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## Special Interest Articles:

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Antler  
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Conference &  
International  
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## President's Message by Jim Byrne

It's the end of another legislative session in Minnesota. On May 19, 2008, the Minnesota Legislature ended their 2008 session without any regulations on the harvesting of elk and deer behind fence.

The MN Elk Breeders and the MN Deer Breeders were united in the furthering of our industries within Minnesota. We combined resources and our talents to bring a message to legislative leaders that, "We are farmers and have the right to market our animals in accordance with Minnesota State Statutes."

Once again we owe heartfelt thanks to our lobbyist Tony Kwilas and to Lynne Osterman, the lobbyist for the MN Deer Breeders Association, for all the time and effort they invested in our cause. We also need to recognize the MN Board of Animal Health for their strong support. This combined effort has once

again proven highly effective. We need to continue striving for 100% compliance and that means that there is still hard work ahead of us. We are on firm ground now that the legislature has not implemented restrictions for the third year in our battle with those opposed to our industry. Now it is our responsibility to keep our industry in compliance and not to do anything that would bring unfavorable media attention. We need to support activities which focus on our industry as responsible and charitable producers.

I invite you to join us at the North Central Antler Competition (NCAC) being held in the Ho-Chunk Casino Hotel & Convention Center August 6-7, 2008. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together and to celebrate this industry. The North Central Antler

Competition will be hosted by the Wisconsin Commercial Deer & Elk Farmers Association (WCDEFA). The mid-year meeting will be held on August 7, 2008. The Board will once again host an informal open forum for the membership on Wednesday night, August 6th. I look forward to seeing you all there, I'm sure this will be a fun and informative time.

Following on the heels of our meeting will be the North American Elk Breeders Association 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and International Antler Competition, August 7-9, 2008.

With the legislative session over, NCAC ready to go, and calving already starting it's exciting times and events ahead.

Thank you for the privilege of working for you.



**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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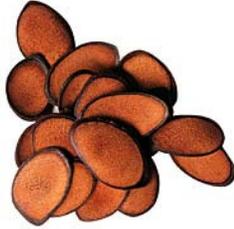
Brenda Hartkopf  
(320) 543-2686

## 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.

## Velvet Watch



North American elk producers are beginning to cut velvet and once again this year, no buyers are giving out prices just yet.

Buyers are waiting to see how sales of New Zealand antler finish out as there is still velvet which is unsold. While NZ pricing started higher in the beginning of the season, it is estimated that the current price for velvet in New Zealand is roughly \$25 US. China will begin their selling season in about 3 weeks which will also be an indicator as to what the market value for velvet antler will be in North America. There are also reportedly 23-24 tonnes of velvet left in the Saskatchewan pool from last year.

As of now, three buyers are planning to buy Minnesota velvet. Please contact them for more information as the buying season approaches.

1. **Scott Groen** – Can be reached at 320-979-0911
2. **Global Velvet International** – Tentatively planning a pick up at Larry & Mary Gerdes in Bay City, WI. No firm date has been set. Contact Shawn Richards at 616-893-5930 or Larry at 715-594-3534.
3. **Scott Salonek** – Can be reached at 763-428-8561

## Velvet Cutting Tips

Velvet time is here again and I'm sure some bulls have been cut already. The big question is what is the velvet price going to be? The buyers have not set a price yet, you still need to cut the same bulls you were going to cut and grow the bulls out that you planned to grow out regardless of the price. If no velvet is cut, the price of hard antler bulls will drop.

You need both markets and one will feed the other. We can only sell so many hard antler bulls and velvet will be worth more than hard antler. If the price of beans drop \$1-2 from last year, the farmer is

still going to plant in the spring.

Just a few tips on cutting velvet if you missed the velvet school in March. Cut bulls early enough for quality velvet. The bigger the beam the farther you can grow them out. 5 years and older bulls should have a 9" circumference between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> tine; you can grow these bulls out to show their 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> split.

Younger or smaller beam bulls need to be cut earlier. If they have a 6" circumference they should not show a split. Bulls with a 4-5" circumference should be cut at the 3<sup>rd</sup> tine.

Watch 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> tines so they do not start to get pointy, keep them round, fat and juicy looking. Freeze antler so it's not all dented up and clean it after it's frozen. Take care of your antler because it is a food product.

If you have any questions about cutting antler, velvet antler or hard antler bulls, or just elk in general, feel free to call anytime.

Bring your antler to the competition this summer and promote your farm!

I look forward to seeing you at the convention.

Brian Wagner  
612-366-5078

## May 3, 2008 Board Meeting Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a board meeting at the home of Mark & Sue Hendrickson on May 3, 2008. Jim Byrne, Mark Hendrickson, Pat Prodzinski, Charles Francis, Brian Wagner and Brenda Hartkopf were present. The meeting began at 10:06 a.m.

The minutes from the March 1 board meeting were reviewed. Prodzinski moved to approve the minutes as written, Wagner seconded, motion carried. The treasurer's report was then reviewed. Wagner moved to accept the report as presented, Francis seconded, motion carried.

Discussed whether or not to set up the MnEBA booth at the upcoming NAEBA convention in the WI Dells. Decision was made to move forward with plans to have a booth at the convention August 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. Prodzinski will coordinate volunteers to man the booth.

### OLD BUSINESS

Byrne gave a legislative update and reported that there has been no activity relating to banning cervidae harvest preserves at the State Capitol thus far in the session. Our lobbyist has been monitoring activity relating to the control of TB in Minnesota. Board reviewed HF4075, a bill relating to the control of TB in Minnesota. While no elk farms have been identified in the current zone, Byrne was asked to speak to our lobbyist about how to include elk in the buyout option in the event the zone was expanded and an elk producer was found to be in the zone.

Hartkopf reported that she is working with the Wisconsin Commercial Deer & Elk Farmers Association to help organize the upcoming North Central Antler Competition (NCAC). Hartkopf was directed to ask Dr. Anderson if he would be willing to travel to the NCAC and talk to our group about the status of the current Minnesota TB situation and any new regulations which may affect the cervidae industry.

Discussed the 2008 raffle. Hartkopf is looking for committee help and also new ideas for prizes. Board will look into purchasing a gun for the raffle. Hendrickson will look into a salmon fishing trip on Lake Michigan.

Discussed situation regarding the ballot initiative in North Dakota. Will encourage a working relationship between the North Dakota Elk Growers and the Non-Traditional Farmers and Ranchers Coalition (NTFARC).

Discussed budget for donations. MnEBA has \$500 budgeted in 2008 for donations. Prodzinski moved to make a \$250 donation to NTFARC and a \$250 donation to the Elk Research Council. Hendrickson seconded, motion carried.

Hartkopf reported that Tony Beckel has agreed to donate an elk hunt to a disabled veteran on behalf of MnEBA. An ad seeking a bull for this event was

placed in the April 1 newsletter, but there has been no response to date. Board will work at promoting this idea with the membership.

### NEW BUSINESS

Board reviewed a letter received from the MN Zoo asking if the MN farmed cervidae industry would express opposition if the MN Zoo would seek some type of exemption to allow it to continue to receive orphan moose calves from the wild (from non-CWD endemic states), even if the exemption did not pose a significant biological risk. While the Board was confident the MN Zoo would be able to control a CWD outbreak if one would occur, a positive case at the zoo could create a negative economic impact to the MN farmed cervidae industry. The Board was in unanimous agreement that MnEBA would be opposed to allowing an exemption for the MN Zoo. Byrne will follow up with the MN Deer Breeders Association and the MN Zoo.

Board discussed Branding Guidelines document which was distributed prior to the meeting. Hartkopf was asked to see what it would cost to trademark or register the MN elk branding logo in the U.S.

Hartkopf reported that work on creating the "members only" page on the MnEBA web site will begin on May 16<sup>th</sup>. She also addressed questions about this project from the last meeting.

