



Special Interest Articles:

- Economic Impact Study Needed
- Velvet & Market Updates
- NAEBA Convention
- Farmed Cervidae Advisory Committee Minutes
- MnEBA Officer Blog
- Gun Calendar Raffle
- MnEBA Summer Picnic
- Vet Corner
- Committee Reports

President's Message by Kaye Zebarth

Ah, Spring!!!

Because it's Spring, and busy, busy for everyone, this is going to be short and sweet!!!

Hope the calving season is going well for everyone; it's such a great time of the year, the renewal of flora and fauna!!!!

Looks like velveting will begin in earnest around here this weekend; hoping for positive news about velvet prices. Those big bulls are really pushing out racks now. As I said earlier, the renewal of the products!!!!

Now a little nagging, sorry; we STILL need at least three farms to step up and sponsor a page in the 2012 calendar. That calendar has been a great fund-raising tool and we need to fill the pages with a picture of YOUR farm/animals. No need to remind you just what the Association does for you year round; just need to remind you that we could use your support. To those who have agreed to sponsor a month, thank you, thank you. And, to those of you that sell the finished product, of course, THANK YOU.

The MnEBA Summer Picnic which is being hosted by Jim & Eileen Byrne in Pine Island, MN, will take place

on July 30th. Jim has been working on several prototypes of double fencing alternatives and has learned a lot in the process. It will be interesting to see what ideas he has come up with.

The industry was fortunate this year to not have additional burdens placed on us through the legislature because of CWD. There are those who would say the elk industry should not exist as it represents too great of danger to the wild deer population and the industry does not compete economically with the deer hunting industry. Because state budgets and funding have been the uppermost issue at the Capitol, these comments are very damaging to our industry.

This is why you will be receiving an Economic Impact Study questionnaire in your mailbox within the next month. MnEBA is teaming up with the Minnesota Deer Breeders Association (MnDBA) to conduct this study to prove to the media, general public and legislators that we do indeed offer significant, economic value to Minnesota. The information you submit will be completely confidential

and will be viewed only by the person compiling the study information who is in no way affiliated with MnEBA or the deer breeders.

Of all the things we could possibly do as a group to protect our livelihoods at the State Capitol, this is the most urgent and important thing we can do. Please take the time to complete the survey. It will be extremely helpful!!!

Last thing, mark your calendars for the 2012 Annual Conference which will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Brooklyn Center on January 7th. If you have any ideas for seminar topics, let Brenda or I know!

"It's faith in something and enthusiasm for something that makes life worth living."

Have a great Spring and successful Summer!



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.

Economic Impact Study of the Minnesota Farmed Cervidae Industry Needed!!!

If there was anything to be learned in this most recent legislative session, the Minnesota farmed cervidae industry found that a statewide farmed cervidae economic impact study is of utmost importance to all producers!

As the fallout from the finding of CWD in a wild whitetail in southeastern Minnesota filtered on into the state legislature, there were many comparisons made between the value of Minnesota's deer hunting industry and the farmed cervidae industry. Many opponents suggested to the general public and legislators that the Minnesota farmed industry was not worth having in Minnesota because it added little value compared to deer hunting revenue. Of course, the industry believes that is completely untrue, however the only valid numbers MnEBA could show were from an elk industry survey done in 2006 which was outdated and did not show the true value of the entire Minnesota farmed cervidae industry including farmed whitetails and other cervid species.

Both MnEBA and the Minnesota Deer Breeders Association (MnDBA) feel it is of utmost importance to conduct a survey of the entire Minnesota farmed cervidae industry. Plans are already underway. An economic impact questionnaire is currently being put together with input from both industries. This questionnaire will be sent to every farmed cervid producer in the state, all species included. An independent party has been commissioned to gather all the data, tabulate the results and compile a report. Individual data supplied on the survey will be completely confidential and will not be viewed by anyone within the industry or elsewhere. A final report will be made available in late 2011.

All producers can expect to receive this survey sometime in the next few weeks. Please, please, please take the time to complete the survey and return it to the address indicated on the form. The industry needs to prove to opponents, the media and legislators that the farmed cervid industry is a valuable asset to the Minnesota economy. Having this data in hand will be the greatest weapon we can possess in standing up for the farmed cervid industry in Minnesota.

Be watching for the survey to hit your mailbox sometime in the next few weeks!

Velvet Update by Brian Wagner & Scott Groen

The time is here and velvet cutting is well underway. This year looks to be very positive as we feel the price still should be stable to last year. And we have had a lot of calls about when to cut some bulls. It is nice to see producers taking velvet cutting serious again and trying to do a quality job on cutting antler. If in doubt, cut antler early to ensure top dollar.

Don't forget about cutting your spikers. They should be cut at about 8-10 inch sticks depending on antler diameter and some of them can usually be cut 2 or 3 times.

