



## Special Interest Articles:

- 2013 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt
- Summer Membership Meeting Minutes
- 2013 NAEBA International Antler Competition Top Three
- 2014 MnEBA Gun Calendar Raffle
- American Cervid Alliance Updates
- MnEBA Officer Blog
- Farmed Cervidae Advisory Minutes
- 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memories Continued
- Vet Corner
- Committee Reports

## President's Message by Mark Lucas

Good Day All!

It is that wonderful time of year again. The one we call fall. There are fewer mosquitoes, cooler temperatures and bulls are bugling. Even after years of raising elk, I still get a shiver down my back the first few times I hear a bull bugle each fall. And then there is the comic relief when a spiker makes his first few attempts at it. It is all a reminder of why we raise what has been termed, "Americas Greatest Animal."

First of all I want to thank and congratulate all of you elk producers out there. As a group we have been harped on for years about the unacceptable level of escapes of farmed cervidae by the wildlife agencies and others. While no level is considered "acceptable", we have made great strides and the number of escapes has gone down substantially each of the past few years. It is interesting to hear that the majority of escapes have been human error, not trees falling on the fence or wind or high water. We just plain left a gate open, or the kid doing chores left it open. Just a little bit more attention to those gates has made a huge difference and it makes our job far more enjoyable when MnEBA has meetings in St. Paul. I thank you and the board thanks you for stepping up your gate attention. It sets the stage for more open and productive discussions among the agencies involved about what happens when there is that occasional escape.

When fall rolls around we know that the New Year is just around the corner. And with the New Year comes the need for a new 2014 MnEBA Elk Calendar! This is the Minnesota Elk Breeders largest fund raiser of the year and last year was a huge success. This year's elk photos are the best we have had to date and the gun prize list is also great. I think a big part of the success has been that not only are you helping the Association by selling a few calendars, but you can directly help yourself. Once again if a member sells 30 calendars you get your MnEBA dues paid for the year! Last year we had more members take advantage of this than ever before. Perhaps selling isn't your thing? If that is the case think outside the box a little. Why not ask that outgoing, gregarious son-in-law of yours if some of his hunting buddies might want a calendar. Or maybe ask that friend that spends a fair amount of time up at the local bar to take some along next time they get thirsty. They also make nice stocking stuffers. Keep in mind that part of the proceeds goes towards sponsoring an elk hunt for a disabled U.S. veteran. Please do your part to help make this another big success. If you haven't got a supply already, give Brenda a call at the office and she will get some in your hands.

Enjoy the fall weather, snowflakes are on the way.

Cordially;

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 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

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## 2013 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt

Much progress has been made in organizing the upcoming 2013 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt. While no one offered up a bull this year, we did have two very generous individuals who stepped up to purchase a bull for this event; one a MnEBA member, and the other, a person who just wanted to get involved for a good cause. Mike Kettenacker is a local businessman who heard about the hunt from MnEBA member Brian Wagner. He wanted to get involved to give back to a Minnesota veteran who has given so much of himself for fellow Americans. Thus, Mike teamed up with Brian to purchase a bull for the hunt. Many thanks to both Mike and Brian for their tremendous generosity!

However, this hunt doesn't just involve purchasing a bull. Several others are also just as importantly involved! Tony Beckel of Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch has hosted this hunt for the past six years. Every one of the past hunt participants have expressed much appreciation for the good time Tony shows his hunters! They also love the facility and the experience. Thank you Tony for all you do to make this opportunity special for each and every participant.

The Lake Superior SCI Chapter will once again help to fund other expenses such as travel, lodging, food and processing of the meat. MnEBA is fortunate to have such a generous organization to work with on this project year after year.

If you have attended any of MnEBA's more recent conferences, you have also met Ron Welle of Midwest Outdoors Unlimited. Midwest Outdoors Unlimited helps spread the word about this opportunity to Minnesota veterans, handles the applications, and helps make the arrangements for the hunt. Ron also personally drives the hunter to Baudette and assists them throughout the entire hunt. He also brings a cameraman to help capture the special moments of the hunt experience.

What's missing? The Minnesota veteran! October 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to apply with the recipient chosen shortly thereafter. The chosen veteran may even be able to make the trip to Baudette yet this month if everyone's schedule matches up.

Many thanks to all who have made this opportunity possible for a seventh year in a row. It's a great team effort and is so very much appreciated by the recipients who get to take this once in a lifetime opportunity to harvest America's Greatest Animal – ELK!



## 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.

## Membership Meeting Minutes

### July 27, 2013 Summer Membership Meeting

The membership of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held their summer membership meeting on July 27, 2013 at the home of Roger & Saichon Nietfeld in Melrose, MN.

President Mark Lucas began the meeting by thanking the Nietfelds' for their warm hospitality and the delicious food which Saichon and her mother prepared for the group. Roger also announced that Saichon had recently received her U.S. citizenship.

Lucas called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Lucas asked for additions or corrections to the January 12, 2013 secretary report as presented. Jim Byrne moved to accept the report, Brian Wagner seconded, motion carried.

The treasurer's report included both the 2012 and 2013 year to date numbers to review. The July 26, 2013 checkbook balance was \$22,757.42. There was much discussion about increasing the budget for booth improvements for the MN State Fair with the suggestion to create new information panels. Morrie Evenson moved to accept the treasurer's report, Scott Salonek seconded, motion carried.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Government Relations:** Jim Byrne reported that during the MN legislative session earlier this year, the DNR introduced a bill which would allow them to enact a civil penalty on a farmed cervid producer for DNR's costs in assisting in the recapture of escaped farmed cervids. MnEBA's lobbyist Tony Kwilas worked with MnEBA to kill the bill and bring that discussion to the Cervidae Advisory Committee for their dissemination. That meeting will be taking place in September. Jim again reminded everyone to be vigilant about closing their gates and avoiding escapes.

**Fundraising Raffle:** Brenda Hartkopf reported that last year's gun calendar raffle was the most successful to date and that there will not be much change in the 2014 calendar except for new monthly pictures and guns. She expressed appreciation to those who sponsored calendar months this year and announced that the 2014 calendars are now available for distribution.

**Promotions:** Brenda Hartkopf reported that the MN Deer Classic was in a new location this year, but that the show was reasonably well attended. Deer Classic personnel are planning a lot of improvements for next year. She also spoke about MnEBA's participation in Grill Fest at The Depot in Minneapolis last May,

sponsored by the MN Department of Agriculture. Elk, bison and lamb were the featured meats. Also through MN Grown, elk dog chews were the featured product of a Facebook Fan of the Month initiative. The product received some great comments and exposure.

Hartkopf also reported on the recent membership drive incentive. The membership drive typically takes place in December, but in an attempt to make it more successful, the board moved that date to June 1<sup>st</sup> and offered a 2014 membership effective June 1<sup>st</sup>, thereby granting an 18 month membership for the price of 12 months. So far, one new member has joined as a result of this offering. It is hoped that more will join throughout the course of the year.

MnEBA will have a booth at the upcoming NAEBA convention in Sioux Falls, SD. Hartkopf asked that anyone attending take a moment or two to step in the booth at busy times when there are lots of people in the meeting area. Lastly, Hartkopf reported that MnEBA will be looking at updating its current web site this fall with the goal to have it completed by next year's annual conference.

