



Special Interest Articles:

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President's Message by Mark Lucas



Good Day All,

Another Minnesota Elk Breeders Winter Conference has passed--and what a great conference it was! The attendance was strong despite the cruddy weather we had just the day or two before. Conference attendance benefited from having the NAEBA meeting on Friday at the same location as ours. I don't know the exact number of NAEBA folks that stayed over to join our MnEBA event, but it was a fair number. It was such a good time I can't

help but hit the highlights for those who may have missed it.

The day kicked off with our MnEBA Annual Meeting. We had a good exchange between membership and the board as I hoped we would. After all, this is your organization. The board wants to hear what's on your mind, ideas you may have and where we need to change with the times. The overhaul of our web site is a perfect example of changing with the times due to member input. Brenda and Jim Byrne highlighted the new web site at the conference and I think even those of us that are not "techies" liked the changes. I know I love the fact that I can have a simple web page presence for my farm without all the hassle and expense of doing it on my own. The amount of time it took to put just the web overhaul together is astounding. Thanks to all who took part in the web overhaul, but especially the two who carried most of the water, Brenda and Jim. We now have a first class web presence to help showcase our state's first class livestock---ELK. Welcome to Greg Lubinski as the newest MnEBA board member, elected at the meeting. As the newest board member, all emails and complaint calls about MnEBA should be directed to him, ha.

We had a very good seminar lineup that held people's attention throughout the afternoon. Ian Thorleifson did a great job as did Dr. Anderson from the MN Board of Animal Health. Both had good information that helps us producers keep on top of our game. Due to illness, Dr. Zebarth was unable to attend, yet we had several elk business veterans volunteer to step up to host a blue ribbon panel discussion on reproductive issues in elk. A special thank you to the panel members for helping us out on short notice, Lance Hartkopf, Andy Azcarraga, Eric Mohlman and Travis Lowe. I had several members approach me after the program and say they hope we do more of that type of panel discussion on issues in the future. They found it very informative.

The true highlight of the day was having Erik Olson, the young Iraq war veteran who was the 2014 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt recipient, join us for the evening banquet. Erik and his parents made the trip over from River Falls, Wisconsin. As Erik was introduced to be recognized, the applause was nothing short of amazing and followed with a standing ovation. It was obvious that those in attendance truly were grateful for the sacrifice this young man has endured in the name of freedom.

After dinner we had our live auction- with Ken and Sandy Branine in charge. In all, the benefit auction brought in around \$6,500, well above last year. Thank you to Ken and Sandy and all who donated items, time and talent for the auction. To wind up the banquet, we drew the winners for the 2015 Gun Raffle Calendar. While we did not completely sell out the 750 calendars, we came very close. At the time of the drawing 699 out of 750 had been sold. I believe that is more than 100 over last year's sales. Great job all! Keep checking on the web site for the winners each month.

While it is always good to get to visit with old friends, it was exciting to meet new ones. We had several attend the MnEBA winter conference for the first time as the good press about our industry begins to attract new blood. Let's make sure we get more new folks to the summer picnic this year. That is always a good time and something to look forward to.

Have a safe rest of winter!
Mark Lucas

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

MnEBA Annual Conference Biggest in Years!

Over 110 people attended this year's conference!

The 2015 MnEBA Annual Conference took place January 10, 2015 at the Sheraton Minneapolis West in Minnetonka, MN, one day after the NAEBA January Jamboree. Minnesota elk producers came out in force for both events. Many out of state elk producers also stayed for both events bringing Saturday's attendance to over 110 attendees! The last time MnEBA had this many attendees at a winter conference was in 2003, twelve years ago! Several new members and visitors made industry attendees feel rejuvenated and excited for the future!

This year's seminars held something of interest for everyone! Seminars began with Jim Byrne and Brenda Hartkopf reviewing the new features and benefits of MnEBA's new web site. After lunch, Dr. Anderson shared his insights about the benefits of industry producers being involved with USAHA and what a difference attending the annual USAHA conventions can make in future policy and reform. Changing topics completely, a roundtable with Eric Mohlman, Andy Azcarraga, Travis Lowe and Lance Hartkopf discussed what producers could do to increase breeding conception in their cows. Everyone who listened to that seminar may just try a new thing or two with their breeding programs next fall. Ian Thorleifson then shared a wealth of great information on how to better manage our bulls for improved production throughout their lifetime. Finally, Travis Lowe gave a great presentation on the power of social media and the free opportunities that exist to promote our industry to the general public. A big thanks to all speakers for sharing great thought-provoking presentations!

This year's conference featured six vendors including Sunset Jewelry, ADM Alliance Nutrition, North American Elk Breeders Association, Outback Fence, Mohlman Elk Farm and Farm Bureau Financial Services. Thank you for sharing your great information and for your support!

Many attendees also participated in the gun calendar raffle helping to make that activity another great success! Many thanks to Eileen Byrne for her help in manning the calendar table and to all members who stepped up to sponsor and sell calendars!

The MnEBA awards committee recognized Greg Lubinski for his significant service to MnEBA in the past year. NAEBA also handed out plaques to several Minnesota producers who placed in the top three in their respective antler competition categories including: Mark & Lisa Luedtke, Perry & Sandy Olson, Wade Schimmelpfennig and Lance & Brenda Hartkopf.

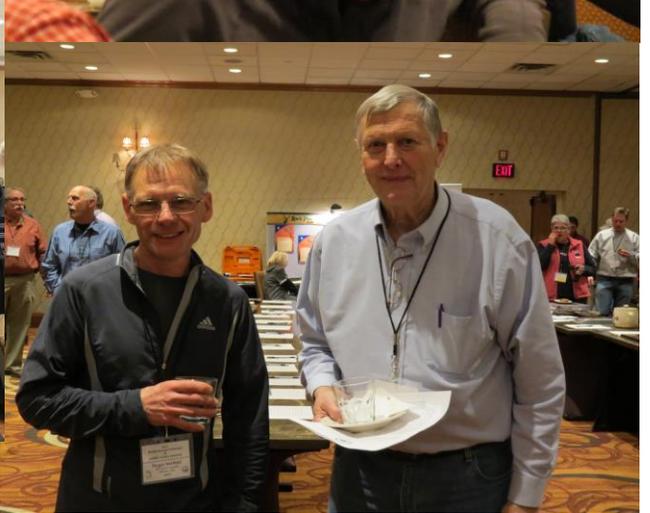
Board member elections were also held as the terms for Jim Byrne and Richard Zajac had expired. Jim Byrne and Greg Lubinski were newly elected to the board. Board member Richard Zajac had decided not to be placed on the ballot again. MnEBA thanks Richard for his three years of great service to the association!

