



Special Interest Articles:

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- Vet Corner
- Minnesota State Fair Sign-Up
- 2014 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar
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President's Message by Mark Lucas

It is a great time of year to be an elk farmer! We are finally getting rid of the snow and the pastures are greening up. Each day I look forward to going out and feeding the bulls to see how their velvet growth has progressed. I have not seen any actual studies or taken measurements on the growth, but I would swear they can put on over an inch some days. It may be the light or that I am more optimistic during warm weather, but I also think the antler grows more on hot sunny days. Hey, it works on plants! Then there is the daily question I ask myself, "Do I velvet or grow them out?" Since I love seeing the racks on them so much in the Fall and I only have a few bulls this year, I will likely let them grow. It sure would be nice to have a futures market for velvet antler where a producer could forward contract if the price was right. For now, we have to guess what prices we may get for velvet.

I do not have any calves yet, expecting the first ones around June 1st. One of the things I do not understand about baby calves is their desire to head for water when I go to tag them. Does anyone else experience this with calves or did I get into a bad bloodline that seems to think they are Olympic swimmers at one day old? Despite my best efforts to drain, fill and fence around water, there are always a few spots that have standing water in them in the spring. Two weeks ago I thought it was going to be great this year with no standing water anywhere in the pastures to interfere with my tagging efforts. Then the rains of last weekend came. Now each pen has at least one area big enough to get a calf and a 4 wheeler stuck in. Let's hope we get some sun soon to dry up the ponds so we do not have any calves doing the dead man's float this year. It has happened a couple times in the past and we are looking into fitting the calves with child sized life vests. But... that involves catching them to put on their new vests. It is still a plan in the works as you can tell.

Is demand for elk picking up? Although I have not heard of any confirmed sales on this year's calf crop, I did see one ad offering 2013 calves for sale at substantially higher prices than recent years. I hope that's a sign of what we continue to see. It appears that NAEBA is also having an elk auction with their August event in Sioux Falls, SD. Yet another good sign of demand and improving market conditions.

The CWD Standards Working Group met this last week, May 20th. I sincerely appreciate the time and efforts those deer and elk folks have put in on representing the cervid industry to try and get the standards right for the benefit of all of us. To make a long story short, it seems that the cervid industry reps are being given the run around by others on the group. They were given 60 days to come to a consensus of sorts before they are against a deadline set by the USDA. The two versions are miles apart from what I see and they keep stalling and postponing the meetings where the differences are supposed to be worked out. We are now more than 30 days toward the deadline. It seems like everyone but industry reps are hoping to run out of time so on the final day they can say well too bad we ran out of time to consider your requests for changes to the documents. Kind of sounds like government at work doesn't it? If it comes down to the wire, we may have to do the grass roots effort thing and bombard USDA with calls and emails to get our voice heard. Brenda will keep you posted on the progress and how to get involved if needed. This is important folks as it will set the tone on CWD standards for years to come.

President's Message Continued on Page 9...

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.

Market Watch

Velvet Buyers Guarded This Year

While last year was an unprecedented year in receiving a solid price and deposit for velvet at the beginning of cutting time, this year buyers do not appear to have the appetite to give out an early price. Producers are once again left to their own devices, looking for indicators and hoping for the best.

Indicators out of New Zealand continue to point towards stable to slightly better prices in 2013. As their velvet season wraps up, the April/May 2013 Deer Industry New Zealand Market Report for velvet states, "The larger exporters report that little velvet remains in the markets. Koreans appear to be buying velvet "as required" without significant stocks and the main buyers in both Korea and China are reported to have relatively empty freezers (for this time of year). It's a good sign when velvet has moved through the channel." There does not appear to be a world oversupply, another positive indicator.

We in Minnesota are extremely fortunate to have the main velvet contacts in the United States in our own back yard! For the most current information on velvet pricing, you are encouraged to contact the local buyers directly. They would include:

Scott Salonek – (612) 850-8684
Brian Wagner – (612) 366-5078
Scott Groen – (320) 979-0911

Also watch your email for further updates in the coming weeks!

Forage Options

Dealing with Expensive Hay and Lost Fields

Reports are coming in that many of the alfalfa fields in southeastern Minnesota have not wintered over well and are almost completely lost. Not sure how far reaching this is, but it is leading to more producers looking at other options for forage feeding. Here are some links for contacting forage experts to figure out options of what might work for you with the resources and land you have available.

University of Minnesota Extension:

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/ForageManagement/programteam.html>

Midwest Forage Association: www.midwestforage.org

Grazing Lands Conservation Association:

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/~media/Files/protecting/conservation/glcabrochure.ashx>
This association has mentors available all over the state of Minnesota which may be able to offer some good advice.

Also, with the current price of hay, this might be a year you want to fertilize your pastures to get the most production you can out of what you already own! Contact your local agronomist to get a soil sample taken before you fertilize to get the best benefit.

Board Meeting Minutes

March 30, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a board meeting at the home of Lance & Brenda Hartkopf on March 30, 2013. Mark Lucas, Jim Byrne, Brian Wagner, Wade Schimmelpfennig, Richard Zajac and Brenda Hartkopf were present.

Lucas called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. Lucas asked for additions or corrections to the February 2nd board meeting minutes. Byrne moved to accept the minutes, Zajac seconded, motion carried. Lucas then asked for additions or corrections to the February 26th phone conference minutes. Byrne moved to accept the minutes, Wagner seconded, motion carried.