**State Fair:** Daphne Evenson reported that 5 full days of the schedule were covered for the upcoming MN State Fair and that the remaining 7 days were only partially covered. She also reported that MnEBA will be sourcing the tent from a more local rental company to save money on the trip charge and that we may go to a larger tent given our bigger space. There was more discussion on ideas for improvement.

**NAEBA:** Brian Wagner reported that the current office staff of Eric & Kim Mohlman had submitted their notice due to their home business being extremely busy and also moving to a new farm. NAEBA has now hired Travis Lowe as Executive Director and the NAEBA office is moving to the home office of Brenda Hartkopf in Minnesota. Laurie Seale has also been hired as fundraising coordinator and staff assistant. He explained that Brenda was very up front with the NAEBA board from the beginning that she will retain her MnEBA job and that MnEBA business comes first.

Brian also shared that fellow North Central representative Bill Knutson's term is up and he will not be running again. Thus NAEBA will be looking for a new North Central representative. He also encouraged everyone to come to the NAEBA Convention & International Antler Competition which would be taking place the following weekend in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Reviewed handouts pertaining to the National CWD Standards which have been very controversial over the past year. The 56 page document is now being prepared for comment and members were highly encouraged to submit their comments when the document is posted on the Federal Register. It was stressed that the CWD Rule which is in place is not at issue, it is the accompanying standards document.

As Dr. Zebarth had just arrived, he then gave a health report. He spoke about the TB blood test and the higher than expected false positive results which have been occurring on retest. The thinking is that perhaps the endpoint will have to change or the test will need to be less sensitive. USDA is in the process of evaluating this issue and there is sure to be discussion at the upcoming USAHA meeting in October.

**NEW BUSINESS**

It was announced that there were three applicants for this year's MnEBA Scholarship. Joey Lucas was the

chosen recipient. Kaye Zebarth reported that it was an extremely hard decision, all applicants were deserving. She suggested maybe making the scholarship into a grant.

Hartkopf reported that the hunter application for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Charitable Elk Hunt has been distributed and that the deadline to apply is October 1<sup>st</sup>. MnEBA is still in need of a bull for the hunt.

Hartkopf reported that the 2014 MnEBA Annual Conference will take place at the Rivers Edge Convention Center/Best Western Kelly Inn in St. Cloud on January 10-11, 2014. She encouraged members to share ideas for seminars and fundraising.

After a few more announcements, Jim Byrne moved to adjourn the meeting. Ken Arnzen seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

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# NAEBA 2013 International Antler Competition



There were 22 sets of velvet antler and 43 sets of hard antler for a total of 65 entries in the 2013 International Antler Competition. The number of hard antler sets submitted almost doubled from last year! The Top 3 winners in each category are listed below. For a complete set of results, contact the NAEBA office at 320-543-3665 or [info@naelk.org](mailto:info@naelk.org).

The 2014 NAEBA Convention & International Antler Competition will be held at Harrah's in Kansas City, Missouri next year. A photo with visible ID is now required with all antler entries. If you have a hard antler bull you are considering bringing to next year's competition, make sure to take pictures of the bull before he casts or you cut him!

## Top Three Winners in Each Category Entered

Category	Bull's Name	CWI/SCI	Bull's Sire / Dam's Sire	Owner
<b>Velvet 2 Year Old</b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	Kracken	87.48 CWI	Styx / Amber Yoda	Eric & Kim Mohlman
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mojito	84.40 CWI	Tequila / Clearstone Bounty	Eric & Kim Mohlman
3 <sup>rd</sup>	SPR 166Y	82.54 CWI	SPR 649S / SPR 641S	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf
<b>Velvet 3 Year Old</b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	Chief Denali	104.30 CWI	Tequila / Sultan	Rodney & Everett Miller
2 <sup>nd</sup>	EMF 012X	99.01 CWI	Tequila / SHR King	Eric & Kim Mohlman
3 <sup>rd</sup>	EMF 005X	87.18 CWI	Tequila / 061K	Eric & Kim Mohlman
<b>Breeders Three 3 Year Old</b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	EMF 011X	95.69 CWI	Twister / Amber Yoda	Eric & Kim Mohlman
	EMF 006X	92.71 CWI	Twister / Undenya Bull	
Average 88.20 CWI	EMF 003X	76.21 CWI	Twister / Eun Blast	
<b>Velvet 4 Year Old</b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	Styx	142.82 CWI	Tequila / Undenya Bull	Eric & Kim Mohlman
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Hades	103.89 CWI	King / Amber Yoda	Eric & Kim Mohlman
3 <sup>rd</sup>	EMF 949W	91.00 CWI	Tequila / Undenya Bull	Eric & Kim Mohlman
<b>Breeders Three 4 Year Old</b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	Cyclone	91.97 CWI	Twister / Stalwart	Eric & Kim Mohlman
	Typhoon	100.24 CWI	Twister / EUN Hank	
Average 100.32 CWI	Squall	108.73 CWI	Twister / Amber Yoda	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Darth Maul	99.82 CWI	Amber Yoda / Stalwart	Eric & Kim Mohlman
	Darth Sidious	92.82 CWI	Amber Yoda / Maverick A73	
Average 96.34 CWI	Darth Cadeus	96.40 CWI	Amber Yoda / EUN Blast	
<b>Hard Antler Spiker</b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	CFI 453Y	186 3/8 SCI	King Kong / RBJ Homer	Kenneth & Travis Lowe
<b>2 Year Old Non Typical</b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	CFI 434X	346 SCI	King's Ransom / King Kong	Michael Coleman
2 <sup>nd</sup>	CFI 427X	343 SCI	King's Ransom / Geronimo	Michael Coleman
3 <sup>rd</sup>	CFI 424X	337 7/8 SCI	King's Ransom / Primetime	Michael Coleman
<b>2 Year Old Typical</b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	CFI 421X	363 4/8 SCI	King's Ransom / Geronimo	Michael Coleman
2 <sup>nd</sup>	CFI 440X	332 1/8 SCI	CFI 290R / Stealth	Michael Coleman
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Frisia Daniel	291 5/8 SCI	AE Superior / Proud Diamond	John Kooistra
<b>3 Year Old Non Typical</b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	Zeus	480 1/8 SCI	Tequila	Eric & Kim Mohlman
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Styx	411 SCI	Tequila	Eric & Kim Mohlman
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Typhoon	404 3/8 SCI	Tequila	Eric & Kim Mohlman
<b>3 Year Old Typical</b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	Dale Jr.	404 4/8 SCI	Cadillac / King	Rick Jensen
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Frisia Captain	393 1/8 SCI	WWA 164L / Undenya Bull	John Kooistra
3 <sup>rd</sup>	NYT 93W	374 6/8 SCI	Tom 48N / WWA Enforcer	Tom Peryea
<b>4 Year Old Non Typical</b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	CFI 380U	470 2/8 SCI	King Kong / Geronimo	Michael Coleman
2 <sup>nd</sup>	SPR 806U	465 5/8 SCI	SPR Casey / SPR 252N	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf
3 <sup>rd</sup>	NYT 39U	446 6/8 SCI	Tom 48N / WWA Enforcer	Tom & Gloria Peryea