Board reviewed a list of seven bids to host the 2009 Annual Conference and chose the bid submitted by the Mankato Holiday Inn. The 2009 MnEBA Annual Conference will be held January 9-10, 2009.

Board reviewed the list of non-renewing members and will contact them and encourage them to renew their membership.

Discussed costs associated with making more elk headbands to give away at the MN State Fair. Hartkopf was asked to contact Elk Marketing to see if they will be making more this year.

Board discussed three-year and five-year goals. Discussed ways to create a "restaurant of the year" award. Hartkopf to follow up. Completed the MnEBA Goals and Objectives for 2008.

It was decided to hold the next Board meeting via phone conference prior to the North Central Antler Competition.

Francis agreed to write an article with his choice of topic for the June 1 issue of MnEBA News, Prodzinski will write an article for the August 1 issue.

Hendrickson moved to adjourn the meeting, Prodzinski seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned, 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Hartkopf



# Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

## Goals & Objectives

Completed on May 3, 2008

### 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.*

### ONE-YEAR GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1. **Strategic Planning**
  - A. Review and update one, three and five year plan bi-annually
  - B. Review industry trends
  - C. Review mission statement
2. **Relationships with External Organizations**
  - A. Maintain an active Government Relations committee
  - B. Maintain an active presence on the Cervidae Advisory committee
  - C. Maintain network with all other elk associations
    - a. continue to exchange newsletters with all other state associations
    - b. maintain web links when possible
    - c. have NAEBA representative meet with the MnEBA board and membership at least once per year
  - D. Maintain lobbyist activities at state level
  - E. Continue and expand relationships with relevant organizations
3. **Member Communications**
  - A. General membership meetings
    - a. schedule open forum sessions
  - B. Web site
    - a. explore ways to update web site presentation
  - C. Increase member participation
    - a. explore methods to increase participation
  - D. Maintain regular bi-monthly newsletter
  - E. Increase Board and membership interaction
4. **Position MN as the Leader in the Elk Industry**
  - A. Continue to promote brochure program
    - a. NAEBA advertising
    - b. Wapiti.net
  - B. Encourage members to participate in the TB accreditation program
  - C. Encourage member compliance with all state required regulations
  - D. Promote Minnesota status as a leader in the industry
5. **Encourage and Support Development and Expansion of Elk Related Businesses and Markets**
  - A. Profile existing businesses in newsletter
  - B. Update resource list of agencies that aid new business and add to web site
  - C. Continue educational programming at annual conference
  - D. Update distributor and retail outlet lists on web site
  - E. Increase vendor involvement in Association activities
6. **Improve Outreach to the Public**
  - A. Continue presence at shows
    - a. State Fair
    - b. Deer Classic
    - c. Farmfest
  - B. Encourage utilization of booth and educational materials
    - a. members
    - b. educators
  - C. Continue developing press releases
  - D. Encourage members to join MN Grown program
  - E. Increase awareness of elk products
    - a. explore advertising opportunities

**7. Increase Membership in MnEBA**

- A. Have 50% of registered Minnesota elk producers be members of MnEBA
  - a. continue to contact non-renewing members by April 1 of each calendar year
  - b. continue to contact non-member producers at least once per year

**8. Web Site Enhancement**

- A. Develop "members only" section

- B. Explore consumer information section
  - a. history
- C. Expand product availability information
- D. Encourage development of member web sites
- E. Continue to build linked sites listing

**9. Budget**

- A. Expand fundraising activities
- B. Continue to conduct annual audit
- C. Increase net revenue from promotional materials sales

**THREE-YEAR GOALS**

1. Review and update the Raise the Legend book as needed
2. Host Select Quality Elk Sale
3. Develop "Restaurant of the Year" award
4. Increase membership by 10% (based off 2008 membership numbers)
5. Establish an annual advertising budget
6. Double number of members who participate in
  - a. committees
  - b. volunteers in Association booth
7. Develop marketing strategy

**FIVE-YEAR GOALS**

1. Increase membership by 20% (based off 2008 membership numbers)
2. Be declared CWD free in farmed elk herds
3. Double three year advertising budget
4. Double revenue from new associate memberships
5. Double number of paid staff hours
6. Establish full-time Executive Director position



**Cris Goodman**  
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## Director Spotlight - *Charles Francis*

Summer is ALMOST here if we ever get out of WINTER! Hasn't it been a long winter?

Well, the busiest time on the farm is upon us especially with new velvet growth, new calves and fieldwork. School will be out soon and then it will be time to plan the summer vacation trips. As we are all aware of the ever rising cost of gasoline, I thought it would be appropriate to discuss some ways to save on gasoline this summer. I saw this article in the Financial Hotline section of *Success InSight*, April 2008, Volume 26 No. 4 which I subscribe to.

### Fight High Fuel Prices 12 Ways to Save

These easy tips can help you save an average of 12 gallons of fuel per month. At \$3.50 per gallon that's over \$1,000 in annual savings for a two car family.

- 1. Drive moderately and save an average of 31 percent.**
  - Don't press the gas when you start up.
  - Take the long view of the road and brake easy.
  - Slow your 0 to 60 mph acceleration time down to a minimum of 15 seconds.
- 2. Slow down and save 12 to 14 percent.**
  - Leave a little early and drive the speed limit.
- 3. Don't idle (long) and save an extra 19 percent**
  - Shutting your car off at every minor stop will end up costing you more, but if you are stopped for more than 45 to 60 seconds – turning off your car will save gas.
- 4. Use Cruise Control for an average of 7 percent savings.**
  - If your trip does not have a lot of stop and go traffic and there are few hills and curves, using cruise control will help smooth out that tug of war with the gas pedal.
- 5. Keeping up with routine maintenance can save you up to 10 percent**
  - Change your air filter on time and be sure your tire pressure is at the right level for your vehicle. Choose the grade of oil recommended for your vehicle. The wrong one may increase the friction in your engine, which makes it use more gas. Also keep in mind that synthetic oil tends to lubricate engines better allowing your engine to operate more efficiently which means better gas mileage.
- 6. Lose the weight and save 2 percent per 100 lbs.**
  - Break the habit of using your car as short-term storage space. Larger SUVs or vans may have extra equipment or seats that can be easily removed and stored when you are not using them.
- 7. Use your car less.**
  - Plan out your trips and consolidate.
  - Call merchants for prices and availability instead of driving from store to store.
  - If the Internet store offers that same price (or lower) plus free shipping – buy online.
  - Carpool to work and share events. Bring your lunch or get it on your way to work.
- 8. Avoid peak traffic hours when possible.**
  - Try to set up a work schedule that will allow you to spend less time idling in traffic.
- 9. At highway speeds half of engine power is lost to aerodynamic drag.**
  - Keep windows and tailgates up to save 7 percent.
  - In newer model cars, the A/C uses very little gas – but rolling down the window can increase the drag and lower the gas mileage.
- 10. Don't spend money on "gas savers".**
  - Recent tests by Consumer Reports showed products like Fuel Genie, Platinum Gas Saver, and Tornado did not boost fuel economy.
- 11. Use regular gas when possible.**
  - It runs around 25 cents per gallon cheaper – and most cars operate just fine on regular gas.
- 12. Shop gas prices online.**
  - Reviewing local prices saves an average of 25 cents per gallon.
  - GasBuddy.com links to gas-price sites in Canada and the US by specific state or province, county, or parish.
  - Automotive.com highlights the lowest prices for each grade within your area when available.
  - GasPriceWatch.com spotlights the best lowest price, and it also lets you sort your results to find the most recently posted prices.

## FINAL REPORT - Successful 2008 Legislative Session

By Tony Kwilas, MnEBA  
Lobbyist

The 2008 legislative session started with the legislators trying to resolve a \$935 million budget deficit, pass a bonding bill and provide more money for transportation infrastructure in the state and accomplish all of the priorities set forth in a timely and orderly fashion.

They accomplished all those goals and then some. They resolved the budget deficit, passed a bonding bill, overrode a Governor's veto of a Transportation funding bill and finished the session on time.

