



## Special Interest Articles:

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- 2015 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar
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- Minnesota State Fair
- Committee Reports

## President's Message by Mark Lucas



Good Day All,

The weather seems to be finally turning warmer! I actually broke a sweat yesterday afternoon doing some yard work. As one who usually doesn't like warm weather, it actually felt good to me this year. The pastures here in the southern end of the state are starting to really grow after a slow start. This is a good thing since I am about out of hay. In the past month we have had 10.5 inches of rain at our farm in southwest Carver County. So we should have a hay crop if it stops raining long enough to get the hay made in June. At this time the row crops are really hurting with maybe 20% of the corn planted in our area. The Prevented Planting programs might come into play if we keep catching showers. We'll just have to wait and see.

As most of you probably have already heard, the USDA issued the final version of the CWD Rule recently and about 10 days later issued the Final CWD Program Standards. Despite our industry's best efforts, the final version was pretty much unchanged from the proposed version. They made a few wording changes here and there, but materially it is unchanged. It is really disheartening when something like this can be so wrong and despite so much grass roots efforts to call attention and offer solutions to the issue, an entire industry gets ignored. To be honest, disheartening is not the correct wording to express how I and many feel about the USDA's actions on the CWD Standards. I am pretty sure Brenda would not go to print with this if I said how I really feel. I have no choice but to believe we can reverse the USDA's decision, but it is not going to be easy. We have tried to be rational and follow the proper protocol with public comments during the comment period. But, for each person involved in the cervid industry, there are three tree huggers voicing their opinion. They are vocal about their opinions from the sidelines and from the USDA's perspective, that's a wash with industry voices from within. But losing one battle does not mean you lost the war. We must keep up the pressure and have a game plan in hand. MnEBA is well represented as members of the ACA; a unified cervid organization that is weighing where to head from here. I want to thank each of you who took the time out of your busy schedules to send comments to the USDA during the comment period.

On a lighter note, as a member of the committee to work on the new MnEBA web site, I am very excited about what has been accomplished. The firm we are working with has taken what we had to say and came up with some very useful and exciting ideas. The web site function and design is taking a 30 year leap forward and tying it with social media. The project still has a ways to go, but I am sure you will love the changes. It promises to be user friendly and attract interest of potential buyers of our elk products.

Have a safe velveting and calving season!

Cordially;  
Mark Lucas, President, MnEBA

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

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## MnEBA

### Mission Statement

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

## Elk Market Reports

### Every Market is Up and Looks Promising

For 2014, raising elk shows a bright light at the end of the road. Every market is up and looks very promising. Feed prices have gone down and with the current rainfall, pasture and hay fields are growing rapidly. Our state bird is sure to follow with a little warmer temps.

Most all hunt bulls are up an average of \$500 plus per bull, slightly less on the smaller bulls and demand is very strong.

The meat market will be here to stay, very few animals are less than \$1,000. And if so they are poor sized animals that need to be culled at whatever the price. Keep in mind 350 inch 5-7 year old bulls will not cash flow and should be culled at two years of age. Also the cow that produced that 350 inch bull should not be kept.

Velvet is for sure at a 10 year high and a 35% jump over 2013 levels. Decreasing numbers has created a shortage for all markets and for now that translates to higher prices. Hopefully this will not come back to bite us next year. For current pricing on all these markets please call!

Scott Salonek  
612-850-8684

### Early Velvet Negotiations

Velvet negotiations have started much earlier this year than in the past. As of the end of May, Scott Groen and Brian Wagner are paying \$35 for A grade velvet and \$51 for premium spike antler cut right depending on beam diameter no more than 10 inches. My feeling is the best price will be set in July when collecting time begins.

Also would like to remind velvet producers that the current market favors antler that is cut a little earlier than what we have had in past years when the price was much lower. With the higher prices we need to give them a quality product. Bottom line is early cut quality velvet may get a premium. As always call anytime with questions about cutting antler or just elk in general.

Scott Groen 320-979-0911  
Brian Wagner 612-366-5078



*Photo submitted by Greg & Roxy Lubinski for the 2015 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar*

## NAEBA Spring 2014 Marketing Update

### *Report: Prices Strong but More Supply is Needed*

**HOWARD LAKE, MN-** 2014 already promises to have strong prices for all elk markets in the United States and Canada. NAEBA is excited to see the strong prices to the producer; but industry's focus needs to be "keep breeding cows to ensure that supply of all segments of elk will sustain the demand."

**Trophy Market:** The 2013 trophy bull market ended with higher prices than the industry has seen in several years. With the continuing trend of lower numbers of bulls and a stable demand, it appears that for the foreseeable future this market will be stable or move in a positive direction. Trophy ranch owners and bull buyers are becoming more aggressive in order to ensure they will have the bulls on hand to cater to their client's needs this fall. Trophy bulls of all sizes are in demand from 300" 6x6's to the ever popular 330-370" size. There is still high demand for 400" bulls and higher, since there are simply less of them. Since it is generally more difficult to grow 400"+ bulls, producers will certainly be paid more for them. In the 2014 season, look to see 400" bulls start at a minimum of \$5,700-6,000 from just about anywhere in the two nations. A point of advice this summer and fall is to make a couple phone calls before you sell trophy bulls because we promise you the demand is there. Make sure you are educated as to the actual prices for all sizes of bulls you have to market this fall. Don't give away your bulls, the demand is there.

**Velvet:** It is always a good business decision to velvet all the bulls on your farm you do not plan to sell as trophies. This rule is especially true for two, three and four year olds. The last two years have seen velvet sell between \$27-30 per pound, and that is at or above most farms breakeven point for cutting velvet. Velvet looks to be in the same neighborhood for 2014, with contracts being discussed at \$29-\$32 (currently \$35 US the end of May). Decent velvet weights for each bull times \$25-30 per pound can make a huge dent in that bull's overhead expense. That is the point, so hopefully the bull can "pay his own way" with his velvet yield until he enters the trophy market. With the renewed interest in trophy bulls and continued strength of the dog chew market, we need to make sure we can still produce velvet. Velvet buyers need stable velvet production from North American farms to continue to make their yearly buying trip to the US and Canada. Consider harvesting velvet and make every dollar you can.

**Elk Meat:** There is a strong and growing demand for more animals to be culled for the elk meat industry. The public continues to look for healthier and fresh meat alternatives, of which elk and buffalo continue gaining interest. Prices on the rail are still strong, equating to \$3.25-4.00 per pound. This market is not for the 'get rich quick' crowd, but offers a good floor for farms looking to move out their annual culls. Businesses and coops selling elk meat in Canada and the United States are all looking for animals and worrying about the supply for the near future. It could have negative effects on the industry for rail prices to get much higher.

**Hard Antler:** Antler sales continue to rise, mostly due to the newly developed markets of dog chews. Antler from elk and several deer species are being cut and sold at local farmers markets, dog shows and even online. Hard antler is now selling for \$10-15 per pound, which has generally doubled since 2010. If you aren't velvetting your bulls, don't be surprised if you have someone calling for your hard antler.

**Breeding Stock:** The high demand of trophy bulls has more people thinking about their herds again and how to grow big bulls fast. This has led to more people that are becoming interested in artificial insemination again. The average semen sold in the US and Canada has been between \$100-\$300 per straw and is an easy way to jump a few years ahead in genetics and get a return on investments. Bred cows are selling strong, especially when the seller can cite proven quality sons from the dam or granddam. Breeding cows are starting from \$2,000+. Many proven ones start at \$2,500. Once again proven production pays; bringing your bulls to the antler competition is a great investment if for no other reason than to have verifiable stats on your cow herd.