Board reviewed the Treasurer's report, part of which took a closer look at the current membership numbers compared to 2012. Board directed Hartkopf to ask Tony Beckel for an invoice on the elk head mount he is making for the 2012 charitable elk hunt recipient so the books can be closed in a more timely manner on that budget item. Byrne moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Wagner seconded, motion carried.

Board went through the process of reviewing the entire MnEBA's Goal & Objectives document which was last partially completed in March of 2011.

Board reviewed discussion from a phone conference held on March 29th between Dr. Anderson, Dr. Hartmann, Eric Mohlman, Charly Seale, Kim Kafka, Brenda Hartkopf and the MnEBA board about the current status of the federal CWD rule and standards. Byrne moved to draft a letter to Dr. John Clifford requesting withdrawal of the federal

Program Standards. Zajac seconded, motion carried. Was decided to draft the letter but to hold off on sending it until further direction is given on the national level. Board will continue to better understand the federal CWD Rule before a determination will be made whether or not to ask for its withdrawal.

Board discussed status of DNR legislation to charge a civil penalty to farmed cervid producers for escapes. The proposed language was removed on the House side but still lingers on the Senate side in the form of a study on the issue to be conducted by the DNR and report back to the legislature in 2014. MnEBA's lobbyist is working to have the study language removed on the Senate side.

Hartkopf reported final plans are being made to hold the 2014 MnEBA Annual Conference in St. Cloud.

Hartkopf reported that Roger and Saichon Nietfeld have set the date of the MnEBA Summer Picnic for Saturday July 27th at their home.

Hartkopf reported that the revised Minnesota Board of Animal Health Rulebook is set to become official on April 2nd. The Notice of Adoption was officially published on March 25th.

Byrne motioned to adjourn, Schimmelpfennig seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

2013 MnEBA Summer Picnic

Saturday, July 27, 2013

Elk Forever Genetics, Roger & Saichon Nietfeld, Melrose, MN

Roger & Saichon have graciously volunteered to host this year's summer picnic at their farm near Melrose located in central Minnesota.

A Noon Potluck meal is being planned followed by a day of great visiting and the MnEBA summer membership meeting. Bring a dish to pass, beverages will be provided!

DIRECTIONS: 1 mile south of Greenwald on Hwy. 4, then 1 mile east on County 31. First place on the right. See you there!!!



Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

Goals & Objectives

Completed on March 30, 2013

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 annually
- C. Review mission statement
- D. Contact Minnesota Grown about strategic planning meeting in 2015

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 such as MN Deer Breeders Association, NADeFA, Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, and American Cervid Alliance

3. Member Communications

- A. General membership meetings
 - a. schedule open forum sessions
 - b. explore ways to increase attendance
- B. Increase member participation
 - a. explore methods to increase participation
- C. Maintain regular bi-monthly newsletter
 - a. increase advertising
 - b. encourage production of MnEBA News for other state organizations
- D. Increase Board and membership interaction

4. Position MN as the Leader in the Elk Industry

- A. Increase sales of promotional materials
 - a. NAEBA advertising and convention
 - b. Wapiti.net
- B. Encourage members to participate in the TB accreditation program
- C. Encourage member compliance with all state required regulations such as testing, fencing and escapes
- D. Promote Minnesota status as a leader in the industry
- E. Have representative on major national committees

5. Encourage and Support Development and Expansion of Elk Related Businesses and Markets

- A. Profile existing businesses in newsletter
- B. Continue officer blogs in newsletter
- C. Update resource list of agencies that aid new business and add to web site
- D. Continue educational programming at annual conference

- E. Update distributor and retail outlet lists on web site
- F. Increase vendor involvement in Association activities
- G. Encourage member participation in ag industry associations

6. Improve Outreach to the Public

- A. Continue presence at shows
 - a. State Fair
 - b. Deer Classic
- B. Seek new shows to become involved in
 - a. NADeFA
 - b. Explore MN Cooks at State Fair
 - 1. develop relationship with Minnesota chef
- C. Encourage utilization of booth and educational materials
 - a. members
 - b. educators
 - 1. explore development of educational curriculum
- D. Continue developing press releases
- E. Encourage members to join MN Grown program
- F. Increase awareness of elk products
 - a. explore advertising opportunities
 - b. increase number of members utilizing the MN Elk Trademark logo
 - c. increase association use of MN Elk Trademark logo
 - d. increase meat sales at MN State Fair
 - e. increase awareness of velvet antler for people and velvet antler & pet chews for pets
- G. Continue MN Charitable Elk Hunt
 - a. increase public awareness of this project
- H. Continue to update Ag Statistics or Economic Impact study on at least a 5 year cycle
 - a. continue to partner with other cervid organizations in Minnesota
 - b. continue to explore new study options
- I. Become involved with FFA Foundation Blue Jackets/Bright Future Campaign

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
 - c. have annual board discussion about ideas to increase membership
- B. Increase membership benefits
 - a. expand scholarship opportunities
 - b. highlight farms in newsletter

8. Web Site Enhancement

- A. Update MnEBA web site and make it mobile friendly
- B. Improve usage of "members only" section
- C. Expand consumer information section
- D. Expand product availability information
- E. Encourage development of member web sites
- F. Continue to build linked sites listing
- G. Explore involvement with Facebook and Twitter
- H. Increase number of banner ads

