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President's Message by Mark Lucas



Good day all,

May 19, 2015

It has been an odd spring so far here in God's country. We started out fairly warm and really dry. That helped with getting crops in the ground early and for once, there were no ponds to farm around in the field. My neighbor who farms a fair amount of corn and soybean ground was completely done planting both crops on May 2nd. He has been at it for many decades and he didn't ever remember being done this early before. That was a welcome change from last spring when wet conditions left many acres unplanted in our county. As of today, Minnesota is 97% planted on corn and 79% planted on soybeans. Over the past 5 years Minnesota averaged 70% planted on corn and 33% on soybeans at this time of the spring. So we are off to a good, early start. Now we just need to get some sun and warmth. One weather outlook for the summer calls for below normal precipitation for the NW Corn-Belt states of Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota for the months of June, July and August. I hope he is wrong.

I had to talk about the weather; there is not too much going on at the elk farm right now. The bulls are growing antler and the cows are getting more round with each passing day. I can't wait to get some new calves on the ground; there is just something about baby elk in the spring that makes me smile. Given that elk prices have risen substantially, seeing the little calves this year will put a bigger smile on my face than the last few years. I have not heard much about prices yet, but if all the interest we have had for elk meat and live animals are any indication, the calves should bring more money this year. Something about supply and demand.

Save the date: July 25th. I want to once again encourage you to attend the MnEBA summer picnic and bring along anyone with an interest in elk. This is a wonderful opportunity to mingle with others in the elk business, tour an elk farm and share some pot luck. The picnic will be on July 25th, 12:00 noon at Okaman Cervidae near Elysian, MN. We thank in advance Don and Joyce Kaplan for hosting the event. Don and Joyce have a beautiful place, so bring the family along for the farm tour and a day of fun. I always pick up some new elk management or farming idea on these farm tours. I truly enjoy them.

Keep safe this velvet and calving season. It seems that most times I have had an unfortunate incident with livestock, it was I that was to blame, not the animal. I was hurrying and didn't use the proper precautions, or was impatient, or just plain was not paying attention to the business at hand. That's when accidents seem to happen. So, take your time and have the help needed for safe handling.

See you all in July at the picnic.

Mark Lucas
MnEBA President

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

Hot Markets

Two markets in the elk industry that are very solid right now are TROPHY BULLS and MEAT ANIMALS.

TROPHY BULLS - Hard antler bull market looks to be all of 10% better than last year, with all bull sizes in demand but the main focus will be 300-400 inch bulls. The larger 400 plus bull still has good demand, it just takes a special client that is looking for the price tag that comes along with the larger 400 plus bull. A key factor on these bulls will be ranches are asking for contracts on bulls now so they know they can market the hunts. Many ranches will not try to sell hunts if they do not expect to get bulls, so get them contracted now. (I can still use 60-100 bulls.)

MEAT ANIMALS - The meat market is in danger of NOT keeping up with demand, pricing on most cull animals is in the \$4.00 per pound area, with light weight carcass's slightly lower. Make sure later this summer get the slaughter date set early because many plants are very busy late September-October. It makes no sense feeding a cull past this time of the year.

VELVET - I do know the spike and regrowth market is stronger than last year, spikes need to be cut short (6-10 inches max) to get top money. You as a producer will have to decide if cutting spikes are worth the time and risk. Most will bring \$150 plus per animal. One or three sticks maybe not, but 20-30 sticks will add up for a good check.

Regrowth cannot be hard antler with fuzz on it. As for the actual price on velvet, there were rumors of a contract in Canada for \$60 but no velvet traded hands at that number. I also want to add at the time of this writing, the value of the Canadian dollar was \$.75 US which still has the US money in the \$42-43 area. This leads me to believe this was just someone wanting that price and not an offer to buy. I do not expect prices lower than last year but I just do not have anything else to go on right now.

Scott Salonek (612) 850-8684

Velvet season is well underway with bulls being cut daily. When cutting antler, a few things we like to see so you can receive top dollar for quality antler: Freeze antler immediately, try to position in the freezer so you don't have flat spots or dents when frozen, clean any blood or mud after antler is frozen, and wrap the cut ends with plastic wrap only after antler is frozen.

With 2014 being one of the best years in almost two decades, 2015 looks strong also. At this time of the year, we are having phone conversations almost daily with several buyers trying to lock down the best price for the year so we will be ready when all the antler is cut. Keep the US proud and continue to cut quality clean antler.

As always, if you have any questions about cutting antler or when to cut, give one of us a call anytime. We thank you for your business and look forward to seeing you all again this year.

Scott Groen
320-979-0911

Brian Wagner
612-366-5078

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting Minutes – April 20, 2015

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a phone conference on April 20, 2015. Mark Lucas, Jim Byrne, Brian Wagner, Wade Schimmelpfennig, Greg Lubinski and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Lucas began the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Lucas asked for corrections to the January 31st board meeting minutes as presented. Byrne moved to approve, Lubinski seconded, motion carried. The treasurer's report was then reviewed and showed a balance of \$32,040.82. Byrne moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented, Lubinski seconded, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Board reviewed a list of potential locations for the 2016 MnEBA Annual Conference. Byrne moved to choose the Willmar Conference Center proposal, contingent on inspection of the newly updated facility, Schimmelpfennig seconded, motion carried.

Hartkopf reported the updated Raise the Legend books are at the printer and is hopeful to have copies available at the MnEBA booth for the State FFA Convention on April 27th.

Discussed trying to find a MnEBA member with a willingness to attend USAHA Conventions on an ongoing basis to give Dr. Zebarth and the rest of the farmed cervid community a stronger presence and voting power at annual USAHA conventions. It was decided to create a Search committee to seek potential representatives from MnEBA. Lucas appointed himself, Byrne and Wagner to the Search committee to find someone to serve in this capacity.

As an American Cervid Alliance meeting was also taking place the same time as the MnEBA board meeting, the board learned that the Program Standards will be reopening for review with important program changes to be discussed. In addition, the request for a stand-alone Farmed Cervid Committee still has not been decided upon by USAHA.

Discussed the MnEBA booth at the recent Bird, Buck, Bait and Boat Expo and if MnEBA would have an interest in participating in the show again next year. As this is a newer show, board was in favor of attending in 2016 and seeing if there was an improvement in attendance.

Hartkopf reported there was quite a bit of jerky left over. Board directed Hartkopf to send an email to the membership to see if there was interest in purchasing some of the leftover product for a discounted price.

Board reviewed the proposed gun list from The General Store for the 2016 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. The list as proposed, was approved by all. Hartkopf to lock in list and forward the deposit check.

Hartkopf reported that Don & Joyce Kaplan have agreed to host the 2015 MnEBA Summer Picnic. The date will be Saturday, July 25th.

Discussed upcoming MnEBA booth at the Minnesota State FFA Convention Career Fair. Hartkopf was asked to make a sign showing that MnEBA is a sponsor of the Blue Jackets for Brighter Futures campaign.