There is good opportunity for farms to utilize these several markets to increase revenue. Remember, we need to keep breeding cows to ensure the supply will sustain the demand.

Good luck with this spring's calving season,

Josh Lundberg, NAEBA Marketing Committee Chairman

## Board Meeting Minutes

### Board Meeting Minutes April 26, 2014

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a board meeting at the home of Lance & Brenda Hartkopf on April 26, 2014. Mark Lucas, Jim Byrne, Brian Wagner, Wade Schimmelfennig, Richard Zajac and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Lucas began the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

The February 8<sup>th</sup> secretary report was reviewed. Byrne moved to accept, Schimmelfennig seconded, motion carried. Board reviewed the current treasurer's report and proposed budget. Byrne moved to accept the treasurer's report and revised budget as amended, Zajac seconded, motion carried.

Hartkopf handed out samples from a potential new meat vendor for products purchased by MnEBA for the MN State Fair. Board to discuss later in the meeting after trying samples.

Discussed gun options for the 2015 MnEBA Gun Calendar Raffle. Decision was made to offer one AR-15 and two handguns. Agreed to increase the budget to be able to offer more name-brand guns. Decision was made to leave the four cash options the same as last year. Hartkopf to work with designer to create a new updated look for the calendar.

Reviewed committee recommendations for updating the MnEBA web site. Board approved the purchase of the URL's [www.mnelk.org](http://www.mnelk.org) and [www.mneba.com](http://www.mneba.com). Board was comfortable with the direction the committee was going in updating the site.

Reviewed outcomes of the Strategic Planning Meeting which board members had with Paul Hugunin. The number one recommendation was to work on increasing membership. Board discussed ideas for the 2014 Membership Drive and directed the focus to be on marketing. Membership Drive mailing to go out after the new MnEBA web site is up and running. Board also reviewed non-renewals for 2014. Wagner to follow up. Hartkopf was directed to continue to pursue MN Grown box ideas.

Further discussion was held on the choice of meat product vendor for the MN State Fair. Suggestion was made to carry a new 16 oz. size and flavor of sausage and two new flavors of 2.6 oz. jerky in re-sealable packs from a new vendor along with single serving sizes of meat sticks from the current vendor.

There are now multiple members vying to be the elk antler dog chew vendor for MnEBA at the MN State Fair. A new application has been developed to give everyone a chance to place a bid. Board reviewed a draft version of the application, made a few additions and approved for distribution in the June newsletter.

Discussed status of the CWD Program Standards. Industry is being told the final version will be out in May. Will review final version and decide if next steps are needed.

Reviewed current requirement that the license for using the MN Elk trademark logo be re-applied for each year. Decision was made to allow for ongoing rights to use the MN Elk trademark logo as long as users are current members of MnEBA.

Jim & Eileen Byrne have volunteered to host this year's Summer Picnic at their farm near Pine Island. The date will be July 26<sup>th</sup> and will be a potluck lunch followed by the membership meeting.

Board discussed current committee structure and the need to revisit which committees are still active and which committees are no longer relevant or where duties being handled by the board. Decision was made to eliminate the following committees: Auction, Antler Competition, Promotions, Nominating and Awards. A Scholarship committee was added. Committee chairs were reviewed and will be contacted as noted by the board.

Byrne and Hartkopf recently attended a board building seminar put on by Minnesota Grown. They gave a report on what they learned.

Byrne made the suggestion to consider dropping MnEBA's participation in the MN Deer Classic and to look into a new show, the Bird, Buck, Bait & Boat Expo which takes place the same weekend as the MN Deer Classic at the Warner Coliseum at the MN State Fairgrounds. Hartkopf to look into this new show and report back to the board.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

## Board Meeting Minutes May 19, 2014

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a phone conference on May 19, 2014. Mark Lucas, Jim Byrne, Brian Wagner, Wade Schimmelpfennig, Richard Zajac and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Lucas began the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Board discussed an American Cervid Alliance (ACA) proposal from Berman & Company to conduct communications services designed to correct the record on "Conservation Fencing, Hunting and Cervid Farming" for an entire year. The ACA is looking for member associations to help fund this effort. After much discussion, Byrne moved to donate \$1,500 to ACA for the proposed management campaign according to budget modifications previously discussed. Schimmelpfennig seconded, motion carried. Hartkopf was also directed to send an email to the membership as well as provide information in the June 1 newsletter to allow members the opportunity to donate to this cause if they are so moved.

Board reviewed proposed gun list submitted by The General Store for the 2015 MnEBA Gun Calendar Raffle. Byrne moved to accept the existing gun list as presented, Schimmelpfennig seconded, motion carried.

Hartkopf reported that work on the MnEBA web site is going very well. As long as the committee stays active in review of work and recommendations, should have a final product for review in early July.

Discussed outcomes of recent Farmed Cervidae Advisory meeting. Escapes are much lower than in year's past, but are still happening. DNR appears to be comfortable allowing the Board of Animal Health (BAH) to continue taking over the escape issues. There was a draft review of a BAH escape protocol the group gave input on. There was also discussion about establishing a new protocol for designating CWD endemic areas in Minnesota should another case of CWD in the wild show up. Group to further disseminate at a future meeting. In the meantime, Byrne has drafted an endemic area proposal which he asked the board to review and comment on.

Hartkopf introduced a new idea about educating legislators by creating a calendar with farmed cervid pictures including a cervid farming fact for each calendar month. This idea was introduced by the Kansas Cervid Breeders Association last year. Being the entire Minnesota House and Governor are up for re-election next fall, a farmed cervid calendar could be a great proactive education tool to bring to legislators, one they may keep up on their wall as well. MnEBA's lobbyist is checking into the legality of offering an educational calendar to legislators. There was also discussion about approaching the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association to see if they would have an interest in joining MnEBA in this effort.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

# 2014 MnEBA Summer Picnic

## Saturday, July 26, 2014

**Byrne Farm – Jim & Eileen Byrne**  
11026 Co Rd 113 NW, Pine Island, MN 55963

### POT LUCK LUNCH BEGINS AT NOON

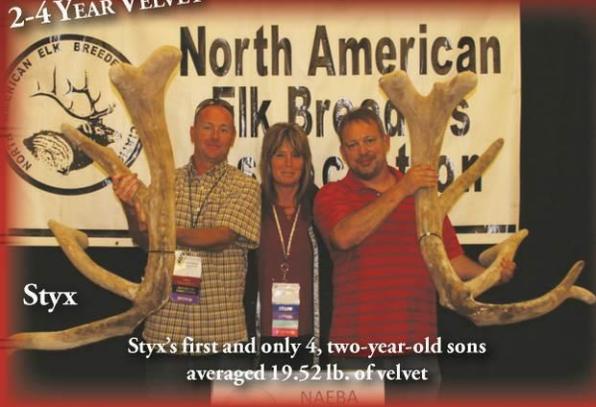
A Noon Potluck meal is being planned followed by a day of great visiting and the MnEBA summer membership meeting.

Bring a dish to pass, non-alcoholic beverages will be provided!

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the US-52 exit into Pine Island. Follow main street south through downtown to the south end of town where main street turns west. Take the first left (south) onto Co. Rd. 3. Go approximately 1 mile and turn right (west) onto Co. Rd. 5 toward Byron. Go approx. 1 mile and take the first left (south) onto Co. Rd. 113. The farm is about 1.5 miles on the left. See you there!!!