9. Budget

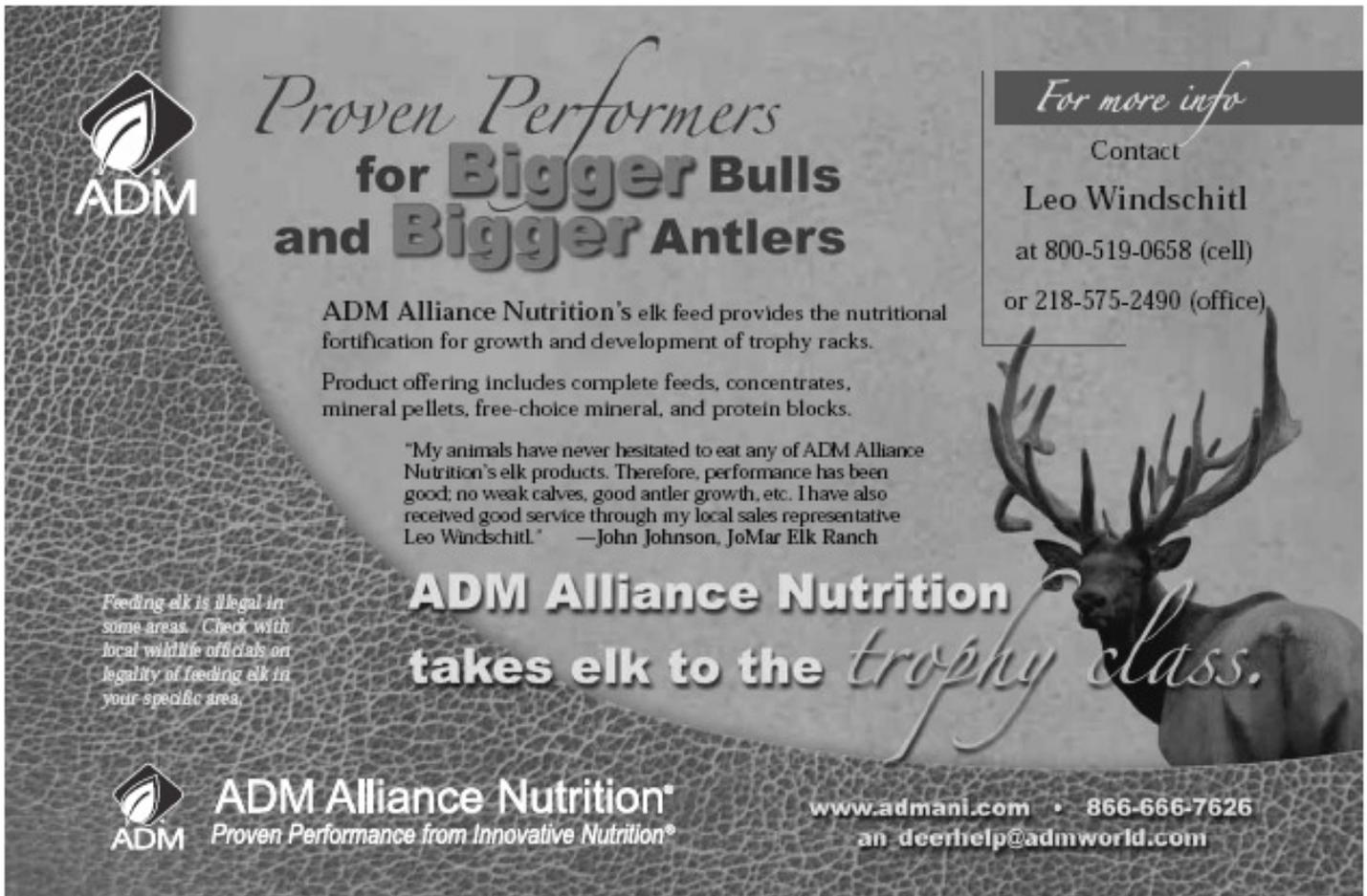
- A. Expand fundraising activities
- B. Continue to conduct annual audit
- C. Continue to promote promotional materials sales
- D. Continue MN Gun Calendar Raffle
 - a. increase membership involvement in sales
 - b. sell out of calendars
- E. Increase advertising income

THREE-YEAR GOALS

1. Review and update the Raise the Legend book as needed
2. Awards
 - a. continue "Media" award
 - b. develop "Restaurant of the Year" award
3. Increase membership by 5%
4. Encourage members to participate in:
 - a. committees
 - b. volunteers in Association booth
5. Have action plan in place to reduce overall testing of cervids (CWD, TB, Brucellosis)
6. Have action plan in place towards direct importation of velvet into Korea

FIVE-YEAR GOALS

1. Reverse trend from declining membership to gaining membership
2. Disease testing relief for all farmed cervids (CWD, TB, Brucellosis)
3. Have direct importation of North American velvet into Korea



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Minnesota
Board of Animal Health

Safeguarding Animal Health
www.bah.state.mn.us

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, April 8, 2013

Contact: Bethany Hahn, BAH Communications Director, 651-201-6830

New Board of Animal Health rules address needs of today *State will be better equipped to eradicate disease*

ST. PAUL, Minn – The Minnesota Board of Animal Health today announced that its new rules are now in effect. The Board has been working with livestock groups to adopt rules that allow the Board to control diseases and are sensible for Minnesota farmers.