NEW BUSINESS

Hartkopf reported the date of the 2015 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt will be sometime around September 19-21. Tony Beckel has agreed to guide and host this year's event and Midwest Outdoors Unlimited will once again assist as well. Hartkopf is working to contact the applicant previously chosen by the board for this year's hunt. She is waiting for a call back at the present time.

Hartkopf reported that MnEBA has three more members than at this same time last year. Board reviewed list of 2014 members who have not yet renewed as well as a list of previous members and/or people with registered elk herds in Minnesota that were identified before 2004 and are confirmed by the Board of Animal Health as still raising elk. After discussion, it was decided that Mark and Brenda would come up with a list of discussion items and that this topic would be revisited at the next board meeting under Old Business.

Wagner moved to adjourn, Schimmelpfennig seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

Members in the Spotlight

MnEBA has several members who were active in public education activities over the past few months!

By Demand – Elk Increasing in Popularity as Alternative Meat Source

The Ag Reporter – By Leon Hanson

WELCH, MN - Perhaps you know someone who has hunted in the rugged terrain of Wyoming, Colorado or other western states in pursuit of wild elk. The sport is becoming more popular in conjunction with consumers' desire for a delicious and healthy meat choice other than the ones traditionally prepared.

For those of us who do not have the time, resources or knowledge to hunt elk, we are fortunate that a few people in our area raise the animal, much like those who raise beef cattle.

John & Shirley Fredrickson reside in rural Welch and have been raising elk for sixteen years. "It all began when John was looking for an alternative to beef and other meat," Shirley said. "We knew someone in Plainview who raised elk, and we purchased five cows from him. Since that time we have had as many as seventy head at our place."

In addition to selling the meat, the Fredricksons sell breeding stock. In order to market the meat, the Fredricksons must send the animals to slaughter at a state-inspected plant in LeCenter, Minnesota. "The rules and regulations are the biggest challenges we face. Our animals are grass fed in a pasture and we feed them a ground feed mixture as well. In the pasture setting, three elk can feed on the amount one

beef cow consumes."

Elk antlers are also a highly sought after byproduct. "Vitamins are made from freeze-dried antlers, which are most popularly used for the relief of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis," Shirley explained. "There really isn't much of the elk that can't be used for something. Ivory from the top of the mouths is used to make jewelry." Bull antlers are closely watched until a determination can be made on their value. If they don't have the right appearance, they remain on the animals sent to slaughter.

Raising a non-traditional meat source is always a risky proposition, however, demand for elk has risen steadily the past three to four years. "At farmers' markets, we have noticed a higher demand for leaner cuts," Shirley said.

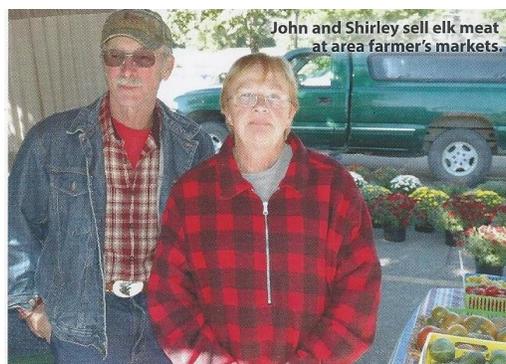
Tests are done to assure the quality of the meat. Every three years the animals are tested for TB. After butchering, the brain

stem of each animal has to be tested. Roughly sixty-nine percent of the hanging weight of the animal is usable. The cuts are quite similar to that of beef cows. A full-grown bull will weigh nine hundred to twelve hundred pounds, while a cow will come in between eight hundred fifty and nine hundred pounds.

Elk do very well in the Fredrickson pasture. They will bear calves into their teens. Adults may live as long as thirty years. "They don't use a lot of acreage," according to Shirley. "Ours are contained on twenty acres. We do keep the cows separate from the bulls." Eight bulls are used for breeding. The cows will give birth in May, June and July. "We slaughter about ten to eleven animals per year. That is what we have ready right now. We are thinking about expanding, though, to handle the demand."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has compiled nutritional facts comparing a three-ounce cooked portion of elk to other lean meats.

John and Shirley, much like other farmers, love the animals they raise. Although consumers may need a bit more education, the Fredricksons want to share what hunters have known for years: elk is a good alternate meat choice to put on your plate.



Minnesota Elk Production Thrives

St. Cloud Times – By Jake Laxon

BOWLUS, MN - The meat Mark and Lisa Luedtke raise on their farm is considered venison. But it's probably not the type of venison you think.

"Everyone in this area only thinks of white-tailed deer as venison," Mark said. The type of wild game meat the Luedtke's raise is elk. They call the operation Luckyland Elk Farm and raise them naturally on an old 120-acre dairy farm.

"We use it instead of beef in everything," Lisa said. "Burgers, tacos, spaghetti — you name it."

According to a Department of Agriculture study, elk is leaner, has fewer calories, less cholesterol and more protein than beef, pork and skinless chicken. Luckyland sells elk in quarters, halves and full portions at about \$4 per pound at hanging weight.

Locally, the Good Earth Food Co-Op at 2010 Veterans Drive N offers cuts of elk meat from Doraisamy Elk Farms of Garfield. Luckyland also has been featured previously at Good Earth.

"People who fry up a pound of (ground elk burger) for the first time are surprised that they don't have to drain the grease," Mark said. "It's just that lean. And it's not gamey at all."

Mark, a registered architect who last worked at Nor-Son Inc. of Brainerd, turned in his slanted desk to spend more time with his two daughters and run the farm full time at the end of 2013.

The Apollo High School graduate first got into raising elk in 2004 after moving back to Central Minnesota from Montana and buying the farm with Lisa, an Upsala High School and St. Cloud State University graduate.

"I had really enjoyed hunting for elk while living in Bozeman, Montana — but actually at the time I had no idea people raised elk," Mark said. "When we got this land I started researching it and just got intrigued."

A 2014 USDA census reported that Minnesota led U.S. elk production and was home to 141 elk farms that combined raised more than 4,200 elk.

"Our climate and pastures really cater to elk," Mark said. "Our winters don't bother them at all. In fact, they like the cold a lot more than they like summer."

He said elk can thrive on marginal land. The average space needed to raise one cow can raise three elk.

Mark, who also breeds elk on his farm to sell around the country, said there's recently been a "peak in the marketplace." Bulls typically grow to over 1,000 pounds and cows to about 600 pounds.

The Luedtkes also harvest the elk antlers and won nine awards last summer at the North American Elk Breeders Association and International Antler competition. Antlers can also be turned into medicine — Mark takes daily doses of the ancient remedy popular in Asia to combat arthritis.

"We've just fallen in love with the animal," Mark said.



Mark Luedtke grills string beans and elk burgers at the Luckyland Elk Farm he owns with his wife, Lisa, in rural Bowlus. (Photo: Kimm Anderson, kanderson@stcloudtimes.com)

Follow Up from MnEBA Booth at the State FFA Convention

Wildlife Class Tour



PINE ISLAND, MN - Jim Byrne recently hosted an elk tour for the Wildlife class from Kasson-Mantorville High School.