# Consistent Proven Early Developing Genetics Will Put Money In Your Pocket

PEOPLE'S CHOICE  
2-4 YEAR VELVET



Styx

Styx's first and only 4 two-year-old sons averaged 19.52 lb. of velvet

- Heaviest four-year-old bull ever officially weighed!
- 50.22 lb. official
- Width\*Width\*Width\*Width
- 58 3/4" Inside at the fourth tine- 2013
- Co-Owned with Josh Lundberg

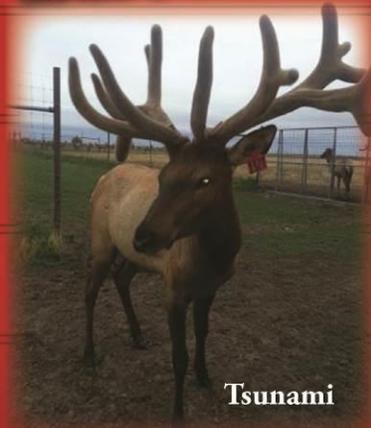
PEOPLE'S CHOICE  
2-4 YEAR HARD ANTLER



Zeus

- Highest scoring 3-year-old ever! 480 1/8" official at 2013 Int. Competition with Zeus' actual spread of 48" his true score would be an astonishing 493" at only three years of age!

Incredible tine length, style and placement  
Great width! - 45" wide at only two!



Tsunami

- Twister son • Estimated well over 20 lb. and 370" green this year
- Great drops off both third tines - Hunters love the drops!
- Has the "LOOK" that everyone is wanting!
- Semen available for 2014 breeding
- \$150 per straw - call for quantity discount



Kraken

- Styx Son
- 1st Place- 2013 NAEBA Int. Competition
- 22.10 lb. official
- Semen available for 2014 Breeding
- \$150 per straw — Call for quantity discount

Mojito

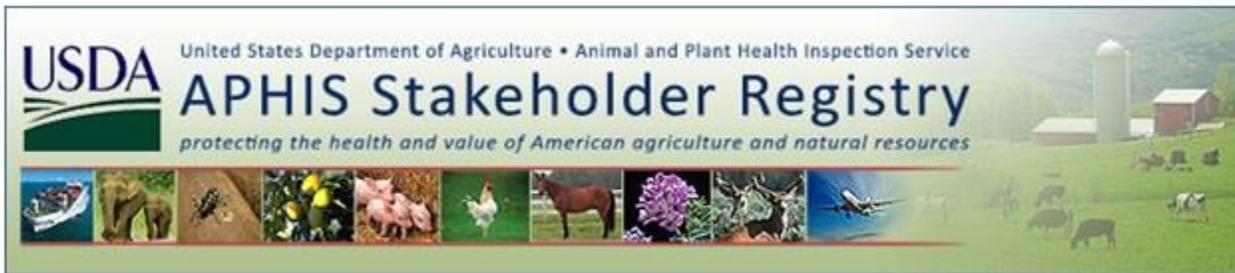
- Tequila Son
- 2nd place- 2013 NAEBA Int. Competition
- 20.98 lb. official
- Semen available for 2014 breeding
- \$150 per straw — Call for quantity discount



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## APHIS Finalizes Chronic Wasting Disease Interim Rule

WASHINGTON, April 29, 2014—The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has finalized a 2012 interim rule that established a voluntary herd certification program (HCP) to control the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in farmed cervids.

The CWD interim final rule has been in effect since August 13, 2012 and the final rule, which was published in today’s Federal Register, makes only minor changes based on public comments. The role of APHIS’ voluntary herd certification program is to assist States, Tribes and the cervid industry in minimizing the introduction, transmission and spread of CWD in farmed cervid populations. Since APHIS began accepting applications for its national CWD herd certification program in April 2012, a total of 29 States with farmed cervid populations have joined the voluntary program and adopted consistent herd certification requirements.

The CWD final rule supports the domestic and international marketability of U.S. cervids and protects both farmed and wild cervid populations by including interstate movement and testing requirements along with other safeguards to minimize the spread of CWD. The rule requires a full five years of continuous mortality testing with no evidence of CWD before herd owners can achieve certified status and be eligible to move their animals interstate.

In addition, farmed cervid herd owners are required to have fencing in place, individual animal identification tags, and conduct regular animal inventories. All animals over 12 months of age that die for any reason must also be tested for CWD. Over time, participation in the national CWD herd certification program should further reduce the incidence of disease in farmed cervid populations.

APHIS’ CWD Program Standards offer optional guidance to facilitate compliance with the CWD final rule requirements. Revised program standards were published in the Federal Register in December 2013, and APHIS accepted comments through March 31, 2014. The comments are currently under review and we expect to post the updated program standards to the APHIS Web site in May.

### ***Editor’s Note: Changes made are as follows:***

#### Part 55 Control of Chronic Wasting Disease

In § 55.1, the definition of *herd plan* is amended by removing the word “eradicate” and adding the words “control the spread of” in its place.

#### Part 81 Chronic Wasting Disease in Deer Elk and Moose

In § 81.1, a new definition of *recognized slaughtering establishment* is added in alphabetical order to read as follows:

§ 81.1 Definitions. *Recognized slaughtering establishment.* An establishment where slaughtering operations are regularly carried out under Federal or State inspection and which has been approved by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to receive animals for slaughter.



May 9, 2014

## Evaluation of Public Comments on CWD Program Standards May 2014

### Summary

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) published revised Program Standards for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in the Federal Register in December 2013 and accepted comments until March 31, 2014. APHIS is making four minor changes as a result of stakeholder comments, and these revised standards become effective immediately. The standards offer optional guidance to facilitate compliance with the CWD rule that established a herd certification program and interstate movement requirements to control CWD in farmed or captive cervids in the United States.

We would like to thank our stakeholders for their comments and recommendations on the standards. The 328 comments provided valuable insight into stakeholder concerns and priorities. The comments also reflected the positions held by stakeholders that were noted by the working group that was convened in November 2012 to revise the original document.

### What We Changed

Changes to the November 2013 version of the program standards are described here and are reflected in the standards dated May 2014.

1. The interim final rule definition for *herd plan* requires signature of the herd plan by the Administrator, the State representative, and the herd owner. The definition for *herd plan* in the program standards required the herd plan to be signed only by the State representative and the herd owner. The language in the revised program standards has been modified to include APHIS as a signatory on herd plans for CWD positive, exposed, or suspect herds. This change also necessitated a change in Part B of the document.

⌚ “A written herd and/or premises management agreement developed *by APHIS* in collaboration with the herd owner, State...and signed by *the Administrator*, the State...” (p. 8).

⌚ “The revised herd plan will become effective after it is reviewed *by the Administrator and signed by the Administrator*, the State representative...” (p. 8).

⌚ “The plans may be reviewed by *APHIS and* State Officials. Herd plans are to be signed by *APHIS*, the herd owner and the appropriate State officials...” (p. 35).

2. Quarantine is not defined in the rule; however, the term is used in the rule (see 9 CFR 55.1 [definition of CWD-positive herd] and 9 CFR 55.23(a)(6)). *Restrict* and *restriction* are used more frequently in the rule language and better characterize the use of this regulatory action than *prohibit*.