“After four years of talking with stakeholders, we are pleased to have rules that address the topics facing livestock agriculture today,” said Dr. Bill Hartmann, state veterinarian and executive director of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health. “Thanks to the input of producers, the new rules will better equip us to do our job while making sure they can still do theirs.”

The new rules were drafted with animal traceability in mind. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) had been working to adopt a federal traceability rule for several years. The Board took a proactive approach to federal requirements and included language that enhances Minnesota’s ability to effectively trace livestock during disease events. An overhaul of the rules was also needed to eliminate outdated language, clarify the Board’s authorities, address current topics and consolidate rules into a new, easy-to-understand chapter.

Here are the most notable changes:

Cattle and bison: Breeding cattle, rodeo cattle and all cattle for exhibition must be officially identified upon movement from the herd to another location, with certain exceptions. Records of cattle movements into and out of herds must be kept on the farm for five years.

Swine: Swine moving within the state must be officially identified with certain exceptions.

Poultry: The *Salmonella typhimurium* import requirement for turkeys, poults and turkey hatching eggs has been removed. There will be mandatory permitting, inspections and testing at live bird markets. Rules relating to poultry community sales and exhibitions have been shortened and clarified.

Farmed deer and elk: All farmed deer and elk must be identified with an official eartag. Deer and elk that are 12 months of age and over that die or are slaughtered must be tested for chronic wasting disease.

The Board is offering free official eartags to veterinarians and cattle, bison and farmed cervidae producers as funding allows. Order tags online at www.mn.gov/bah or call 651-296-2942 for more information or to place an order.



News Release

www.mndnr.gov

No wild deer test positive for CWD

(Released April 15, 2013)

None of the more than 2,300 deer tested for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in three specific areas of Minnesota have tested positive for the disease.

Deer were tested in an area of southeastern Minnesota as part of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) ongoing CWD surveillance and disease management efforts in the Pine Island area. Deer also were tested as a precaution in east-central Minnesota because the disease was discovered in wild deer from nearby Wisconsin. Testing was done in the north metropolitan area because a captive European Red Deer herd in North Oaks tested positive for the disease.

Testing will continue in southeastern Minnesota and the north metropolitan area. Surveillance in deer permit areas 159, 183, 225 and St. Croix State Park will be discontinued.

“The results are encouraging in southeastern Minnesota,” said Michelle Carstensen, DNR wildlife health program director. “To date, the only CWD positive deer we’ve found is the one discovered from the 2010 hunting season that prompted our surveillance.”

In the southeast, 1,195 deer tested negative for the disease in the CWD management zone during 2012, marking the second consecutive year of no positives being detected. Deer tested were harvested during archery, firearm and muzzleloader seasons. “Cooperation from hunters has been outstanding”, said Erik Hildebrand, DNR wildlife health specialist. “There is a lot of support for ensuring Minnesota has a healthy deer herd in the southeast.”

A helicopter survey conducted in early March within the CWD management zone indicated the objective of reducing deer population density in deer permit area 602 has been met. As a result, the area will be designated as intensive rather than unlimited for this fall’s hunt, allowing hunters to harvest up to five deer.

“A shift away from unlimited antlerless harvest to an intensive designation reflects recent survey results but continues our focus on managing densities while the area is still under CWD surveillance,” said Leslie McInenly, DNR big game program coordinator.

In east-central Minnesota, 1,092 samples were collected during the opening weekend of the firearm deer season. In the north metro area, 180 deer that were killed by vehicles, removed through city deer reduction permits or harvested by archery hunters in the both Ramsey and Anoka counties were tested.

“The thousands of hunters who willingly donated a sample for the disease surveillance effort make these tests possible,” Carstensen said. “We appreciate hunter commitment to ensuring the health of Minnesota’s wild deer population and the help of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, both of which make DNR disease surveillance efforts much easier.”

MnEBA Officer Blog by Richard Zajac, MnEBA Director

Greetings,

On May 18th we woke to 1 inch of rain which we got overnight. Prior to that worked in the fields for five days. Planted the potatoes in the garden on May 11th in snow showers.

A late spring but antlers seem to be growing on schedule. No newborns yet; but getting close. Hopefully the velvet, hard horn and meat markets continue to hold steady or increase with the high cost of grain and hay. Just a reminder on annual inspections that the state vets and the board of animal health are there to help and assist us. Try to maintain a good working relationship with them; it will benefit all of us in the industry.

Went turkey hunting April 17th - 21st with two feet of snow on the ground. There were no mosquitoes, but quite challenging. Was successful with a 24# gobbler. It has been an interesting 2013 so far!

Rich

President's Message Continued...

If you have not had a chance to view the recent documentary by outdoorsman Keith Warren please take some time to do so. If you like what he has to say, forward the link to everyone else that may be interested, especially your State and Federal representatives with a short note asking them to please view it. I felt it does a fantastic job of showing how CWD has become a POLITICAL DISEASE and is far less about science, CWD or the animals themselves. Keith does a great job in my opinion and brings to light what we as elk producers have been dealing with for many years. It is time to let others see and understand the irony of two sets of rules, one for the cervid industry and one for wildlife agencies. The link follows:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_ltc3dNsPk&feature=youtu.be

I hope to see all of you at the MnEBA summer picnic on July 27th at the Nietfeld farm near Melrose. I really enjoy the summer picnic. It is always a good time to get together and chat with other elk minded people. If you have a friend or neighbor that is not a MnEBA member and owns elk, ask them to come along. It is a fun day and you just may inspire them to become a member.