Category	Bull's Name	CWI/SCI	Bull's Sire / Dam's Sire	Owner
<b>4 Year Old Typical</b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	Frisia Grande	411 6/8 SCI	AE Superior / Amber Elk Rascal	John Kooistra
<b>5 Year Old Non Typical</b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	Billabong	468 SCI	Python / Scorpion	Russell & JoAnne Gwozdz
2 <sup>nd</sup>	LLE 719	437 SCI	GEF Braetak / SHR King	Mark & Lisa Luedtke
3 <sup>rd</sup>	LLE 725	420 1/8 SCI	GEF Braetak / O-815	Mark & Lisa Luedtke
<b>5 Year Old Typical</b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	NY Tom 52T	413 7/8 SCI	Tom 101P / WWA Enforcer	Tom & Gloria Peryea
2 <sup>nd</sup>	LLE 716	407 6/8 SCI	CBF Max II / SHR King	Mark & Lisa Luedtke
<b>6 Year Old Non Typical</b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	CFI 315S	519 5/8 SCI	King's Ransom / Reedson	Michael Coleman
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Hombre 325S	461 SCI	Drifter / Clearstone Bounty	Joel & Cheri Espe
3 <sup>rd</sup>	SPR 651S	439 4/8 SCI	SPR Casey / Oak Point Jesse	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf
<b>6 Year Old Typical</b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	Tristen	427 SCI	Drifter / Eylie	Joel & Cheri Espe
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Frisia Diamond	403 SCI	Amber Elk Rascal / Proud Diamond	John Kooistra
<b>Mature Non Typical</b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	King's Ransom	547 2/8 SCI	SHR King / Legacy Jackpot	Michael Coleman
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Levi	538 7/8 SCI	Cobra / Korean Gold	Ben & Connie Seutter
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tom 128R	521 4/8 SCI	WWA Enforcer / WWA Apex	Tom & Gloria Peryea
<b>Mature Typical</b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	911J	511 6/8 SCI	Smokey	Gary & Cindy Schnitzler
2 <sup>nd</sup>	CFI 290R	442 7/8 SCI	Amber Yoda / Legacy Starbuck	Michael Coleman

## 2014 MnEBA Gun Raffle

### 440 Calendars Are Already in the Hands of Producers!

The 2014 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar has been available since the summer picnic and already, 440 of the 750 available calendars are in the hands of members! However, there were 592 calendars out at this same time last year, so we need to pick up the pace to keep up with sales from a year ago. If you haven't yet ordered your calendars, please call the MnEBA Office and they will be sent right out!

Remember also that selling calendars gives you a great opportunity to earn a FREE 2014 MnEBA membership! Anyone can be eligible for a FREE 2014 MnEBA membership (up to \$125 value) by selling 30 MnEBA gun raffle calendars and returning the stubs and money to the MnEBA Office by December 31, 2013. There is no limit to who can earn a free membership except that calendars sell out. Nine members took advantage of this great opportunity last year!

Calendars will be available for sale from now until sold out or until the January 11, 2014 drawing date at the MnEBA Annual Conference in St. Cloud, MN. Please contact Brenda Hartkopf at (320) 543-2686 or [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org) to order your calendars or to offer your questions or comments.



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## Overview of ACA's Action Dealing with CWD Standards Document

**September 4, 2013** – To bring cervid producers up to date on past actions of the American Cervid Alliance, a concise recap of the voting actions of the ACA regarding the CWD Program Standards are as follows. Moderator Eric Mohlman stated there are too many theories regarding various positions and agreements of the ACA. Mohlman said, "The ACA's position is only what our majority says it is. All 29 members have an equal say, that is why we have this council."

The CWD Program Standards have been a dominating topic for the council since the ACA's inception last December. There have been four votes relating to the standards document and process. As of September 4, 2013, since the Standards Working Group concluded its task, the ACA has fulfilled all its approved and agreed upon obligations regarding the "standards process." Since June, the subsequent votes taken by the ACA's council members approved sending a letter to the USDA stating that the Standards Document Version 22 is unacceptable. The council also approved retaining legal counsel to advise the cervid industry prior to the public comment period. The ACA has made no agreement regarding the public comment period or endorsement of the standards.

Below is a summary of the action taken by the ACA council members regarding the Standards.

**\*Define Negotiating Process** – April 9, 2013 – A vote of 24-0, to define the "process" as continuing negotiations of the standards until the Standards Working Group concludes. The Standards Working Group concluded in June. The motion was made by Travis Lowe of the Kansas Cervid Breeders Association, seconded by Charly Seale of the

Exotic Wildlife Association. This process has been completed and fulfilled by the council.

**\*Send Letter to USDA** – July 23, 2013 – A vote of 15-0, to draft a concise one page letter to be drafted by Travis Lowe and Eric Mohlman on behalf of the ACA and be mailed to Dr. John Clifford of the United States Department of Agriculture, stating that the industry still has several major concerns that are included in the CWD Standards Document Version 22. It was noted Version 22 was not acceptable. The motion was made by Gary Olson of the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association. Richard Garrels of the Iowa Elk Breeders Association was the second on the motion. The letter was drafted and mailed the next week.

**\*Explore Legal Options** – July 23, 2013 – A motion of 15-0, to start exploring our legal options regarding the standards and report to the council at the next meeting. The motion was made by Kim Kafka of the North American Elk Breeders Association and seconded by Donald Hill of the Missouri Whitetail Deer & Hunting Ranch Association. A presentation was given by a Kansas law firm during the ACA meeting on August 6<sup>th</sup>.

**\*Retain Legal Council** – August 27, 2013 – A motion was made to retain the law firm of Frieden, Unrein & Forbes, in Topeka, Kansas, which specializes in federal issues. They were retained to advise the council throughout the public comment process. Michael Heiter of the Pennsylvania Deer Farmers Association offered the motion with Charly Seale of the Exotic Wildlife Association as the second. This motion passed 19-0. Until this time, the cervid industry had not been represented by legal counsel.

## USDA Officials: CWD Standards Going to Public Comment Soon

### *Industry Leaders Meet with USDA APHIS to Discuss Future of Cervid Industry*

**September 20, 2013** – USDA/APHIS invited several industry leaders to Washington D.C. to discuss concerns regarding the agencies rules and regulations and their impact on the cervid industry. Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, two representatives from each of the four national associations which included the North American Elk Breeders Association, North American Deer Farmers Association, Exotic Wildlife Association, and the Reindeer Owners and Breeders Association, and long time cervid industry veterinarian Dr. Glen Zebarth, met with the USDA/APHIS representatives for several hours. The general discussion was centered on exploring possible opportunities for the continued growth of the cervid industry and how the USDA could assist with this future growth. Ongoing challenges and hurdles, within the cervid industry, were the main topic of discussion.

Dr. Glen Zebarth and Ray Burdette said the cervid industry could thrive if the USDA could find research money to help develop a live CWD test and/or vaccine. All the cervid leaders asked for the USDA to assist with positive messaging, especially in those states that were continually being bombarded with negative messaging concerning the farmed cervid industry. This would be especially helpful based on the fact that the USDA does support the cervid industry and wants to see its future growth. Charly Seale, Travis Lowe and Eric Mohlman, focused more on the immediate need to loosen regulations. They said it was the current regulations in place and fear of more regulations through the standards that are causing us to lose more and more cervid farmers in all our states today. This discussion led to a discussion on the current proposed CWD Standards and when they would be unveiled for public comment. The USDA said it would hopefully be next month.