⌚ Replace “prohibiting” with “*restricting*” in the definition of quarantine in the program standards definitions section (p. 9).

3. Current rule language requires an owner to report the escape of an animal from their facility to a State or APHIS official, but not the entry of a wild cervid. The revised program standards implied that reporting the entry of a wild cervid is also required. The program standards have been revised to be consistent with current rule language.

⌚ Part A (2.4) C.4. now reads “...or otherwise missing from the premises *and should also immediately report* entry of any wild cervids into this facility...” (p. 15).

4. A discrepancy was noted in Part A of the revised program standards regarding approval for exception for testing due to extenuating circumstances. Section 5.3 said that Approved State agencies may approve these exceptions; section 5.10 said that APHIS or Approved State Official may approve these exceptions. Part A (5.3) has been revised to make the two sections consistent.

⌚ Change the language in Part A. (5.3) to include APHIS as well as the Approved State agency: “Exceptions to the testing requirement may be made by *APHIS or* the appropriate Approved State agency” (p. 24).

### Other Comments

In reviewing stakeholder comments, APHIS considered several factors to determine whether changes to the standards were warranted at this time. Much of the language in Part A of the program standards is based on language in the CWD rule. For example, the program standards are more prescriptive (e.g., *must, will*) when describing actions required in the rule. Conversely, for actions not required in the rule, language is less prescriptive (e.g., *should, may*). We cannot make changes that would contradict existing rule language.

Many comments concerned specific topics that had been discussed extensively by the working group, such as transiting, testing exceptions, etc. In some instances, the 2012 program standards had been revised based on these discussions in order to best represent the disparate positions in the working group; in other instances, revisions were based on concerns expressed outside of the working group, with the goal of addressing concerns without undermining the objectives of the CWD rule. In an effort to balance sometimes divergent stakeholder priorities, APHIS did not make changes on these topics.

Similarly, we received comments that supported opposite sides of a single issue. Some commenters advocated for APHIS to allow States to implement more stringent CWD requirements, while others asked APHIS to encourage States to implement less stringent standards. No changes were made in this area, as APHIS believes States are better able to determine their own additional risk mitigations for CWD, and the rule does not preempt State regulations related to CWD, except for transiting animals.

### Further Review

Some comments warrant further consideration. However, APHIS must gather additional information from stakeholders and further evaluate this information to determine if changes to the program standards are warranted.

Other comments will be kept on file for consideration in any future revisions of the program standards. The Program Standards will be reviewed at least annually by representatives of the cervid industry and appropriate State and Federal agencies, and amended as necessary.

### Editor’s Note: See

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/animal\\_diseases/cwd/downloads/cwd\\_program\\_standards\\_2014.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/cwd/downloads/cwd_program_standards_2014.pdf)  
to review the entire final version of the CWD Program Standards.



## American Cervid Alliance Reaches 36 Council Member Associations

May 5, 2014

**AYR, NE-** Most summers are extremely busy for deer and elk farmers. It will be no different this summer for the members of the American Cervid Alliance, however, we will take just a moment to pause and celebrate the growth of this industry's cervid alliance. The ACA Leadership Council was formed in December 2012 to simply provide an organized forum where all cervid leaders could come together and exchange ideas. The ACA started with twenty four (24) state and national deer and elk associations. By May 2014, twelve (12) more associations had joined the Alliance in an effort to preserve the rights of cervid farmers and share in the exchange of information.

The ACA Board of Directors, known as the Leadership Council, allows each association to have an equal vote, regardless of the size of their membership, their location, or what cervid species they represent. ACA Moderator Eric Mohlman says this is the key to their success. "This Alliance is working because we are all on even playing ground, everyone is equal and valued, and we've tried to remove the hierarchy of power."

The ACA Council meets one to two times a month via conference call to review ongoing industry concerns and discuss options. All decisions are made by roll call vote so every association's position is recorded and published online. This allows every member association to remain accountable to the Alliance and offer complete transparency to the industry.

The thirty-six member Leadership Council features some of the most talented and knowledgeable people in the farmed cervid industry. "This Alliance is a great thing for the industry", said Michael Heiter, who has represented the Pennsylvania Deer Farmers Association on the council since the ACA's inception. "There is just so much combined knowledge and experience in these council meetings."

Andy Azcarraga, the ACA Councilman representing the Colorado Elk Breeders Association, says that the continual flow of information is one of the ACA's strong points. "We are on these conference calls with guys from Idaho, Texas, all the way to New York; we are all experiencing similar concerns, therefore, it only makes sense to keep the communication lines open."

The American Cervid Alliance invites any association representing cervid farming to join as an equal partner of the council. There are no dues and the Alliance only asks for good faith participation and teamwork.

The ACA functions solely as a volunteer organization. There is no paid staff and the financial reports are reviewed and approved by the council on a regular basis. To learn more about the American Cervid Alliance, please visit [www.americancervidalliance.org](http://www.americancervidalliance.org).



## ACA's Cervid Public Education Program Funding Nearly Complete

May 22, 2014

*First 10 of 12 Months Funded; Scheduled to Begin June 1st*

**AYR, NE-** The American Cervid Alliance Leadership Council convened to finalize the contract for the public relations firm the industry voted to retain. Berman and Company, located in Washington DC, has agreed to monitor dozens of news outlets for any negative articles about cervid farming or conservation hunting. The firm will respond with corrections and also run positive proactive stories. Last week, member associations were asked to meet with each of their association boards to determine if they could appropriate funds for the PR campaign.

Most of the member associations were each able to commit several thousand dollars toward the educational effort. A few associations spoke in support of the cause but needed additional time to approve a donation.

The contract will be for one year beginning June 1, 2014 through May 31, 2015. Based on commitments and pledges during the call, the first ten months of the contract are already covered. Associations were instructed to send their checks and commitments to the National Public Relations Campaign.

Over the last several weeks, ACA leaders have searched for a firm that has access to the major newspapers. The council voted to select Berman and Company due to their proven track record of facing tough opposition with strong messages. This firm has created humanewatch.org, which has challenged the Humane Society of the United States. This firm has been very successful in their exposure of the true agendas of animal rights groups such as HSUS and PETA. Their ads and op-eds have been published in notable outlets such as the USA Today, Washington Examiner, LA Times, among others and even posted in Times Square in New York City. Last year, HSUS reported a 20% reduction in donations compared to recent years.

The PR firm will also publish proactive information in major media outlets educating the public with the true facts surrounding the impact of EHD vs CWD.

Individuals may give donations to this cause. Receipts will be mailed to donors.

Please send any donations to:  
National PR Campaign  
105 Henderson Branch Rd West  
Ingram, Texas 78025



## MnEBA Encourages Members to Join in National Public Communications Campaign Effort

As you've read above, the American Cervid Alliance is taking on one of the biggest public communications initiatives in the history of the industry. They are needing a total of \$90,000 to cover a year's worth of work, with already \$80,000 raised through various associations and individuals. The MnEBA board of directors has directed \$1,500 in funds to go towards this effort. While they wanted to offer more, that amount was all that would be allowed in the current fiscal budget.

However, MnEBA members are encouraged to give as well, if you are so moved. Whatever you can afford would be greatly appreciated. All members participating in this effort will be recognized in the November 2014 NAEBA Journal. Please forward your donations to the above National PR Campaign address. Thank you for your consideration!