The Minnesota Elk Breeders concerns as the session began centered on shooting preserves. As the session progressed, a Bovine TB bill and a Livestock Investment Grant program proposal became part of the mix. In the end, there were no hearings on the regulation of shooting proposals, the concerns of Bovine TB were addressed while protecting the farmed cervidae industry and a new Livestock Investment Grant program became law.

All in all, I would say a pretty successful session, don't you think?

Thanks for all of the help of the members during the session. It is always greatly appreciated!!

Have a great summer,

Tony Kwilas

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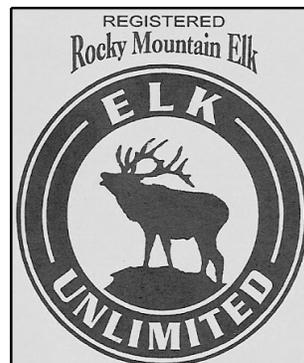
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## 2008 North Central Antler Competition

August 6 – 7, 2008 ~ Ho-Chunk Casino Hotel & Convention Center, Baraboo, WI (WI Dells area)

**REGISTRATION:** North Central entrants - **\$35** pre-registration / **\$40** at the door / **\$70** out of region entrants

**HOTEL INFORMATION:** Ho-Chunk Casino Hotel & Convention Center, 53214 Hwy. 12, Baraboo, WI 55913  
Reservations (800) 446-5550, mention INAEBA to receive the discounted room rate of \$88 plus tax. Room block release date – July 30<sup>th</sup>.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Richard Spanton (608)365-2332 or Bill Knutson (608) 526-4477

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

#### Wednesday August 6

2 - 6 pm Antler Check-in  
9 pm MnEBA Open Forum



#### Thursday August 7 (FREE GENERAL ADMISSION)

9 - 11 am WCDEFA Membership Meeting  
9 - 11 am MnEBA Membership Meeting  
11am - Noon Dr. Paul Anderson, MN Board of Animal Health  
11am - Noon Guest speaker TBD  
Noon - 1 pm Lunch (meal tickets available at the WCDEFA booth)  
1:30 - 5 pm Announcement of winners, distribution of score sheets and photos

### PRE-REGISTERING ANTLER

Save \$5 on each set of antlers entered in the competition by **pre-registering!** Plus, you can have all your paperwork completed beforehand for easy registration.

**Here's all you need to do:** Send \$35 for each set of antlers entered and your name, address and phone number to: Bill Knutson, N7447 County Road D, Holmen, WI 54636. Make checks out to the WCDEFA. **Payment must be received before July 30, 2008!** You will be mailed back the appropriate number of registration forms which you will bring with your antler sets to the competition.

### Requirements for Entry of Velvet Antler and Hard Antler into Regional Competitions

see [www.naelk.org](http://www.naelk.org) for a complete listing of rules and regulations

- Entrants must present NAEBA registration certificate or copy of same OR Copy of the bull's record in any state/provincial government, age-verified, inventory system or in NAEBA's inventory system. Please note that a copy of the bull's NAEBA registration (at Silver, Gold) level must accompany the application for international competition and will not be accepted without it.
- NAEBA judges and judging system must be used for hard antler. Regions can appoint their own independent velvet judges.
- Antler shall be entered into competition in the year shed or harvested. As an example, hard antler grown by a bull that was 2 years old in 1999 would be entered in the 2- year-old class in 2000.
- Age of bull is determined by calving season year. For example, a bull born in the 1997 calving season is a 3-year-old for the 2000 competitions, regardless of month of birth. For hard antler entry, the age class will be the age of the bull when the antler was grown.
- Entries from outside North America are for display purposes only. They will be scored by official NAEBA judges but will not be entered into the competition.
- A photo and NAEBA ear tags are not necessary but highly recommended. If you submit a photo it must show the bull in antler with all of his points and ear tag number clearly visible.
- The NAEBA senior velvet or hard antler judge-not the host-will be the decision maker regarding any questionable situations related to regional competitions.
- All velvet will be re-weighed, measured and scored at the International Antler Competition.
- If a farm is officially restricted from moving animals, it may not enter antlers in a competition.
- A breeder can enter any regional competition and can enter more than one. However, any one bull can be entered in only one regional competition.
- Ownership of animal shall be as it appears on the registration certificate (person, partnership, etc.) Do not list the boarding locations as owner.
- All regional and international results will be published by NAEBA after the international competition on the NAEBA Web site.

All international results and the top ten places of each class at each regional will be published in NAEBA's magazine, the [North American Elk](#).

NOTE: Throughout these rules, the term "registered" refers to Silver or Gold registered –"inventory" is not registered.



# 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Annual Conference & International Antler Competition August 7 – 9, 2008

**Ho-Chunk Casino Hotel & Convention Center – Wisconsin Dells, WI**

## NAEBA's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Schedule (Tentative)

<b>Thursday August 7</b>		7:45 pm	NAEBA's Fun Auction
7 – 9 am	NAEBA Board Meeting	10 pm	Hospitality – <i>sponsored by Keeton Elk Farm &amp; AI Diversified</i>
4 – 9 pm	Exhibitor Set-up		
5 – 9 pm	International Antler Check-in		
9 pm	Hospitality – <i>sponsored by WCDEFA</i>		
<b>Friday August 8</b>		<b>Saturday August 9</b>	
	Breakfast On Own	7 – 9 am	Breakfast On Own
8 am – 8 pm	Antler judging	8 am – 8 pm	NAEBA Board Meeting
	Tradeshow		Antler Judging
	Silent Auction		Tradeshow
	NAEBA Info Desk	8 am – 3:30 pm	NAEBA Info Desk
	Elk Meat Products Entry		Photo Contest Continues
	Photo Contest Entry & Voting	8 – 9 am	Silent Auction Continues
9 – 10 am	General Membership Meeting		SEMINAR – Biological Risk Management for Elk – Shanna Gillette
10 – 10:30 am	Break – <i>sponsored by Martin &amp; Donna Azcarraga</i>	9 – 10 am	SEMINAR – Cooking with Elk – Chef Wave
10:30 – 11:30 am	Regional Meetings	10 am – 2 pm	Ladies Choice – Tanger Outlet Mall
	Central	10 – 10:30 am	Break
	North Central	10:30 – 11:30 am	SEMINAR – Becoming a Better "Pasture" Farmer – MidWest BioAg
	Northeast		
	Western	11:30 am – 1 pm	Lunch On Own
	Southern	Noon – 3 pm	Ladies Choice – Craft Mall /Antique Mall
11:30 am – 1 pm	Lunch On Own	1 – 3 pm	SEMINAR – Evaluating Semen Quality – Tracy Linneberg, Kelly Hebert & Chelsie McKenzie
12:30 – 4 pm	Ladies Event – Wollersheim Winery Tour & Taste Testing	3 – 3:30 pm	Break
1 – 2 pm	SEMINAR – Fresh vs. Frozen Semen – Dr. Brad Didion, Minitube	Elk Meat Contest & Final Voting	
2 – 3 pm	SEMINAR – Fencing Research – Dr. Kurt VerCauteren, USDA AHPIS, Wildlife Services, Fort Collins, CO	3:30 pm	Photo Contest Ending
3 – 3:30 pm	Break	3:30 – 5:30 pm	Silent Auction Ending
3:30 – 4 pm	SEMINAR – Non Traditional Farmers & Ranchers Coalition Update – Joel Espe, David Autry & Charly Seale		Antler Competition Viewing & Awards Presentation
4:00 – 5:00 pm	SEMINAR – Antler Crafts 101 – Paul Ristau, antler crafter	5:30 pm	Cash Bar Opens
5 pm	Cash Bar Opens	6 – 7 pm	Awards Banquet
6 – 7 pm	Banquet	7 – 7:30 pm	Announce Winners of Photo & Meat Contests, Silent Auction Results, NAEBA Awards
7 – 7:45 pm	Key Note Speaker – Keith Warren, Hunting & Outdoors Adventures	7:30 pm	Closing Remarks
		8 – 10 pm	Competition Antler Check-Out
		8 – 10 pm	Exhibitor Tear Down
		8:00 pm	Hospitality – <i>sponsored by Keeton Elk Farm &amp; AI Diversified</i>