Several members generously sponsored events throughout the day. They included:

- **Morning Break Sponsor:** *Greg & Roxy Lubinski*
- **Afternoon Break Sponsor:** *Mark & Michelle Lucas*
- **Table Decorations:** *Rick & Marlys Wollschlager and Lance & Brenda Hartkopf*
- **Saturday Night Hospitality:** *Brian Wagner & Tena Martin and Bill & Karen Knutson*

A big thank you to Rita Prodzinski and Daphne Evenson for all the great help in setting up and organizing the live and silent auctions and to Dawn Berhorst and Lance Hartkopf for their help behind the registration desk. Thanks to various board members for their help in the raffles and to Mark Lucas for emceeding the day-long event. Special thanks to Ken, Sandy, and Shawn Branine and to Shayla Olson for their help with the live auction.

A final thank you to all who attended, made donations to the live and silent auctions, bid on fundraising items and helped in any way. It was a very memorable event for all who attended!



Annual Meeting Minutes

Annual Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2015

The membership of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held their 22nd Annual Meeting on January 10, 2015 at the Sheraton Minneapolis West in Minnetonka, MN. President Mark Lucas called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Lucas asked for additions or corrections to the July 26, 2014 secretary report as presented. Lance Hartkopf moved to accept the report as written, Richard Zajac seconded, motion carried.

The treasurer's report included both the 2013 and 2014 year-end review. Hartkopf explained that association finances have remained pretty consistent over the past few years with 2014 being a little stronger. The December 31, 2014 checkbook balance was \$15,316.90. Fred Neubert moved to accept the treasurer's report, Pat Prodzinski seconded, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Government Relations: Jim Byrne reported there isn't much going on at the state capital in terms of the farmed cervid industry so MnEBA is looking to focus on proactive education. The focus of that initiative would be talked about later in the meeting.

Fundraising Raffle: Brenda Hartkopf reported that 446 stubs and money had been turned in prior to the conference and that there were still 300 calendar stubs yet to be returned. She reported that this could be a record year in sales if all stubs come back and are paid for. The previous sales number record was 718 calendars sold in 2012. Nine members earned a free membership as a result of their sales: Greg Lubinski, Wade Schimmelpfennig, Brian Wagner, Mark Lucas, Pat Prodzinski, Ken Arnzen, Jerry Campbell, Rick Wollschlager and Richard Zajac.

It was suggested that MnEBA consider a special prize or incentive to the person who sells the most calendars for next year's raffle.

Promotions: Brenda Hartkopf reported that the promotions committee completed many projects in 2014 including a completely updated web site, along with a new presence on Facebook. She encouraged anyone who has a Facebook page to "Like" MnEBA's page if they haven't already. MnEBA also began a Constant Contact account where members receive member updates and also the MnEBA newsletter in a new format which allows the viewer to pick and

choose topics of interest more readily. She also reported that the Department of Agriculture press release on the Minnesota elk industry was very well received and that the office is fielding requests for information on how to start new elk operations almost weekly, still four months later.

Another project in the works is a reprint of the Raise the Legend book which is in the process of being updated. Still another project is a new MN Grown/MN Elk box, which is now available to members to aid in their public sales of elk products. This project came about after discussion of member needs at the 2013 MnEBA Annual Conference. The project was completely funded by MN Grown.

Finally, Hartkopf mentioned that MnEBA will not be attending the Minnesota Deer Classic this year, but instead will have a booth at the Bird, Buck, Bait and Boat Show at the State Fairgrounds on February 27-March 1, 2015. MnEBA also plans to sell elk jerky at the show.

State Fair: Daphne Evenson reported a sign-up sheet is now available for the 2015 State Fair. However, she and Morrie have decided to step down from the committee as Paul Hueg and Greg Lubinski are ready to chair the committee. Paul and Greg reported that sales of elk products at the 2014 booth were very good, especially the meat sales. There were questions about adding additional products to sell in 2015. Hartkopf said that if MnEBA wants to add more products to sell, that MnEBA would need to immediately put in an official request along with a sample of the product to be sold as this is the time period when those requests are accepted for review by State Fair officials.

NAEBA

Brenda Hartkopf reported that NAEBA is doing very well and has experienced a membership growth of nearly 50% since August 2013. NAEBA had yet another very good convention last August and the January Jamboree was also very successful with twice the attendance over last year. The 2015 NAEBA Conference will be held July 30-August 1st at Ho-Chunk Casino in the Wisconsin Dells area. This will also be NAEBA's 25th anniversary conference. She encouraged everyone to attend.

OLD BUSINESS

President Lucas reviewed goals set for MnEBA earlier in 2014 including:

1. Increasing membership
2. Encouraging more production of elk and producers of elk
3. Increasing market growth

He explained that all the projects MnEBA has been and will continue to work on, have those three main goals in mind.

Tony Beckel shared details from the 2014 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt which took place last September. He announced that the hunt recipient, Erik Olson, and his family, would be attending the evening banquet later that evening.

Brenda Hartkopf gave an update on the American Cervid Alliance (ACA) and their public relations campaign, which MnEBA helped to fund. She reported that approximately 60 pro-industry articles have been published since the campaign began in June and that negative articles seeking to attack the industry have decreased greatly. This is a campaign that ACA wants to continue long into the future as it has proven to be very successful.

Jim Byrne reported that because of the reelection of the entire MN House of Representatives and the fact that MnEBA was looking to work more proactively with the MN State Legislature, MnEBA joined forces with the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association (MDFA) to create an educational legislative calendar. Six MnEBA members and six MDFA members sponsored a month in the calendar to help completely pay for the project. The six MnEBA members who sponsored months in the calendar included Mark & Michelle Lucas, Mark & Lisa Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Jim & Eileen Byrne, Clint & Lora Wylie and Lance & Brenda Hartkopf. Scott Salonek who is both a MnEBA and MDFA member, also sponsored a month on behalf of MDFA. January 29th is the date which has been set aside by both associations to jointly go to the Capital and personally distribute these calendars to as many legislators as we can reach. Jim encouraged anyone who would be interested in joining that effort to call the MnEBA Office to sign up as there are 201 legislators to reach that day!

Brenda Hartkopf read a thank you letter from Kelsey Hartkopf, who was the recipient of the 2014 MnEBA Scholarship.

NEW BUSINESS

Two board positions were up for reelection as the terms for both Jim Byrne and Richard Zajac had expired. Jim Byrne and Greg Lubinski were already listed on the ballot. Mark Luedtke was nominated from the floor. After voting was complete, it was announced that Jim Byrne and Greg Lubinski were elected to each serve a new three-year term.

Brenda Hartkopf & Jim Byrne demonstrated the new MnEBA Constant Contact newsletter page.