There is still a tremendous amount of anguish among some industry representatives regarding how many changes, beneficial to the cervid industry, will be made in Version 23. It was noted there are over a dozen industry concerns noted on the American Cervid Alliance Rule vs. Standards Comparison Chart that must be resolved. USDA's Dr. TJ Myers asked that the cervid industry make a strong showing during the public comment period pointing out both the positive and negative areas of the Program Standards.

## Thank You!!!

Thank you to Roger & Saichon Nietfeld for hosting the 2013 MnEBA Summer Picnic! The Thai dishes Saichon & her mother prepared were absolutely delicious! And the farm and wagon ride tour was a great way to end the day.

Thanks again!!!

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#### ***2013-2014 Board of Directors at a glance:***

Blend of first, second and third generation breeders

Four former NAEBA presidents currently serve on the Board

All are leaders in their respective state organizations

#### ***NAEBA Staff at a glance:***

Trained lobbyist hired as Executive Director

Staff of five has 50 years of combined cervid association experience

*Sign up at [www.naelk.org](http://www.naelk.org) or contact the NAEBA office 320-543-3665.*

# MnEBA Officer Blog by Brian Wagner, MnEBA Secretary/Treasurer

2013 is going fast, seems like we just had new antler growing and new calves. But now we have already picked the bulls for breeding or AI is already done. But it sure is nice to hear bulls bugling again.

All in all it was a fairly good year. The velvet price can always be better but it was all sold and moved in July. Hard antler bulls are moving good with most of them being moved already. Some breeding stock is also being sold. Meat price is high and always in good demand.

The down side to all of this is feed cost. If you need to buy feed, buy it early. Hay is always cheaper in November than it would be in May. Good quality hay will run you \$225-\$350/ton. If you can find a deal on some now, buy it.

Brian Wagner  
President  
Black Velvet Elk Ranch  
612-366-5078

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memories... MnEBA Boards from the Past



**1999 MnEBA Board of Directors**

**From left to right:** Jerry Strodman, Don Kaplan (Vice President), Patty VanGundy, Larry Winter (President) and Jim Byrne (Secretary/Treasurer)



**2001 & 2002 MnEBA Board of Directors**

**From left to right:** Greg Lubinski, Jim Kotschevar (Secretary/Treasurer), Kaye Zebarth (President), Jim Byrne (Vice President) and Perry Olson



**2003 MnEBA Board of Directors**

**From left to right:** Lynn Steinbrink (Secretary/Treasurer), Mark Lucas, Pat Prodzinski, Perry Olson (Vice President) and Jim Byrne (President)

# Farmed Cervidae Advisory Committee Minutes

## Farmed Cervidae Advisory Committee

September 9, 2013

The Board of Animal Health (Board) Advisory Committee on Farmed Cervidae met on September 9, 2013 at the Freeman Office Building in St. Paul, MN.

### In Attendance:

Paul Anderson, Bill Hartmann, Carissa Allen, Bethanie Park, Don Myren, Bethany Hahn, Susan McClanahan, Lou Cornicelli, Michelle Carstensen, Erik Jopp, Mark Lucas, Brenda Hartkopf, Glen Zebarth, Jim Byrne, Tony Kwilas, John Beem, Louise Beem, Gary Olson, Lynne Osterman, Leroy Haffner, Donovan Olson, Jim Rasmussen, Mark Johnson, Tod Adams, Samantha Saunders.

### New Rules Review:

New Board rules were discussed and important changes were highlighted. Under the new rules (1721.0420), testing for chronic wasting disease (CWD) is now required on all animals 12 months of age or older that die or are slaughtered. New rules also require that producers report all officially identified animals that die or are slaughtered (1721.0410) as well as animals that move from the farm to other locations (1721.0420). Under the new rules, a producer may not move farmed cervidae into or out of a herd that is classified below CWD Level 4 (1721.0410). There are currently 496 herds that are CWD Level 4 or higher and 18 herds that are CWD Level 1, 2 or 3. The producers who own the 18 herds with a CWD status below Level 4 have been notified that movement of animals into or out of their herds is restricted until they once again attain CWD Level 4. The new rules give the Board the authority to conduct an animal by animal physical inventory of herds when necessary to reconcile inventories. Two such inventories have been conducted.

### Tuberculosis (TB) Blood Test:

The TB Stat-Pak blood test for farmed cervidae has been used by several Minnesota producers. The number of animals that tested positive on the test was much higher than expected. These false positive tests caused unnecessary hardship for Minnesota producers because the only way to determine if the animal was infected with tuberculosis was to euthanize the animal and have tissues examined and cultured. Many of these producers did sacrifice animals.

Similar false positive test results were also seen in other states. Since these tests were implemented, over 5,200 animals have been tested in the United States, with 16.2 percent Stat-Pak positive and 2.3 percent DPP positive (suspects) on the first sample tested. On the second, post-30 day testing of suspects, 58 animals (1.08 percent) were still DPP positive and should have been submitted for necropsy. This large number of reactors was unanticipated by federal officials and created an economic hardship to the cervid producers due to quarantines and the loss of valuable animals. To date 45 animals in the United States have been submitted for necropsy and no lesions typical of TB have been found. In addition, 29 cultures have been completed and no *Mycobacterium bovis* has been isolated.

Because of the high false positive rates, Veterinary Services (VS) is changing the protocol for interpreting the DPP serologic tuberculosis (TB) test for cervids. The change will reduce the unusually high number of false positives that have occurred since testing began in February 2013. VS analyzed the test data and determined that a colorimetric optical density (OD) reader could be used on the DPP test to determine a numerical value for a positive test, rather than a visual test as in the original protocol. These OD values could then be compared to a statistically and scientifically determined cutoff value for each species, improving the specificity of the testing without a significant loss of sensitivity. The U.S. Animal Health Association's TB Scientific Advisory Subcommittee has concurred with these findings.

### CWD Testing Fees:

CWD testing at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory currently costs \$25.00 per sample. Laboratory fees for registered farmed cervidae producers are currently paid by the Board. Bill Hartmann informed the group that the Board will continue to pay the laboratory fees for CWD testing for the next two years unless something unexpected changes the Board's funding levels.

### Minnesota Zoo Exemption:

A new law for the Minnesota Zoo (MS 85A.02 Subdivision 10) was passed during the 2013 legislative session that provides an exemption from current rules for importation of cervidae. The law was passed to make a way for the Minnesota Zoo to import cervidae such as moose or pudu from herds, other zoos or from the wild if the risk of importing

animals infected with CWD, tuberculosis or brucellosis is determined to be low. The new law requires that importation of such animals can only be done after obtaining a permit from the Board and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Since the new law went into effect, the Board has received two requests from the Minnesota Zoo to import orphaned moose. The moose were both taken from the wild near Driggs, Idaho. The Board denied both requests due to the high risk of exposure to CWD and brucellosis in that part of Idaho.

#### Compliance Activities:

Over the last year and a half, the Board has issued ten fines (\$250.00 each) for violation of farmed cervidae laws. These civil penalties have proven to be an effective tool for Board to get recalcitrant producers to comply when all other means have failed. During this time period, the Board has collected \$3,750 in civil penalties from farmed cervidae producers. When, in spite of all other efforts, producers fail to comply with the rules for farmed cervidae, the Board works with county attorneys to file gross misdemeanor criminal charges against the producer.