## Seminar Descriptions

1. **Dr. Brad Didion, Minitube** - The Benefits of AI'ing with Fresh Semen / Semen Extender Research
2. **Dr. Kurt VerCauteren, USDA AHPIS, Wildlife Services, Fort Collins, CO** – Researching the Effectiveness of 8 ft. High Tensile Wire to keep farmed cervidae in and wild cervidae out / Fence to Fence Contact Between Farmed and Wild Cervidae
3. **Joel Espe, David Autry & Charly Seale** – Non Traditional Farmers and Ranchers Coalition, an update on coalition activities protecting the property rights of "non-traditional" farmers across the United States
4. **Paul Ristau, Antler Crafter** – Antler Crafts 101, a beginner's course in creating handmade crafts with elk antler.
5. **Shana Gillette, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Science, CO State University** – Biological Risk Management for Elk, preventative practices to minimize disease risk in elk
6. **Chef Wave** – Cooking With Elk, an entertaining look at cooking with elk
7. **Speaker TBD, MidWest BioAg** – Becoming a Better "Pasture Farmer", pasture management tools to enhance pasture production
8. **Tracy Linneberg, Genetic Inovations LLC/Kelly Hebert AI Diversified & Chelsie McKenzie** – The Importance of Evaluating Semen Quality, rating semen quality and it's effect on conception rates
9. **Key Note Speaker – Keith Warren, Hunting & Outdoor Adventures with Keith Warren** as seen on the Outdoor Channel

**18<sup>th</sup> Annual North American Elk Breeder's Association  
INTERNATIONAL ANTLER COMPETITION & ANNUAL CONVENTION**

*August 7-9, 2008 ~ Ho-Chunk Casino Hotel & Convention Center ~ Baraboo, Wisconsin*

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

Children's Name (for badge) \_\_\_\_\_

Ranch/Business Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Full Registration** (*Registration includes meals, seminars and trade show. Prices in USD.*) **Sign up by July 1 and be in a drawing for 1 night FREE stay at Ho-Chunk!**

	<b>Until July 1</b>	<b>After July 1</b>	
Single	\$200	\$225	\$ _____
Couple	\$350	\$400	\$ _____
Day Pass	\$100	\$125	\$ _____
Child (7-18)	\$25	\$50	\$ _____
Child (6 & under)	Free	Free	\$ _____

**Ladies Activities** (*Place check next to activities you plan to attend. Transportation will be provided.*)

- August 8<sup>th</sup> 12:30 – 4 pm: Wollersheim Winery Tour & Tasting \_\_\_\_\_
- August 9<sup>th</sup> 10 am – 2 pm: Tanger Outlet Mall \_\_\_\_\_ OR Noon – 3 pm: Craft/Antique Mall \_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibitor Booth Registration** (*Includes one 8' skirted table and two chairs*)

- Royal Exhibitor (*single booth and 1 full registration pass*) \$325 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Imperial Exhibitor (*single booth and 2 full registration passes & 25% off ad in Fall NAEBA Journal*) \$600 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Monarch Exhibitor (*double booth and 2 full registration passes OR single booth and 3 full registration passes, plus premier exhibit booth location & 50% off ad in Fall NAEBA Journal*) \$900 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Name(s) on badges \_\_\_\_\_

Description of products or services offered \_\_\_\_\_

**Contributions/Donations**

This event is NAEBA's largest fundraiser! All donations and contributions generate revenue that will allow NAEBA to operate throughout the coming year. Please consider making a monetary or item donation to benefit NAEBA. Make sure to note your item below to ensure your donation is included in the onsite conference program.

\_\_\_\_\_ Silent Auction \_\_\_\_\_ Benefit Auction \_\_\_\_\_ Door Prize(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Description of item(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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- Coffee Break – \$400 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Ladies Event – Wollersheim Winery and Tasting Tour – \$500 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Hospitality Suite Sponsor – To be decided, contact NAEBA Office for more info \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Entertainment – \$1,500 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Evening Banquet – \$3,000 (full or consider partial sponsorship) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL DUE** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Hotel Information**

**Ho-Chunk Casino Hotel & Convention Center, 53214 Hwy. 12, Baraboo, WI 53913** – Reservations (800) 446-5550, mention INAEBA to receive the discounted room rate of \$88 plus tax for Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday night. Room block release date – **July 30<sup>th</sup>**.

**Payment – USD Funds**

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**(816) 431-3605 \* (816) 431-2705 Fax**

**CONTACTS:** Brenda Hartkopf, Conference Coordinator (320) 543-2686, Mika Tyhurst, NAEBA (816) 431-3605, or Brian Wagner, Convention Chair (612) 366-5078



## NORTH DAKOTA ELK GROWERS' PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Wayne Laaveg, NDEG President

Hello again from North Dakota everyone! We had a ND Deer and Elk Growers Meeting in Devils Lake on May 10. I was disappointed with the turnout, but I know spring is busy for everyone. Even with the low numbers, we were able to raise about \$1500 for the Fair Chase Hunting Initiative battle, which I thought was just great! In addition to discussing the Initiative, we decided to send NAEBA some money for the annual convention (which will be held in Wisconsin Dells this summer). We also decided to send money to our national lobbyists for the Cervid industry in Washington D.C. We also discussed the ND State Fair in July. We will be having a booth there, but are still in need of many workers to man the booth, so please let me know if you would be willing to take a shift or two from July 18 to 27 in Minot.

Breanne Larson from Leeds has agreed to get all the names and contact information for all the elk producers in the state because the information we have does not seem to be up to date. There have apparently been a few changes recently regarding who is raising elk and who is not. If you have information for her, please let her know. You can reach her at (701) 466-2294 (home); (701) 303-0273 (cell); (701) 351-0494 (Gannon's cell) or at [gblars@yahoo.com](mailto:gblars@yahoo.com). Please do your best to cooperate with her.

In the next month or so, Shawn and I will be meeting with various editorial boards throughout North Dakota to inform the major newspaper editors in the State regarding our side of our industry. There will be another press release in the middle of next month regarding the HSUS (Human Society of United States) involvement with the Fair

Chase Initiative, so look for that in the weeks to come.

In talking with folks in and around my area, as well as talking to those of us who were able to attend the meeting in Devils Lake, most people don't support the proposed initiative. Many landowners and other hunters are offended by folks who are telling them how and where to hunt. At our meeting, many believed there would not be enough signatures on the petitions to even get the proposal on the ballot. I am certainly hopeful that is what will come about, but I also believe we cannot stop telling people about the dangers of this proposed initiative.

The Hunters for Fair Chase seem committed to spreading misinformation and ignoring what is really going on around the state. They claim that high fence hunting "closes off tracts of land to other hunters" Fargo Forum, April 24, 2008 p. A6. This statement ignores the fact that these lands are not open to the public without landowner permission. There is no guarantee that the landowners will grant public hunting rights even if there is no high fence on the property.

The Hunters for Fair Chase also suggest they are speaking on behalf of the general public. I recently read an article by Dick Cain, PhD about a study that was done in Texas to get the opinions of the general population about high fence hunting. I have enclosed it here for your information. Please let me know if you have any comments about it, or anything else I have mentioned this month. I hope to hear from lots of you to help man the booth in Minot and continue to battle to save our industry.