Brenda Hartkopf explained more details about the new MN Grown/MN Elk boxes which are now available to the membership and passed one around for members to see. They are for sale at \$1 each. It was also reported that MnEBA will be having a new inventory of plastic bags made for State Fair sales and also for members who would like to purchase them for their own use. These bags will feature the MN Grown/MN Elk logo. They should be available by May 2015 and price will be \$5 for up to 100 bags.

President Lucas announced that MnEBA is planning to have a 2015 summer picnic and is looking for a host farm. The likely weekend would be July 25th, which is the weekend before the NAEBA Convention. He asked anyone interested to contact the MnEBA Office.

In other new business, there was discussion about registering animals with NAEBA and what to do if a producer has gotten behind in registering their animals. Vendors were given an opportunity to talk about their products and services. Also, Charly Seale spoke more about the ACA and the work that they have carried out in the past year.

A number of new members and special guests were introduced.

Jim Byrne moved to adjourn the meeting, Richard Zajac seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

Annual Conference Fundraiser Highly Successful!

This year's conference fundraisers were extremely successful raising over \$6,500 for MnEBA! Many thanks to Rita Prodzinski and Daphne Evenson for organizing both the silent and live auctions. Thanks also to Brian Wagner for his assistance in finding special items for the auction. Many thanks to Branine Auction Services, Ken & Sandy Branine for conducting this year's auction and to Shawn Branine, Shayla Olson, Chad Lawler and Andy Azcarraga for their assistance in taking bids! A final thank you to all the donors and bidders who made the auction a great success!

Item	Donor	Buyer
(10) Bags ADM 18% Complete Supplement	Leo Windschitl/ADM Alliance Nutrition	Greg Jurowski
(10) Bags ADM 18% Complete Supplement II	Leo Windschitl/ADM Alliance Nutrition	Greg Jurowski
Men's Browning Softshell Jacket	MnEBA	Perry Olson
Vacation at Casa Madera Condo (7 days)	Don & Joyce Kaplan	Jim Byrne
Elk Embroidered Towel Set	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Sandy Branine
WI Cervid Farmers Foundation Gun Calendar	Mike & Julie Getschmann	Greg Lubinski
Antler Handle Knife	John & Shirley Fredrickson	IanThorleifson
Gift Basket	Darrell & Sheila Turek	Karen Thuerauf
Elk Print	Leo Windschitl	Karen Thuerauf
Bucket of 1,400 Long Rifle .22 Cartridges	Glen & Kaye Zebarth	Charly Seale
5 Liter Box Bimectin® with applicator	Brian Wagner & Tena Martin	Richard Zajac
RFD Rebel Binoculars	MnEBA	Charly Seale
4.5 lbs. Tannerite	MnEBA	Brian Wagner
Camo Blind	MnEBA	Pat Prodzinski
Peet Shoe Dryer	MnEBA	Mark Lucas
Electronic Ear Muffs	MnEBA	Charly Seale
Hunters Backpack	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Leo Windschitl
Hand-carved Wine Stopper	Brian Wagner & Tena Martin	Greg Lubinski
(4) Skeins Elk-Down Yarn	Dennis & Jacky Engebretson	Mark Luedtke
Antler Handle Gourd Basket	Morrie & Daphne Evenson	Michelle Lucas
16 Piece Elk Dinnerware Set	Mark & Michelle Lucas	Travis Lowe
16 Piece Elk Dinnerware Set II	Mark & Michelle Lucas	Linda Campbell
Complete Fishing Set	Leo Windschitl	Charly Seale
Wildgame Innovations Trail Camera	Mark & Michelle Lucas	Paul Hartkopf
Winchester XSP Black Shadow 12 Gauge	Mark & Michelle Lucas	Ken Arnzen
1,000 Piece Elk Puzzle	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Ella Duenes
Browning Camo Long Sleeve Shirt	Glen & Kaye Zebarth	Emily Thuerauf
Browning T-Shirt	MnEBA	Bill Knutson
Browning Wool Socks	MnEBA	Klint Wylie
Browning Handgun Case	MnEBA	Laurie Seale
Magnetic Work Lights	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Charly Seale
Whitetail Playing Card w/Dice Set	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Laurie Seale
Elk Candle	MnEBA	Emily Thuerauf
Tempered Glass Elk Cutting Board	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Sheila Turek
Elk Night Light	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Jim Byrne
Cast Iron Elk Trivet	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Linda Campbell
Elk Farming Handbook	Morrie & Daphne Evenson	Jon Aase
Stoneware Bean Pot	Pat & Rita Prodzinski	Linda Campbell
Nostalgia Tin Thermometer	Leo Windschitl	Gerald Lawler
Folding Fillet Knife	Leo Windschitl	Ken Branine
Whitetail Whiskey Box	Pat & Rita Prodzinski	Leo Windschitl
Mug & Knife	Leo Windschitl/ADM Alliance	Pat Prodzinski
Mug & Knife II	Leo Windschitl/ADM Alliance	Emily Thuerauf
Metal Elk Tea Light Holder	John & Shirley Fredrickson	Klint Wylie
Scarf & Antler Slide	Jerry & Linda Campbell	Charly Seale
Craftsman Pint Glass Set & Cap	Paul & Lynn Hueg	Will Huston

Micronutrients Chart for Elk



One of the seminars given by Ian Thorleifson of GEOS Consulting during convention weekend reviewed the most recent knowledge and thinking on what nutrients elk need to consume to achieve optimum production. The following chart was part of Ian's presentation and a copy was requested by multiple attendees. Here it is for all to review.

2015 Target Nutrient Levels based on Practical Experience and Proven Production From Ian Thorleifson, GEOS Consulting based on input from experienced producers and ruminant nutritionists Whole Ration, Dry Matter basis

	Adult	Velvet	Growth			Gestation		Lactation	
	Maintenance	Antler Growth	3-6 Mo	6-9 Mo	9-12 Mo	Mid	Late	1st 4 months	4 to 8 months
Crude Protein (%)	7-10	16	18-20	16-18	12-14	12-14	14-16	14-16	12-14
DE (Mcal/kg)	2.2	3.43	3.09	2.87	2.65	2.43	2.65	2.87	2.76
TDN (%)	50-52	55	68	64	59	57	59	64	61
Calcium (%)	0.35	1.4	0.6	0.55	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6
Phosphorus (%)	0.25	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Potassium (%)	0.65	1	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	1	1
Magnesium (%)	0.2	0.4	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Sodium (%)	0.06	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.06	0.08	0.1	0.1
Sulphur (%)	0.08	0.15	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Copper (ppm = Mg/kg)	25	35	30	30	30	30	30	35	30
Molybdenum (ppm)*	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Iron (ppm)	50	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
Zinc (ppm)	50	150	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Iodine (ppm)	0.3	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Cobalt (ppm)	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Selenium (ppm)	0.2	0.3	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Vitamin A IU/kg	2900	4400	4000	4000	4000	4400	4400	4400	4400
Vitamin D(IU/kg)	550	1100	1000	1000	1000	1100	1100	1100	1100
Vitamin E (IU/kg)	22	44	33	33	33	44	44	44	44

*Keep Cu: Mb Ratio at <6



Riveted crowd listening to Ian's presentation.