# NAEBA's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & International Antler Competition

## Tentative Schedule

### Thursday, July 31

Noon – 9 pm	Exhibitor Set-up
Noon – 9 pm	International Antler Check-in
Noon – 1:30 pm	NAEBA Staff Reviews – <i>NAEBA Board of Directors, Closed Session</i>
1:30 – 2:30 pm	NAEBA Board Meeting – <i>Open to Members on Convention Floor</i>
3:00 – 4:00 pm	State & National Leaders Workshop <i>Travis Lowe &amp; Laurie Seale</i>
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Best Practices of Velvet Cutting – <i>Eric Mohlman, Antler Competition Chair &amp; Lance Hartkopf, Senior Velvet Antler Judge</i>
7:00 – 8:30 pm	Hard Antler Scoring School – <i>Tom Watts, Senior Hard Antler Judge</i>
9 pm	Hospitality – <i>Sponsored by Anderson Elk Ranch, Lundberg Deer &amp; Elk Farm, South Fork Elk Ranch</i>

### Friday, August 1

8 am – 6 pm	Antler Judging Tradeshow Silent Auction Elk Meat Products Entry Photo Contest Entry & Voting
8:15 – 9:15 am	Continental Breakfast
9 am	Welcome to Missouri – <i>Joyce Larue President, Missouri Elk Farmers Association</i>
9:10 – 10 am	General Membership Meeting
10 – 10:30 am	Break – <i>Sponsored by Twin Oaks Elk Farm – Greg &amp; Floy Kenyon</i>
10:30 – 11:30 am	Regional Meetings Western Northeast Central North Central Southern
11:30 am – 1 pm	Lunch On Own
1 – 2 pm	SEMINAR – NAEBA Registration & DNA 101 – <i>Tena Martin, NAEBA Registration Office and Brian Wagner Registration Chairman</i>
2 – 2:30 pm	SEMINAR – Improving Animal Photos & Visual Marketing – <i>Lance Krueger, Wildlife Photographer</i>
2:30 – 3 pm	SEMINAR – Promoting Your Farm/Ranch Online – <i>Brian Tesene, NAEBA webmaster</i>
3 – 3:30 pm	Break
3:30 – 4:30 pm	SEMINAR – Update on CWD Live Research – <i>Dr. Nicholas Haley,</i>

4:30 – 5 pm	<i>Kansas State University (CWD Swab Test) and Dr. Candace Mathiason, Colorado State University (CWD Blood Test)</i> SEMINAR – Importance of Industry/USAHA Alliance – <i>Ben Richey, USAHA Executive Director</i>
5 pm	Cash Bar Opens
6 – 7 pm	Evening Banquet
7 – 8 pm	Entertainment – <i>Devin Henderson – Comedy/Mind Madness</i>
8 pm	NAEBA's Fun Auction
10 pm	Hospitality

### Saturday, August 2

7:30 – 8:30 am	NAEBA Board Meeting
8 am – 6:00 pm	Tradeshow
8 am – 3:30 pm	Photo Contest Continues Silent Auction Continues
8:15 – 9:15 am	Continental Breakfast
8:30 – 9:00 am	Elk Research Council Board of Trustees Meeting
9 – 9:45 am	SEMINAR – EHD – Signs & Prevention – <i>Dr. Lee Cohnstaedt, Research Entomologist, USDA Ag Research Service (Sponsored by the North American Deer Farmers Association, NADeFA)</i>
9:45 – 10:30 am	SEMINAR – Chemical Immobilization – Safety & Use – <i>Speaker TBD</i>
10:30 – 11 am	Break
11 – 11:45 am	SEMINAR – NAEBA Goals at Upcoming USAHA Conference– <i>Eric Mohlman, Travis Lowe, Charly Seale</i>
11:45 am – 1 pm	Lunch On Own
1 – 2:45 pm	Velvet Antler Competition Viewing & People's Choice Awards Voting
2:45 – 3:30 pm	Break
3:30 pm	Elk Meat Contest Meat & Photo Contests and Silent Auction Ends
3:30 – 5:30 pm	Hard Antler Competition Viewing & People's Choice Awards Voting
5:00 pm	Cash Bar Opens
6 – 7 pm	Evening Banquet
7 – 7:30 pm	Announce Winners of Photo & Meat Contests, NAEBA Awards, Premier Breeder Awards
7:30 – 9 pm	NAEBA Select Animal & Semen Auction
9:00 pm	Closing Remarks
9:10 pm	Competition Antler Check-Out & Exhibitor Tear Down
9:30 pm	Hospitality

**24<sup>th</sup> Annual North American Elk Breeder's Association  
ANNUAL CONVENTION & INTERNATIONAL ANTLER COMPETITION  
July 31 – August 2, 2014 ~Harrah's ~ Kansas City, Missouri**

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.)

	<b>Until July 1</b>	<b>After July 1</b>	
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.)

Sign up by June 15<sup>th</sup> to be included in the show program.

- Royal Exhibitor (One booth space) \$100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Place check here if electricity is needed
- Monarch Exhibitor (Two booth spaces & choice of space, first come, first serve) \$250 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Place check here if electricity is needed

Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Name(s) on badges \_\_\_\_\_  
 Description of products or services offered \_\_\_\_\_

**Convention Program Advertising** - Advertise in the convention program to increase your exposure! Convention programs will be mailed to all NAEBA members and also be distributed to all attendees. Deadline is June 15<sup>th</sup>!

Front Cover \$400    Back Cover \$400    Full Page \$350    Half Page \$200  
 Quarter Page \$150    Business Card \$75 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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. Note your donation(s) below to have them included in pre-convention promotions.

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!**

- Trophy (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>) – \$75/each (designate classes \_\_\_\_\_) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Coffee Break – \$400 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Hospitality Suite Sponsor (call for details) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Entertainment – \$1,500 (includes (2) complimentary convention passes PLUS choice of complimentary ½ page convention program ad or royal booth) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Evening Banquet – \$3,000 (includes (3) complimentary convention passes, PLUS complimentary full page convention program ad and royal booth) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Hotel Information – Harrah's – Reservations** (816) 472-7777. Ask for NAEBA's special conference rate of \$99 Thursday night and \$119 for Friday and Saturday per night. Room block deadline – **Wednesday, July 16, 2014**

**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, 9086 Keats Avenue SW, Howard Lake, MN 55349**  
**(320) 543-3665 \* (320) 543-2983 Fax**

**CONTACTS:** Brenda Hartkopf, NAEBA Office (320) 543-3665 or Laurie Seale, Fundraising Coordinator, (830) 928-3143

## Inserts to this Newsletter Mailing

### “Minnesota Elk” Branding Logo



Enclosed you will find an application to sign up to be eligible to use the “Minnesota Elk” branding logo. There is no charge for MnEBA members and once signed up, you are free to use the logo on all your Minnesota elk products! MnEBA offers 1” x .75” free stickers which you can affix to your products or you can request an electronic version of the logo to put on your own labels, advertising, web site, etc.

This application is good as long as you are a MnEBA member in good standing. Just sign and return the enclosed application to the MnEBA Office so a record can be kept of who is using the logo for license purposes.

### Dog Chew Supplier for 2014 Minnesota State Fair

Also enclosed is an application form to be the dog chew supplier to MnEBA for the Minnesota State Fair. Last year, approximately (50) four inch chews were sold and (172) eight inch chews were sold. Plans are to sell even more this year so the ability to supply above those minimum quantities will be important.

Please return the enclosed application along with representative samples to the MnEBA Office no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> to be eligible for consideration. Your samples will be returned. Call the MnEBA Office with any questions.