## PROFILE OF A TYPICAL HUNTER

By Dick Cain, PhD  
Game Management Consultant

While this hunter profile was developed from a study in Texas, some of the results are probably typical of hunters found in other states looking for an opportunity to pursue their dream of bagging a trophy whitetail. Most sportsmen just want a place to go hunt, to take their family, and to have a reasonable chance of

success. Several articles have been written lately in various sporting magazines bashing hunting in high fenced preserves as not ethical or not sporting, or some other derogatory terms that seem to indicate that the author has checked out the subject, is an authority and speaks for the general population of hunters. We

as deer farmers know by experience that many state game agency personnel believe deer behind fences are somehow different from wild deer and shouldn't be propagated (they are different – better cared for, bigger antlers, less mortality, etc.). Yet to my knowledge, most of these “opinions” are attributed to the general hunting population without any data to back up the prejudices. We know that some hunters are serious about their prejudices; “if it wasn't taken by archery, it isn't a real trophy” or “black powder was good enough for my forefathers and it should be all that is legal today”, or one of my favorites “if it isn't a DIY hunt (do it yourself without a guide), then it isn't real hunting”.

Yet without survey data from a large population of average hunters, these prejudices or opinions are just that and should be given little time of day. This is especially true when there are plenty of vicious enemies to any kind of hunting out there, and they like nothing better than to see hunters bash other hunters claiming their kind of hunting is the only pursuit that should be considered. This study was an attempt to shed some light on hunter opinions about high fenced hunting. It is certainly not exhaustive, and other surveys may have other results depending on the audience, but this was a wide audience of hunters. The questions and percentile answers are given in a table so you can draw your own conclusions, but the following are mine after going through all of the surveys by hand and noting the comments made.

In a related story, published in Tracks, Buddy Heuermann of Willis, Texas was the lucky winner of a management buck hunt donated by the Trophy Ridge Ranch, Saint Jo, Texas. This drawing was part of the Texas Deer Association's booths at the three Texas Trophy Hunters Extravaganzas in San Antonio, Houston and Ft Worth, August 2006; participants were asked to complete a Hunter Information form so a data base could be established for typical Texas hunters and their interests. The profiles presented herein are the results of 1136 completed surveys from Extravaganza attendees who voluntarily participated and might certainly differ somewhat from hunters surveyed from other venues. Additionally, no attempt was made to authenticate such information as salary range, education, best buck harvested score, game hunted regularly versus occasionally, and so forth. Some ambiguities in questions may have occurred and gender related questions may have been worded better, but in general the answers indicated questions were clear.

The Hunter Information survey is shown below with the percentage of respondents in each category. Participants were more than 85% male, about evenly distributed between ages 21 to 64, and about 10% had their kids with them. Slightly more than half belong to

a Hunting Club or Deer Lease (about 5% of those respondents indicated they owned the land, although this question was not asked); and more than half spend less than \$1000 annually on that lease or club. Of interest was the high percentage of respondents that hunt with their family members (86%); more than half take their children which bodes well for the future of the hunting tradition in Texas. Only about 1/3 hunt out of state, and only about 1/8<sup>th</sup> reported hunting out of the country even though several noted Mexico when asked to list the Texas county where their lease was located.

Whitetail deer is king in Texas, *regularly* hunted by 91% of those surveyed, not surprisingly exceeding all other species of game listed. Of those reporting, the

*About 85% would like to hunt on a high-fenced ranch, and 22% would prefer to hunt low-fenced property. Of those preferring to hunt on low-fenced ranches, 53% would like to hunt on a high-fenced property for either a management or trophy buck, and some did not want to hunt for management quality animals (6%), or did not want to hunt for trophy animals (10%). Only 30% of those preferring low-fenced ranch hunting (less than 6.5% of the total participants surveyed) did not want to hunt on a high-fenced ranch.*

best whitetail bagged was under 140 inches for 68% of the hunters and only about 2.5% reported taking a buck above 175" B&C, a true trophy by anyone's standard. More than 9 out of every 10 hunters use a rifle, although almost half of the respondents also use archery equipment.

Almost ninety percent of the hunters believe trophy bucks result from older age deer, quality diet and good ranch management. Genetics was not included in this question because there needs to be much more research done in this area to clarify the heritability of trophy buck antlers. High fencing was seen as a successful management tool by 3/4ths of those surveyed even though more than half had not themselves or family members hunted

on a high-fenced ranch. About 85% would *like to hunt* on a high-fenced ranch, and 22% would *prefer* to hunt low-fenced property. Of those *preferring* to hunt on low-fenced ranches, 53% would *like* to hunt on a high-fenced property for either a management or trophy buck, and some did not want to hunt for management quality animals (6%), or did not want to hunt for trophy animals (10%). Only 30% of those *preferring* low-fenced ranch hunting (**less than 6.5% of the total participants surveyed**) did not want to hunt on a high-fenced ranch. About 11% of the respondents preferring low-fenced ranches were under 20 years of age.

Obviously the controversy over where trophy bucks can best be managed and hunted will continue for years to come. Research, education, ethical hunting shows and publications, coffee shop discussions, family values, land owner practices and common sense will provide more on this topic as hunters continue to evaluate their options. It is incumbent on owners and managers of high-fenced properties to insure that ethical hunting practices are always followed to avoid any potential for canned hunts which should be dealt with to the fullest extent of the law. Land fragmentation and development, anti-hunter groups, misinformation and myths, wildlife habitat destruction and apathy will be the downfall of trophy deer long before high-fence or low-fence preferences will affect our hunting fraternity.

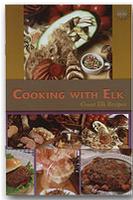
## MnEBA Promotional Materials

The following items are available for promotional purposes. To see the full line of MnEBA promotional offerings, check out [www.mneba.org](http://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](mailto:info@mneba.org) or call the MnEBA office at (320) 543-2686 with further questions.

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

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

### GENERAL INFORMATION



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

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

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

## Cookbook CLEARANCE Sale!

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition MnEBA Cookbooks

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## MnEBA Kitchen

### Elk Casserole

*Here's a casserole you can make ahead of time on a busy summer day!*

- |                       |                                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 ½ lb. ground elk    | 1 tsp. oregano                      |
| 1 medium onion, diced | 8 oz. macaroni product of choice    |
| 1 jar spaghetti sauce | 1 cup cottage cheese                |
| ½ tsp. garlic powder  | 1 ½ cups shredded mozzarella cheese |
| ½ tsp pepper          | ¾ cup grated Parmesan cheese        |
|                       | Black olives (optional)             |



Lightly saute ground elk and onion until meat is evenly browned. Add spaghetti sauce and spices. Simmer, stirring occasionally, about 15 minutes.

Cook macaroni. Drain and mix with the cottage cheese and mozzarella. In a 9 x 13" pan, spread 1/3 of the meat sauce; then 1/2 the macaroni and cheese mix. Layer 1/3 meat sauce and rest of macaroni and cheese mix, ending with final layer of meat sauce. Sprinkle Parmesan cheese on top. Dot with black olives if desired. Bake at 350 degrees 30 minutes or until hot and bubbly. Serves 6.

## MnEBA Summer Membership Meeting

Thursday August 7<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.

Ho-Chunk Casino Hotel & Convention Center, Baraboo, WI



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## Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

*The controversy regarding the use of embryonic stem cells has created the crucial need to research alternative sources for stem cell regeneration. While the following studies show great promise, they would likely be a long ways from happening. However, if the use of velvet antler could hit some great potential use such as in stem cells processes, it would really boost the velvet antler industry.*

### Stem Cells At Root Of Antlers' Branching

**Sciencedaily.com (May 1, 2008)** — The ability to regenerate lost body parts is unevenly distributed among higher organisms. Among vertebrates, some amphibians are able to replace lost limbs completely, while mammals are unable to regenerate complex appendages. The only exception to this rule is the annual replacement of deer antlers. The annual regrowth of these structures is the only example of regeneration of a complete, anatomically complex appendage in a mammal, and antlers are therefore of high interest to regeneration biologists.