Jim writes, *"The wildlife class from Kasson-Mantorville was here this morning. Eleven kids with very good questions. All were interested and interacted well. This visit stems from the FFA booth. They were here for approximately 30 minutes. Hopefully we can do this again with the next class since it went so well."*



2015 MnEBA Summer Picnic Saturday, July 25, 2015

Okaman Cervidae – Don & Joyce Kaplan
43978 Reeds Lake Road (Co Rd 5) ~ Janesville, MN

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!

Bring portable chairs if you have them.

DIRECTIONS: From Faribault, take Hwy 60 west, go through Waterville and go 4 miles west of Waterville towards Elysian. When you see a metal building (trucking company), take left on Waseca Co Rd 3, then a quick left onto Reeds Lake Road (Co Rd 5). Farm is first driveway on the left. At end of driveway, you'll see a welcome sign saying "Welcome to Okaman". (Farm is halfway between Faribault and Mankato). If coming from Hwy 60 going east, take a right onto Waseca Co Rd 3 (by the trucking company building), then quick left onto Reeds Lake Road (Co Rd 5). Farm is first driveway on the left.

Board Blog by Greg Lubinski, MnEBA Director



Hello all,

May 18, 2015

I don't know if spring is here is not. One day you're in your shorts and the next day there's snow on the ground. On 5/15 as I look out the shop window, I see rain and the bull elk are grazing in their new pen on green grass. I don't know if they care about the weather as long as they see the green grass they can eat. This makes feeding the elk a lot easier.

I haven't heard if anybody has calves yet, but I'm sure in about 10 or so days we will start. Seems like they always know when better weather is coming.

Hope you all have a good spring calving and may life be good for you all!

Greg Lubinski @ Lubinski Elk Acres

Welcome New Members!

Martin & Donna Azcarraga, Plateau Valley Elk Ranch, 1058 23 Road, Grand Junction, CO 81505, (970) 263-4155 (Home), (970) 243-3221 (Work), (970) 243-9757 (Fax), maconcretedonna@bresnan.net or coelkbreeders@bresnan.net

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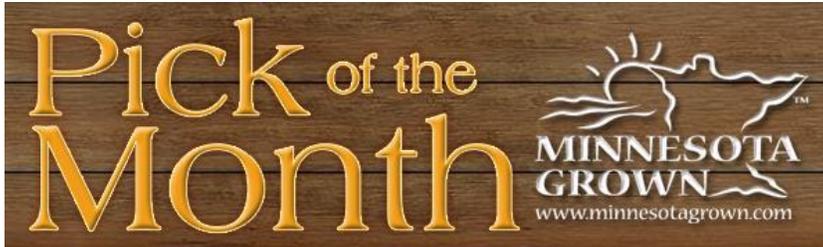
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Minnesota Grown Elk

February 2015

www.minnesotagrown.com

Minnesota Grown- Pick of the Month February 2015

At one time, native elk roamed most of the state of Minnesota, abundant in the prairies and hardwood forest transition zones of the state. Today, elk are raised by farmers throughout Minnesota. Our state is 1st in the nation in number of elk raised, according to the 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture.

Have you ever given this meat a try? Elk has been growing in popularity for 10 years due to its flavor, nutritional benefits, and more. Try incorporating elk into your next family meal or bring an elk dish to your next gathering or potluck.

We spoke with Brenda Hartkopf, the executive secretary for Minnesota Elk Breeders Association, office manager for the North American Elk Breeders Association, and owner of Splendor Ridge Elk Farm in Howard Lake, MN. We also spoke with Mark Lucas from Misery Creek Elk in Hamburg, MN about his experience raising elk and its growing popularity among consumers!

We would like to thank Minnesota Elk Breeders Association for helpful information and the photos included in this article.

Brenda Hartkopf, Splendor Ridge Elk Farm

Splendor Ridge farm got its start in 1993 with just three calves and 5 acres of land. Today, Brenda and her husband Lance have a herd of 120 animals on their now 75 acre family farm. We asked Brenda what her favorite aspect of raising elk was and she replied, "They are very majestic animals and the products they produce are amazing! Not only do they produce excellent tasting meat, their yearly production of antler creates a number of additional marketing opportunities for producers."

Mark Lucas, Misery Creek Elk

Mark grew up on a diversified farm raising sheep, beef, and poultry, and became interested in raising elk after visiting the Minnesota Elk Breeders booth at the Minnesota State Fair! He shared with us, "I ordered an informational packet from the MnEBA Association and never looked back." Mark enjoys raising elk and like Brenda, describes the animals as "majestic and fun to be around." He also commented on the healthiness of this animal and the efficiency of their pasture grazing.

Why Elk?

Since elk are native to Minnesota, they thrive in our cold winters and cooler summers.

Mark told us that compared to warmer areas; elk actually will grow larger and perform better in chilly northern climates like ours! Though these animals still have some wild tendencies, Brenda says that raising elk includes respecting and working with their natural instincts. "We know the elk like to move around corners and curves," Brenda shares, "and we incorporate that into our pasture and farm design."

Raising elk produces more than just meat! Elk offer a variety of products including meat, antler products, preserve bulls and breeding stock. In fact, Brenda states that elk demand currently exceeds supply. "We need more farmers to get into the business of raising elk! Demand for Minnesota elk products is thriving – so much that there is not enough supply to sustain the huge public demand at this time."

These markets include velvet antler for domestic health supplements and international trade; hard antler for dog chews and international trade; breeding stock and preserve bulls.

Elk meat is lean due to the eating habits of this species. Elk take in a lot of their diet from native grasses, trees, and bushes, and are very efficient pasture grazers. Domesticated elk derive most of

their food from oats, grass, and hay. This in turn creates very lean tissue, and a tasty cut of meat!

Cooking with Elk

Elk can be substituted in many other red meat recipes. The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association has a myriad of delicious recipe ideas to try (check them out www.mneba.org). Brenda suggests taking care when cooking elk the first time, as elk is naturally lean and cooks faster than higher fat meats. She tells us, "Shorter cooking times are the key to success."

Naturally, we had to ask our experts to share their favorite way to enjoy elk. Mark's favorite recipe is elk tacos. Brenda told us, "Our family loves the simple elk burger; we have them at least once a week. I add a little salt, pepper and diced onion and that's it. I also love to use the

ground burger for casseroles, chili, spaghetti and tacos. There's a perfect amount of fat to cook the meat and no excess fat and moisture to have to deal with." Our mouths are watering already, how about yours?

How can I purchase elk direct from a Minnesota Grown producer?

1.) Make a connection with a local elk producer near you that sells direct to their consumers. Visit the Minnesota Grown online Directory to find a producer based on town, zip code, or by browsing the map! Or, ask your local food friends! Buying local meat offers a unique opportunity to build connections to both the farmer and processor. Brenda advises, "Call far in advance of when you're wanting to purchase elk meat, you may be put on a waiting list. The current supply of elk meat is not meeting the huge public demand for it." She

suggests calling during summer or fall.