MnEBA Appreciation Award Recipient Greg Lubinski with wife, Roxy.

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting Minutes – December 17, 2014

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a phone conference on December 17, 2014. Mark Lucas, Jim Byrne, Wade Schimmelpfennig, Richard Zajac and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Brian Wagner was absent. Lucas began the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Byrne moved to approve the April 26, 2014 board meeting minutes. Zajac seconded, motion carried. Byrne moved to approve the May 19th, August 13th and November 6th board minutes, all from 2014. Zajac seconded, motion carried.

The treasurer's report was then reviewed. Hartkopf explained that if the end of the year budget numbers for the gun calendar raffle money come in, payment for the guns will be available and the association will end the year in the black. Hartkopf to continue to promote end of the year free membership incentive and ask members to turn in their already collected stubs and money back to the office so the guns can be paid for. Byrne moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented, Zajac seconded, motion carried.

Hartkopf reported that the legislative calendar project was on track and that the calendars will be available the beginning of January. Board discussed gathering a minimum of 5 MnEBA volunteers to join Minnesota Deer Farmers Association (MDFA) volunteers to distribute calendars at the State Capital. Dates of consideration to be January 13, 14th, 29th or 30th. Hartkopf to follow up with MnEBA's lobbyist and the MDFA.

Board reviewed the draft legislator letter to be send jointly from MnEBA and MDFA. A couple of small edits were made.

Discussed the upcoming MnEBA Annual Conference. Hartkopf reported that early attendance sign up is strong. Most MnEBA members are also attending the NAEBA Jamboree the day before. Discussed fundraising ideas and also awards. Will issue a special invite to the Board of Animal Health and MnEBA's lobbyist since the event is in the metro area this year. Also discussed ideas for potential candidates to fill two expiring MnEBA board seats. Byrne to follow up.

Hartkopf reported that stubs and money have been turned in for 144 raffle calendars to date. However, at one point, every one of the 750 calendars printed were distributed, this has never happened before. Need 313

calendars sold to pay for the guns purchased for the calendar. Hartkopf was optimistic this could be the best year in calendar sales to date.

Byrne and Hartkopf gave a recap from the December 11th Farmed Cervidae Advisory Meeting. Dr. Anderson requested assistance from both MnEBA and MDFA to request a separate Farmed Cervidae committee at USAHA. Hartkopf has spoken to NAEBA about this and they will follow up with Dr. Anderson. There was also discussion about how CWD endemic areas should be determined in the event MN would find a new case of CWD in the wild. No decisions were made. Escapes also continue to be a problem and the industry needs to continue to be very vigilant about preventing escapes.

Hartkopf discussed details on reordering Minnesota Grown bags with the MN Elk logo included on them. Byrne moved to order 5,000 bags to include the MN Elk logo when the order form comes out, Schimmelpfennig seconded, motion carried.

Hartkopf reported that 500 boxes with both the Minnesota Grown and MN Elk logo have been ordered and will be made available at the upcoming MnEBA Annual Conference. Board had previously determined price to resell at \$1.00/box. This will give MnEBA seed money to order more boxes when needed.

MnEBA has depleted its supply of elk jerky and will be needing to order more supply if product is to be sold at the upcoming Bird, Buck, Bait and Boat show in February. The supplier will hold the same price as MnEBA paid for the State Fair products. Schimmelpfennig moved to order 200 packages, 100 of teriyaki and 100 of hillbilly flavors in the 2.6 oz. size. Byrne seconded, motion carried.

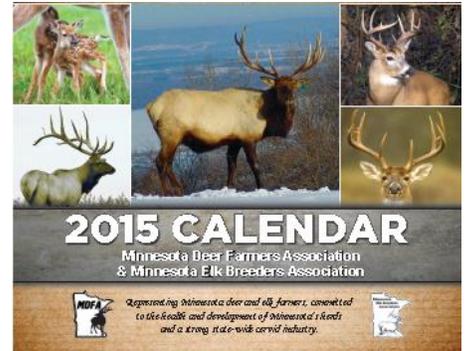
Hartkopf reported that Minnesota Grown will assist in updating the look of the Raise the Legend book and that MnEBA will use Minnesota Grown credits to reprint a new supply of books. She is hoping to have a couple lower cost prototypes available for board review at the upcoming conference.

Meeting adjourned, 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

Farmed Cervid Education at State Capitol

On January 29th, MnEBA representatives joined with representatives of the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association (MDFA) to hand out Minnesota farmed cervid educational calendars to every Senate and House representative in the State Capitol. This was a great way for each association to work proactively to educate all 201 legislators, especially new representatives, about what our industries are all about.



MnEBA and MDFA were very well received and legislators enjoyed looking through the joint industry calendar to see the great elk and deer which are produced in Minnesota! Many legislators had no idea what the scope of the farmed cervid industry truly was in Minnesota and they were very interested in what industry representatives had to share.



Full group L to R: Jim Byrne, Mark Lucas, Brenda Hartkopf, Lynne Osterman (MDFA lobbyist), Steve Uchytel (MDFA), Melissa Uchytel (MDFA), Brian Wagner, Tony Kwilas, Gary Olson (MDFA) and Greg Lubinski

The group happened to run into DNR Policy & Government Relations Director Bob Meier, who agreed to pose for a picture with members of the group. L to R: Gary Olson, Brian Wagner, Bob Meier, Steve Uchytel, Melissa Uchytel, Greg Lubinski and Mark Lucas



Yes, these are members of MnEBA's delegation posing at the President of the Senate's desk in the Senate chambers.

L to R: Mark Lucas, MnEBA lobbyist Tony Kwilas, Brian Wagner and Greg Lubinski



The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association was one of 25 organizations and individuals who contributed to the national Public Relations Campaign organized by the American Cervid Alliance earlier this year. Since June, approximately 60 published editorials have directly responded to inaccurate articles. This campaign is unlike any in the history of the elk industry! Industry-friendly editorials will continue to be published in major news outlets through this campaign all across the country!

The following are updated examples of some of the work the American Cervid Alliance is doing through this very successful campaign:

Elk Relocation Brings Mixed Reactions

By Marisa Cuellar - Marshfield News Herald
January 20, 2015

Elk are being reintroduced into Wisconsin, but not everyone is excited.

More Wisconsin residents soon will get the chance to listen to the sound of bugling elk thanks to the work of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, local branches of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

The Marshfield-based Yellow River Basin chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, along with other chapters throughout the state, will contribute proceeds from banquet events to help the DNR bring about 150 elk from Kentucky to Wisconsin the next three to five years. The Ho-Chunk Nation and Jackson County Wildlife Fund also have pledged money toward relocation expenses.