If you have any questions on when to cut, or on handling or freezing of the antler, make sure to give one of us a call.

We would like to thank everyone who sold antler in the early lot, and look forward to working with you all this season.

Scott Groen 320-979-0911

Brian Wagner 612-366-5078

Market Updates by Scott Salonek

VELVET

Velvet season is here and prices for the year will not be less than last year according to the buyers I have worked with for the last few years. The question on cutting or not is very simple; velvet is no different than corn or any other grain, you grow it and to get the best return possible, it must be harvested. All two, three and some four year olds need to be cut to get the best money they can return, it is just that simple. Yes, it will require you to run them through and store the velvet after it is off their head, but to cut hard antler for one third the money takes time and effort also.

New Zealand prices were steady to two to three dollars higher than last year. It's too early to say if this will mean we can see the extra couple bucks but knowing a 25 pound bull will give \$500 makes it easier to plan on what to do with him. He may be a four year old that you want to keep for an extra year hoping he will be over 400 as a five year old. Well the \$500 will feed him for the year and at least holding that bull will not cost money to gain the inches for 2012.

If we as producers cut just like last year, same 45,000-55,000 pounds, we have the buyer interest and we also do not over-supply the shooter market. I also would not cut extra early because the buyers are currently not willing to pay that extra \$5-\$10 per pound to make up the weight loss. If this is what a buyer wants, he best be willing to sign a contract early and put some money down on that type of order also.

There will be a velvet collection at Larry Gerdes home in Bay City, WI on July 30-31, 8 AM start, payment in full on collection day. If you can, call to let us know you plan to come and get a current price. Larry (715) 594-3534 or Scott (612) 850-8684.

SHOOTER BULLS

Shooter bull market seems to be better than last year, requests for bulls are earlier and prices will be \$500 per bull higher as long as we maintain that 50,000 pounds of velvet to keep the surplus bulls off the shooter market. A good rule here would be 2-4 velvet, older than four send to the hunt market unless you have a bull that will velvet over twenty five pounds and you want to hold him for your own reasons.

MEAT

The meat market has been growing at a record rate; most two year old bulls will generate \$1,000-\$1,200 on meat alone. If you have a 5-6 pound velveting two year old, it will not be worth you holding him to see if he is a good shooter at four or five. The extra \$1,000-\$1,500 in feed will just not work out unless that bull brings in \$3,000 plus as a four or five year old.

Every female old enough to breed has to produce a calf or you just cannot keep her on the farm. The only exception would be a very good cow that just for some reason skips just one year. I recently spoke with a producer that said they thought about just shooting all the heifer calves at birth to keep the herd size down. (Why on earth feed the cow all year to shoot the calf?) First off, the heifer should genetically be better than mom or your breeding program needs work. If not, feed that heifer for 18 months and get \$550-\$600 for it in the meat market and not take a complete zero return on the cow for that year. I know of very few grain producers that would plant a crop and just leave it in the field for zero return. Elk velvet and meat are no different than corn or beans; produce it and sell it.

Elk Marketing will be airing a show on the Home Shopping Channel and Military Shopping Channel in June. The need for meat animals will be very vital to help supply this market. Please call the office at (763) 428-8561 for current contract prices on animals. An email update will be sent as to show dates and times if those that have cable or a dish provider wish the view the show.

NAEBA's 21st Anniversary Annual Conference & International Antler Competition August 4 – 6, 2011



Ramada Hotel & 5 Sullivan Brothers Convention Center ~ Waterloo, Iowa

The North American Elk Breeders Association (NAEBA) is pleased to invite all elk producers to attend NAEBA's 21st Annual Conference and International Antler Competition on August 4-6, 2011. This year's convention will be held in the beautiful city of Waterloo, IA which is located on the banks of the Cedar River in Northeast Iowa. Waterloo is located only 200 miles from Minneapolis!

The schedule is close to completion and promises to be one of the best conventions ever! The theme of this year's convention is "Now is the Time." As the meat and hard antler markets are stronger than ever, velvet stays stable, and prices and interest in shooter bulls are predicted to be higher than last year, now is the time to make sure all producers are making the most of these opportunities. This year's seminars will be geared towards meat and antler markets as well as making sure all females on our operations are being successfully bred. The live comedy of Roger Radley as well as key note speaker Tom Remington will allow everyone to enjoy some evening fun!