2.) Next, decide on the amount of meat you are interested in. Some producers sell retail cuts directly from their farm or at a local farmers market, but each producer can be different in the way they handle orders. Other producers and processors market livestock as: whole animals, half, quarters, sides, or sometimes even smaller fractions of the animal.

3.) Chat with the local producer about their offerings. Each producer is unique, so don't be afraid to reach out and ask the producer what their quantity options are. It is important to be comfortable with your producer and processor of choice - go ahead and ask questions, this is the beauty of working one on one with your farmer.

4.) Bring home your locally raised elk and enjoy!!

MnEBA Kitchen

Here's a quick meal for a busy summer night!

Taco Potatoes

4-6 potatoes, diced
2 Tbsp. olive oil
salt/pepper to taste
1 lb. ground elk

2 Tbsp. taco seasoning mix
1/2 cup water
shredded cheddar cheese



Preheat oven to 400 degrees and prepare a baking sheet with non-stick spray. Place potatoes on sheet and drizzle with olive oil, salt and pepper. Bake for about 25-30 minutes. While potatoes are roasting, cook meat in a skillet over medium-high heat for about 7-10 minutes or until browned. Add seasoning and water. Simmer 5 minutes.

When potatoes are done, remove sheet from oven. Evenly divide prepared meat over potatoes. Sprinkle on additional *toppings of choice** ending with shredded cheddar cheese. Place sheet back in the oven for about 10 minutes or until cheese is melted. Serve immediately.

**Additional toppings of choice could include additional cheeses, tomatoes, peppers, salsa, beans, olives, sour cream, guacamole, jalapenos, etc.*

STYX



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

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

13 cows have had 19+lb. twos

17 cows have had 18+lb. twos

24 cows have had 17+lb. twos

28 cows have had 16+lb. twos

35 cows have had 15+lb. twos

CHERNOBULL

525" - 4 -Year -Old - Unofficial

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



MIDAS

487" - 3 -Year -Old - Unofficial

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



50 CAL.

441" - 2 -Year - Old - Unofficial

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

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

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

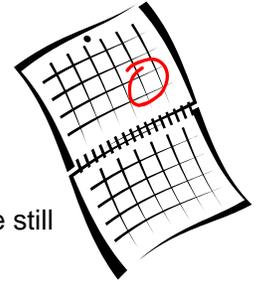
MOHLMAN ELK FARM

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

2016 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar

Three Sponsorships Are Still Available!

Many thanks to all MnEBA members who have stepped up to sponsor a month in the 2016 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. This year's sponsors to date include: Jim & Eileen Byrne, Leo Windschitl, Brian Wagner, Lance & Brenda Hartkopf, Perry & Don Olson, Dennis & Jacky Engebretson, Jerry & Linda Campbell, Chad Lawler and Mark & Lisa Luedtke. Three spots are still OPEN! If you would be willing to sponsor a month in the calendar, please contact the MnEBA Office as soon as possible!



Anyone who has not yet supplied their pictures, please do so ASAP! Absolute deadline is June 15th. Picture quality is very important. Electronic pictures work 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!

There are new exciting incentives to sell calendars this year! For each group of ten calendars sold by any one person, the seller's name goes into a drawing for an additional gun, a *Ruger Predator rifle, chamber is 204 Ruger*, to be picked up at The General Store. Must have stubs and money for all ten tickets turned in by December 31, 2015 to be eligible for the drawing. Sellers can be entered multiple times if they meet the requirements set above. The current free membership incentive for 30 calendars sold with stubs and money turned in by December 31st will also continue. Two additional \$100 Bonus Cash days will also be added to the calendar for a total of six, thereby creating more chances to win.

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 six \$100 cash bonus days. Please contact the MnEBA Office for more information.

Last year's calendars nearly sold out with 700 calendars sold with 9 people earning a free 2015 MnEBA membership by qualifying for the 30+ sales promotion. It pays to fundraise!!!

Calendar sales will be especially important this year as we work to raise additional funds to continue to assist in the national public relations 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 25th in Janesville. They will also be available at the NAEBA Convention in Baraboo, WI the following weekend or by contacting the MnEBA Office. Let's make this the year we sell out!!!! Please forward your sponsorship pledge, questions or comments to the MnEBA Office at 320-543-2686 or info@mneba.org.



Elk Bull Needed for 2015 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt

MnEBA is seeking an elk bull for the 2015 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt to be held at Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch in Baudette, MN the weekend of September 19-21st. 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 9th year MnEBA has sponsored this hunt!

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



The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association was one of 25 organizations and individuals who contributed to the national Public Relations Campaign organized by the American Cervid Alliance earlier this year. Since June, approximately 80 published editorials have directly responded to inaccurate articles. This campaign is unlike any in the history of the elk industry! Industry-friendly editorials will continue to be published in major news outlets through this campaign all across the country!

State Must Remain Vigilant to Manage Disease in Deer

The Buffalo News - Opinion

May 20, 2015 - It's great to read that chronic wasting disease was once again not detected in any New York deer ("Deer harvests holding strong," May 17 News). This shows the importance of having a ban on the importation of deer carcasses. An easy way that CWD can unintentionally spread is the uncontrolled movement of carcasses across state lines. In New York, officials believe the disease came from a taxidermist.

The state should continue to test free-ranging deer for CWD and not rest on its laurels. While undue media

attention is focused on deer farms, free-ranging animals have spread CWD across the country from Wyoming to Texas to West Virginia. Being vigilant with free-ranging deer, especially now that CWD is in Pennsylvania, is important to managing the disease.

Charly Seale
Council Member, American Cervid Alliance

<http://www.buffalonews.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/letter-state-must-remain-vigilant-to-manage-disease-in-deer-20150520>

Hunting Preserves are Safe, Humane

IndyStar - Opinion

April 25, 2015 - I'd like to respond to unfounded criticism of House Bill 1453, which would expand deer hunting preserves in Indiana. Letter writer Jeff Wells asserted that the expansion of hunting preserves would pose a "significant threat to the health of Indiana's wild whitetail deer herd." This is false.

The interstate movement of deer is heavily regulated. Deer moved across state lines must come from a herd that is CWD certified, a program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This program requires a facility to test 100 percent of its mortalities over 12 months of age for CWD and have no positive tests for a minimum of five years. Additionally, Indiana has its own regulations on the movement of deer. There's no significant threat to the free-ranging deer population by expanding hunting preserves in Indiana.

Further, Wells claims that the hunting preserves that exist in Indiana are allowed to operate because of a lawsuit they filed against the state Department of Natural

Resources. This is a misleading characterization. The DNR tried to violate private property rights by shutting these ranches down 10 years ago, and the ranches stood up for their rights in court. So far, they've won, with the state Court of Appeals ruling in February that the DNR abused its power.

