Positive market indicators in Korea, China and Taiwan outweigh potential downsides going into the season. By the time this issue of *Deer Industry News* is published, oriental medicine doctors will be giving prescriptions to patients to help protect them and their families as the coldest part of winter hits in earnest. Many of these will include deer velvet. Koreans want to feel healthy during the festive season and many understand that velvet helps to achieve that. One of the positive indicators observed at the onset of the season is the even distribution of velvet through the supply chain with no reports of excessive stocks coming into the season. Many Korean market participants Deer Industry New Zealand has spoken to are positive about the season ahead but they caution that further increases on the the reasonable price rise experienced last year are unlikely this year and that a good outcome would be prices holding around similar levels to last season.

In New Zealand, things have been less positive following some fragmentation in selling recently. So far, this has not damaged the velvet market... World, and New Zealand velvet production is lower and the economies of key markets are in reasonable shape. As a relatively large velvet supplier in a small, niche market, New Zealand velvet must always be carefully managed on to the market; however, this year New Zealand needs to be particularly careful.

...One key concern now is the geopolitical issues with New Zealand's main velvet market – South Korea – and the possibility that North Korea's aggressive actions could further weaken its currency.




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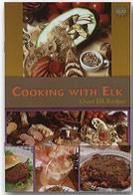
# Marketing Materials

For all your marketing needs! Order online and pay by credit card at [www.mneba.org](http://www.mneba.org) or call (320) 543-2686 to place your order!

## MEAT PROMOTIONS

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

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



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

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

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

## VELVET PROMOTIONS

**Velvet Antler for People Brochures** are a general velvet antler brochure. \$12.50/pack of 50 (pictured)



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

**Velvet Antler Brochures** are a general velvet antler brochure, originally 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.

**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** is 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

# More Convention Pictures...



Paul & Lynn Hueg & Kaye Zebarth



Leo Windschitl & Kaye Zebarth



Scott Groen, Brian Wagner & Scott Salonek

# Ear Tagging Guidelines

By Carissa Allen, Agriculture Specialist, Minnesota Board of Animal Health  
(651) 201-6802 or carissa.allen@bah.state.mn.us

1. What BAH really wants is for producers to record their tags as is...so if the number on the tag reads "001", that is how we want them recorded – no adding or subtracting characters. We also ask to indicate color or write "metal" if it's not plastic.
2. If the premises number is on the tag, we want it recorded, otherwise, don't. We are asking everyone to add premises numbers to make the tag unique, but it is not required by law to be on there at this point.
3. Also, we need producers to record ALL tags an animal has. We find health certificates with all USDA tags and inventories with all plastic tags. This leaves us with no way to reconcile the animals.
4. It's important to list any re-tagging information as well. Both the old and new numbers need to be indicated on the next record of the animal.

## Farmed Cervidae Tagging Guidelines

December 2010

All farmed cervidae must have at least one form of ear tag identification.

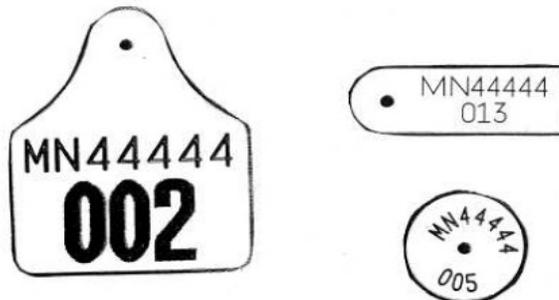
### Acceptable tags include:

Producer tag – includes premises number and individual number  
USDA metal – issued by MN accredited veterinarian  
NAEBA – issued by North American Elk Breeders Association  
RFID – radio frequency tags issued by private companies approved by USDA

### Producer Tags:

Producer tags can be custom ordered to include a premises number (e.g. "MN 12345") and an individual number of the producer's choosing.

Examples of appropriate official producer tags:



### Companies that produce custom tags:

Allflex USA: 1-800-989-8247 [www.allflexusa.com](http://www.allflexusa.com)

Hasco Tag Company: 1-800-860-6300 [www.hascotag.com](http://www.hascotag.com)

Premier Sheep Supplies: 1-800-282-6631 [www.premier1supplies.com](http://www.premier1supplies.com)

### Recording Tags:

When recording tags on forms submitted to the board, the following information should be included:

All numbers/ letters as they appear on the tag  
Tag color (indicate if metal)  
Any re-tagging information

Examples: "MN44444-002/ Blue" "MN-ABC002A/ Orange" "old tag = MN44444-003/ Red" "41ABC1234"

Do not duplicate tag numbers or remove existing official tags.

## Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

### Differential diagnosis and histopathology for infectious causes of encephalitis in cervids

By Scott D. Fitzgerald

Diagnostic Center for Population & Animal Health, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI

Narrative: With the recent expansion of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) from a relatively small geographic region in the central-western United States, to 15 states and provinces throughout the United States and Canada, many pathologists are now evaluating the brains of free-ranging and captive cervids. While the search for prion diseases has been greatly simplified by the development of rapid screening assays, such as immunohistochemical staining and ELISA, efficient and effective surveillance of the many other infectious encephalitides that affect deer, elk and moose is lacking. Many states now have targeted surveillance programs that retrieve and examine the brains from cervids demonstrating CNS signs. Can we provide more information to our clients than simply prion protein negative or positive?

Bacterial encephalitis is relatively common in cervids, since they are susceptible to infections entering the brain either from the retro-orbital area, or at the base of the antlers. In addition to generic suppurative abscesses due to *Staphylococcus* or *Streptococcus spp.* Another bacterium with CNS tropism is *Listeria monocytogenes* which affects the brainstem area with characteristic microabscesses. Routine culture, Gram stains, and immunohistochemistry are all useful adjuncts to the diagnosis.

Viral encephalitis in cervids may be caused by rabies (rare), Eastern equine encephalitis, and West Nile virus. These diseases are nearly impossible to differentiate simply by histopathology, although EEE tends to have neutrophils admixed with the predominant mononuclear leukocyte population surrounding the vessels and the meninges. Adjunct testing such as *in situ* hybridization, immunohistochemistry, and PCR are all helpful for a definitive etiologic diagnosis.

Fungal encephalitis is secondary to gastrointestinal ulcerations, allowing irregular sized and branching zygomycete hyphal forms entry to the brain by way of the vasculature. Special stains and fungal culture are helpful in these uncommon cases.

Parasitic incephalitis includes aberrant migration of the extra-pulmonary lungworm *Parellophostrongylus tenuis* (endemic in deer) or the raccoon roundworm *Baylisascaris procyonis* to enter and damage the CNS, often with eosinophilic infiltrates present. The ubiquitous environmental contaminant *Toxoplasma gondii* produces a predominantly mononuclear cuffing very difficult to separate from viral encephalitis, unless organisms are found by histopathology, immunohistochemistry, or by PCR.

While all these organisms are encountered in domestic animals, and are more or less familiar to diagnostic pathologists, **this review serves to point out the value added by having trained veterinary pathologists join in targeted wildlife surveillance in order to provide more broad disease interpretation that supplements the positive or negative test results provided by a single molecular test.**

## Measure 2 defeated (North Dakota)

By Shawn Schafer, Citizens to Preserve North Dakota Property Rights

**December, 2010** ~ Maybe I should start with a little background information first, for those that are unaware of it, our hunting ranch industry was under attack. In the state of North Dakota, a group calling themselves "Hunters for Fair Chase", collected enough signatures to add an Initiated Measure to the ballot on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. This Measure would have made it illegal to "kill big game or exotic mammals in a manmade enclosure designed to prevent escape". We were successful in stopping them from gathering the signatures needed two years ago but this time they were more experienced and worked twice as hard by attending every home and garden show, sport show and major fairs. If there was a gathering of old ladies, they were there collecting signatures.

Property Rights were the focus of our campaign to defeat this Measure. The hunting ranch and game farm industries in North Dakota are made up of the North Dakota Elk Growers and the North Dakota Deer Ranchers, these associations are small compared to the industry in other states, so they combined together to form the "Citizens to Preserve ND Property Rights" which had to be registered with the Secretary of State as a campaign committee.

When we reviewed polling data our campaign firm had

from the first attack two years ago, it showed that the majority of the voting public didn't believe they would ever lose their hunting rights in North Dakota or that animal agriculture would ever be shut down in North Dakota. What they did support was the idea that with every election we are continually losing our rights as citizens. The majority of them said that while they would never hunt on a game ranch themselves, they would support the landowners right to make a living on his or her property.

To defeat this attack on our industry we knew that support from other organizations, both in and out of state, would be needed. This campaign committee allowed supporters from both outside and within the industry throughout the nation to participate in the battle. I would like to thank everyone that wrote opinion letters for the newspapers, called in during the radio talk shows and contributed funds to enable us to wage a media campaign on the radio, newspaper and bill boards.