Have a fun and safe calving and velvetting season!

Mark Lucas

Elk Bull Needed for 2013 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt

MnEBA is seeking an elk bull for the 2013 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt to be held at Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch in Baudette, MN later this Fall. The bull should measure 300"-350". This elk hunt will be awarded to a disabled Minnesota veteran of the United States armed forces.

This will mark the 7th year MnEBA has sponsored this hunt!

Please contact the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 or info@mneba.org if you can help!



Federal Program Standards Negotiations Given Sixty Day Extension

Standards Working Group to Conclude in June

May 2, 2013 – The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has granted the Federal CWD Standards Working Group sixty more days to suggest revisions to the standards document before it will be submitted for public comment. The decision came from USDA's Dr. John Clifford in Washington, DC last month.

The Standards Working Group first met in January and was given ninety days to negotiate and suggest changes to the CWD Program Standards. The Working Group has already exceeded the ninety days. The three cervid industry representatives – Eric Mohlman, Shawn Schafer and Charly Seale, have stated the industry needs more time to continue to address problematic language in the document. The additional sixty days will allow the group to continue its work.

Last month the ACA Council delivered a unanimous 24-0 vote to allow the standards negotiating process to continue as long as the Standards Working Group was willing to keep making changes. Although many industry leaders hoped the negotiation process would be open ended, the USDA said the process will be completed after sixty days, which started on April 22, 2013.

Over the last week, the Working Group's industry representatives, along with several state veterinarians, drafted an alternative document that reflects favorable industry changes. The suggested changes document will be presented to the other stakeholders of the working group, which includes representatives from APHIS, wildlife agencies, and NVSL, during the next meeting on May 6th. The industry representatives should have a clear indication if these suggested changes will be accepted by the other members of the working group by the conclusion of that meeting.

The ACA Council plans to convene later this month to assess the latest progress report of the Working Group negotiations. Twenty-nine deer and elk associations have now officially registered as council members to offer their membership's input to the council.

CWD Standards Working Group to Review Industry Standards

May 7, 2013 – The Standards Working Group met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday May 6, 2013. Last week, the Standards Working Group's industry representatives, along with several state veterinarians who are also on the CWD Working Group Committee, submitted an alternative document to the other stakeholders of the working group, which includes representatives from APHIS, wildlife agencies, and NVSL.

The alternative document reflects favorable industry changes, which strikes the detrimental requirements from the document. The alternative document also includes the new language stating the standards document is a guidance document only and is optional for states. During April's Washington, DC trip, USDA's Dr. John Clifford told two dozen cervid industry leaders the intention of the standards document was to be optional for states. However, the standards document in both its original form from July 2012 and the latest draft in the Working Group did not include the optional language but instead states it was the minimum standards for all states.

The majority of the time during the CWD Working Group meeting was spent asking the cervid industry representatives to explain their rationale for the suggested changes. USDA's Dr. Patty Klein said the group would need more time to closer examine the proposed changes of the alternative document. Dr. Klein asked the group not to meet next week and reconvene on May 20th to render the group's opinion of the proposed changes.

The Standards Working Group typically has met every Monday since its inception. It is unclear how many more meetings will be possible before the final sixty day negotiations period expires next month.

Federal CWD Rule/Program Standards Update

By Eric Mohlman, NAEBA Executive Director

May 20, 2013 – The Standards Working Group met today from 10:00 a.m. to Noon CST. Three weeks ago Industry along with State Vet reps had submitted a revised version of the Standards with changes agreed upon by those two groups through extensive discussions over a two week period. We are now about 30 days into Dr. Clifford's 60 day deadline and Dr. Patty Klein started today's meeting with the information that due to next Monday being Memorial Day and the following week she would be out of the office on Monday, could we wait until three weeks from today to hold our next discussion. A Fish & Game (F&G) rep said that due to the fact that we have become accustomed to having our meetings on Monday's we should just wait. An industry rep asked to reschedule for a different day the next two weeks because if we didn't meet for two weeks we would only have one week to finish before Dr. Clifford's deadline. It was agreed to hold meetings the next two weeks and continue working on this document.

The State Vet reps were asked if they had any additional input or comments, the only one to offer any was Dr. Schultz from PA. He thought that the Standards might be less than the rule and was concerned that it wouldn't adequately support the rule. He also had concerns about exemptions being made allowing exposed animals to move to hunt facilities in other states.

Today's meeting was for the most part Fish and Game reps responding to some of the changes proposed.

The most pointed discussion was pertaining to transiting across state lines of exposed herds. F&G reps voiced concern about moving exposed animals to hunt facilities in another state as an alternative way to depopulate those exposed herds. Extensive discussion was had on this topic but no consensus was reached. It was pointed out that the rule does allow for movement of exposed animals under permit for animals to slaughter, research or wild animals of low risk.

F&G reps brought up fencing and how according to at least one of them that whitetail deer are jumping over 8 foot fencing and that a recommendation to have 10 foot fencing shouldn't be removed. It was then discussed that in Industry and the State Vet's discussion and changes that anything that couldn't be supported by sound science should be removed and that the 10 foot fencing fell into that area.