The DNR can bring up to 50 elk into the state each year, and the first group will be placed in Jackson County as soon as March. A group of DNR staff traveled to Kentucky to trap the elk and test them for diseases before the animals were transported to a temporary quarantine and acclimation pen in Wisconsin this spring.

Even though the animals are being tested, one local farmer who raises elk for meat said he isn't comfortable with the idea of the animals being so close to his Pittsville ranch. Ray Stauner of Pittsville, owner of Pittsview Farm Elk, said he doesn't think the DNR should bring 150 elk to the state when no live-animal testing for chronic wasting disease has been developed.

"I'm worried they're going to bring more disease into the state, and it's going to be right in my backyard and put me out of business," he said. "If one of these animals gets a disease while in the holding pen, the first ranch going to get quarantined is going to be me... If they quarantine me, the only thing I can do is take my animals to slaughter."

Stauner also is concerned the DNR doesn't have to comply with federal and state regulations that apply to ranchers bringing elk into Wisconsin for agricultural purposes.

"I'm all for having a herd of elk in the state, but they have to go about it in a smart way," Stauner said.

A UWSP graduate student will assist the DNR in studying and monitoring the elk once they're in Wisconsin, including learning where the animals go, what they do, how many calves they have and their survival rate.

UWSP led the release of 25 elk in the Clam Lake area in 1995. The herd has since grown to about 160 animals.

"The first release has been quite successful, and having a second opportunity to increase the presence of elk in Wisconsin is very exciting," UWSP wildlife ecology professor Tim Ginnett said.

DNR big game ecologist Kevin Wallenfang said the plan to bring more elk, a native Wisconsin animal, back to the state garnered tremendous public support and generated excitement in the tourism community.

"People will be out viewing the elk," Wallenfang said. "We expect the Black River area is going to be great for people within a couple hours to flock to the area to see that activity, and it's right off the interstate corridor."

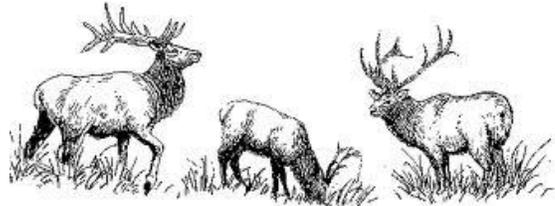
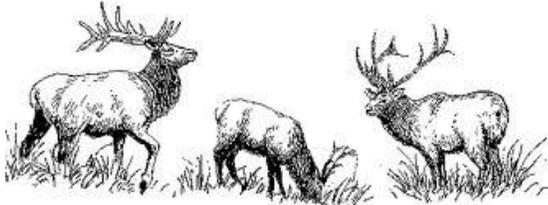
Visitors will have the chance to hear elk bugling and go on calf searches, added Donna Jones, chairwoman of the Marshfield-area Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation chapter.

The foundation is a conservation group focused on protecting habitats for elk and other wildlife. The group

permanently protected or enhanced more than 7.65 million acres of wildlife habitat and opened more than 717,000 acres for public recreation across the U.S. since 1984.

The presence of elk in Wisconsin also could mean a limited hunting season for the animals in the future. Once the Clam Lake-area herd reaches a population of 200, the DNR can authorize a bow hunt and issue 10 elk tags, the foundation's regional director Lou George said.

<http://www.marshfieldnews herald.com/story/sports/outdoors/2015/01/19/elk-relocation-brings-mixed-reactions/22024513/>



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Missouri's Ag Department Should Regulate Deer Farmers

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Opinion

January 20, 2015

Regarding "Missouri bill to switch oversight of deer farms returns" (online Jan. 6):

New legislative bills moving farmed deer under the oversight of the Department of Agriculture will be heard again this session following the controversy of last session's debates in Jefferson City. The bill is still needed because the Missouri Department of Conservation, which oversees deer farms, is pushing regulations that are designed to put them out of business.

In October, MDC adopted regulations that banned the importation of all deer from out of state into Missouri hunting preserves. At the surface, this may look like MDC wants to ensure deer are not imported from states with chronic wasting disease. But the agency did not even allow importation of farmed deer and elk from states that have not found CWD. Instead, MDC banned all farmed deer and elk. This includes, by MDC's definition, deer family species such as fallow deer, axis deer, Pere David deer, which have all been deemed

non-susceptible to CWD by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

This blanket ban of species that cannot even contract the disease shows one of two things: Either the MDC intends to simply choke out the hunting of deer in private preserves, or the MDC's wildlife officials are not informed enough. Whichever the case, the state Department of Agriculture is better equipped to regulate deer farmers.

Travis Lowe • Lawrence, Kan.
Executive Director, North American Elk Breeders Association

http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/mailbag/missouri-s-ag-department-should-regulate-deer-farmers/article_13abaa19-d2e0-5d91-a503-f7d33b947f41.html

Disputing CWD Claims

Sunday's letters to the editor, News-press.com

Re: Buck Fever: Ohio deer case renews criticisms of trophy buck shipments (by Ryan Sabalow, 12/27/2014)

January 11, 2015 – Once again, an article in the News-Press attempts to insinuate that Chronic Wasting Disease is being spread primarily by deer farms, but the analysis once again has obvious gaps. For instance, if deer farms are such a culprit, then how did CWD spread throughout Wyoming, where there are no deer or elk farms? About half of the states that have detected CWD did not find it first in farmed deer or elk.

It's jumping to conclusions to blame farms when deer carcasses are being transported across state lines by hunters, a potential vector for the disease to be spread. Additionally, free-ranging deer have spread CWD not just in Wyoming, but also Texas, New Mexico, Virginia, Maryland, and West Virginia. The fact that CWD was found on a farm in Ohio this year only means that the federal monitoring program for farms, designed to detect and stop the spread of CWD, is working: CWD was detected and the facility was quarantined. Businesses under this program must test 100 percent of all deer mortalities over 12 months of age on their facility.

Meanwhile, however, state wildlife officials can get away with testing less than 1 percent of the population of free-ranging deer in Indiana and other states. How can we be sure CWD isn't being spread among deer in the wild if officials are hardly testing for it?

Banning the import of deer into a state is a heavy-handed and misguided response to CWD. It may allow authorities to act like they're doing something, but their heads are still in the sand. A productive solution would be to invest in more testing of deer that die in the wild in Indiana in order to get a better grasp on where the disease exists, and investing in a live-animal test for CWD.