## WANTED: ANY BULL ELK FOR SALE

- Paying top dollar and looking for long-term relationships.
- Very experienced and helpful in exportation and importation process.
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- We have trailers and the ability to transport both hard horned bulls and cutoffs.
- Also buying quality cows.
- Prices for bull elk are at an all-time high, give us a call.



Office: 208-346-6648

Cell: 208-716-2509

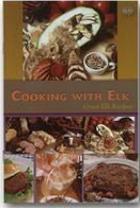
## MnEBA Promotional Materials

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

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

### MEAT PROMOTIONS

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



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

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

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

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

### VELVET PROMOTIONS



**Velvet Antler for People Brochures** 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!**

## For Maple township elk farmer, faith and family are key

By Chelsey Perkins, Staff Writer, Pine and Lakes Echo Journal

Twelve miles southwest of downtown Pequot Lakes, just off County Road 1 and nestled among acres of cattle and corn fields, is a small hobby farm with some unique residents.

Owned by Jerry and Linda Campbell of Maple Township, Stony Brook Elk Farm is home to at least two cats, a dog, an asparagus patch and a herd of around 20 elk. It's no wonder why Jerry Campbell has lived his entire 50 years within five miles of where he currently resides; the peacefulness of the landscape is palpable.

Campbell, a graduate of Pine River-Backus High School (PR-B), began farming elk more than 22 years ago after first trying his hand at deer. No stranger to the farmer's life, Campbell grew up milking cows on his parents' dairy farm and spent summers at his uncle's dairy farm in Wisconsin as a young boy. After his parents sold their farm, his father, Jerry Sr., went into the house moving business, starting the company Campbell now heads, C-B Movers, in 1978.

Around 10 years later, Campbell met his wife, Linda, also a PR-B graduate, at a friend's house.

"I asked her if I could call her sometime, and she said, 'Yeah, but you never will.' But I did, I called her," Campbell said. "I was into softball back then, and so was she, so that was kind of a mutual interest. She started coming to my games, and I would go to hers."

The couple married in 1990 and has two children, Taylor, 21, and Waylon, 18. Taylor is a recent graduate of Crown College in St. Bonifacius; Waylon works with his father in the moving business.

In 1993, Campbell and other farmers founded the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association, in part to lobby for legislation that would recognize elk farming as agriculture instead of game farming. The association was successful, and Campbell said this was a big step for elk farming.

Besides the daily chores of feeding, watering and ensuring the elk herd has hay, each spring Campbell harvests the velvety antlers of his bucks.

Somewhat surprisingly, the antlers — not the meat — represent the bread and butter of elk farming. Practitioners of traditional Chinese medicine revere elk antler as a natural pain reliever, and in recent years this practice has found its way into Western medicine as well.

For himself, Campbell takes an elk antler supplement each morning to help with the pain associated with his three knee surgeries. He also sells the supplements along with elk meat directly from his farm.

Campbell never planned to be an elk farmer, or a house mover, for that matter, but he approaches both with the gusto of someone who enjoys hard labor.

"We always liked the work, and the physical part of it never bothered us," Campbell said. "It's always been long hours, but that part we enjoyed."



*Jerry Campbell stands in his bull elk pen on his farm in Maple Township. Campbell has been farming elk for more than 22 years. Photo by Chelsey Perkins*

Campbell finds the time to be involved in his community, notably as a supervisor for Maple Township for 12 years. He is an avid outdoorsman and has hunted since age 12. Focused mostly on deer hunting, he has also bow hunted for elk in Montana and Washington state and has tried his hand at bear hunting. Locally, he is a member of the Whitetail Archery Club in Pequot Lakes.

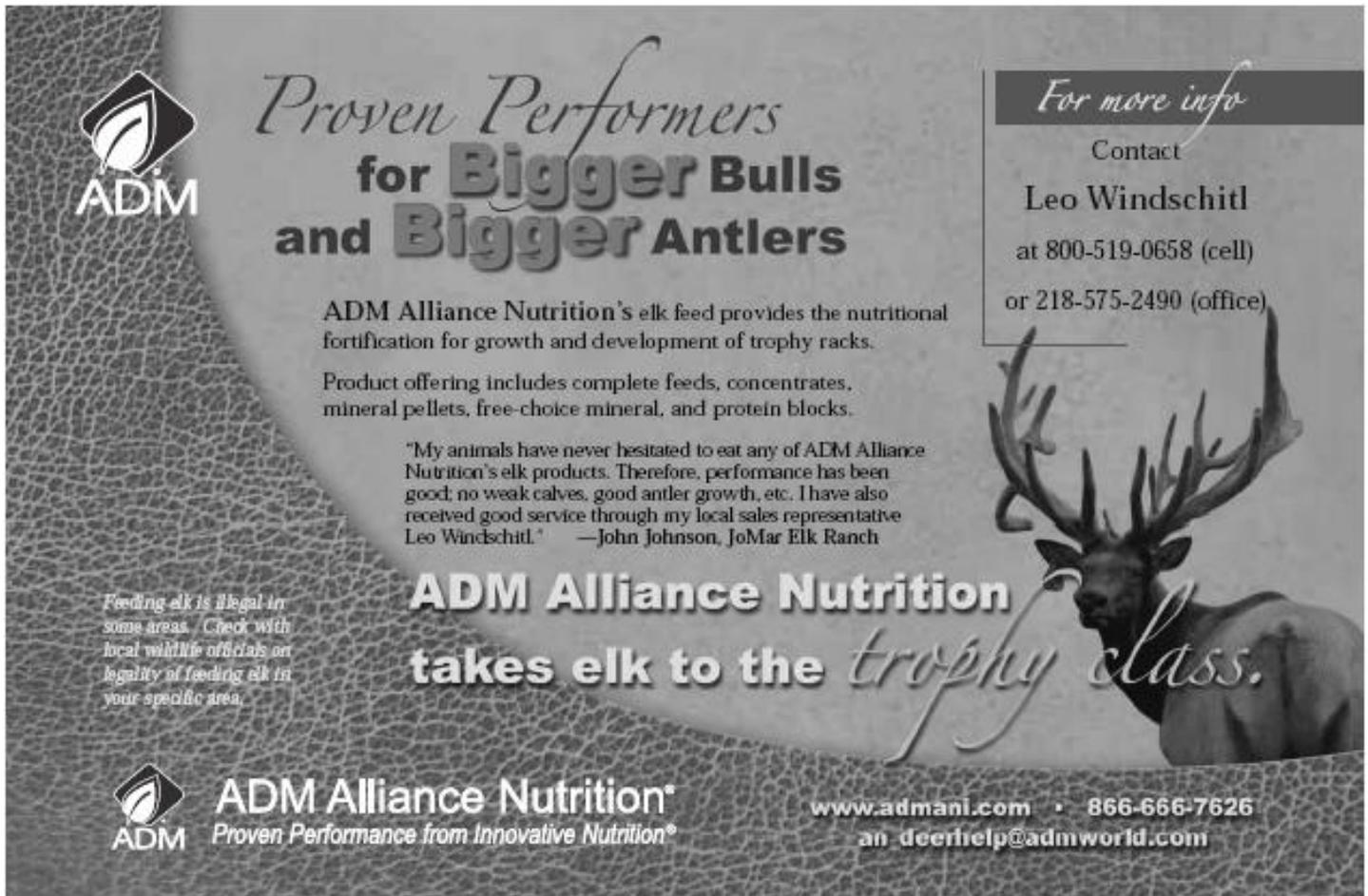
Campbell and his family are active members of the Pequot Lakes Baptist Church, where he is a board member. He, his daughter and other church members just returned from a two-week mission trip to Ecuador, where they helped build a new church. Besides fishing trips to Canada, the mission trip was the first time he has left the country.