#### Official Identification:

New requirements for official identification of farmed cervidae were discussed (1721.0390). Tod Adams, with Allflex USA, was at the meeting. Tod has been instrumental in getting several new types of ear tags approved by USDA for use as official ear tags in farmed cervidae. There are now two different sizes of plastic tags that are USDA approved through Allflex and available to producers. These ear tags adhere to the National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) numbering criteria. The numbers on the tags begin with the "41" prefix for Minnesota and are tamper resistant. There are also two types of Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) ear tags available that adhere to the Animal Identification Number (AIN) numbering system. These tags along with the traditional NUES metal tags are all currently provided by the Board to cervidae producers at no charge. Ear tags with the producer's premises number printed on them are still official, but will be phased out by USDA over the next two years. The Board is advising producers to start switching over to ear tags that adhere to the NUES or AIN numbering systems.

New federal rules for CWD Herd Certification (9 CFR 55 and 81) and interstate movement of farmed cervidae require that all animals in the herd must have two forms of identification, one official and one of the producer's choice. The secondary form of identification can be another ear tag, a tattoo, a microchip or another form of identification approved by the Board. If producers intend to move animals to other states, they must have two forms of identification in all their animals to meet federal requirements.

#### Escapes:

The committee spent a great deal of time discussing the ongoing problem of farmed cervidae that escape from their enclosures. Even though the number of escape events has decreased over the years, each escape causes concern that the escaped animals may spread CWD to the state's wild deer population. Farmed cervidae herds in Minnesota are rigorously tested for CWD and the risk of any farmed animal having CWD is extremely low. Because the risk of CWD infection in farmed cervidae is not zero, there will continue to be concern when animals escape.

<b>Escapes:</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>35</b>
Elk incidents	1	6	4	6
WTD incidents	8	19	20	28
Other incidents	0	1	3	1
Number of elk escaped	3	22	23	35
Number of WTD escaped	20	34	77	81
Number of other escaped	0	1	8	1
<b>Total number escaped</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>117</b>
Animals returned	9	25	48	74
Animals killed	4	16	31	21
Animals never recovered	10	16	29	22

The committee was asked to come up with new ideas for how to (1) reduce the number of escape events, (2) increase the number of animals recovered following an escape event, and (3) reduce the burden that has historically been placed on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for recovery of escaped farmed cervidae. The committee was also asked to consider a proposal from DNR to allow for the recovery of costs (time and resources) incurred by the agency when dealing with escapes.

### Escapes and Intrusions – Review of Laws and Rules:

To begin the discussion, the committee reviewed current statutes and rules regarding farmed cervidae escapes.

#### 35.155 Farmed cervidae.

Subdivision 1. **Running at large prohibited.** (a) An owner may not allow farmed cervidae to run at large. The owner must make all reasonable efforts to return escaped farmed cervidae to their enclosures as soon as possible. The owner must notify the commissioner of natural resources of the escape of farmed cervidae if the farmed cervidae are not returned or captured by the owner within 24 hours of their escape. (b) An owner is liable for expenses of another person in capturing, caring for, and returning farmed cervidae that have left their enclosures if the person capturing the farmed cervidae contacts the owner as soon as possible. (c) If an owner is unwilling or unable to capture escaped farmed cervidae, the commissioner of natural resources may destroy the escaped farmed cervidae. The commissioner of natural resources must allow the owner to attempt to capture the escaped farmed cervidae prior to destroying the farmed cervidae. Farmed cervidae that are not captured by 24 hours after escape may be destroyed.

Subd. 2. **Wild cervidae inside confinement area.** An owner or an employee or agent under the direction of the owner must destroy wild cervidae found within the owner's farmed cervidae confinement area. The owner, employee, or agent must report the wild cervidae destroyed to a conservation officer or an employee of the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, within 24 hours. The wild cervidae must be disposed of as prescribed by the commissioner of natural resources.

#### 1721.0380 General requirements.

Subp. 6. **Running at large prohibited.** An owner may not allow farmed cervidae to run at large. The owner must make reasonable efforts to return escaped farmed cervidae to their enclosures as soon as possible. The owner must notify the commissioner of natural resources and the board of the escape of farmed cervidae if the farmed cervidae are not returned to their enclosures or euthanized by the owner within 24 hours of their escape.

#### Subp. 7. **Removal of wild cervidae.**

A. When a tract of land is initially enclosed with a perimeter fence for the purpose of establishing a new farmed cervidae facility, wild cervidae must be removed from the premises by herding them off of the land at the owner's expense prior to bringing any farmed cervidae to the premises.

B. An owner of an existing facility or an employee or agent under the direction of the owner must destroy wild cervidae found within the owner's farmed cervidae facility. The owner, employee, or agent must report wild cervidae that are destroyed to the board and a conservation officer or an employee of the Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife within 24 hours. Testing of wild cervidae destroyed within the farmed cervidae facility shall be conducted by or under the supervision of the board. The wild cervidae must be disposed of as prescribed by the commissioner of natural resources.

### Escapes and Intrusions – Questions:

The committee then developed answers to a list of questions to help facilitate the discussion on escapes and intrusions.

**1. Can the owner capture or kill escaped farmed cervidae on their property or on the property of others with prior permission from property owners?** *An owner, as well as authorized agents of the owner, can capture or kill escaped farmed cervidae.*

**2. Can the owner use fire arms to kill escapes?** *The owner can use fire arms to kill escapes unless otherwise restricted by local firearms ordinances.*

**3. Are farmed cervidae that escape still farmed cervidae?** *Farmed cervidae are always farmed cervidae and are livestock whether they are inside and outside of the fence.*

**4. Who owns farmed cervidae that escape?** *The producer always owns the animal, even when it has escaped.*

**5. If farmed cervidae escape and are killed by the DNR, who is responsible for CWD testing?** *The producer is always responsible for CWD testing farmed cervidae that they own. If the DNR kills an escaped animal, the owner should be contacted to retrieve the animal and ensure that testing is completed. If farmed cervidae (deer with ear tags) are killed in the wild by the DNR and the owner of the animal cannot be determined, the Board or the DNR may take the samples.*

**6. If farmed cervidae escape and are killed by the DNR, how must CWD testing be done?** *Farmed cervidae are to be tested for CWD by submission of brain stem or lymph node samples to the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic*

Laboratory for CWD testing by immunohistochemistry (IHC). Farmed cervidae submission forms should be used to ensure that testing is paid by the Board.