Make plans to bring your entire family, Waterloo has something for everyone! One of their signature attractions is the John Deere Waterloo Operations which includes six manufacturing locations. Tours are available and are extremely interesting! Other attractions offer unique night life destinations including Roux Orleans, Bourre Lounge and Galleria de Paco, downtown shopping specialty shops within walking distance of the hotel or for those who like casinos, there's the new Isle Casino! For the kids, Waterloo boasts the largest outdoor water park in Iowa, Lost Island Water Park as well as the new Phelps Youth Pavilion. Waterloo has a rich river history with an extensive number of historical museums and sites to visit. Plan to spend time before or after the convention to take advantage of these fun, summer opportunities! See www.travelwaterloo.com for more information.

International Antler Competition

Again this year, there will be no regional antler competitions, just the International Antler Competition. Antler registration fees are very affordable at only \$25 per set! Bulls entered into the competition must be Gold or Silver registered and a copy of their registration papers must be included with the application.

Even if you're not able to attend the convention, you can still send your antler to the competition with someone who is attending. Just make sure to fill out and sign the application form (find one at www.naelk.org), and send along a copy of the gold or silver registration form and payment of \$25 per set.

There are sure to be many surprises at this year's competition, no bulls will have been officially scored as of yet. How many new exciting bulls will be discovered? How will past winners fare? If you're serious about improving your genetics, you will want to be there!

Make sure to return your conference registration form and payment before July 1st to save on registration fees!

For more information, contact Brenda Hartkopf, Convention Coordinator at 320-543-2686 or the NAEBA Office, Eric or Kim Mohlman at 402-756-3355. Hope to see you there!!!

**21st Annual North American Elk Breeder's Association
INTERNATIONAL ANTLER COMPETITION & ANNUAL CONVENTION
August 4-6, 2011 ~ Ramada Hotel ~ Waterloo, Iowa**

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.*)

	Until July 1	After July 1	
Single	\$175	\$200	\$ _____
Couple	\$325	\$375	\$ _____
Day Pass	\$75	\$100	\$ _____
Child (7-18)	\$25	\$50	\$ _____
Child (6 & under)	Free	Free	\$ _____

Exhibitor Booth Registration (*Includes 10'x10' area, one 8' skirted table and two chairs*)

- Royal Exhibitor (*single booth and 1 full registration pass*) \$300 \$ _____
 - Imperial Exhibitor (*single booth and 2 full registration passes*) \$450 \$ _____
 - Monarch Exhibitor (*double booth and 2 full registration passes*) \$600 \$ _____
- PLUS choice of premier exhibit booth location*

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 which 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(s) below to ensure your donation is included in the onsite conference program. The committee will decide whether the donations will appear in the LIVE or SILENT auction. Item description(s) _____

Sponsorship

To call attention to your company in a big way, several opportunities to sponsor convention events are being offered. **As an added bonus, anyone donating \$1,000 cash or more will receive a FREE convention pass!** Remember, ADVERTISING DOESN'T COST – IT PAYS!

- Trophy (1st, 2nd, 3rd) – \$75/each (*designate classes* _____) \$ _____
- Coffee Break – \$400 \$ _____
- Entertainment – \$1,500 (*includes (2) complimentary convention passes PLUS reserved banquet table*) \$ _____
- Evening Banquet – \$3,000 (*includes (3) complimentary convention passes free Royal booth, PLUS reserved banquet table*) \$ _____

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Hotel Information

Ramada Hotel Waterloo – Reservations 319-233-7560, ask for NAEBA's special conference rate of \$79.95 per night. Room block deadline – **July 20, 2011**

Payment – USD Funds

Circle one: Check Visa/Mastercard Discover American Express
 Check number: _____ Credit card number: _____ Three Digit Security Code _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____
 Card Holder Signature _____

Please remit registration and payment to:
NAEBA, 4985 West Blue Hill Road, Ayr, NE 68925
(402) 756-3355 * (402) 756-4356 Fax

CONTACTS: Brenda Hartkopf, Convention Coordinator (320) 543-2686 or
 Eric or Kim Mohlman at the NAEBA Office (402) 756-3355

**Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH)
Farmed Cervidae Advisory Committee
March 28, 2011
Meeting Minutes**

The Board of Animal Health (BAH) Advisory Committee on Farmed Cervidae met on March 28, 2011 at the Freeman Office Building in St. Paul, MN.

In Attendance

Paul Anderson, Bethanie Park, Carissa Allen, Carl Denkinger, Malissa Fritz, Mike Fier, Mike DonCarlos, Lou Cornicelli, Daryl Simon, Glenn Zebarth, Kaye Zebarth, Brenda Hartkopf, Jim Byrne, Brian Wagner, John Beem, Julie Getschmann, Mike Getschmann, Rich Meech, Mark Lucas, Jim Rassmussen, Mark Johnson, Mike Wock, Lynne Osterman, Stacy Holzbauer.

Introductions

Members and visitors introduced themselves and talked briefly about their involvement and interest in the Farmed Cervidae industry.