The epimorphic regeneration of appendages may involve progenitor cells created through reprogramming of differentiated cells or through the activation of resident stem cells. Reporting in this week's PLoS ONE in a study funded by the German Research Society, Hans J. Rolf and colleagues from the University of Goettingen and University of Hildesheim (Germany) emphasize that deer antler growth and regeneration might be reduced to a stem cell-based process. Their results strongly support the view that the growth of primary antlers as well as the annual process of antler regeneration depend on the periodic activation of mesenchymal stem cells. Understanding the mechanisms behind this unique regeneration process could have an important impact on the emerging field of regenerative medicine.

Deer antlers are cast and regenerated from permanent bony protuberances of the frontal bones, called pedicles. After antler casting, the bone wound on the top of the pedicle is bordered by the pedicle periosteum and the pedicle skin. Wound healing and epithelialization as well as formation of an antler bud occur very rapidly and, in larger species like the red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), the new antler elongates at an average rate of about 1 cm per day.

As early as the second half of the 20th century antler biologists recognized that exploring the mechanisms of antler regeneration may provide crucial insights to better understand why mammals are unable to regenerate amputated limbs. For years, the source of the cells that give rise to the regenerating antler has been a matter of controversy. Recently, it has been hypothesized that antler regeneration is a stem cell based process and most workers in the field consider the periosteum of the pedicle to be the source of the cells forming the regenerating antler.

However, thus far direct evidence for the existence of stem/progenitor cells in the pedicle periosteum and the growing antler was lacking. As part of an ongoing research project, Rolf and colleagues searched for the presence of cells positive for known stem/progenitor cell markers in pedicles and growing antlers of fallow deer (Dama

dama). In addition, they isolated and cultivated stem/progenitor cells derived from the deer antler/pedicle and investigated their proliferation and differentiation properties.

The most important finding of the present study is the demonstration of STRO-1+ cells in different locations of the primary and regenerating antler as well as in the pedicle of fallow deer. The experiments described by Rolf and colleagues strongly support the view that the annual antler regeneration indeed represents a stem cell-based process. Their results are consistent with the hypothesis that the regenerating antler is build up by the progeny of mesenchymal stem/progenitor cells located in the cambial layer of the pedicle periosteum. It has recently been shown that stem cell populations exist in "niches" -- specific anatomical locations that regulate how the stem cells participate in tissue generation, maintenance and repair. Rolf and colleagues assume that such a "stem cell niche" is located in the cambial layer of the periosteum and that the regeneration of antlers is dependent on the periodic activation of these stem cells.

Even though different groups have recently found clues to the presence of stem cells/progenitor cells in the pedicle periosteum as well as in primary and regenerating antlers, the present paper for the first time provided crucial

evidence for the existence of stem cells in these areas. It has been shown that fallow deer antler cells positive for different stem cell markers can be sorted and cultivated as "pure" cultures. These cells were able to differentiate in vitro along the osteogenic and adipogenic lineages.

**Together, the findings of the present study suggest that**

**not only limited tissue regeneration, but also extensive appendage regeneration in a postnatal mammal can occur as a stem cell-based process. Therefore, deer antlers as a research model might be of great interest not only for veterinarians or deer biologists but also for stem cell researchers, tissue**

**engineers, cell biologists and basic researchers in medical disciplines.**

Citation: Rolf HJ, Kierdorf U, Kierdorf H, Schulz J, Seymour N, et al. (2008). Localization and Characterization of STRO-1+ Cells in the Deer Pedicle and Regenerating Antler. *PLoS ONE* 3(4): e2064.  
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0002064

## Deer Antlers Hold Clues To Stem Cell Research

**Medicalnewstoday.com (January 15, 2006)** – New research carried out by veterinary scientists at the Royal Veterinary College reveals that deer antler regeneration may use stem cells and involves similar mechanisms to those used in limb development. The research could take us towards a 'holy grail' in human medicine: the ability to restore organs damaged through trauma, disease, cancer or excision.

Many lower animals such as newts can renew damaged parts of their bodies but antler growth is the only example of mammals being able to re-grow large complex organs.

Deer antlers are large structures made of bone that annually grow, die, are shed and then regenerate. Although dead tissue when used for fighting, during growth they consist of living bone, cartilage blood vessels and fibrous tissue covered in skin.

The research suggests that unlike the regenerative process in the newt, antler growth does not involve reversal of the differentiated state but is stem cell based. Antler growth appears to involve specific stimulation of the necessary stem cells present in the locality. If we

can understand how deer have adapted the normal means of development, cell renewal and repair to redevelop a complete organ, it may be possible to achieve the same outcome in damaged human tissues.

The research also shows that developmental signaling pathways are important. 'Antler-specific' molecules may not exist and growth may be a particular use of molecules that all mammals share. There is similarity in the signals used to stimulate antler growth and those used for other processes. Antler shedding is triggered by a fall in the hormone testosterone, a hormonal change that is linked to an increase in day length. Although the antler growth cycle, from the shedding of the velvet skin and casting of the dead antler to re-growth, is closely linked to testosterone, oestrogen may be a key cellular regulator, as it is in the skeleton of other male mammals. Identifying how hormonal and environmental cues interact with local signaling pathways to control antler stem cell behavior could have an important impact on human health, if this knowledge is applied to the engineering of new human tissues and organs.

Professor Joanna Price, who heads research on antler

regeneration at the Royal Veterinary College, said "The regeneration of antlers remains one of the mysteries of biology but we are moving some way to understanding the mechanisms involved. Antlers provide us with a unique natural model that can help us understand the basic process of regeneration although we are still a long way from being able to apply this work to humans".

Stem cells have the remarkable potential to develop into many different cell types in the body. Serving as a sort of repair system for the body, they can theoretically divide without limit to replenish other cells as long as the person or animal is alive. Stem cell research can help develop therapies for diseases that do not have any treatment at the present time, and develop new approaches towards prevention and treatment of debilitating diseases affecting the nervous system and key organs, such as Parkinson's.

**Deer antlers: A zoological curiosity or the key to understanding organ regeneration in mammals? J.S. Price, S. Allen, C. Faucheux, T. Althnaian, J.G. Mount is published in *Journal of Anatomy*, 207 pp 603-618**

## In The News

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, April 9, 2008**

**CONTACT:** Sarah Clemenson, Marketing Manager, 763-746-0980

### Wapiti Labs Products Now Available at Local Pet Retailers

**(HAM LAKE, Minnesota) April 9, 2008** – Wapiti Labs' elk velvet antler and herbal pet supplements will now be available at local pet food retailers in the Twin Cities area. Chuck and Don's Pet Food Outlet, It's a Pet's Life, Urbanimal, and 4 Perfect Pets are now stocking their shelves with these all natural supplements for dogs and cats of all ages, sizes and breeds. Products are also available online at [www.fetchdelivers.com](http://www.fetchdelivers.com). Other retail locations are listed at [www.wapitilabs.com](http://www.wapitilabs.com).

Wapiti Labs' six completely natural products provide outstanding results in as little as two weeks, with no known side effects. The product line includes Mobility Formula, Renal Formula, Strength Formula, Chest Formula, GI Tract Formula and Post Trauma Formula.

- Improves joint support & function
- Supports muscle strength & recovery
- Reduces joint pain & inflammation
- Stimulates immune system function
- Promotes proper kidney function
- Increases energy



Mobility Formula has become the product of choice to replace commonly-recommended glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate products, and it's clinically proven to increase joint mobility. Clinical trial reports are available at [www.wapitilabs.com](http://www.wapitilabs.com).

Wapiti Labs product line can be found at many retail locations, online retailers and direct from the company website at [www.wapitilabs.com](http://www.wapitilabs.com). In 2008, Wapiti Labs will exhibit at pet industry expos, veterinarian conferences and pet retailer shows across the country. A national advertising campaign was launched in March 2008.

**About Wapiti Labs –**  
Minnesota-based Wapiti Labs, Inc. is a privately held corporation which provides natural elk velvet antler and herbal supplement solutions to the human and pet markets. For further information, visit [www.wapitilabs.com](http://www.wapitilabs.com).