Several other topics were brought up by F&G reps and discussed and we will have to see how they will shape some wording when Dr. Klein sends out the next version of the Standards later this week. Dr. Klein stated that many changes that were made to the Standards were contrary to rule language and that it would have to go back to previous language. An industry rep asked for Dr. Klein to cite or reference the rule language or section it comes from if changed back to previous language, Dr. Klein agreed to do so.

Dr. Klein is sending out a doodle poll this week to schedule the next two weeks meetings then we will go back to Mondays for the remainder of our time.

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In The News

Wisconsin Budget Committee OK's Elk Importation

By Chippewa Herald

May 15, 2013 – The Legislature's finance committee has approved a plan in Governor Scott Walker's budget that would relax Wisconsin's chronic wasting disease testing protocols and allow elk importation.

The Department of Natural Resources wants to bring more

elk into the state in hopes of launching a hunt. But state officials have outlawed importing elk unless the animals come from a herd verified as CWD-free for five years. The rule halted importation because no live CWD test exists.

Walker's budget would allow

importation if the DNR takes practical steps to ensure the animals' health.

The committee revised the budget to say state agriculture officials must take the steps to make sure the herd is healthy rather than the DNR and approved the rest of the language on a 12-4 vote.

Welcome New Members

***Sam & Corlene Hostetler**, Hostetler Wildlife Farms, 4858 Lawrence 1185, Miller, MO 65707, (417) 452-2402 (Office), (417) 848-7570 (Cell), (417) 452-2410 (Fax)

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Jay Pronschinske, Winona, Minn.

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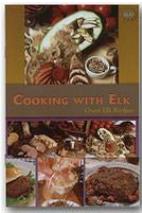
MnEBA Promotional Materials

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!

More 20th Anniversary MnEBA Memories

The North Central Antler Competition began in 1995 in Fargo, North Dakota. It was first held in Minnesota on July 25, 1997 in Alexandria with Mike Froseth as chairman. The event was later chaired by Kaye Zebarth. The last North Central Antler Competition took place on July 25, 2009 at the Shooting Star Casino Hotel Event Center in Mahanomen, MN.

CWD voluntary surveillance in Minnesota began in 1999 as requested by MnEBA. It became mandatory in 2004 along with annual farm inspections.

The first MnEBA web site went live in 1999.

Due to rapid growth in membership, MnEBA hired an Executive Secretary, Brenda Hartkopf in 1998.

After many years of research, the Elk Marketing Council began operations in 2004, providing a ready elk meat market for the industry.

MnEBA's highest membership number was 294 in 2001.

MnEBA joined the American Elk Products Board in 1998. Kevin Kruckeberg first represented MnEBA and in later years, Jim Byrne was MnEBA's representative.

MnEBA Kitchen

Here's a delicious way to prepare elk – seasoned pieces of elk tenderloin wrapped in bacon and grilled! Yum!!!

Bacon-Wrapped Elk Tenderloin

2 lbs. elk tenderloin, cut into 2 oz. pieces
1 Tbsp. liquid smoke flavoring
1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
½ tsp. garlic powder

½ tsp. onion powder
½ tsp. pepper
16 pieces thick cut bacon



Preheat an outdoor grill for medium heat. Season tenderloin pieces with liquid smoke and Worcestershire sauce. Sprinkle with garlic powder, onion powder and pepper. Wrap each piece of meat with a strip of bacon and place on a metal skewer.

Cook the elk on the preheated grill until the bacon becomes slightly burnt and the meat has cooked to medium-rare, 15-20 minutes.



2013 MnEBA Scholarship Awarded

Congratulations to Joseph Lucas, son of Mark & Michelle Lucas, Hamburg, MN, for being awarded the 2013 MnEBA Scholarship!

Joseph is a sophomore at South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota, majoring in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. He has been active in FFA, National Honor Society and 4-H, where he was President for two years.

Joseph would like to some day work for a state or federal agency as a wildlife biologist. He says, "I grew up loving the outdoors. Having a job where I can help preserve the outdoors for future generations would be a dream come true." MnEBA wishes Joseph all the best as he pursues his future goals!!!

ZEUS

3 year old Tequila son cut 20.08# at 2 in 2011 placing 2nd behind Styx.
2012 unofficially scored 497" at 3, with 46" inside and 68" outside spread.

416" Typical Frame, 106" & 107" of Typical Tines

Largest NAEBA Registered 3 Year Old Non-Typical Ever

Great tine length/placement, beam diameter, width and high scoring genetics.
How many bulls can cut world class velvet, score this high and be this wide at 3?

Pretty short list that can do all three—Zeus!

Shooter ranches love the bulls with big drops, Zeus has had them both years.

Excellent quality semen drawn by Dr. Martin Wenkoff in Canada and the U.S.



MOHLMAN ELK FARM

Eric, Kim, Chase, and Kyra Mohlman—402-469-1831

Ayr, Nebraska—mohlmnelk@gtmc.net

Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

Tuberculosis Blood Test Concerns

Recently, officials with the Minnesota Board of Animal Health have been contacting veterinarians around Minnesota to let them know of issues producers have been having with the new TB blood tests for cervids. They are seeing a much higher rate of false positive tests using the Cervid TB Stat-Pak® than USDA anticipated. What's more concerning is that too many of these false positives are staying positive on the second DPP® blood test therefore leaving officials no choice but to place a movement restriction on the animal until an investigation can be completed and disposition of the animal can be determined. There are currently 5 such cases in Minnesota alone and approximately 100 across the country. In Minnesota, 4 cases are in deer and 1 in elk.