There's nothing wrong with ethically hunting deer on a private ranch that is hundreds or thousands of acres and provides for fair chase. A recent Outdoor Life poll of hunters found that 62 percent of hunters don't support banning game farms, while only 17 percent support a ban. A few vocal hunters may not like hunting preserves, but they don't have to hunt there. That's what this country is about — giving people choices to pursue different interests, even if you don't share them.

Charly Seale
American Cervid Alliance, Ayr, Neb.

www.indystar.com/story/opinion/readers/2015/04/25/hunting-preserves-safe-humane/26392169/

ACA Leadership Council Adopts New Industry Terminology Policy

April 23, 2015 - AYR, NE - Deer and elk leaders hope to improve the way the industry is portrayed by changing commonly used terminology in their conversations and marketing.

The ACA's Terminology Committee recently submitted recommendations to the Leadership Council that included a list of new alternative terms. The committee, chaired by Texas Deer Association's Warren Bluntzer, developed a list of commonly used industry terms that could leave harmful or questionable impressions of the cervid industry. Though producers and people close to the industry may understand their meanings, the uninformed public may not understand and be left with the wrong impression.

The term "shooter buck" was identified as giving a negative impression to the public. "Trophy buck" was recommended by the committee to be used instead as a better term.

Elk and deer are at times sold into the meat industry.

The committee recommended producers refer to these animals as "meat animals" for "meat processing" rather than "slaughter or butcher animals." The committee believes the latter terminology gives an image of a bloody process rather than the end result of steak dinner served to the public.

All in all, over a dozen recommendations were presented by the committee and adopted by the leadership council. The approved report of recommendations has been distributed to the 39 ACA member associations.

The committee report is the first of several committee recommendations that will help improve the image of the industry. The committee has several more terms to consider.

The ACA appreciates the time the committee has devoted to this project. The committee members are as follows: Warren Bluntzer, Jerry Campbell, Glen Dice, Donald Hill, Kevin Hinkebein, Kurt Humphrey, Todd Landt, Travis Lowe and Curt Waldvogel.

HSUS Takes Notice of American Cervid Alliance

April 8, 2015 - In the wake of several 2015 legislative and legal victories for the cervid industry, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) CEO Wayne Pacelle recently posted a blog summarizing his frustration with the progress made by the Indiana cervid industry. Pacelle spotlights IndyStar writer Ryan Sabalow's attempt to rally support against the cervid and

conservation hunting industry and takes notice of the American Cervid Alliance's Public Relations campaign.

Check out the link below to read HSUS blog.

<http://blog.humanesociety.org/wayne/2015/04/indiana-captive-hunting-bill.html>

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News from New Zealand

It's always interesting to hear news from cervid breeders in other parts of the world. Here's a great recent update from New Zealand. (Reprinted from the May 2015 NAEBA Journal.)

Elk & Wapiti Society of New Zealand

by Tony Pullar

Hello again from the South Pacific. Like you guys up there, the weather plays a big part in our farming activities and for most of the east coast of both Islands and some inland areas, the last six months have been very dry in New Zealand. In some areas the drought level has been lifted to severe and this is pretty extreme for New Zealand, although not entirely unusual and definitely not what you could attribute to a "global warming" event. Like your weather extremes, the weather patterns here in New Zealand are not that vastly different to similar patterns of 100 years ago. In saying that we have had very mild winters for the last two years so maybe this winter will be a real one! A drought like we have had puts pressure on everyone and certainly lifts the price of supplements so that's a bit of a pain, but we just have to suck it up and get on with it.

Even now as we move into autumn, there is little hope of recovery for soil moisture levels to a point that it would make grass magically reappear and winter crops roar out of the ground. Actually most in North America I would think, don't grow winter feed crops like we do down here and generally every farm type in New Zealand relies very heavily on the quality and quantity of those winter crops.

Outside of the severest areas of drought, strangely enough, the winter crops have done remarkably well. We grow swede, kale, turnip, rye grass and in the last decade, there has been a big swing to sugar beet winter feed crops. The beet crop fashion has been mostly inspired by the rising dairy cow industry with those big herds of cows having equally big appetites. The beet crop planting has not been exclusively utilized by dairy farmers and a lot of deer farmers are now professing yields of between 25-30 tons dry matter per hectare which delivers a lot of feeding potential to animals through our relatively short 100 day winter. Some of the very best soil types can yield up to 40 tons d/m per hectare. Conversely, this has started a business in beet harvesting and those big goliath 60 ton harvesting machines are appearing on the New Zealand landscape.

The velvet season is behind us down here and it could only be described as buoyant with plenty of interest from Asia and an evident increase specifically from China. I guess it would be fair to say the increase in returns to the velvet farmer would be upwards of 30%. As the buttons fly off up there, don't skimp on the feed because it would follow that North America would see the same increased interest.

Our velvet competitions have wound up for the season and our Elk/Wapiti Society competitions were held in a beautiful part of the South Island called Wanaka, a place we used to call a holiday village. Just over the mountains from Queenstown, it's a great lake venue and we had a good turnout of 73 velvet and hard antler entries which is up on last year. The number of 20 kg heads has risen and there is a noticeable lift in velvet weights across all classes, so persistence and patience is slowly paying off. There are some photos up on our website www.elkwapitisociety.co.nz.

Speaking of persistence, I have to without any patriotism or national ego, mention that I did recently attend another velvet/antler competition we have called Rising Stars. That competition is predominantly centered on the best red deer but we do have a couple of classes for wapiti (2 year velvet and hard antler). The progress made in antler and velvet traits by some of our best red deer farmers is quite staggering. This has all been achieved in the last 40 years and I personally think it is internationally worthy of mention because the rate of progress for a single trait is absolutely fantastic. If these guys were in the horse racing industry, there would be some very fast horses around. I probably can't convey that progress fully here but if you were in this country and had a look around, you might come close to agreeing with me. Go to www.deergenetics.co.nz for a peek.

The genetic jump in red deer has been primarily achieved with AI and to a greater degree, embryo transfer. It is common place for most of the red deer studs here to do embryo transfer programs annually, so targeting the best females and reproducing 5-10 live fawns from the top females using recipient hinds often sired by multiple outstanding sires, produces some stunning progress!

Annoyingly for various reasons for me and my fellow wapiti fanatics, embryo transfer has never really taken off here in elk so we are limited to that progression by AI. If anyone knows of any recent progress in embryo transfer in elk, I would love to know. I know by on the ground observations here in New Zealand with the red deer that it would be a fantastic outcome for elk genetics internationally. Food for thought for you guys going into the spring. Here's hoping from New Zealand that you all have good spring season up there.

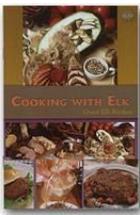
MnEBA Promotional Materials

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

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

MEAT PROMOTIONS

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



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

3rd Edition "Cooking With Elk" Cookbook

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

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

VELVET PROMOTIONS



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

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

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

GENERAL INFORMATION



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

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

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

HOME DÉCOR



Price includes shipping & handling.