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## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, May 5, 2008**

**CONTACT:** Malissa Fritz, BAH Communications, 651-201-6830

### **Governor Pawlenty signs bovine tuberculosis legislation into law**

*Bill provides new resources for eradicating livestock disease from northwestern Minnesota*

**ST. PAUL, MINN.** – Governor Tim Pawlenty today signed legislation strengthening the state's efforts to eradicate bovine tuberculosis (TB) from beef cattle and deer in northwestern Minnesota. The bill provides the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) with expanded regulatory authorities and funding to implement a bovine TB eradication plan in northwestern Minnesota.

As part of the plan, BAH will increase livestock testing, tighten restrictions on animal movement, provide cost-share assistance for fencing in certain areas, and offer a "buy out" option to livestock owners in the disease management zone. In addition, the legislation directs that a per-head assessment be collected on all cattle sales in the state between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009. The funds are to be collected by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), for the purpose of helping fund bovine TB control activities.

"This disease is an economic burden for our beef producers, and we are committed to eradicating it as quickly as possible," said MDA Assistant Commissioner Joe Martin, the state's bovine TB response coordinator. "We had strong, bipartisan support for this legislation from legislators, producers, and industry groups such as the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association."

Since the initial 2005 discovery of bovine TB in Minnesota, the state has identified 11 infected beef cattle herds - all in the northwest Minnesota counties of Beltrami and Roseau. In addition, 20 infected deer have been confirmed to date in the same area, with several additional suspect deer awaiting final test results. As a result of these discoveries, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) downgraded Minnesota's federal status to Modified Accredited. This status downgrade means Minnesota producers face new federal testing requirements for cattle being shipped from Minnesota to other states. Individual states also may impose more stringent testing restrictions.

Under the terms of the buyout program, eligible cattle owners in the disease management zone must sign a contract with the BAH by July 15, 2008, and will be paid \$500 per animal. In return, cattle must be moved out of the zone or be slaughtered by January 31, 2009. If cattle are moved out of the zone other than to slaughter they must have BAH approval and will be subject to several regulatory requirements. No livestock will be allowed in the zone unless authorized by the BAH. Participating cattle owners will receive annual payments of \$75 per animal, beginning June 30, 2009 and each year until the state regains its TB-Free status.

BAH will conduct a risk assessment for cattle owners who do not participate in the buyout. This assessment will determine whether the operation's feed and forage crops are properly protected, and whether deer or elk are interfacing with cattle. The BAH can require cattle owners to fence livestock, or feed or forage crops, and will provide cost-share assistance of 90 percent of the cost, up to \$75,000.

The bill provides the BAH with expanded regulatory authority to control bovine TB and the movement of livestock into, within, and out of bovine TB zones. This authority will help demonstrate to federal authorities that the state can successfully control bovine TB spread. This is expected in turn to help convince the U.S. Department of Agriculture to grant Minnesota split-state status. If USDA grants split-state status, a large part of the state will upgrade its classification, and a smaller section of northwestern Minnesota will remain at the Modified Accredited classification. Herds in the MA region will still be subject to the more stringent shipping and testing restrictions, but other parts of the state will be spared from these extra restrictions.

"Split-state status will allow us to concentrate our resources in northwestern Minnesota, where they are needed most," BAH Executive Director Bill Hartmann said. "At the same time, it will reduce the testing burden on producers in other parts of the state that have not seen bovine TB."

The legislation also requires the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to implement a wildlife feeding ban within the proposed TB split status zone. Anyone violating the feeding restrictions can have their hunting license revoked for two years following conviction.

## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, May 15, 2008**

**CONTACT:** Malissa Fritz, BAH Communications, 651-201-6830

### **State of Minnesota seeking contractors to install fence in Management Zone**

**ST. PAUL, MINN.** – The Minnesota Board of Animal Health is compiling a list of authorized contractors and material suppliers who will install fence in the Management Zone in northwest Minnesota this summer.

In addition, general deer exclusion fencing specifications have been established and posted on the State's bovine tuberculosis (TB) website, [www.mntbfree.com](http://www.mntbfree.com). Fencing plans that deviate from these guidelines may be approved by the Board on a case by case basis.

Governor Tim Pawlenty signed legislation strengthening the state's efforts to eradicate TB from Minnesota. The bill provides the Board with expanded regulatory authority and funding to implement a bovine TB eradication plan in northwestern Minnesota.

As part of this plan, the Board will conduct on-farm risk assessments for cattle owners in the Management Zone. This assessment will determine whether the operation's feed and forage crops are properly protected and whether deer or elk are interacting with cattle. The Board can require cattle owners to fence livestock or crops and will pay 90 percent of the cost, up to \$75,000. A map of the Zone is available online at [www.mntbfree.com](http://www.mntbfree.com).

Contractors and material suppliers interested in being considered for the State's list of approved vendors are asked to call the state's bovine TB hotline at 1-877-MN TB FREE (668-2373).

## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, May 23, 2008**

**CONTACT:** Malissa Fritz, BAH Communications, 651-201-6830

### **Bovine TB Requirements Announced for Proposed Split State Zone** *New restrictions effective June 15 in 'Modified Accredited Zone'*

**ST. PAUL, MINN.** – The Board of Animal Health announced that effective June 15, 2008, regulations will go into effect for livestock herds in the proposed 'Split State Zone,' the area of northwest Minnesota where bovine TB has been found. Herds in the zone will be required to have an annual whole-herd TB test and maintain up-to-date contact information with the Board. For all animals leaving the farm, individual animal identification, an individual TB test within 60 days prior to movement, and movement certificates will be needed.

Following the discovery last fall of four bovine TB-infected beef cattle herds, Minnesota's TB status was changed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to Modified Accredited (MA). The Board of Animal Health is applying to USDA for a Split State Status which, if approved, would enable much of the state to upgrade its TB status while the affected area of northwest Minnesota will remain at Modified Accredited.

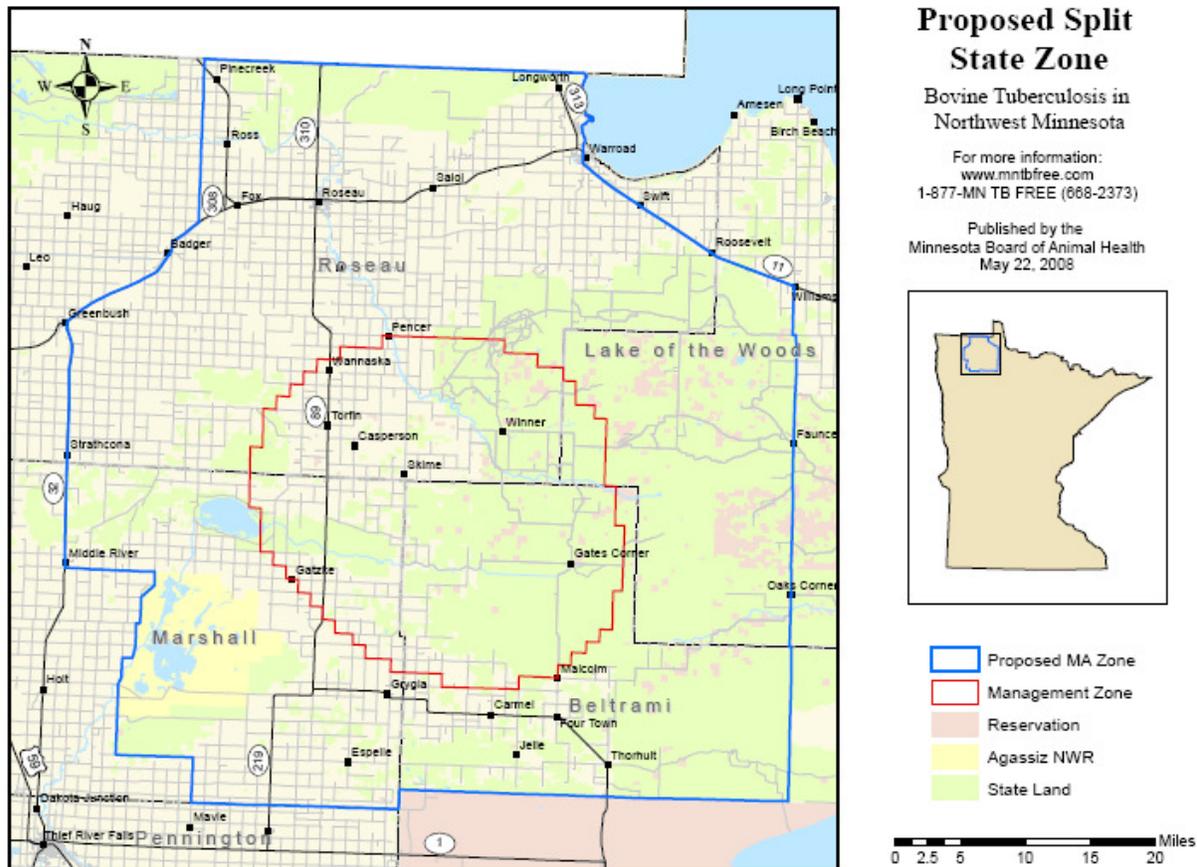
As part of the application for Split State Status, the Board must develop a zone and demonstrate to USDA that there is a plan in place in Minnesota to prevent the disease from spreading out of that zone. The Board has developed the proposed zone (see attached map) and written regulations for cattle, bison, goat, deer, and elk herds within the zone. With the authority recently granted by the legislature to the Board of Animal Health to control and eradicate bovine TB, the State is set to implement this plan effective June 15.