**7. If farmed cervidae escape and are killed by the DNR, who gets the carcass?** *There was a great deal of discussion surrounding this question. In the past, carcasses of escaped farmed cervidae have sometimes been confiscated by DNR staff members when they were involved in killing the animal. Committee members agreed that the authority to confiscate escaped animals is not explicitly given to the DNR by law and that confiscation of escaped animals creates animosity without benefit to anyone. The consensus of the committee was that it would be better to return the carcass to the owner and hold the producer accountable for CWD testing and proper carcass disposal. If farmed cervidae (deer with ear tags) are killed in the wild by the DNR and the owner of the animal cannot be determined, the Board or the DNR may arrange for proper carcass disposal.*

**8. Can the DNR charge owners for the expense of destroying an escape?** *There is nothing in current law that gives DNR the ability to recover expenses from the owner of escaped farmed cervidae*

**9. Should the DNR be able to charge owners for the expense of destroying an escape?** *The committee agreed that there are certain circumstances when the DNR should be able to recover expenses for capturing or killing escaped farmed cervidae. Examples of such circumstances may be where an owner makes little or no effort to recover escapes, when an owner willfully allows animals to escape, or when an owner repeatedly allows animals to escape.*

*Most committee members felt that producers who are in good standing with the Board and who cooperate with the Board and the DNR should be allowed to recover their escaped animals with minimal DNR involvement. The producers on the committee suggested that if the Board took a more active role in recovery of escapes, the DNR might be able to limit their involvement and their expenditures of time and resources. The Board could help by developing a recovery plan with the producer immediately after the escape, by monitoring escape efforts and by communicating recovery progress to the DNR. The Board could also help the situation by determining when and if the DNR needs to be involved based on owner cooperation and risk of disease transmission.*

*The consensus of the committee was that if the Board becomes more involved in managing escapes, the DNR may be able to reduce their involvement and reduce or eliminate the need for cost recovery.*

*Many committee members indicated that there should be limitations on the amount of money the DNR could recover from an owner in response to an escaped animal. To better understand where such limits might be set, the DNR was asked if they could put together some statistics on how many times in the last year they responded to recover escapes and how much each incident cost the agency. Lou Cornicelli said that he would see if they could compile this information.*

**10. Could we make a new escape response protocol based on disease risk of the herd?** *All members of the committee agreed that disease risk is one of the factors that must be considered in developing a recovery plan. They also felt that other factors such as the level of owner cooperation, the level of owner ability, the geography of the area, the time of year and the type of animal are factors that all must be considered.*

**11. Does a farmed cervidae owner have to kill wild cervidae found within the owner's farmed cervidae confinement area?** *An owner of an existing facility or an employee or agent under the direction of the owner must destroy wild cervidae found within the owner's farmed cervidae facility (1721.0380).*

**12. Can a farmed cervidae owner use fire arms to kill intrusions?** *The owner can use fire arms to kill wild deer intrusions unless otherwise restricted by local firearms ordinances.*

**13. Does a farmed cervidae owner have to notify the DNR before they kill intrusions?** *There is no requirement to notify anyone before wild deer intrusions are killed.*

**14. Can the DNR kill wild deer intrusions on the farmed cervidae owner's land without the owner's permission?** *There was much discussion surrounding this issue, but the general consensus of the committee was that probably no one may kill wild deer intrusions on the owner's land without the owner's permission.*

**15. How soon after killing an intrusion must an owner report to the DNR?** *The owner, employee, or agent must report wild cervidae that are destroyed to the Board and a conservation officer or an employee of the Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife within 24 hours.*

**16. Who is responsible for testing wild deer intrusions for CWD?** *Testing of wild cervidae destroyed within the farmed cervidae facility shall be conducted by or under the supervision of the Board.*

**17. Who determines what happens to the carcass of a wild deer intrusion?** *The wild cervidae carcass must be disposed of as prescribed by the commissioner of natural resources.*

**18. When a tract of land is initially enclosed with a perimeter fence for the purpose of establishing a new farmed cervidae facility, what must happen to the wild deer on the land before bringing any farmed cervidae to the premises?** *When a tract of land is initially enclosed with a perimeter fence for the purpose of establishing a new farmed cervidae facility, wild cervidae must be removed from the premises by herding them off of the land at the owner's expense prior to bringing any farmed cervidae to the premises.*

**19. Are cases handled consistently by field staff?** *Cases of escapes and intrusions have not been handled consistently by field staff from the Board or the DNR. This creates a major problem for producers and regulators. All members of the committee agreed that better communication and a more consistent response protocol are needed.*

#### **Escapes and Intrusions – Further Discussion:**

The law states that an owner of farmed cervidae may not allow their animals to run at large. In part, this means that an owner may not let their animals escape. In the past, the Board has done a good job telling producers that they may not let their animals escape. The other part of this requirement is that the owner may not allow escaped farmed cervidae to continue to run at large. The owner must do everything they can to recover escapes (alive or dead). This is the part of the law that the Board has not emphasized enough. It was the consensus of the committee that the Board needs to be more active in getting producers to recover their animals when they have escaped.

Committee members agreed that farmed cervidae producers must be held accountable for escapes, for recovering the animals and for carcass disposal. The DNR committee members indicated that they would be willing to change their response protocols (including confiscation of carcasses) if they are able to recover costs in certain cases and if the Board takes a more active role in escape incidents. Paul Anderson discussed actions the Board could take to encourage producers to be more accountable for recovering escaped animals. He suggested the possibility of issuing a Notice of Violation for all escapes, giving a producer a set amount of time to kill or capture escapes and assessing a fine of \$250 if animals are not recovered.

Jim Byrne suggested the Board create a recovery plan with the producer so it is clear what is going to be done to try and capture or kill the escapes before giving a violation or fine. The group agreed that creating some kind of initial plan would be beneficial in keeping producers accountable and keeping both the Board and DNR in the loop as to what efforts are being made by the producer. Creating a plan that is individual to each case would also allow an element of risk assessment to be utilized in determining how long the producer has to retrieve their animals.

There was much discussion regarding the different scenarios that can occur with escapes and how that affects what the Board and DNR protocols should be. Producers who are uncooperative, out of compliance, and have herds with a lower CWD status (CWD level below 6) are the biggest concern. There are also factors such as the species involved, time of year and surrounding landscape that can affect recovery protocols and timelines.

The DNR was asked how long they are willing to give producers to retrieve their animals without intervention. The DNR indicated they normally give producers 72 hours, but that they will often extend this time period when producers are cooperative and are putting in a good effort. They may also shorten the time period for those who are not cooperating or actively trying to retrieve their animals. Producers in the group talked about how there are times when early intervention of the DNR may adversely affect their efforts to recover escaped animals by pushing the animals farther away from home.

It was suggested by committee members that a lack of effective communication between the Board, the DNR and the producer is one of the reasons for inconsistent and inefficient responses to escapes. They suggested that there could be better responses if field staff members from the Board and from the DNR communicate directly. Paul Anderson said that the Board can be more active in escape cases and that Board field staff could play a larger role in developing recovery plans, issuing notices of violation and tracking progress on recovery of escaped animals.

#### **Escapes – Recovery of Expenses:**

Lou Cornicelli talked about the possibility of changing the laws so that the DNR could recover the costs incurred in response to incidents of escaped farmed cervidae. He presented the following proposed language for discussion:

**97A.045 COMMISSIONER, GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES.****Subdivision 1. Duties; generally.**

(a) The commissioner shall do all things the commissioner determines are necessary to preserve, protect, and propagate desirable species of wild animals. The commissioner shall make special provisions for the management of fish and wildlife to ensure recreational opportunities for anglers and hunters. The commissioner shall acquire wild animals for breeding or stocking and may dispose of or destroy undesirable or predatory wild animals and their dens, nests, houses, or dams.

(b) Notwithstanding chapters 17 and 35, the commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of agriculture and the executive director of the Board of Animal Health, may capture, take or control nonnative or domestic animals that are released, have escaped, or are otherwise running at large and causing damage to natural resources or agricultural lands, or that are posing a threat to wildlife, domestic animals, or human health. The commissioner may work with other agencies to assist in the capture, taking or control and may authorize persons to take such animals. The commissioner may collect from a person who owns nonnative or domestic animals that are captured, taken or controlled under this subpart a civil penalty equal to the actual costs incurred by the department of natural resources. The civil penalty shall be paid to the game and fish fund of the department of natural resources.