Welcome and Meeting Goals

Paul Anderson went over the meeting agenda and goals. These included completing an approved exclusion fencing plan for premises in the chronic wasting disease (CWD) endemic area. Additional goals include, finding a consensus on a timeline extension for completing exclusion fencing, discussing options for the MN Zoo to obtain cervidae species such as moose and pudu, and reviewing the draft farmed cervidae rules. Paul asked if there was anything to add to the agenda and it was suggested that the group address the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) plans for carcass movement and CWD testing near the endemic area during the fall hunting season.

CWD Endemic Area – fencing plans

Paul Anderson reported that it appears that electric wire exclusion fencing plans are not going to work. He said that double fencing and solid barrier fencing are still acceptable options. Paul thanked Jim and Eileen Byrne for their time and hospitality during this process and then went over the current draft of their exclusion fencing prototype.

A prototype double fence design was approved by the committee and signed by

both Bill Hartmann of BAH and Mike DonCarlos of the DNR as an acceptable structure for preventing direct contact of farmed and wild cervidae (attached). All attendees were given copies of the signed plan.

The prototype fence plan consists of a secondary fence on the outside of the existing 8 foot fence that is 4' high welded wire having openings of 2"x4", set no more than 6 inches from the ground giving it a final height of 4'6". The welded wire is attached to the existing posts making the distance between the fences 11 to 18". Spacers are placed between the posts, no more than 8' apart, to maintain that distance. Possibilities for variations in this design were brought up by several members. Paul Anderson stated that this one plan is approved as is, but other plans may be brought forth for approval as well. Jim said the design costs approximately 60 cents per linear foot. Brian Wagner offered to help get fencing material at a reduced cost if enough people could put a large order together.

CWD Endemic Area – fencing completion date

Paul Anderson led the discussion on what timeline we should expect fences to be finished and asked if it should be extended to 180 days, or longer. Time needed to construct the fencing, time of year and results of wild deer CWD surveys were all considered. It was brought up that if CWD positive wild deer are found it would likely be in the middle of winter. However, the newly approved fencing plan does not require digging posts. There were concerns that too long of a timeframe would be perceived negatively by the public and reduce the confidence of producers (potential buyers) outside the endemic area. Members stressed the need to have a distinct timeframe that is set and cannot be extended.

The committee agreed that 180 days was reasonable and the draft rules would be amended to reflect this. In the current CWD endemic area, producers will now have until

July 21, 2011 to complete exclusion fencing projects.

DNR Update

Lou Cornicelli gave an update on the wild deer CWD surveillance being conducted in the endemic area. He said that sharp shooting would end Friday, April 1st. Lou indicated they will end up with around 1100 deer sampled, 750 of those being adults. Although they did not meet the goal of 900 adults, all tests so far were negative and even with a sample of 700 negative adults, that gives a 99% confidence of finding the disease at 0.7% prevalence.

Plans for the 2011 hunting season had not been officially put in place yet, but there are most likely going to be restrictions on carcass movement out of the DNR established CWD zone. Testing for CWD may be mandatory, but that decision had not yet been made. Although movement restrictions may be hard to enforce, the DNR expects most hunters to cooperate and may set a goal of testing 900 adults again this fall.

Paul Anderson encouraged the DNR to let BAH know if there was anything their staff could do to help with the fall surveillance efforts.

Importation of Cervidae for Zoo Exhibits

Paul Anderson led the discussion on the options for zoos obtaining cervidae species that are difficult to acquire while still meeting the current import requirements. Members agreed that the current importation statutes are clear for CWD surveillance requirements. The majority of attendees agreed that opening up the statutes for revisions at this time would make the industry vulnerable to unfavorable changes in other areas of the statutes. Paul asked the group if we really wanted to make such exemptions and many expressed concerns that it may lead to even more exceptions. It was agreed that if the zoo happened to bring in a positive CWD animal, it would negatively affect the MN farmed cervidae industry.

Paul asked if the group could think of other ways for obtaining animals that did meet the current import requirements. Several suggestions were brought forth including finding another facility within the source state/

country that could hold the animal until it can meet the requirements, looking at excluding certain species from the state's regulated cervidae list, and exploring whether or not a certain state/ province/ country could be considered CWD free. A couple of members also offered assistance with contacts in other states that breed more exotic cervidae species.

Paul suggested we table the issue and keep it in mind until our next meeting.

Farmed Cervidae Draft Rules

Paul Anderson went over the current draft of the farmed cervidae rules, pointing out significant changes. He expressed that ample time will be given for all interested parties to comment. He first discussed the official ear tag requirement. Many members expressed that metal USDA tags were not a good choice as they have low retention rates and new laws allowing distribution directly to producers may decrease reliable traceability. Producer tags with a MN premises number as well as RFID tags were preferred alternatives.