The North Dakota Stockmen's Association, North Dakota Farm Bureau and North Dakota Farmers Union rallied behind us as they were terrified of the language "manmade enclosure designed to prevent escape", as that could apply to all slaughter houses and on the farm

slaughter. They also were worried about the interpretation of "exotic mammals" as most livestock, with the exception of buffalo, are exotic to North America. Lastly if this was about hunting and ethics then why did they use the word "kill" instead of "hunt". What would happen if this ended up in front of a judge that is sympathetic to the animal rights movement?

The whole industry pulled together and we ran a hard campaign and it looked like we had the support of the majority of the public. Then the week before the election, the Humane Society of the United States spent \$150,000 on television ads that swayed the public against us. They were claiming to be ND hunters and asking people to "vote yes" on the measure.

This sent us scrambling as we knew the power of visual advertizing, and the only chance we had, would be to run TV ads of our own exposing HSUS involvement and educating the public to the real agenda of this activist group. We had information that a member of our opposition had been communicating with HSUS and every chance we got we had warned the public that this measure was opening the door for activist groups that oppose all hunting and animal agriculture to become

established in ND. Now that our predictions had come true, we needed to get the word out that the Hunters for Fair Chase was working behind the scenes with an anti-hunting organization and that their ads on TV were nothing more than a spoof intended to mislead the voting public. We had looked into TV ads early in the campaign, but there was no way we could afford them on our limited budget.

We went back to our major supporters and asked for additional funding for radio and print, and to buy television advertising of our own. We received a positive response back from our members and major state associations, which allowed us to double our radio and print where the majority of the population live in the eastern part of North Dakota. This also is where our opposition was concentrating the majority of their advertising. Then the NADeFA Board of Directors held a special meeting and voted to contribute \$125,000 to be used for television ads for the last 5 days of the campaign. We were still outspent on TV, but hoped that all of our efforts combined would complement each other and push us over the top.

We Won! All of our efforts paid off on Election Day as the votes were tallied at 57 - 43% in our favor! We barely lost in two of the major cities (Fargo and Grand Forks), where we couldn't compete against

their dollars, but we were able to pull the rest of the state by a large enough margin that when combined with the votes we did get in those cities, it gave us the lead that we needed.

We are hopeful that we sent a strong enough message that our industry is united and strong, that they won't try it again in North Dakota or anywhere else. With this attack by an animal rights group fresh on everyone's mind we are working on legislation in ND that will make the Ballot Measure process more difficult to take away a person's livelihood. This is something that we need to work on throughout our industry, as

we don't know which state will be next.

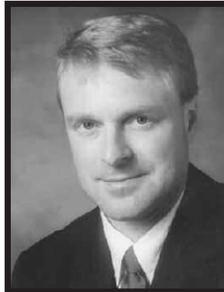
We can be thankful that this battle wasn't in Michigan, Ohio or Missouri where HSUS has spent millions of dollars on successful Measures in the past. I am hoping that we have sent a message that we are a strong united industry.

***The North Dakota Deer Ranchers and North Dakota Elk Growers would like to thank the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association for their support and contribution to our campaign which successfully defeated Measure 2 in N.D.***

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- Equine operations, including boarding, breeding and training
- Agritainment operations such as pumpkin patches, corn mazes and petting zoos
- Hunting and guiding activities on your farm

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## Committee Reports

### Government Relations

MnEBA's lobbyist has joined together with the MN Deer Breeders lobbyist at the State Capitol and they have been busy educating legislators. The MN Board of Animal Health spent a significant amount of time at the Capital on January 25<sup>th</sup> as well as testifying in committee hearings.

While they can help educate on the state side of the health and wellness of the state's farmed cervidae, MnEBA's lobbyist Tony Kwilas is highly suggesting all MnEBA members contact their legislators as well, especially in any districts where there are new senators or representatives. It's important that they know they have elk producers in their districts so they can be looking out for your interests! Mention the following:

1. Let them know you are located in their district.
2. Make yourself available to be a resource of information, the MnEBA Office can help if needed.
3. Let them know how your operation contributes to the economy of your area and state.

An Elk Industry Fact Sheet has been developed to help answer the most common legislator questions and is being included in this mailing. Feel free to use the fact sheet to educate legislators and to answer questions.

Also included in this mailing are the names, phone numbers and mailing addresses for all current Minnesota legislators. Email is also a great way to reach legislators. Unfortunately that information is not listed on the enclosed sheet but can be found at the following web addresses:

House Member Info: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/housemembers.asp>

Senate Member Info: [http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/member\\_list.php?sort=d&ls=#header](http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/member_list.php?sort=d&ls=#header)

If you're not sure who represents you, you can find that information at these web addresses or call the MnEBA Office for assistance:

To find who represents you: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/districtfinder.aspx>

General info: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

With such a high number of new legislators, it is imperative that they hear from us so they know what we do is important to us and to Minnesota's rural economy. Thank you in advance for any contact you can make. It all helps!!!