Committee members stated that they did not support the language as proposed because it gives the DNR unfettered discretion and lacks a cap on the dollar amount that can be assessed. Many committee members indicated that there should be limitations on the amount of money the DNR could recover from an owner in response to an escaped animal. Committee members asked if the DNR could have general funds allocated for such activities in the same manner as other law enforcement agencies. Lou Cornicelli indicated that the budgets for wildlife personnel are different than peace officers and are not as flexible in the way funds are allocated.

Committee members asked the following question. If the Board takes a more active role in recovery of escapes, could the DNR significantly reduce their involvement in recovery of escaped animals and their expenditures of time and resources? If DNR involvement can be reduced enough, committee members asked if the need for cost recovery could be eliminated.

Paul Anderson and Bill Hartmann stated that the Board will increase its involvement in escape incidents. The Board will ask field staff members to develop a recovery plan with the producer immediately after each escape, monitor escape efforts and communicate recovery progress to the DNR. The Board will also help determine when the DNR needs to be involved based on the degree of owner cooperation and the risk of disease transmission.

The committee asked if the Board could determine how much time it usually takes to recover escaped animals. Paul Anderson said that the Board will compile data on recovery time periods.

The committee also asked if the DNR could determine how much money it usually expends when the agency responds to an escape incident. The DNR was asked if they could put together some statistics on how many times in the last year they responded to recover escapes and how much each incident cost the agency. Lou Cornicelli said that he would see if they could compile this information.

DNR representatives were asked if they would change their protocol for responding to escape incidents if the Board is willing to take a larger role in recovery efforts. Lou Cornicelli indicated that they would support increased Board involvement and that the DNR would welcome the opportunity to decrease the need for involvement of their field staff time and resources.

DNR representatives were asked if they would be willing to table their legislative initiative for 12 months to see if the changes in Board's protocol for escape incidents could reduce or eliminate the need for DNR involvement. Lou Cornicelli said that he would ask for direction from the agency on this issue.

**Escapes and Intrusions – Action Items:**

The Board will change its protocol for responding to escape events and will (1) meet with the producer immediately after notification of an escape, (2) develop a plan with the producer for recovery of escaped animals, (3) determine the level of cooperation from the producer and the risk of disease transmission, (4) set timelines for recovery, (5) issue notices of violation, (6) issue fines when necessary, (7) monitor daily progress on recovery of escaped animals, (8) communicate with area Conservation Officers and Wildlife Specialists and (9) help determine when and if DNR involvement is required.

In response to the Board's increased emphasis on recovery of escaped animals, the DNR may be able to change its protocol for responding to escape events. If the Board holds the producer more accountable for recovery of escapes, CWD testing and carcass disposal, involvement of DNR staff members could be initiated only as a last resort.

Lou Cornicelli will talk to others at the DNR about tabling legislation for recovery of costs incurred by the agency for escaped farmed cervidae until the shift in Board and DNR involvement can be evaluated.

#### CWD Program Standards:

Paul Anderson discussed the proposed CWD Program Standards. Bill Hartmann discussed his involvement over the last year with a committee that was established to edit the document. It was the consensus of the committee that the CWD Program Standards does not address the needs of today's farmed cervidae industry and should be withdrawn. Glen Zebarth agreed with committee members and stated that he will carry that message to the USAHA meeting in October.

#### USAHA Resolutions:

Paul Anderson asked if anyone had plans to attend the upcoming USAHA meeting. There were no set plans among the groups for attendance. Paul urged people to get members to the meeting to represent their industries. USAHA is a very important event for livestock producers and government regulators. It is the single most important event each year where the direction is set for control of animal diseases in the United States. If there are changes people want to see implemented for control of animal diseases in the United States, then a resolution should be written and presented for discussion at USAHA.

## MnEBA Kitchen



### Crockpot Elk Stroganoff

2 lbs. cubed elk steak  
 2 cans condensed Golden Mushroom Soup  
 1 medium onion  
 2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce  
 ½ cup water  
 8 oz. cream cheese  
 1 tsp. garlic powder  
 ¼ tsp. seasoned salt

In a slow cooker, stir all the ingredients together except the meat and cream cheese. Once combined, add the meat and mix together. Cook on low 8 hours.

Cut the cream cheese into cubes just before serving and turn crockpot onto high. Stir in cream cheese until all combined. May need to put the lid back on and leave for 10 minutes. Serve over cooked egg noodles.

Can freeze before adding cream cheese. Just reheat on stove and add cream cheese 10 minutes before serving. The meat is even more tender when reheated!

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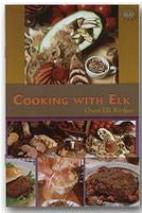
## MnEBA Promotional Materials

The following items are available for promotional purposes. To see the full line of MnEBA promotional offerings, check out [www.mneba.org](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!**

# More 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary MnEBA Memories

MnEBA's first Annual Charitable Elk Hunt began in 2007 and has continued each year ever since. Tony Beckel of Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch has guided and hosted this hunt since it's inception. Different MnEBA members have stepped up each year to donate and transport a bull, and the Langenfeld Foundation, Lake Superior SCI Chapter and Midwest Outdoors Unlimited have also assisted in this endeavor.

The all time number of recorded premises which have ever farmed elk (from 1 animal on up) in Minnesota is 367!



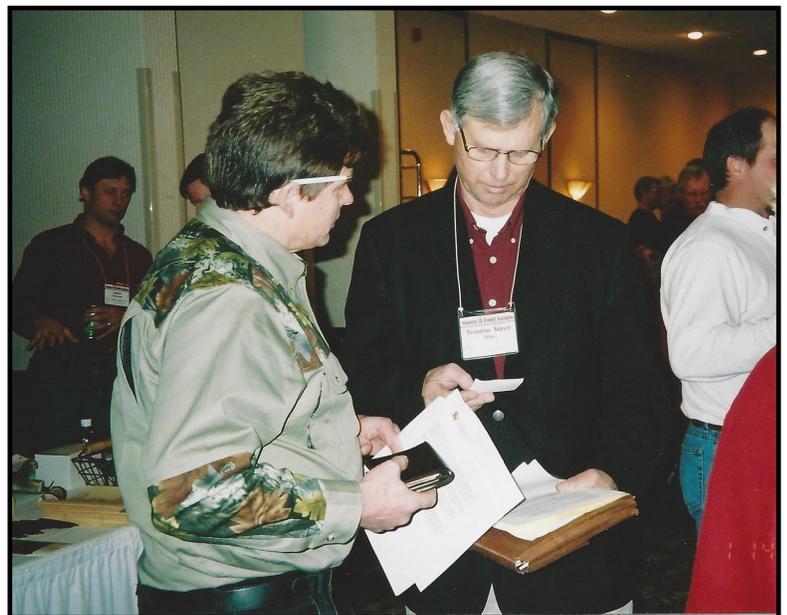
*Jerry Beier enjoying pizza!*



*Were you at the MnEBA Summer Picnic in 1998?*



*Scott & Sue Groen winning one of many antler awards!*



*Scott Salonek talks to former Senator Steve Dille*

# SPLENDOR RIDGE ELK FARM

## Splendors Blend

- Sired by SPR 211M (son of Platinum)
- 465 5/8" with spread credit of 34 7/8" at four with actual spread of 47 4/8"
- Placed 2nd at the 2013 International Antler Competition
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## **Vet Corner** by Glen Zearth, DVM

### **Head's Up on Program Standards Coming Out for Comment** *Producer Comments Needed!*

I recently attended a USDA/APHIS meeting in Washington, D.C. with leaders of several farmed cervid associations and USDA/APHIS personnel. We learned that it is the goal of USDA/APHIS to have the CWD Program Standards come out for comment before the upcoming USAHA meeting on October 17-23. They made a point of saying they are looking for lots of comments from producers, not just state associations. It will be very important for each producer to make comment! Be watching your email for notification of when the standards go to comment.