Elk Trashcan (*pictured*) \$25 each

Elk Rug (Small) \$27.50 each

Elk Rug (Large) \$40 each

MNELK / MINNESOTA GROWN BOX

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

\$1 each



**25th Annual North American Elk Breeder's Association
ANNUAL CONVENTION & INTERNATIONAL ANTLER COMPETITION**
July 30 - August 1, 2015 ~ Ho Chunk Casino, Hotel & Convention Center ~ Wisconsin Dells

Name _____ Spouse Name _____
 Child(s) Name (for badge) _____ E-Mail _____
 Ranch/Business Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ City/ State/Zip _____

Full Registration (Registration includes meals, seminars and trade show)

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

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

Sign up by **June 15th** to be included in the convention program.

- Monarch Exhibitor (Two booth spaces & choice of space location) First come - First serve. **\$250** \$ _____
 _____ Check here if electricity is needed
- Royal Exhibitor (One booth space) **\$100** \$ _____
 _____ Check here if electricity is needed

Contact Person _____ Ph# _____ E-mail _____
 Badge Name(s) _____
 Description of Products/Services _____

Convention Program Advertising - Advertise in the Convention Program to Increase Your Exposure!

Convention programs mailed to all members & distributed to all attendees. Convention program advertising deadline **June 15th**!

Front or Back Cover \$400 Inside Front or Back Cover \$350 Full Page \$300
 Half Page \$200 Quarter Page \$150 Business Card \$75 \$ _____

Contributions/Donations - This event is NAEBA's largest fundraiser! All donations & contributions generate revenue which allows NAEBA to operate throughout the coming year. Please consider making a monetary or item donation to benefit NAEBA. **As an Added Bonus - anyone donating \$1,000 Cash or more will receive a FREE Convention Pass!**
 (List your donation(s) below to have them included in pre-convention promotions.)

Amount/Description _____

Sponsorship - To call **ATTENTION** to your company in a **BIG WAY** ~ Sponsor Convention Events!

- Evening Banquet – \$3,000 (3 Convention passes **PLUS** Full Page Convention Program Ad **AND** Royal Exhibit Booth) \$ _____
 - Entertainment – \$1,500 (2 Convention passes **PLUS** choice of 1/2 Page Convention Program Ad **OR** Royal Exhibit Booth) \$ _____
 - Hospitality Suite Sponsor (call for details) \$ _____
 - Coffee Break – \$400 \$ _____
 - Trophy (1st, 2nd, 3rd) – \$75/each (trophy class(es) _____) \$ _____
- TOTAL DUE \$ _____**

Hotel Information - Ho Chunk Reservations (800) 746-2486. Ask for NAEBA's special conference rate of \$104 per night ~ Thursday/Friday/Saturday ~ Room block deadline – **Thursday, July 16, 2015**

Payment – US Funds

Circle one: Visa/Mastercard Discover American Express Check # _____
 Credit Card #: _____ Security Code (3#s on Back of Card) _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____
 Card Holder Signature: _____

Mail/Fax this Form with Payment To: **NAEBA, 9086 Keats Avenue SW, Howard Lake, MN 55349** Fax: (320) 543-2983

Brenda Hartkopf, NAEBA Office Manager
 (320) 543-3665 Fax: (320)543-2983 info@naelk.org

Dawn Berhorst, NAEBA Event Coordinator
 (573) 690-1245 dawn@naelk.org



NAEBA's 25th Annual Conference & International Antler Competition

July 30 – August 1, 2015 Ho Chunk Convention Center, Baraboo, WI

Thursday, July 30

Noon – 9 pm Exhibitor Set-up
 Noon – 9 pm International Antler Check-in
 1:00 – 2:30 pm NAEBA Board of Directors Meeting
 3:00 – 4:00 pm Elk Research Council Board of Trustees Meeting
 4:00 – 5:00 pm Best Practices of Velvet Cutting
Eric Mohlman, Antler Competition Chair & Lance Hartkopf, Senior Velvet Antler Judge
 7:00 – 8:30 pm Hard Antler Scoring School –
Tom Watts, Senior Hard Antler Judge
 8:30 pm Hospitality

Friday, July 31

8 am – 6 pm Antler Judging
 Tradeshaw
 Silent Auction
 Elk Meat Products Entry
 Photo Contest Entry & Voting
 Board Election Ballots Due
 Continental Breakfast
 Welcome to Wisconsin
Bruce Krueger, WCDEFA President
 9:10 – 10 am General Membership Meeting
 10 – 10:30 am Break – *Continental breakfast cont.*
 10:30 – 11:30 am Regional Meetings
 Western, Northeast, Northern, Central, North Central, Southern
 11:30 am – 1 pm Lunch On Own
 1 – 2 pm SEMINAR – Artificial Insemination
 101- *Dr. Martin Wenkoff, Livestock Reproductive Technologies*
 2 – 2:30 pm SEMINAR – Elk Research
 Council Update – *Travis Lowe, ERC Executive Director & Eric Mohlman, ERC Chairman*
 2:30 – 3:15 pm SEMINAR – Calf Management –
Ben Seutter & Eric Mohlman
 3:15 – 3:45 pm Afternoon Break – *Sponsored by Diamond K Ranch*
 3:45 – 5 pm SEMINAR – EHD – Signs & Prevention – *Dr. Lee Cohnstaedt, Research Entomologist, USDA Ag Research Service*
 5 pm Cash Bar Opens

6 – 7 pm Evening Banquet
 7 – 8 pm Entertainment – *Sean Emery*
 8 pm NAEBA's Fun Auction
 10 pm Hospitality

Saturday, August 1

8 am – 9:00 am NAEBA Board of Directors Meeting
 8 am – 6:00 pm Tradeshaw
 8 am – 3:30 pm Photo Contest Continues
 8:15 – 9:15 am Silent Auction Continues
 9:00 – 9:45 am Continental Breakfast
 SEMINAR – Semen Collection & Rules for Exporting Semen
Dr. Martin Wenkoff, Livestock Reproductive Technologies
 SEMINAR – Velvet Antler Use in Chinese Medicine – *James Carolan, Ma.OM, Dipl.OM, Practitioner of Chinese Medicine*
 9:45 – 10:30 am Break – *Continental breakfast cont.*
 10:30 – 11 am SEMINAR – NAEBA Animal Registration 101/Q&A
NAEBA Staff
 11:00 – 11:45 am Lunch On Own
 11:45 am – 1 pm Velvet Antler Competition Viewing & People's Choice Awards Voting
 1 – 2:45 pm Afternoon Break
 2:45 – 3:30 pm Elk Meat Contest
 3:30 pm 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 Toast to NAEBA's 25th Anniversary, Announce Winners of Photo & Meat Contests, NAEBA Awards, Premier Breeder Awards
 7:30 – 9 pm NAEBA Benefit Semen Auction, Select Animal Auction & ERC Benefit Auction
 9:00 pm Closing Remarks
 9:10 pm Competition Antler Check-Out & Exhibitor Tear Down
 9:30 pm Hospitality

Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

This article is reprinted from the May 2015 NAEBA Journal and provides some timely reminders for the upcoming spring/summer season.