Charly Seale, American Cervid Alliance, chairman,
Media Review Committee

<http://www.news-press.com/story/opinion/readers/local/2015/01/11/sunday-letters-editor-jan/21573091/>

Missouri Deer Farmers Serve Lawsuit to Missouri Department of Conservation

The following update is provided by the Missouri Deer Association:

December 4, 2014 – As most of you now know, the Missouri Department of Conservation (“MDC”) has recently distributed to all deer breeders and trophy preserve operators a packet containing the newly proposed rules and regulations affecting our industry. These new rules and regulations are slated to take effect on January 30, 2015. If implemented, the effect of these overreaching new rules and regulations will have a dramatic, devastating and lasting effect on our industry. This will drive out many existing breeders and hunting ranch operators and have a severe chilling effect thereby preventing new cervid related industries from coming into the state.

Background

On October 17, 2014, MDC approved this series of sweeping and unauthorized regulations that reach far beyond the agency’s Constitutional and statutory authority by attempting to regulate privately owned deer. The regulations also improperly burden the fundamental right to farming and ranching in Missouri, and discriminate against interstate commerce by closing the borders and completely banning the importation into Missouri of privately owned white-tail deer and other related cervids.

Our Response

A select group of members of the Missouri Deer Association, in an effort to protect the interests of its members and the cervid industry in the State of Missouri, have initiated a lawsuit filed against the MDC and the individual conservation commissioners (i.e. James T. Blair, IV, David W. Murphy, Marilyn J. Bradford and Don C. Bedell) in their official capacities. The lawsuit was filed on November 20, 2014 and MDC and the commissioners have now been served with the suit. To be clear, Missouri Deer Association is not a plaintiff in this suit as the “association” legally is not directly damaged by the new rules and/or acts of MDC. The plaintiffs are individual members, both breeders and hunting preserve owners/operators who represent a broad cross-section of our membership.

This lawsuit seeks an order temporarily and permanently enjoining MDC and the commissioners from enforcing their proposed regulations, as well as a judgment declaring that MDC’s authority over “wildlife resources of the state” does not encompass privately owned cervids, and that the proposed regulations are invalid under the

U.S. Constitution, Missouri Constitution and Missouri statutes.

In other words, if our order is granted, the court’s ruling will prevent the new regulations from going into effect while we attempt to (1) have the regulations declared unconstitutional, and (2) have privately owned cervids removed from the control of MDC by declaring that MDC has no authority over them.

The Plan Going Forward

Now that the lawsuit has been filed we are now awaiting a formal response or “answer” from MDC and the individual commissioners. We are expecting that to take place and for the court to schedule a hearing on our request for temporary and/or permanent injunctions within the next thirty to forty-five days. Soon the discovery phase of the case will begin where we will be allowed to request documentation and evidence from MDC. From there we can expect many motions and hearings along the way toward a final result. Regardless of the result at the end of the suit we can likely expect the losing party to appeal the decision. This appeal will spark another year to year in a half of proceedings. Each issue of this newsletter will include a summary of events and the current state of the lawsuit.

As a member of the board of directors of the Missouri Deer Breeders association and an attorney, I have gladly taken on the role to act as our representative with the attorneys working on our behalf so that I can continue to keep the membership informed as to the status of the lawsuit. Feel free to contact me via email with any questions or concerns you may have. I will try my best to keep everyone informed and answer your questions in a timely fashion. I can be contacted at Jacques.demoss@gmail.com.

*** Jacques serves as Director of Operations at Winter Quarter Wildlife Ranch, LLC, located in Ethel, Missouri, where he assists his in-laws, Travis and Kathy Broadway, in the breeding and hunting operations at the ranch. Jacques, along with his wife Melanie and son Mason, also operate Wild Country Safari Park, LLC (a drive through zoo/safari park) located in North Louisiana, where they actively breed over 25 exotic species housed at the safari park. Jacques is also a licensed attorney in the State of Louisiana who has practiced for over 17 years in the area of business litigation.*

Board Blog by Brian Wagner, MnEBA Secretary/Treasurer



2014 is gone and what a year it has been for the elk industry. All markets were very strong last year and as of now, look to remain that way for 2015.

Winter started a little rough here in November with the early snow and December a little cold, but the warm January sure has been nice to have a little break. Spring will be right around the corner. I'm already thinking about sorting bulls and changing the feed program for antler growth in the next 2-3 weeks.

The MnEBA board was very busy this last year. There were many new projects going on, one of the bigger ones was the new website. Make sure to check it out often and let Brenda know of the likes and dislikes or if something needs to be changed. Several news blasts on TV and in newspapers have put out a lot of free publicity this last year.

We are always looking for members input. If you have anything you want the board to address or take a look at, make sure to let one of us know about it. I would like to thank all the board and Brenda for their hard work this last year. Also thank you to Rick Zajac for his time served as a board member and welcome Greg Lubinski to the board.

Also one thing that MnEBA is very proud of is the veteran's elk hunt that we do every year. We will need a bull for the 2015 hunt in that 300-350 range. If you can afford to donate a bull, or maybe go together with someone on a bull, it is for a great cause and will deeply touch the heart of a wounded veteran that he will remember forever.

MnEBA's 2015 convention was one of the best attended in many years. I would like to thank everyone that was able to attend, either one or both days, and everyone who donated fundraising items. It was a great auction, great seminars which were very informative and great hospitality. At one point that day, Brenda told me, "I think almost every MnEBA member is here." It was huge fun and excitement had by everyone there.

However, at our last cervidae advisory committee meeting, I was very shocked at how low the elk numbers were in Minnesota; I believe it was around 3,800 from an all-time high of almost 12,000. We need to grow the elk numbers and our membership. That is where I'm going to ask for your help. If you know of anyone that is raising elk who is not a member, please let the office know who they are so we can send them information and encourage them to become a member. We cannot get that information from anyone to help grow the membership without your help.

I hope you have a calm winter, a green spring, many calves, and large antler.

Welcome New Members!

James Kallemeyn, Prairie View Enterprises, 1288 US Hwy 75, Lake Benton, MN 56149, (507) 368-4342, jkallemeyn1@gmail.com

Greg Jurowski & Deb Mahutga, Jurowski Little Ranch, N33191 Jackson, Independence, WI, 54747, (715) 985-3459 (Home), (715) 797-0241 (cell), (715) 538-2171 (Fax), GregJurowski@tcc.coop (pictured at 2015 MnEBA conference)



Deb Mahutga & Greg Jurowski

2015 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar Final Numbers

2015 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar 2nd in All-Time Sales!

Second Best Sales Year Ever!!!

Money was turned for 699 calendars, beating last year's all-time second place record of 584 sold. Not bad considering there are only 750 calendars printed!

Top Sellers

The top three sellers altogether sold a third of the calendars printed or 253 calendars! Wade Schimmelpfennig beat all sellers again this year by selling a whopping 113 calendars! Next best in sales was Brian Wagner with 75 sold, followed closely by Greg Lubinski with 65 sold.