"We know that the loss of status has been a burden on Minnesota's livestock industry, especially in northwest Minnesota," said Joe Martin, Bovine TB Coordinator. "The state of Minnesota remains committed to

eradicating bovine TB as quickly as possible, in cattle and in deer. Achieving Split State Status is one step in the process and will allow us to concentrate our efforts and our resources on the area where the disease has been found."

Producers in the proposed zone have been notified by mail of the new requirements, and three meetings were held on May 20 to give producers an opportunity to ask specific questions of the Board of Animal Health and Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Additional information is available by visiting the Bovine TB website at [www.mntbfree.com](http://www.mntbfree.com) or by calling the Bovine TB Hotline at 1-877-MN TB FREE (668-2373).



**Make plans to attend the North Central Antler Competition on August 6-7.** Besides the competition and membership meeting, Dr. Anderson will be on hand to discuss the TB situation in Minnesota wild deer and cattle and will discuss other topics of interest.

**The NAEBA Convention & International Antler Competition immediately follows on August 7-9.** There are a wide variety of seminars planned for a lot of fun and learning. You will definitely go home having learned something new & useful!

**All events take place at  
 Ho-Chunk Casino Hotel & Convention Center – Baraboo, WI.**



May 13, 2008

Dear MnEBA Members,

Planning for the 2008 Raffle is underway and a Minnesota elk hunt is once again a featured prize on the ticket. Many thanks to Tony Beckel for donating his time and facility for next year's elk hunt. This is a great way to promote Minnesota elk!

The committee is now looking for offers from MnEBA members to sell a bull to MnEBA for the raffle. While the bull will be purchased before the drawing, the bull will actually be harvested in the Fall/Winter of 2009. The bid is needed at this time to know what the remaining budget for other prizes will be.

Here is what we need from you if you're interested in selling a bull to MnEBA:

- Bull must score at least 300 – 349 SCI next year.
- Current picture if available, but not required.
- Seller will be responsible for delivery to Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch in Baudette, MN. Final delivery of the bull will be coordinated between Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch and the seller of the bull.
- Must include purchase price offer for the bull.
- Additionally, the chosen bidder will be expected to sign an agreement with MnEBA to ensure a bull fitting the criteria for the hunt will be delivered in satisfactory condition before the scheduled date of the hunt in the Fall/Winter of 2009.

The Board will make the final selection on the purchase of the bull. Please submit your bid to the MnEBA Office no later than **June 15, 2008**.

**Send to:** MnEBA Office  
9086 Keats Avenue SW  
Howard Lake, MN 55349  
(320) 543-2686 or (320) 543-2983 fax  
[info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org)

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please call the MnEBA Office with any questions at (320) 543-2686.

## Hard Antler Bulls

- ✓ Buying & Selling
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*Scott Groen*  
320-979-0911

*Brian Wagner*  
612-366-5078

## Committee Reports

### 2008 Raffle

Plans are underway for the 2008 raffle. Bull bids for the upcoming raffle are due **June 15<sup>th</sup>**. After the bid is chosen, additional prizes will be added to the ticket as the budget allows. Do you have ideas for prizes? Do you have a prize you would be willing to donate to support MnEBA? Would you like help organize the raffle? Please contact the MnEBA Office with your ideas, donations or to help out on the committee. *Tickets will go on sale at the North Central Antler Competition on August 7, 2008.*

### 2009 MnEBA Annual Conference

The 2009 MnEBA Annual Conference will be held on January 9-10, 2009 at the Holiday Inn in Mankato, MN. Your ideas for seminar topics, fundraisers, and any other suggestions would be greatly appreciated! Please contact Kaye Zearth at 320-834-4064, Rita Prodzinski at 507-452-1282 or Brenda Hartkopf at 320-543-2686 with your ideas!

#### MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

**Annual Conference** Kaye Zearth  
(320) 834-4064

**Nominating** Fred Neubert  
(320) 352-6733

**Government Relations** **OPEN**

**Antler Competition** Kaye Zearth  
(320) 834-4064

**Health** Dr. Glen Zearth  
(320) 834-4064

**Auction** Jerry Strodman  
(507) 451-3107

**Awards** Patty VanGundy  
(507) 896-2380

**Promotions** Brenda Hartkopf  
(320) 543-2686

**Shows** Morrie & Daphne Evenson  
(320) 354-5156

**Fundraising** Brenda Hartkopf  
(320) 543-2686

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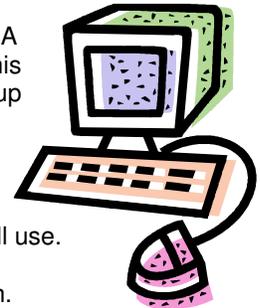
#### Groen/Wagner

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**THANK YOU  
for your support!**

### MnEBA Web Site

Very soon, members with email will be receiving notification of some changes to the MnEBA web site. A "member's only" section is currently being added. This new addition will give members the capability to look up past member alerts regarding sales of velvet, meat animals, shooter bulls and hard antler; past newsletters; and access to private industry news and information. It will also include links to the MN Board of Animal Health paperwork forms which we all use. This project was made possible by funding from Risk Management Agency as well as by Minnesota Grown.



If you have an email account, but have not submitted it to the MnEBA Office, please forward it to [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org) so you can be included in important updates, information, and news that sometimes happens inbetween newsletters.

### 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.

## 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

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.mneba.org](http://www.mneba.org)

## Calendar of Events

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

**August 7 – 9, 2008** – NAEBA Annual Conference & International Antler Competition, Ho-Chunk Casino Hotel & Convention Center, Baraboo, WI

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

**January 9 – 10, 2009** – MnEBA Annual Conference, Holiday Inn, Mankato

## Classified Ads

**Wanted:** MnEBA is looking to sponsor an elk hunt for a disabled veteran through the Langenfeld Foundation and is seeking an elk bull to be harvested at Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch in Baudette, MN. A live bull donation or monetary donations to go towards purchasing or hauling a bull to Baudette would be gratefully accepted. Think about getting a group of producers together to offset the per person cost. This donation will go to a very admirable cause and is a great way to promote a positive image for the Minnesota elk industry. Contact the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 or email [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org) if you can help out.

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

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

**Wanted:** Wanted 16 foot wide x 7 or 8 ft. high elk gate, also 25/30 treated wood fence posts x 10 ft. long. Okaman Elk Farm (507) 267-4054.

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