Paul went on to state further rule changes including requiring physical inventory upon request, keeping records for 10 years, testing animals over 12 months of age for CWD, reporting deaths and additions, and determining new herd statuses. He stated that intrastate movements would only be allowed to and from farms that have at least a level 4 CWD status and expressed that all but 29 herds are at least a level 4. Paul indicated that import requirements would change to a minimum of 5 years of CWD surveillance and allow for tuberculosis and brucellosis testing exemptions for animals going directly to a state or federally inspected slaughter plant.

Concerns were expressed over the selling of cervidae at exotic sales, citing the need for regulation. Paul stated that the sales are already required to record all animal sources and destinations.

Several producers stated that they would like to have some system in place to track the start time of double fencing being in place on premises outside the endemic area. Paul indicated that it would be possible for BAH staff to inspect and document double fencing upon request.

MnEBA Officer Blog by Mark Lucas, MnEBA Vice President

Good Day Members of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Assn:

Brenda kindly asked if I would be willing to put together a little write-up for this month's newsletter. Since I have a hard time telling Brenda no, here I sit, trying to decide what I have to say that would be of interest to the membership. First off, I want to compliment Brenda Hartkopf for putting this newsletter together. Even after 13 years in the business, the MnEBA newsletter is one of my favorite reads. It is a great way to keep up on government issues, industry trends, and most importantly, animal husbandry and nutrition. I learn more here in this newsletter about the business of elk than anywhere else. So here goes my attempt at a contribution to this fine publication.

My name is Mark Lucas and I am Vice President of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association. I live near Hamburg, MN on a 25 acre farm with my wife of 22 years, Michelle, and our 17 year old son Joey. Our elk operation is a joint effort with our business partners Dennis and Ann Goebel who live near Delano. The name of our elk business is Misery Creek Elk named after a drainage ditch that runs along our property. We have had elk for around 13 years, starting with 5 heifers we bought from Dale and Lucile Michel near Rochester. We now have 27 elk, down from a high of 72 a few years back. We have gone from more of a high elk quantity vision to a high elk quality one. Over the past couple years we have culled down the herd sharply and bred up our genetics so that most cows have a couple generations of 470 plus on both sides of their pedigree. I'll let you know in about 5 years if it was worth it, but that's where we are at today.

Since calving season is about here, I thought it might be of interest to talk a bit about the experiences we have had with calving. Over the years, there have been a few mistakes that were both financially and emotionally expensive on the farm. The very first one that comes to mind is feeding our first 5 bred heifers way to well. Those girls looked like beef cows from a distance and I was sure proud of the condition they were in. Come spring, we were pulling calves because the heifers were too fat causing huge calves and fat filled pelvic areas. We had no live calves that year. We were very disappointed to say the least. Since then the bred cows go on a grass hay diet around Christmas with just minerals to supplement. Since then we have not had to pull a calf. I share stories like this about what I have learned with new folks interested in the business. The hope is that they will benefit from it and have a better experience raising elk.

Overall, my experience has been that elk are the most disease resistant, healthy animals I have ever been around. But then again, on my home farm we had mainly sheep and horses, two species that seem to look for ways to die. I recently had someone ask what I do to ensure healthy calves. The answer to that question has evolved over the years. There was a stretch of two or three years where we lost a calf each year due to scours. Typically this happened in the fall after weaning when the stress level goes up. Since then we have adopted the following calving protocol and have not had any issues since.

To help prevent scours we vaccinate the cows prior to calving with ScourGuard. It seems like spring gets pretty busy so I do not always get that done. This is not a big deal since this can also be given orally at birth. So here is what all I do with a newborn calf in its first 24 hours if possible.

- ✓ First, I spray the navel with iodine to prevent infection and also check the sex of the calf.
- ✓ Next, I give an oral probiotic paste in the corner of the calf's mouth to make sure they have the right bacteria to get the stomach going. If I didn't get the cows vaccinated with ScourGuard prior to calving, I give an oral substitute to the calf.
- ✓ As a preventative, I also give a shot of vitamin B, vitamin A+C combination and a shot of BO-SE which is suggested in our area due to selenium deficient soils.
- ✓ The very last thing I do is to put in the ear tags since sometimes the calf will let out a squeak that brings mom running. I also wear a pair of surgical gloves when handling the calves to pass along as little of my scent on the calf as possible. Although I have never had it happen, I have heard that the possibility of a cow abandoning a calf is greater if they smell a lot of human scent on it.

Sounds like a bunch to do, but since you're probably tagging the calf anyway all this only takes a few extra minutes and a few dollars more per calf. I would suggest talking to a vet and see if there is something different the dairy and beef guys in your area are vaccinating for since all areas are not the same. This is the same regimen that some dairy guys in my area have been following with good results on the calves. For me, this little extra effort has paid off greatly and I will continue to follow it this year.