Nine Producers Qualified for a FREE 2015 MnEBA Membership!

A total of nine producers qualified for a free 2015 MnEBA membership after selling 30 or more calendars and returning stubs and money before December 31, 2014. They included Wade Schimmelpfennig (113), Brian Wagner (75), Greg Lubinski (65), Rick Wollschlager (40), Pat Prodzinski (34), Ken Arnzen (32), Jerry Campbell (30), Rick Zajac (30) and Mark Lucas (30). Paul Hartkopf was also a high seller with (33) calendars sold but did not make the deadline for the free membership.

No matter how many calendars were sold by any one individual or couple, every sale was important and the group effort was amazing, especially in the final days! The sponsors of the calendar were also instrumental in getting it ready for distribution. THANK YOU to all!!!

When Winners are Posted

Monthly winners will be posted every other Wednesday on the MnEBA web site at www.mneba.org. Check back frequently to see who the new winners are!

Sneak Peak for 2016...

An *additional* new selling incentive and more chances to win top the list of changes for the 2016 gun raffle calendar! Stay tuned for more details in future newsletters!!!

Just for Fun...Throwback Trivia!

Who can name the year and people in the picture??

Hint: The event is one of the North Central Antler Competitions...



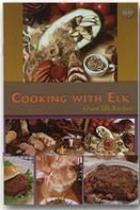
MnEBA Promotional Materials

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

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

MEAT PROMOTIONS

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



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

3rd Edition "Cooking With Elk" Cookbook

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

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

VELVET PROMOTIONS



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

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

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

GENERAL INFORMATION



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

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

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

HOME DÉCOR



Price includes shipping & handling.

Elk Trashcan (*pictured*) \$25 each

Elk Rug (Small) \$27.50 each

Elk Rug (Large) \$40 each

MNELK / MINNESOTA GROWN BOX

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

\$1 each



MnEBA Kitchen

This delicious casserole is a meal all in itself!

Layered Elk Casserole

1 lb. ground elk	1 can green beans, drained
1 medium onion, chopped	8 oz. mushrooms
3 ribs of celery	1 can Cream of Chicken soup
1 tsp. garlic powder	1 can Cream of Mushroom soup
1 tsp. celery salt	1 can French fried onions
3-4 medium potatoes	



Brown elk burger, onions and celery together. Add garlic powder and celery salt. Grease or spray a deep casserole dish. Next, slice a layer of potatoes on bottom of casserole, about a 1/4" thick. Salt & pepper them.

Next, spread 1/2 of the burger on top of the potatoes. Now, slice another layer of potatoes on top of that. Salt & pepper those as well. Put remaining burger mixture on top of potatoes.

Place drained green beans on top of the meat/potato layer. Spread on sliced mushrooms.

Mix soups together and spread on top of last layer. Do not add any water. Run a fork down through the casserole in a few places so the soups can seep down through it.

Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or when the potatoes are done. Sprinkle on can of French fried onions and place in the oven for another couple minutes.

MnEBA Scholarship THANK YOU!

Dear Minnesota Elk Breeders Association,

Thank you for the scholarship of \$500! I will be using it to help pay my tuition at Minnesota State University Moorhead this spring. It's a challenge to pay tuition every semester so this scholarship will be very helpful!

Thanks again!

Kelsey Hartkopf

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News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, January 26, 2015

Add Value to your Ag Business

Now accepting 2015 Value Added grant applications

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has another round of funding available for projects to help farmers, producers and processors add value to their operations. A total of \$1 million in funding has been made available through the Agricultural Growth, Research and Innovation Program (AGRI), established by the legislature to advance Minnesota's agricultural and renewable energy industries.

The MDA will distribute the funds through its AGRI Value Added Grant Program which aims to increase sales of Minnesota agricultural products by diversifying markets and by increasing market access and food safety. Specifically, these grants are intended to:

- start, expand or update livestock product processing businesses;
- purchase equipment to start, upgrade, or modernize value added businesses;
- increase on-farm food safety, such as implementation of a food safety plan
- increase farmers' processing and aggregating capacity to sell to schools, hospitals or others

Applications with a meat processing, farm-to-school (or other institution) component, or are addressing Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) or similar type of food safety plan will receive priority, but all value added proposals are encouraged to apply.

Equipment purchases or physical improvements are eligible for 25 percent of the total project cost up to a maximum grant award of \$150,000. There is a minimum grant of \$1,000. Equipment purchases and facility improvements must accomplish the goals of the grant and address improved efficiency, expansion, modernization, or profitability.

This round of applications must be received no later than **4:00 p.m. on March 6, 2015**. Grant applications are submitted through our online system. The application is accessed through a link on the MDA Value Added website: www.mda.state.mn.us/valueadded.aspx. If you cannot apply using this process, you may submit an application by e-mail, mail, or by dropping it off at the MDA. An application must be received by MDA staff by the deadline to be included in this round of applications.

CONTACT: Michael Crusan, MDA Communications
651-201-6629, michael.crusan@state.mn.us

- 30 -

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In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000.

TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711 or 1-800-627-3529.

The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

STYX



- 626" at only five-years-old with his actual spread of 61 5/8" - Unofficial
- Sons over 50" wide at just two and three-years-old. - Unofficial
- For a second year in a row Styx's sons averaged over 19 lb. at two
- No doubt Styx is passing on his width, tine length and mass.

10 cows from our herd have had 20+lb. two-year-olds

13 cows have had 19+lb. twos

17 cows have had 18+lb. twos

24 cows have had 17+lb. twos

28 cows have had 16+lb. twos

35 cows have had 15+lb. twos



CHERNOBULL

525" - 4 -Year -Old - Unofficial

- Tequila Son
- 525" with his actual spread of 64" at only 4 years of age - Unofficial
- Incredible tine length, style, mass and width!
- Swept down and out whale tails everyone is looking for.
- Semen drawn by Dr. Martin Wenkoff, tested and in the tank.

MIDAS

487" - 3 -Year -Old - Unofficial

- Styx Son
- Grown out in 2014 and scored 487" with his actual inside spread of 50 4/8" at only 3-years-of-age! - Unofficial
- Outside spread of 74" unofficial, Great boxy frame for a young bull.
- Semen drawn by Dr. Martin Wenkoff, tested and in the tank.



50 CAL.

441" - 2 -Year - Old - Unofficial

- Styx Son
- 441" at 2-years-old with his actual spread of 52 3/8" - Unofficial
- Estimated 30 lb of velvet at cutting stage this year.
- Velvet weight, width and high scoring genetics just like his sire!
- Semen drawn by Dr. Martin Wenkoff, tested and in the tank.

Mohlman Elk Farm takes great pride in the cow herd we have created over 21 years of selective breeding. It is through our commitment to keep improving our genetics that we have cows that are able to consistently produce world-class bulls in a predictable fashion.