The good news is that 11 such animals across the country have been euthanized and tested so far and have all come back negative for TB.

The current protocol requires an animal which has been blood tested the first time to be blood tested the second time, it cannot be skin tested. The same applies with the more traditional single cervical skin test, if it was tested this way the first time, it must be retested with the comparative cervical skin test.

The new blood tests are not thought to be bad tests, officials just need better ways of clearing an obviously negative animal on the second test.

Federal TB indemnity has been available to this point, but it is unknown how much longer the fund will last. Producers have been reimbursed up to \$3,000/animal.

The take home message is if you are needing to whole-herd test or conduct a TB test for movement, be aware that there are currently the above mentioned issues going on with the new blood tests. You may want to consider using the more traditional skin test until the blood test issues are resolved.

USDA to Revise National Scrapie Program

Excerpts from the Federal Register / Vol. 78, No. 86 / Friday May 3, 2013 / Notices – Scrapie is a degenerative and ultimately fatal disease affecting the central nervous systems of sheep and goats. It belongs to a group of diseases called transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE's). The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), administers a National Scrapie Eradication Program to eliminate classical scrapie from the United States called the Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP).

Surveillance and disease response activities are the most effective components of the scrapie program with regards to eradication. The ability to detect clinically healthy but infected animals and trace them back to their infected and source flocks has decreased scrapie prevalence by 85 percent, from 0.2 percent in 2002-2003 to less than 0.03 percent at the end of FY 2011.

The most effective activities include:

1. The Regulatory Scrapie Slaughter Surveillance Program (RSSS)
2. The distribution of free official eartags to sheep and goat producers
3. Compliance enforcement at animal concentration points
4. Disease investigations

The revised SFCP will eliminate the Complete Monitored category and allow producers to enter into a revised Selective Monitored or Export Monitored category. The revised Select Monitored category will no longer be subject to the annual inspection of all animals conducted by an APHIS or State representative under the former Selective Monitored category.

Note from Dr. Zebarth – *It is encouraging to see the National Scrapie Program have the success it has had in greatly reducing incidence of scrapie in sheep and goats. In addition to the national program, many producers are using genotyping to reduce a sheep flock's risk of infection which has contributed to the program's overall success. CWD is a different TSE, but it is good to know that at least in the case of Scrapie, much progress has been made towards eradication over the past 10 years.*

Aug. 22-Labor Day, Sept. 2, 2013

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

Your help is needed in the MnEBA booth!

It's time to be thinking about the Minnesota State Fair again! While it's only the beginning of summer, these next few weeks will fly by!

Below is the schedule to date. There are still lots of openings and opportunities for members to participate! This is an awesome opportunity for producers to tell their story to a very interested general public! Plus, the State Fair is a great place to explore before or after your shift, and the food, fabulous!!!

Even if you've never worked the MnEBA State Fair booth before, you are very much welcome to sign up! Morrie and Daphne will work to pair you up with someone who has worked before so you know what to do. Also, feel free to bring friends or other relatives to help out! If working with the general public is not your thing, help would also be appreciated for set up and take down!

MnEBA will be once again selling snack sticks, sausage and jerky along with elk antler dog chews. There will be no Minnesota Buffalo Association booth at the Fair this year so it will be interesting to see what their absence does to meat sales for MnEBA. There will be no spice sales out of the booth this year.

Many thanks to all who have already signed up! If you're ready to commit to a day at the State Fair, please contact Morrie or Daphne at (320) 354-5156 (home) or (320) 894-2304 (Daphne's cell).

Date	Time	Workers	Date	Time	Workers
Pre-Fair		Set Up – Evensons & friends OPEN for additional volunteers	8/28	8 – 2	Norman Schimmelpfennig
8/22	8 - 2	Morrie & Daphne Evenson & friends		2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	Glen & Kaye Zebarth	8/29	8 – 2	Jim Byrne
8/23	8 – 2	Aase Family		2 - 9	Jim Byrne
	2 – 9	Don & Joyce Kaplan	8/30	8 – 2	Jim Byrne
8/24	8 – 2	Don & Joyce Kaplan		2 - 9	Jim Byrne / Mark & Michelle Lucas
	2 – 9	Don & Joyce Kaplan	8/31	8 – 2	Prodzinski Family
8/25	8 – 2	OPEN		2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/1	8 – 2	OPEN
8/26	8 – 2	OPEN		2 - 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/2	8 – 2	Greg & Roxie Lubinski
8/27	8 – 2	OPEN		2 – 9	Paul & Lynn Hueg
	2 – 9	OPEN			

23rd Annual North American Elk Breeder's Association ANNUAL CONVENTION & INTERNATIONAL ANTLER COMPETITION

August 1-3, 2013 ~ Best Western Plus Ramkota ~ Sioux Falls, South Dakota

ATTENTION MnEBA Members!!! Make plans to attend!!! Sioux Falls, SD is only 10 miles from the Minnesota border near southwestern Minnesota!

SEE INSERT FOR DETAILS!!!

2014 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar

Three Sponsorships Still Needed!