I hope you found this rambling on about elk of use or at least interesting. If so I have accomplished my goal. Take care and have safe spring calving and velveting.

Mark Lucas, Misery Creek Elk

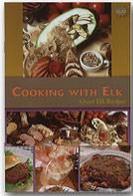
MnEBA Promotional Materials

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

Now Available!

No CWD positive deer detected during sampling effort

As found at the Minnesota DNR web site at www.dnr.state.mn.us

April 7, 2011 -- Winter sampling is complete in southeastern Minnesota and none of 1,180 deer taken during the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) disease surveillance effort tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

"We looked hard and found nothing," said Lou Cornicelli, DNR big game coordinator. "This suggests the infection rate is low, which is very good news."

Landowners and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) sharpshooters took 752 yearling or older deer during the sampling. The DNR also tested 87 deer that died from vehicle collisions or other means.

The DNR initiated sharpshooting this winter following the discovery of a CWD-positive deer in November in the Pine Island area. Shooting permits for 315 landowners expired Feb. 28. USDA sharpshooting ended April 1. All laboratory tests were completed Wednesday, April 6. Most landowners kept the deer they shot. Deer taken by sharpshooters were donated to individuals who signed up to receive them.

Cornicelli praised local landowners for their cooperation in the surveillance effort. "They opened their lands. They shot deer. They helped in so many ways. We thank them for that and look forward to working with them in the future," he said.

All sampling efforts took place within a 10-mile radius of where an archery hunter harvested the a CWD-positive deer in November. Thus far, it is the only wild deer to test positive for CWD in Minnesota.

Cornicelli said the removal of more than a thousand deer from the Pine Island area will minimize the potential for the disease to spread from animal to animal.

With the winter surveillance period over, DNR will begin planning for changes to this fall's deer season in the area. Those plans will be announced later this spring but hunters can expect a new CWD management zone, mandatory sample submission, carcass transport restrictions, liberalized seasons and increased bag limits.

Details of these changes and other CWD information will be posted on the DNR's website at www.dnr.state.mn.us.

CWD is a fatal animal brain disease. The National Center for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) have found no scientific evidence that the disease presents a health risk to humans. The disease is found in 14 other states and two Canadian provinces, including Wisconsin, North Dakota and South Dakota.



VALLEY SPRINGS CUSTOM FREEZE DRYING, after several years of operation has decided to sell the business, it has been sold to Bill & Karen Knutson.

As of Jan. 1, 2011, it will be known as SPRING COULEE CUSTOM FREEZE DRYING, with all operations continuing the same great service and commitment as in the past. Bill & Karen would like to thank Larry for this Business opportunity and for sharing his experience and expertise.

You can contact
SPRING COULEE CUSTOM FREEZE DRYING
at 608-526-4477 or
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FOR ALL YOUR DRYING NEEDS!

We look forward to working with you in the future!

MnEBA Kitchen

Here's a great casserole for those hardworking, busy days on the farm when everyone needs something tasty and filling to eat!

Supper Popover

1 lb. ground elk burger
 ¼ cup chopped onion
 15 oz. can tomato sauce
 ¼ cup chopped green pepper
 2 Tbsp. flour
 ½ tsp. salt
 ½ tsp. pepper
 1 tsp. parsley flakes

½ tsp. barbeque spice (optional)
 1 tsp. mustard
 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
 2 eggs
 1 cup milk
 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
 1 cup flour
 ½ tsp. salt



Heat oven to 425 degrees. Cook and stir ground elk and onion until browned. Stir in tomato sauce, green pepper, 2 Tbsp. flour, ½ tsp. salt, pepper, parsley flakes, barbeque spice and mustard. Heat to boiling. Boil and stir 1 minute. Pour into 9x13" ungreased casserole dish. Sprinkle cheese on top.

Beat eggs, milk, oil, 1 cup flour and ½ tsp. salt with hand beater; pour over cheese. Bake until puffy and golden brown, 25-30 minutes.

2011 Minnesota State Fair Schedule



Thank you to all who have already signed up to work the 2011 MN State Fair! The Minnesota State Fair schedule to date is shown below; there are many time slots still open. Any and all help, for any amount of time, is greatly welcomed!

Elk sausage, sticks and jerky will once again be sold along with something new, Elk Antler Dog Chews! These were requested by many attendees at the Fair last year and MnEBA is excited to now offer something new to fairgoers!

Working the State Fair booth has become a tradition for many MnEBA families. There are interesting things to do at the Fair for the entire family! Make the State Fair one of your family traditions. If you've never worked the booth, sign up to work with someone already on the list or take an open slot. Or, consider bringing a friend to work with you. Contact Morrie Evenson at (320) 212-1479 or Daphne Evenson at (320) 894-2304 to sign up.