### Health

There have been 12 Minnesota farmed cervidae herds which have been quarantined by the Minnesota Board of Animal Health because they are in a 10-mile radius of where the CWD positive wild whitetail was harvested in southeastern Minnesota. Of these twelve herds, 4 own elk, 10 own whitetail deer and 2 own other species (some of these herds contain more than one species). The total number of farmed cervidae affected are 110 elk, 109 whitetail deer and 102 other species. These farms are working very closely with the Minnesota Board of Animal Health to weigh their options in how to be released from quarantine. Many are choosing to construct a second barrier to eliminate fence to fence contact with wild cervidae.

### MN Deer Classic – Help Is Needed!!!

MnEBA will be once again having a booth at the upcoming Deer Classic on March 11-13<sup>th</sup> at the State Fairgrounds in St. Paul. Please contact Perry Olson at (507) 220-4515 or [perryo@tayloreik.com](mailto:perryo@tayloreik.com) if you can help!

### MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

<b>Annual Conference</b>	Kaye Zebarth (320) 834-4064
<b>Nominating</b>	Fred Neubert (320) 352-6733
<b>Government Relations</b>	Jim Byrne (507) 358-6505
<b>Antler Competition</b>	Kaye Zebarth (320) 834-4064
<b>Health</b>	Dr. Glen Zebarth (320) 834-4064
<b>Auction</b>	Jerry Strodman (507) 451-3107
<b>Awards</b>	Patty VanGundy (507) 896-2380
<b>Promotions</b>	Brenda Hartkopf (320) 543-2686
<b>State Fair</b>	Morrie & Daphne Evenson (320) 354-5156
<b>Fundraising</b>	Brenda Hartkopf (320) 543-2686

# Minnesota Elk Branding Logo Available!

MnEBA members can now apply to use the MN Elk branding logo on their elk meat and velvet antler products. All members using this logo must be registered users. There's no fee to apply but an application form must be completed and turned in to the MnEBA Office.



Once your registration form is received, you will be sent up to 1,000 stickers (stickers measure 3/4" x 1") to apply to your meat and velvet antler products. You can also request an electronic version which you can have printed directly on your own labels or business card.

For further questions or to request an application, please contact the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 or email [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org).

## Advertiser Index

**ADM Alliance Nutrition**  
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Breeders Association**  
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**Valley Springs**  
*Page 16*

**Farm Bureau Financial  
Services**  
*Page 21*

**THANK YOU**  
*for your support!*

## MnEBA Newsletter Advertising Rates

	Full Page	Half Page	Quarter Page	Business Card
<b>1x</b>	\$75	\$50	\$30	\$20
<b>6x</b>	\$400	\$300	\$180	\$120
<b>Size</b>	9 1/4 x 7 1/4	4 1/2 x 7 1/4 or 9 1/4 x 3 1/2	4 1/2 x 3 1/2	2 x 3 1/2

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

## Your 2011 MnEBA Membership

All 2010 MnEBA memberships expired on December 31, 2010. 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](http://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](mailto:info@mneba.org)

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

## A Thank You to MnEBA

*Thank you for the scholarship money that you awarded me. I will be using it for second semester tuition and book fees at Dakota State University. Thanks again for awarding your scholarship to me.*

~ *Ike Pohlman*

## Calendar of Events

**March 11 – 12, 2011** - NAEBA March Mingle & Benefit Semen Auction, (in conjunction with the Colorado Elk Breeders Association Elk Expo), Doubletree Hotel, Grand Junction, CO

**March 11 – 13, 2011** – Minnesota Deer Classic, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

**August 4 – 6, 2011** – NAEBA Annual Convention & International Antler Competition, Ramada Waterloo Convention Center, Waterloo, IA

**August 25 – September 5, 2011** – MN State Fair, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

## Classified Ads

**Wanted:** Elk breeders, be sure to contact us before you sell your sheds. We will be paying top dollar for good 5x5's & up. Email us with what you have in the spring of 2011 at [okaman@frontiernet.net](mailto:okaman@frontiernet.net). Thank you.

**Wanted:** Klint Wylie from Wolf Creek Elk Ranch is looking to purchase hard antler. Paying top dollar with copy of CWD certification from the MN Board of Animal Health. Call Klint at (877) 497-9653 for more information.

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

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

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

## MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

9086 Keats Avenue SW  
Howard Lake, MN 55349