USDA/APHIS also asked how they could help our industry. Health research was requested to seek a live CWD test and CWD vaccine. We also expressed appreciation for the new TB Blood test changes (see details below). The USDA/APHIS budget has been severely cut and they are consolidating many programs. We'll have to see how it all works out.

**Editor's Note** – *The American Cervid Alliance has put out an excellent spreadsheet listing 18 different areas of concern with Version 22 of the Program Standards. This document will be a great help to anyone who is making comment. Go to [www.americancervidalliance.com](http://www.americancervidalliance.com), click on Newsroom, then click on "Does the CWD Standards Go Above and Beyond the Federal Rule? You Decide!"*

### **USDA Makes Changes to TB Blood Testing Protocol**

*by Lee Ann Thomas, DVM, MS, Director Ruminant Health Programs, USDA/APHIS*

Veterinary Services (VS) is changing the protocol for interpreting the Stat-Pak and DPP serologic tuberculosis (TB) tests for cervids. The change will reduce the unusually high number of false positives that have occurred since testing began in February 2013.

Since these tests were implemented, over 5200 animals have been tested, with 16.2 percent Stat-Pak positive and 2.3 percent DPP positive (suspects) on the first sample tested. On the second, post-30 day testing of suspects, 1.08 percent (58 animals) were still DPP positive, and should have been submitted for necropsy. This large number of reactors was unanticipated and created an economic hardship to the cervid producers due to quarantines and the loss of valuable animals. To date 45 animals have been submitted for necropsy and no lesions typical of TB have been found. In addition, 29 cultures have been completed and no *Mycobacterium bovis* has been isolated.

VS analyzed the test data and determined that a colorimetric optical density (OD) reader could be used on the DPP test to determine a numerical value for a positive test, rather than a visual test as in the original protocol. These OD values could then be compared to a statistically and scientifically determined cutoff value for each species, improving the specificity of the testing without a significant loss of sensitivity. The U.S. Animal Health Association's TB Scientific Advisory Subcommittee has concurred with our findings.

Stat-Pak/DPP tests are performed exclusively at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories, and the changes in protocol are effective immediately. In addition, all cervids currently classified as suspects and reactors will be reevaluated using the new DPP protocol on their previously submitted test samples. VS will notify States within 1 week of the reclassification of any suspect or reactor animals so that owners may be notified and quarantines released. We anticipate that some animals will remain suspects and require a secondary DPP test, and some animals will remain reactors that will need to go to necropsy.

Thank you for your patience as we work to improve TB testing. If you have any questions regarding this change in the implementation of the Stat-Pak/DPP protocol, you may contact Dr. Owen Henderson at [Owen.L.Henderson@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Owen.L.Henderson@aphis.usda.gov) or 970-494-7317.

**Comments from Dr. Zearth** – *People might want to wait a little bit before rushing to use the TB blood test again. Let the process play out and make sure the new protocol is working for producers and that minimal problems are experienced. But the changes USDA/APHIS has made should really help.*

## Committee Reports

### 2013 Minnesota State Fair Recap

At the recent MnEBA summer picnic, there was a lot of discussion about making improvements to the MnEBA booth at the Minnesota State Fair. With the fair just weeks away, it seemed nearly impossible to make any significant changes. However, Paul Hueg did just that! He took some ideas he'd been thinking about and went to work. At set up time, Greg Lubinski came up to help and they took the MnEBA booth to a whole new level!

As this was the second year in a new location, Paul knew we had a larger space than before and recommended a 20'x20' tent, versus the 15'x15' tent we had in the old space. This change allowed him to be more creative. This year's booth boasted a full elk head mount which was displayed on the table with an actual tree stump underneath. Paul built wooden frames to slide the informational posters into so they wouldn't blow in the wind. The table frontage was also improved with more exposure along the sidewalk.

Sales were much improved over last year! State Fair volunteers sold nearly \$3,000 worth of dog chews versus \$500 worth last year. Meat sales were also up from last year. As this was MnEBA's second year in the same location, people seemed to have figured out where the elk booth is now located!

Once again, membership participation in helping to man the booth was key to its success! Many thanks to the following for helping out: Morrie & Daphne Evenson, Neal & Julene Haugen, Kaye Zebarth, Linda Dynan, Charles Francis, Jon, Richard & Kris Aase, Don & Joyce Kaplan, Greg, Roxy & Bryce Lubinski, Lance & Brenda Hartkopf, Jim Byrne, Ken Arnzen, Dennis Suelflow, Damon & Duane Melquist, Dennis Wernsing, Mark & Michelle Lucas, Pat, Rita & Avrey Prodzinski, John & Martha Langowski, Darrell & Sheila Turek, Paul & Lynn Hueg, Wade & Norman Schimmelpfennig and Wapiti Labs personnel Maureen O'Neill, Angie & Arianna Bray, Julie Olson and Gene Bemark. Special thanks to Morrie & Daphne for chairing the committee, making the schedule and setting up and to Paul Hueg for all his planning and building, set up, take down and transporting the trailer to and from Howard Lake and to Greg Lubinski for assisting Paul in set up. It will be fun to see how the booth can be further improved next year; Paul's mind is already hard at work!

### MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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

## Advertiser Index

### ADM Alliance Nutrition

Page 4

### Non-Typical Elk Ranch

Page 7

### Farm Bureau Financial Services

Page 9

### Hostetler Wildlife Farm

Page 18

### Splendor Ridge Elk Farm

Page 21

*Thank you for your support!*

### 2014 MnEBA Annual Conference

The 2014 MnEBA Annual Conference will be taking place on January 10-11<sup>th</sup> at the River's Edge Convention Center/Best Western Kelly Inn in St. Cloud, Minnesota. It has been a long time since the winter meeting as been held in St. Cloud and MnEBA is excited such a central location was able to be secured this year!

In the coming month, the annual conference committee will be making final plans for the event. If you have any seminar requests or other ideas for making this a memorable and fun event, please contact any of the committee members – Kaye Zebarth @ 320-834-4064 or [oakpoint@gctel.net](mailto:oakpoint@gctel.net); Rita Prodzinski @ 507-452-1282 or [rprod@hotmail.com](mailto:rprod@hotmail.com); or the MnEBA Office @ 320-543-2686 or [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org).

### HELP WANTED!

MnEBA will be working in the next couple months to update the MnEBA web site. Committee members are WANTED for this short, couple month stint. If you would be willing to brainstorm ideas and help with the updates, please contact the MnEBA Office ASAP @ 320-543-2686!

## Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

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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

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

**February 21, 2014** – NAEBA February Fling, Honey Creek Resort, Maravia, IA

**March 7 – 9, 2014** – Minnesota Deer Classic, National Sports Center, Blaine, 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

## Classified Ads

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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