Elk Disease Control

By Glen Zebarth, DVM

Preventative Measures

First, biosecurity is very important in all types of animal agriculture. *The fewer exposures to outside animals the better.* In elk farming, this includes less exposure to *wild* cervids.

Pay careful attention to new animals introduced into your herd. Vaccinations are needed for certain diseases and vary with the location of your elk herd.

Management steps to help avoid exposure

1. Avoid low wet lands as much as possible. Snails and slugs are intermediate hosts for meningeal worm and liver flukes.
2. Have a bare graveled border around the fenced pen to discourage snail and slug movement. The graveled border will also lower the wild whitetail deer from seeding the area close to the fence with intermediate larvae.
3. Double fencing may be beneficial if you are located in an epidemic area for chronic wasting disease.
4. Know the status of herds from which you purchase animals (such as: tuberculosis, brucellosis, chronic wasting disease). Other topics would include Johne's Disease history and parasite control program.
5. Sheep are a bad mix with elk. For example: 70% carry the virus of Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF) and elk can occasionally get this disease. If you plan to have sheep on your property, the sheep may be tested for MCF.
6. Try to avoid having your elk in close contact with large numbers of cattle. I have observed major multiple disease problems in newborn calves that were right next to a cattle feedlot. The feedlot had a high turnover of young background cattle coming from many sources. The elk contracted and passed through many of the cattle viruses and bacteria with the calves having high mortality.

Nutrition

Perhaps the most important aspect of disease prevention is nutrition. Forage testing and assistance with ration formulation is money well spent.

One major element in feeding elk is Copper. Elk have high requirements for Copper in their diet. They are browsers and Dr. Haigh's study in Saskatchewan found browse always contains 10 times more Copper amounts compared to grass in the same location. When we have elk in pastures and the trees and browse are gone, we need to supplement more Copper. The best way to determine the Copper status of your elk herd is by testing a liver sample. Submit a sample to your state veterinary diagnostic lab. When submitting, request a mineral analysis (especially Copper). The lab will report the normal levels. At most labs, the wet weight analysis for elk is low if below 30ppm and very low if below 10ppm.

Elk need 240 mg per head/day of Copper. Some producers have fed up to 350 mg per hd/day. Copper solubility varies with the form of Copper. Copper deficiency is the most common problem that I have observed on farms and ranches.

Fescue grass in pastures can be very detrimental to your herd affecting antler production, cow fertility and general well-being.

Vaccinations

Another preventive measure is to vaccinate your herd.

The vaccines used are primarily cattle and sheep products. Again, the best strategy is to have a valid veterinary-client relationship. The veterinarian and farmer can decide together which vaccinations would benefit the elk depending on the specific demographic area and the herd.

Clostridial Diseases (8-way vaccines and *Clostridium perfringens* type A)

Calves - 2 doses. One can be given prior to weaning and a booster at weaning or after.

Adults - Booster annually.

Generally, use cattle label dose. If Clostridial disease of newborn calves is a problem, you can use C & D antitoxin at birth given both orally and parental. You can also treat with procaine penicillin which needs to be given very early in the course of disease.

Leptospirosis in elk can cause infertility in cows and kidney infections in calves.

Calves - Use a vaccine that has been used by your veterinarian in your local area (generally a 5-way Lepto).

Pneumonia can be caused by several different organisms.

The most commonly found agents are: *Pasteurella multocida*, *Pasteurella trehalosi*, *Mannheimia hemolytica*, *Truperella pyogenes*, *Mycoplasma* species, and *Fusobacterium* species (which can also cause necrotic stomatitis, lumpy jaw, and foot rot). These are the most common agents of pneumonia in elk.

Hemorrhagic Disease is a major disease of whitetail deer. This disease has occurred in some elk herds. Controlling the midge vector is important in prevention. Research is underway to produce commercial vaccines. Presently, autogenous vaccines may reduce the disease.

The important point of the above list is that you need an accurate diagnosis of what specific disease you are dealing with. The best and only way, in many cases, is submitting the best quality samples possible to your state veterinary diagnostic lab. Once you receive the diagnosis, your veterinarian can recommend a possible treatment and prevention protocol.

Further suggested readings include:

1. J. Haigh and R. Hudson, *Farming Wapiti and Red Deer*, Mosby, St. Louis, MO 1993
2. M. Fowler, editor. *Zoo & Wild Animal Medicine*, 2nd Edition, W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, PA 1986
3. C. Shipley, DVM, DACT. *Common Diseases & Treatments for Cervidae*. University of IL, Urbana, IL.
4. I. Thorleifson and etal, *Elk Farming Handbook*.

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Idaho Open for Business!

Many MnEBA members have been receiving phone calls from bull buyers in Idaho now that the 100th meridian border closure for importing elk from states east of the 100th meridian has been lifted. Among others, Minnesota's Dr. Glen Zearth and Brian Wagner both spent time in Idaho assisting the Idaho Elk Breeders Association lobbying efforts with this initiative. See details below.

Idaho Elk Breeders' Legislative Victory!

Earlier this week, the Idaho House Agricultural Affairs Committee voted to ratify new rules to open the state's borders for importing elk from states east of the 100th meridian. Idaho was one of the only states with an elk industry that does not allow this.

The Idaho Elk Breeders Association (IEBA) led the charge to advocate the change in countless meetings in the state capitol over the past year. IEBA was reinforced by several representatives of the North American Elk Breeders Association along with other cervid industry leaders.

Opposition of the change, which consists mostly of close allies of the state wildlife agency, say the move would put Idaho at risk by citing concerns of the meningeal worm. NAEBA and IEBA representatives, however, say the wildlife agencies are playing political games to impose crippling rules. The meningeal worm is considered a dead-end host in elk and thereby not a threat. Other Mountain West States have allowed the elk importation as long as the elk have been administered a de-worming treatment prior to movement. During the hearing, NAEBA Past-President Brian Wagner noted he ships elk bulls across the United States and that meningeal worm is not an issue.

The Idaho vote marks another legislative win for the cervid industry in 2015!

Committee Lifts Import Restrictions on Domestic Elk

Posted: Monday, March 30, 2015
The Lewiston Tribune Online
by Bill Spence

Despite vocal opposition from sportsmen's groups, a House committee voted Monday to lift an import restriction on domestic elk. The restriction was imposed in 2003 because of concerns about meningeal worm, a parasite that can have a devastating impact on elk and moose populations.

The worm is endemic to eastern North America. By prohibiting elk imports from the region, the Idaho Department of Agriculture hoped to prevent the parasite from being brought in by infected animals.

The Idaho Elk Breeders Association asked for the restriction to be lifted, saying it undermines their ability to improve their herds with better genetics. They also noted the restriction doesn't apply to sheep or llamas, which might be able to pass worm larvae in their feces.