Many thanks to all who have already pledged to sponsor a month in the 2014 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. Nine spots are full but we are still needing THREE more sponsors for this year's calendar!

Sponsorship is easy and a great value! All that's needed is a picture from your farm, business card (or business card info) and payment. Your picture and business card information will be displayed in a great variety of locations for a full calendar month to be viewed by countless number of people! Who doesn't love to stop and admire a great elk picture!!!

Most producers who have pledged 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.

Last year's calendar sales shattered any of the previous years by selling a record 718 of a total 750 calendars! Again this year, anyone selling 30 or more calendars and turning in those stubs and money by December 31st will receive a free 2014 MnEBA membership (up to a \$125 value)! There is no limit to the number of members who can receive this benefit except that the calendars could run out!!!

Calendars will be available at this year's summer picnic on July 27th in Melrose. They will also be available at the NAEBA Convention in Sioux Falls the following weekend or by contacting the MnEBA Office. Let's make this another record breaking year in sales!!!! Please forward your sponsorship pledge, questions or comments to the MnEBA Office at 320-543-2686 or info@mneba.org.

BLACK VELVET ELK RANCH



WANTED!

Hard Antler Bulls

Contact for more information:
Brian Wagner (612) 366-5078
Howard Lake, MN

Committee Reports

Legislative Update by *Tony Kwilas, MnEBA Lobbyist*

The 2013 Legislative session is officially over. The Legislature completed their work on Monday, May 20th at midnight, which was the constitutionally mandated deadline to finish. This was the first session since 1990 that all 3 bodies of government were controlled by the DFL. The major issues identified by the DFL in January were solving the \$627 million budget deficit and providing property tax relief. The tax bill raised \$2.1 billion, which was mainly from a new 4th tier income tax bracket, a \$1.60 per pack increase on cigarettes and new taxes on certain business to business transactions. The revenue was raised to pay off the deficit, provide over \$700 million to K-12 education and provide \$400 million in property tax relief. The legislature also passed 2 controversial issues dealing with same sex marriage and the unionization of day care providers. The key talking points are that they finished on time and they balanced the budget.

The Legislature additionally dealt with issues that were of concern to the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association. We were involved in making sure that the Department of Agriculture and the Board of Animal Health were fully funded in the Governor's budget request. Most importantly, we ensured that the language that was introduced by the Department of Natural Resources early in the legislative session dealing with escaped farmed cervids, was not included in any legislation at the Capitol. We thought that this issue would be better addressed at the Farmed Cervidae Advisory Committee. Thank you to all who helped assist in making sure your legislator was aware of our concerns.

It was an honor to represent the Minnesota Elk Breeders at the Capitol again in 2013. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 612-581-9253.

2014 MnEBA Annual Conference

The 2014 MnEBA Annual Conference will be held at the Best Western Plus Kelly Inn/River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, MN on January 10-11, 2014. Do you have any speaker and/or fundraising ideas? Contact Kaye Zearth at (320) 834-4064 or oakpoint@gctel.com, Rita Prodzinski at (507) 452-1282 or rprod@hotmail.com, or Brenda Hartkopf at (320) 543-2686 or info@mneba.org with your thoughts!

MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Annual Conference	Kaye Zearth (320) 834-4064
Nominating	Fred Neubert (320) 352-6733
Government Relations	Jim Byrne (507) 358-6505
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
State Fair	Morrie & Daphne Evenson (320) 354-5156
Fundraising	Brenda Hartkopf (320) 543-2686

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Black Velvet Elk Ranch

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Thank you for your support!

MnEBA Newsletter Advertising Rates

	Full Page	Half Page	Quarter Page	Business Card
1x	\$75	\$50	\$30	\$20
6x	\$400	\$300	\$180	\$120
Size	9 ¼ x 7 ¼	4 ½ x 7 ¼ or 9 ¼ x 3 ½	4 ½ x 3 ½	2 x 3 ½

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

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

Calendar of Events

July 27, 2013 – MnEBA Summer Picnic, Elk Forever Genetics, Roger & Saichon Nietfeld, Melrose, MN

August 1 – 3, 2013 – NAEBA Annual Convention & International Antler Competition, Best Western Plus Ramkota, Sioux Falls, SD

August 22 – September 2, 2013 – MN State Fair, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

January 10 – 11, 2014 – MnEBA Annual Conference, Best Western Plus Kelly Inn/Rivers Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud, MN

Classified Ads

For Sale: Elk Rite 2000 complete handling facility including five cubicles with sliding and swinging gates. Comes with manual squeeze and birthing extension. Many extras! \$12,000 for everything. Contact Stanley Bajdan, Wildrose, Wisconsin at (715) 281-8801 cell or (920) 622-5288 home.

For Sale: Distributor for Franklin Waterers, energy efficient PC & AP Models, also standard waterers. Rely on Franklin Waterers. Bale feeders available. Also 8 to 10 animals available for farm stock. Contact Jay at (507) 458-7970.

Wanted: Wolf Creek Elk Ranch is buying hard antler at \$8 per pound delivered to the ranch in Sturgeon Lake or to Wapiti Labs Inc. in Ham Lake. Must also include copy of CWD certification from the MN Board of Animal Health. Call Klint at (877) 497-9653.

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

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

Elk Hide Tanning: Elk hide tanning, \$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

9086 Keats Avenue SW
Howard Lake, MN 55349