Campbell had a health scare while in Ecuador; prone to kidney stones, he had an attack after becoming dehydrated while working with cement in extreme heat and was taken to a local clinic. After treatment and a shockingly low bill of \$134, the pain subsided and Campbell continued with his mission work.

“Overall, the experience was good. The people were really awesome,” Campbell said. “They always say you get more blessings going on a trip than you ever give. I could say it was true for me as well.”

Campbell said the most important things in his life are his faith and his family.

“Our family’s close. It seems to me there is such an advantage in families that are close and can work together as opposed to being on your own,” he said. “It’s just a lot easier with close family.”



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Feeding elk is illegal in some areas. Check with local wildlife officials on legality of feeding elk in your specific area.

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## Board Blog by Brian Wagner, Secretary/Treasurer

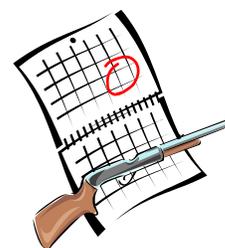


Not sure if we finally found spring or if we are going right into summer. It's been a very cold and wet spring here as I'm sure most of Minnesota has been. Most of the field work is just getting started here this week but it is the last week of May. Hope everyone is enjoying green grass, newborn calves and watching antler growth.

Elk markets look good for this year, velvet started a little early this year. When the time comes to collect velvet, make sure to check all your options to get the best return for your farm. Harvest bull market looks good also. Try to keep a good mix of velvet and hard antler bulls so we can keep an even supply for years to come.

If you have any questions or concerns about MnEBA or elk markets give me a call anytime. I'm always looking for a good conversation and will try to make you're farm profitable.

Regards,  
Brian Wagner



## 2015 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar

### All Sponsorships Are Sold!

**Many thanks** to all MnEBA members who stepped up to sponsor a month in the 2015 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. This year's sponsors include: Jim & Eileen Byrne, Leo Windschitl, Wade Schimmelpfennig, Brian Wagner, Lance & Brenda Hartkopf, Perry & Don Olson, Glen & Kaye Zebarth, Craig & Kathy and Klint & Lora Wylie, Eric & Kim Mohlman, Greg & Roxy Lubinski, Bill & Karen Knutson and Mark & Lisa Luedtke.

**Anyone who has not yet supplied their pictures, please do so ASAP!** Absolute deadline is June 15<sup>th</sup>. Picture quality is of utmost importance. Electronic pictures work the best, higher pixels are better. Also be paying attention to the background of the pictures to make sure they are aesthetically as appealing as the animals you're photographing!

**Anyone who would still like to contribute to this project in any way is welcome.** Gun sponsorships would be very helpful, as would sponsorship of any one of the four \$100 cash bonus days. Please contact the MnEBA Office for more information.

**New for this year's gun raffle are the additions of two pistols and an AR-15!** MnEBA has also increased the gun budget to offer more recognizable name brand guns than ever before. It's exciting to have so many much sought after firearms to offer on this year's raffle!

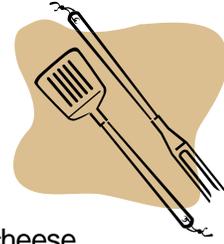
**Last year's calendar sales** showed the second best sales total since beginning the calendar raffle, selling a total of 584 of the 750 total calendars with 6 people qualifying for the 30+ sales promotion. Again this year, anyone selling 30 or more calendars and turning in those stubs and money by December 31<sup>st</sup> will receive a free 2015 MnEBA membership (up to a \$125 value). It pays to fundraise!!!

**Calendar sales will be especially important** this year as we work to raise additional funds to continue assisting in the national campaign effort to promote cervid farming both locally and nationally as well as the assistance this campaign will provide in combatting any negative articles that arise. This effort is tremendously beneficial to all members!

**Calendars will be available** at this year's summer picnic on July 26<sup>th</sup> in Pine Island. They will also be available at the NAEBA Convention in Kansas City, MO the following weekend or by contacting the MnEBA Office. Let's make this the first year we sell out!!!!!! Please forward your sponsorship pledge, questions or comments to the MnEBA Office at 320-543-2686 or [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org).

## MnEBA Kitchen

*Here's a great twist to hamburgers on the grill!!*



### Elk Sliders

1 lb. ground elk  
 1 Tbsp. horseradish mustard  
 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce  
 1 tsp. A1 steak sauce  
 ½ tsp. garlic powder  
 1/3 cup fine bread crumbs  
 1 egg

Salt & pepper to taste  
 Cheddar, Swiss or smoked mozzarella cheese  
 Small buns  
 Favorite barbeque sauce  
 Tomatoes (if desired)  
 Onion slices (if desired)

Pre-heat grill. In a large bowl, add mustard, Worcestershire sauce, A1 steak sauce, garlic powder, bread crumbs, egg and salt and pepper to taste to ground elk meat. Mix all ingredients by hand then form into small patties. Use a ¼ cup measuring cup to size how much meat to use when forming your patties. Place meat on tinfoil and press gently with your thumb creating a small indent in the center. This will help keep patties from shrinking when cooking.

Consider cooking patties on tin foil to minimize dryness, or remove and add directly to grill. Cook over medium heat for 5-7 minutes then turn and cook for another 5-7 minutes. Add cheese to top of burgers during the last two minutes of cooking. Close lid to melt the cheese.

Place sliders on small buns and top with your favorite barbeque sauce, and tomatoes and/or onions if desired. Enjoy!

BLACK VELVET ELK RANCH



# WANTED!

## Hard Antler Bulls

## Any & All Elk

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

## Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

### Humane Velvet Removal

The topic of humane velvet removal came under discussion at the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Animal Welfare Committee once again earlier this year. They recommend at this time that velvet antler removal be done humanely with:

1. Local nerve block with Lidocaine at the base of the antler (do not use Lidocaine with Epinephrine as that has a negative long-term affect to circulation going to the antler)
2. Apply tourniquet to control bleeding during removal
3. Apply fly control medication post removal

There is also talk about recommending additional pain control medication for a period of time after removal but no studies have been done to make an adequate recommendation.

It is very important to use common sense in humanely removing velvet antler. Remove velvet in a quiet, clean environment, no additional spectators which create extra stress to the animal and avoid removing antler in extreme heat or the heat of the day.

The validity of velvet antler has been questioned numerous times by this committee. It is of utmost importance to take extra care in maintaining the highest quality welfare possible for bulls during velveting.



## Elk Bull Needed for 2014 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt

MnEBA is seeking an elk bull for the 2014 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 8<sup>th</sup> year MnEBA has sponsored this hunt!

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



## 2014 MnEBA Scholarship Awarded

Congratulations to Kelsey Hartkopf, daughter of Lance & Brenda Hartkopf, Howard Lake, MN, for being awarded the 2014 MnEBA Scholarship!

Kelsey will be a junior at MSUM Moorhead next year, majoring in Sociology with a Business minor and coaching certificate. In high school she was active in FFA and a three-sport athlete. She currently plays volleyball for MSUM Moorhead and is an active volunteer at the Great Plains Food Bank in Fargo, ND as well as volunteering in local sports camps back home. She also works as a part-time milker for a 200 cow dairy farm.