Idaho Fish and Game Director Virgil Moore wrote a letter opposing the rule change, saying if the worm ever gets established in Idaho, "it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to control (and) could cripple the state's hunting industry, which contributes millions of dollars to the economy each year."

Given such concerns, the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee opposed the proposed rule change earlier this year. However, a non-fee rule such as this must be rejected by both bodies. When the House Agricultural Affairs Committee voted 8-6 Monday not to concur with the Senate action, it allowed the rule to take effect.

There was no discussion prior to the vote.

House Ag Chairman Ken Andrus, R-Soda Springs, noted afterwards there was conflicting testimony on the issue during several public hearings. Since sheep might be carriers of the parasite, he felt opposition to the rule change had less to do with science and more to do with "an aversion to domestic elk."

http://lmtribune.com/blogs/political_theater/committee-lifts-import-restrictions-on-domestic-elk/article_1f4db97a-d729-11e4-ae8e-b7775ae27ebd.html

Aug. 27-Labor Day, Sept. 7, 2015

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

It's time to be making plans for the MnEBA booth at the Minnesota State Fair! After last year's record-breaking booth sales, the committee is very excited to step things up a notch again in 2015!

There are still several 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 simply a fun place to be and has something of interest for everyone!

If you've never worked the booth or are unsure about trying it, Greg Lubinski will be happy to join someone who hasn't worked it before. If he's unable to be there, he will pair you up with someone who will show you 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. Please see the dog chew application in this mailing if interested in providing the dog chew supply. The past two years have seen a pretty consistent number of dog chews sold at the fair. If you are able to provide up to (100) 4" and (200) 8" chews, feel free to apply to be the wholesale vendor to MnEBA of the dog chews needed for the State Fair.

Greg & Roxy Lubinski and Paul Hueg are now the formal co-chairs of the State Fair committee. Please contact Greg Lubinski at (507) 273-0525 to sign up for any of the open shifts below. Contact Paul Hueg at (612) 791-0443 with any comments or suggestions for this year's booth display. Paul's already got some great ideas for improvements.

Many, many thanks to Morrie & Daphne Evenson for all their years of great work on the State Fair committee! Please know your time, talents and efforts were very much appreciated!!!

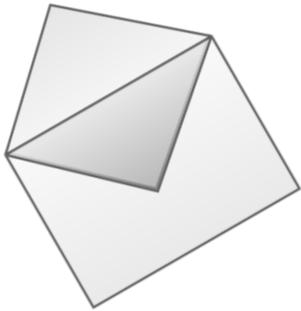
Date	Time	Workers	Date	Time	Workers
Pre-Fair		Set Up – Paul Hueg, Greg Lubinski	9/2	8 – 2	OPEN
8/27	8 - 2	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf		2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	Mark & Michelle Lucas	9/3	8 – 2	Jim Byrne, Norm Schimmelpfennig
8/28	8 – 2	Aase Family		2 - 9	Jim Byrne
	2 – 9	Don & Joyce Kaplan	9/4	8 – 2	Jim Byrne, Martin Zacharias
8/29	8 – 2	Don & Joyce Kaplan		2 - 9	Jim Byrne, Martin Zacharias
	2 – 9	Don & Joyce Kaplan	9/5	8 – 2	Lubinski Family
8/30	8 – 2	OPEN		2 – 9	Turek Family
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/6	8 – 2	Prodzinski Family
8/31	8 – 2	Jim Byrne		2 - 9	Wade Schimmelpfennig, Greg Lubinski
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/7	8 – 2	Greg & Roxy Lubinski, Ray Smothers
9/1	8 – 2	Damon & Duane Melquist		2 – 9	Paul & Lynn Hueg
	2 – 9	OPEN			

Insert to this Newsletter Mailing

Dog Chew Supplier for 2015 Minnesota State Fair

Enclosed is an application form to be the wholesale dog chew supplier to MnEBA for the Minnesota State Fair. Approximately (100) 4" chews and (200) 8" chews are needed along with the ability to provide additional chews on short notice.

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



FFA Jacket Thank You

*Dear MnEBA,
I'm sorry it took me so long to write this. I am so thankful for you sponsoring my jacket. It allows me to take pride in being in my FFA chapter. I am actually the new president and a lot of that is thanks to you. I wish you all the happiness in the world.*

*With thanks,
Ashley Anderson, Glenwood, MN*

BLACK VELVET ELK RANCH



WANTED!

Hard Antler Bulls

Any & All Elk

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

Committee Reports

WANTED – Your ELK Photos

MnEBA is looking for elk pictures from member farms and ranches for use on MnEBA’s Facebook page and web site. Pictures can be recent or from longer ago and can be about anything elk related! Please think about what photos you might have or could take and send them to the MnEBA Office. It would be a huge help in keeping fresh, new content in front of the general public!

Joke of the Day

Two men were walking through the woods and came upon a big black, deep hole. One man picked up a rock and tossed it into the hole and stood listening for the rock to hit bottom. There was no sound.

He turned to the other guy and said "that must be a deep hole...let's throw a bigger rock in there and listen for it to hit bottom." The men found a bigger rock and both picked it up and lugged it to the hole and dropped it in.

They listened for some time and never heard a sound. Again, they agreed that this must be one deep hole and maybe they should throw something even bigger into it.

One man spotted a rail-road tie nearby. They picked up the tie, grunting and groaning, and lugged it to the hole. They tossed it in. No sound. All of a sudden, a goat came flying out of the woods, running like the wind, and flew past the men and jumped straight into the hole. The men were amazed.

About that time, an old hayseed farmer came out of the woods and asked the men if they had seen a goat. One man told the farmer of the incredible incident they had just witnessed...they had just seen this goat fly out of the woods and run and leap into the big hole. The man asked the farmer if this could have been his goat.

The old farmer said "naw, that can't be my goat...he was chained to a railroad tie."

MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS	
Annual Conference	Rita Prodzinski (507) 452-1282
Fundraising	Brenda Hartkopf (320) 543-2686
Government Relations	Jim Byrne (507) 358-6505
Health	OPEN
Scholarship	Kaye Zebarth (320) 834-4064
State Fair	Greg & Roxy Lubinski (507) 534-3247 Paul Hueg (612) 791-0443

MnEBA Newsletter Advertising Rates

Ads must be camera ready. To place an ad, call the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686.

	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

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Capsules
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AgMax
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Black Velvet Elk Ranch
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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

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

Calendar of Events

July 25, 2015 – MnEBA Summer Picnic, Okaman Cervidae, Don & Joyce Kaplan, Janesville, MN

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

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

January 8 – 9, 2016 – MnEBA Annual Conference, Willmar Convention Center, Willmar, MN

March 19, 2016 – 2016 NAEBA March Mingle, Doubletree by Hilton, Edmonton, AB

Classified Ads

Wanted: Hard antler bulls wanted for Fall of 2015 sizes 300-450 plus, prices better than last year, contract and deposit if wanted. Scott Salonek 612-850-8684.

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

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

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

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

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

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

MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

9086 Keats Avenue SW
Howard Lake, MN 55349