Our continued support of NAEBA and its International Antler Competition has allowed us to have production stats that are proven and verifiable. The above stats showing the bull production of Mohlman Elk Farm's cow herd are taken directly from NAEBA's competition results and show the consistency of our cow herd.

MOHLMAN ELK FARM

Eric, Kim, Chase and Kyra Mohlman
 4985 West Blue Hill Road Ayr, NE 68925
 402-469-1831, mohlmanelk@gtmc.net

Vet Corner by Glen Zearth, DVM

Harper Government Investing in New Vaccine Against Chronic Wasting Disease

National Journal

December 17, 2014 - Saskatoon, Saskatchewan - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Member of Parliament Brad Trost (Saskatoon-Humboldt) today announced a combined investment of up to \$1.16 million from the federal and Saskatchewan governments to Pan-Provincial Vaccine Enterprise (PREVENT) to help develop a new vaccine against chronic wasting disease (CWD), which is affecting elk herds in Western Canada.

This investment will enable PREVENT to conduct vaccine impact studies and identify ways to slow down the spread of the disease. Successful trials could result in a vaccine that can be used to prevent the spread of CWD in all cervid species, deer, elk, moose and caribou, which are part of the alternative livestock industry in Western Canada.

Quick facts include:

PREVENT is a Centre of Excellence for Commercialization and Research that develops promising human and animal vaccine technologies.

CWD (a progressive neuro-degenerative disease) is endemic to wildlife populations found in Saskatchewan and Alberta (and 22 states in the United States), resulting in significant losses to the alternative livestock and hunting-game industries.

The industry estimates that the alternative livestock market fell 85 percent between 2001 and 2011 primarily due to CWD and lost export markets.

An effective vaccine capable of reducing the spread of CWD has the potential to help the industry rebound in Western Canada.

A federal investment of up to \$700,000 is being made through the Industry-led Research and Development stream of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Agri-Innovation Program, a five-year, up to \$698-million program under Growing Forward 2.

The federal and Saskatchewan governments are also providing up to \$463,000 under the cost-shared Growing Forward 2 Agriculture Development Fund.

Quotes

"The Government of Canada is pleased to partner with PREVENT to help revitalize the alternative livestock industry in western Canada. Investing in trials for a new vaccine that will help reduce the incidence of the single most prevalent disease among cervids, like elk, will help producers sustain their herds and remain competitive."

- MP Brad Trost (Saskatoon-Humboldt)

"This is an important area of research with the potential to address a significant issue facing our cervid producers. Our government is pleased to join the federal government in supporting PREVENT's work toward developing an effective vaccine to control the spread of CWD."

- Lyle Stewart, Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture

"Chronic Wasting Disease has spread rapidly over the last decade. This disease continues to spread within wild cervid populations which has significant implications for rural populations and its presence has also had a negative impact on the alternative livestock industry. We are grateful to the federal and provincial governments for the support that they have provided for this initiative."

- Andrew Potter, Chief Executive Officer, PREVENT

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/library/221795>

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Bill & Karen Knutson
Home of Spring Coulee Elk

Cervid DPP Testing for TB Available Once Again

National Veterinary Services Laboratories Resume Testing of Cervids for Bovine Tuberculosis

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Bulletin
December 9, 2014

Effective December 8, 2014, the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) have resumed testing of cervids for bovine tuberculosis (TB) using the DPP test. Please continue or resume sending serum samples for cervid TB testing to NVSL at this time. Serum samples submitted over the last month will be tested and should be completed in approximately 2 weeks. Once the backlog has been cleared, all new samples will be tested in the order in which they were received.

Thank you for your continued sample submissions and patience during this temporary test kit shortage. Questions about testing may be directed to Dr. Jeff Nelson, NVSL, at 515-337-7563 or Jeffrey.T.Nelson@aphis.usda.gov; questions about herd reaccreditation or movement to Dr. Owen Henderson, VS Cervid Staff, at 970-494-7317 or Owen.L.Henderson@aphis.usda.gov

Source:

<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/bulletins/e11fab>



FFA Foundation Blue Jacket Thank You's

This is the second year fellow MnEBA members Greg & Roxy Lubinski have contributed funding to MnEBA to get the association involved in Minnesota's FFA Foundation's "Blue Jackets – Brighter Futures" campaign. Greg & Roxy donated funds to MnEBA to purchase two jackets in MnEBA's name, one for a boy and one for a girl. MnEBA matched that donation and sent in funds for 4 jackets last Fall.

MnEBA has received thank you's from two of the four recipients so far. They are as follows.

Dear MnEBA,

Thank you so very much for sponsoring a FFA jacket. I am excited to get my very own jacket. This is my first year in FFA. I am participating in meat judging. I really appreciate your support of the FFA organization. Thanks again.

*Sincerely,
Hannah Berg, Little Falls FFA*

Dear MnEBA,

Thank you so much for the gift of the FFA jacket. Without this opportunity I would never have had one of my own! I'm very excited to wear it to the Dairy Cattle Judging for state this spring! Thanks again!

*Sincerely,
Ben Hegna*

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- Top Secret Tours
- Monster Truck World
- See www.wisdells.com for more attractions!

FOR MORE INFO

Brenda Hartkopf
NAEBA Office
(320) 543-3665
info@naelk.org
or
Dawn Berhorst
NAEBA Event Coordinator
(573) 690-1245
dawn@naelk.org



25TH

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1990 ~ 2015

**2015 Annual Conference &
International Antler Competition**

*Come Celebrate NAEBA's Heritage &
Network with antler, meat and shooter bull buyers,
elk product vendors, industry leaders & more!*

Tentative Schedule

Thursday, July 30th

Antler Check-In & Judging
Exhibitor Set-Up
Velvet Cutting Demo & Antler Judging School

Friday, July 31st

Opening Ceremonies & General Meeting
Regional Meetings
Expanded Seminar Schedule
Photo & Meat Contest
Entertainment & Fun Auction

Saturday, August 1st

More Seminars
Fun Contests
Antler Competition Viewing & Awards
Semen Auction

Make Plans to Attend—You Won't Want to Miss It!

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 27 – March 1, 2015 – St. Paul Bird, Buck, Bait & Boat Expo, Warner Coliseum, Minnesota State Fairgrounds

July 30 – August 1, 2015 – 25th Anniversary NAEBA Convention & International Antler Competition, Baraboo, WI (Wisconsin Dells)

August 27 – September 7, 2015 – MN State Fair, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

Classified Ads

Wanted: Late born 2014 bull calves (July 1st or after). Ted Mehrkens, 507-843-5636.

For Sale: Squeeze chute, scale and complete handling facility for sale. Jerry Kern, 507-527-2560 (home) or 507-456-1301 (cell).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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