Date	Time	Workers	Date	Time	Workers
Pre-Fair		Set Up – Paul Hueg Family OPEN for additional volunteers	8/31	8 – 2	Norman Schimmelpfennig
8/25	8 - 2	Morrie & Daphne Evenson & friends		2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	Glen & Kaye Zebarth	9/1	8 – 2	Jim Byrne
8/26	8 – 2	Aase Family		2 - 9	Jim Byrne
	2 – 9	Aase Family	9/2	8 – 2	Jim Byrne / Martin Zacharias
8/27	8 – 2	Ike Pohlman;		2 - 9	Jim Byrne
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/3	8 – 2	OPEN
8/28	8 – 2	OPEN		2 – 9	Prodzinski Family
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/4	8 – 2	Prodzinski Family
8/29	8 – 2	OPEN		2 - 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/5	8 – 2	Larry Gerdes & Greg Lubinski
8/30	8 – 2	OPEN		2 – 9	Paul & Lynn Hueg
	2 – 9	OPEN			

Three Sponsorships Still Available for the 2011 MnEBA Gun Calendar Raffle



MnEBA members still have an opportunity to sponsor a month in the gun raffle calendar. Sponsorship applications went out with the April 1st newsletter and three sponsorships remain open. Calendars will be made ready for the July 30th MnEBA Summer Picnic in Pine Island. Therefore, time is of the essence! All months of the calendar must have a sponsor, pictures need to be submitted and all items must get the printer in order to meet this deadline. Sponsorship is easy! All that's needed is a picture from your farm, a business card (or business card info) and payment. This is a great way to advertise your special bull or other elk from your farm to hundreds of people for an entire calendar month! Please consider sponsoring a month in the calendar to help fill the remaining months.

Don't forget about the special bonus opportunity for advertisers! Everyone who sponsors a month in the calendar will have their name put into a drawing for a significant cash bonus! The only other way to get your name in this special bonus drawing is to sell 10 calendars. For each 10 calendars sold by any one individual, their name will also be entered into the bonus drawing. For example, if a person would sell 50 calendars, their name would go into the drawing five times. Who couldn't use some extra cash?

Pictures Needed! Most producers who have paid for their calendar sponsorship have not yet submitted their pictures. These are needed ASAP! Please forward them to the MnEBA Office as soon as possible.

Remember, picture quality is of utmost importance. Electronic pictures work the best, higher pixels are better. Hard copy photos do not enlarge well, but a high quality full size 8½ "x11" hard copy photo will work just fine.

This calendar will be similar to last year's calendar with a few enhancements made to the calendar months themselves.

Please forward any questions or comments to the MnEBA Office at

320-543-2686 or info@mneba.org.

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MnEBA Summer Picnic

Saturday July 30, 2011

Byrne Farm, Jim & Eileen Byrne
11026 Co. Rd 113 NW, Pine Island, MN

*Mark your calendars for a fun day of good eating,
socializing, touring and learning!*

Tentative Schedule

Noon	Potluck Meal – Sloppy joes, utensils and non-alcoholic beverages provided. Bring a dish to pass.
1:30 pm	MnEBA Summer Meeting
3:00 pm	Hospitality

Directions

From US-52, take exit toward Pine Island. Go through downtown to south end of town and turn right onto Co. Rd. 11 NW/N Main St. Take first left onto Co. Rd. 3 NW. Turn right onto Co. Rd. 5 NW. Take first left onto Co. Rd. 113 NW. The farm is about 1.5 miles up the road on the left.



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For more info

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

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Vet Corner by Glen Zearth, DVM

Lichens found to degrade chronic wasting's prions Deadly brain illness troubles Wisconsin's deer

By Lee Bergquist of the Journal Sentinel

May 17, 2011 – A laboratory study has found that lichens on Wisconsin's landscape break down the infectious proteins that are responsible for causing chronic wasting disease, or CWD - the devastating neurological disorder that was discovered in Wisconsin's wild deer population in 2002.

The study by researchers at a federal government animal health laboratory in Wisconsin showed that certain lichen organisms contain an enzyme that is capable of degrading prions.

Prions are an infectious agent responsible for causing CWD. They are notoriously difficult to destroy.

The study by scientists at the National Wildlife Health Center in Madison was published May 11 in the online scientific journal PLoS One.

"This work is exciting because there are so few agents that degrade prions and even fewer that could be used in the environment without causing harm," said co-author and lichenologist James P. Bennett in a statement released Tuesday.

His co-author, biologist Christopher J. Johnson, a prion researcher, said Bennett had urged him to look into lichens because of their ability to produce unique organic compounds that have antibiotic and antiviral properties.