Kelsey would someday like to secure a job in Human Resources and be a high school coach. She also wants to live on a farm. She says, "I would like to live on a farm so when I am done with work, I could come home and enjoy working with animals." MnEBA wishes Kelsey all the best as she pursues her future goals!

**Aug. 21-Labor Day, Sept. 1, 2014**

# MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

## Have you signed up for a shift in the MnEBA booth yet?

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

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!

Even if you've never worked the MnEBA State Fair booth before, you are encouraged 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. Last year saw a nice increase in sales as fairgoers became more familiar with MnEBA's new location. While MnEBA will continue to offer the 1 oz. meat sticks from Elk Marketing, there will be a new jerky and sausage supplier. There will now be two flavors of jerky, regular and a much requested teriyaki flavor, both in 2.6 oz. re-sealable packages and one size of sausage, 16 oz. garlic summer sausage made with 20% beef and 80% elk.

Greg & Roxy Lubinski and Paul Hueg are joining Morrie & Daphne this year in co-chairing the State Fair. Please contact Lubinski's at (507) 534-3247 or Paul Hueg at (612) 791-0443 with any comments or suggestions for this year's booth.

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). They would appreciate hearing from you!!!

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*Bill & Karen Knutson*  
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## NEW ZEALAND VELVET – RECENT SALE PRICES

May 2014

The 2013/14 velvet season is now complete with all Velvet sold. Overall the season has been as smooth with demand above supply. Most important are better returns for producers - around 8% above last year's overall weighted average price. Those suppliers that have remained in Velvet and continue to be challenged by other land uses and direct costs can now see the way forward.

Leading up to the season there were changes made to the grading guidelines to improve the overall quality of NZ Velvet, especially the emphasis on rounded, shorter velvet. In retrospect and comparing volumes over the past two seasons, producers have taken up the challenge and responded well. The better short grades e.g. SAT, RG1 and 2 have shown a definite lift, which must have a positive impact on returns.

### Recent prices:

SA, A and B Grades:	\$112 to \$131 /kg NZD	\$44 to \$51 USD / lb
Damaged	\$90 to \$112/kg NZD	\$39 to \$44 USD / lb
Spiker	\$120 to \$180 /kg NZD	\$47 to \$71 USD / lb
Regrowth	\$109 to \$180 /kg NZD	\$42 to \$71 USD / lb

Research and Conversions completed by:

Ian Thorleifson  
 GEOS Consulting  
 PO Box 1997  
 MINNEDOSA, MB R0J 1E0  
 204-625-2498 or 204-867-0085  
[vike@mymts.net](mailto:vike@mymts.net)  
[www.ianthor.ca](http://www.ianthor.ca)

## Save the date – January 9-10, 2015

MnEBA is excited to welcome the North American Elk Breeders to Minnesota for the 2015 January Jamboree!



### NAEBA January Jamboree

Friday, January 9, 2015

### MnEBA Annual Conference

Saturday, January 10, 2015



Both events take place at  
 Sheraton Minneapolis West – Minnetonka, MN  
 Reservations – (952) 593-0000

*Lots of educational seminars, networking and a great hospitality room both days!  
 You won't want to miss it!!!*

## Committee Reports

### Committee List Revised

The board recently reviewed the committee list and eliminated outdated committees and/or those committee duties which the board is already covering, adding the Scholarship committee and updating committee chairs. A huge thank you to past committee chairs, Kaye Zearth – Annual Conference & Antler Competition; Jerry Strodman – Auction; Patty VanGundy – Awards; and Fred Neubert – Nominations for your great work and years of service to MnEBA!

New committee chairs include Rita Prodzinski – Annual Conference, Kaye Zearth – Scholarship, and Greg & Roxy Lubinski and Paul Hueg as additional co-chairs to the State Fair committee. Thanks to all for your willingness to assist MnEBA in these capacities!

### Legislative Update by Tony Kwilas, MnEBA Lobbyist

The 2014 Legislative session was the shortest session since 1998 and lasted 81 calendar days. The session started on February 25 and ended on Friday, May 16, 3 days before the constitutionally mandated adjournment date of May 19. For what it lacked in length, it did not lack for activity. An increase in the minimum wage, repealing some of the business taxes enacted in 2013, allowing the medical use of marijuana, anti-bullying legislation and a construction bonding bill were just some of the highlights from the 2014 session.

Now the campaign season begins. The entire membership of the House of Representatives is up for election as well as all the Constitutional Officers, including the Governor. Between now and the election on November 4 is a great time to meet your local candidates as they campaign throughout their respective districts. Don't forget to mention the economic impact that the elk industry has on the economy in Minnesota. Inviting candidates for a tour of your facility is another great way to engage the candidates.

As always, it was an honor and a privilege to represent the elk industry at the State Capitol.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 612-581-9253 or [tkwilas@mnchamber.com](mailto:tkwilas@mnchamber.com).

### Updating the MnEBA Web Site

There's lots of progress to report on the creation on MnEBA's new web site! The contract has been signed and work has begun. The committee has had two in person meetings with the web designer and is in the process of finalizing the overall look, color scheme, font and set-up of the Home page which serves as the basis for the site. The current time-line has a final review of the site occurring in early July.

The web designer has done a great job in capturing the essence of creating a modern, functional web site for the needs of the membership. The committee is excited to see the final product!

### MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

<b>Annual Conference</b>	Rita Prodzinski (507) 452-1282
<b>Fundraising</b>	Brenda Hartkopf (320) 543-2686
<b>Government Relations</b>	Jim Byrne (507) 358-6505
<b>Health</b>	OPEN
<b>Scholarship</b>	Kaye Zearth (320) 834-4064
<b>State Fair</b>	Morrie & Daphne Evenson (320) 354-5156 Greg & Roxy Lubinski (507) 534-3247 Paul Hueg (612) 791-0443

## Advertiser Index

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*Thank you for your support!*

## Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

9086 Keats Avenue SW  
Howard Lake, MN 55349

PHONE:  
320-543-2686

FAX:  
320-543-2983

E-MAIL:  
[info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org)

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

## Calendar of Events

**July 26, 2014** – MnEBA Summer Picnic, Byrne Farm, Pine Island, MN

**July 31 – August 2, 2014** – NAEBA Annual Conference & International Antler Competition, Harrah's, North Kansas City, MO

**August 21 – September 1, 2014** – MN State Fair, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

**January 9, 2015** – NAEBA January Jamboree, Sheraton Minneapolis West, Minnetonka, MN

**January 9-10, 2015** – MnEBA Annual Conference, Sheraton Minneapolis West, Minnetonka, MN

## Classified Ads

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

**Wanted:** Grande Natural needs Elk or Whitetails for meat delivered to Crescent Meats, Cadott, WI. We will meet or beat the competition on the rail price. Looking for fleshy critters 3 years and older on cows, 3 years and younger on bulls. Call 719-657-0942 or email [Rich@elkusa.com](mailto:Rich@elkusa.com).

**Wanted:** Grande Natural buys Elk Hard Antler for \$10.00 per lb on browns, \$7 for good hard whites, and we will pay UPS shipping if you can cut them up and pack them. Call Rich at (719) 580-0661, or email [Rich@elkusa.com](mailto:Rich@elkusa.com).

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

**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](mailto:bruce@kruegerlumber.com). Or at (920) 772-4487 in the evening.

**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