Lichens are often mistaken for moss and are unusual in the plant world because they are a mix of fungi, algae and bacteria living together. Deer undoubtedly eat lichens while browsing for food. "We are constantly looking for something that might limit the spread of CWD," Johnson said of his federal laboratory, which is part of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Johnson had previously looked at the effect that certain minerals could have in the soil, because one theory holds that deer are exposed to the fatal disease by coming across prions on the ground.

In this study, Johnson and Bennett took extracts of three lichen species all present in Wisconsin and found they could degrade prions in infected hamsters, mice and deer.

The study also concluded that some lichens have the potential to attack the infectious agent on the landscape.

How this could potentially affect Wisconsin's problem with chronic wasting disease is unclear. Lichens might already be limiting the spread of the disease - or maybe not, Johnson said.

He said more research will help, but he suggested that a purified form of the lichens could be used in special circumstances such as in deer yards or deer farms where the disease is known to exist.

Another possibility: The enzymes could be used to disinfect hospitals. In 2009, the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics warned 53 patients that they could have been exposed to prions because the same instruments were used in surgery on a woman who died of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which is similar to the chronic wasting disease in deer.

Davin Lopez, chronic wasting disease coordinator for the DNR, is familiar with the two men's work and said it was part of a body of research into the role of prion-attacking enzymes.

"I have a lot of trouble seeing how lichens could be applicable on a widespread basis," Lopez said. He also was concerned that enzymes might have unintended consequences if they neutralized other helpful organisms in the environment.

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Thank you for your support!

Committee Reports

Legislative Update by Tony Kwilas

The 2011 Legislative session convened on January 4 with a Republican controlled legislature for the first time in 38 years. The Governor's office was occupied by a Democrat, Mark Dayton, for the first time since 1990. Additionally, of the 201 legislators in the House and Senate, 60 were elected for the first time. Many Capitol observers were predicting an interesting year in 2011.

There were a few issues and initiatives of interest to farmed cervidae industry this legislative session. With the discovery of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in southeastern Minnesota, informational meetings were held in St. Paul as well as in the southeast region of the state. Through the hard work of members of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association, many of the new legislators, committee chairman and other state officials were informed and educated on the farmed cervidae industry in the state. There was some possibility that legislation was going to be introduced regarding further regulation of the industry but in the end, there was no legislation proposed or introduced.

The legislature adjourned on the constitutionally required date of May 23rd without a balanced budget. The Governor vetoed 9 Omnibus Finance bills that fund state government agencies. This will require a special session to balance the budget, which as of today, no date has been set. There will be ongoing negotiations between legislative leaders and the Dayton Administration to avoid a government shutdown, which would occur on July 1 if no agreement is reached. One finance bill that was signed by the Governor was the Omnibus Agriculture Finance bill, which provided funding for the Department of Agriculture and the Board of Animal Health. During the special session, the State Government Finance bill will be one of the bills that we will be keeping an eye on. The original bill that was vetoed by the Governor included a 15% across the board state workforce reduction. It is still being negotiated to determine if this will also affect the cuts already signed into law in the Omnibus Agriculture Finance bill.

We will keep you updated as the negotiations between the Governor and the Legislature occur. Look for an increase in activity in late June as the negotiators try to reach an agreement to avoid a government shutdown that would occur on July 1.

As always, it is an honor and a pleasure to represent the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association at the Capitol during the 2011 legislative session. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 612-581-9253.

2012 MnEBA Annual Conference

The 2012 MnEBA Annual Conference will take place at the Crowne Plaza in Brooklyn Center, MN on January 6-7, 2012. The hotel is easy to find, located on I-694 with lots of things to do nearby for the family! The 2012 MnEBA Gun Raffle drawing will also take place at the end of the conference.

If you have any thoughts about seminar topics or other ideas for the conference, please contact the MnEBA Office at 320-543-2686 or info@mneba.org or Kaye Zebarth at 320-834-4064 or oakpoint@gctel.com.

MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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

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

Calendar of Events

July 30, 2011 – MnEBA Summer Picnic, Byrne Farm, Pine Island, MN

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

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

January 6 – 7, 2012 – MnEBA Annual Conference, Crowne Plaza, Brooklyn Center, MN

March 9 – 11, 2012 – Minnesota Deer Classic, State Fairgrounds Coliseum, St. Paul, MN

Classified Ads

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

Wanted: Looking for meat animals. Contact Don Kaplan at (507) 267-4054 or okaman@frontiernet.net.

For sale: Monty North Elk NZ Hydraulic squeeze chute \$1,500.00 OBO. Also hydraulic pump \$500.00 OBO. Mark Lucas, Hamburg, MN, (952) 215-1313.

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

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

For Sale: (2) Kiwi squeeze chutes. Call Larry Gerdes at 715-594-3534.

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

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

MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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