



Special Interest Articles:

- Velvet Update
- Board Meeting Minutes
- In the News
- 2016 MnEBA Summer Picnic
- Minnesota Grown Pick of the Month
- MnEBA Goals & Objectives
- Board Blog
- MnEBA Members Making a Difference
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- Elk Reintroduction to Northeastern Minnesota
- 2017 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar
- Vet Corner
- Minnesota State Fair
- Committee Reports

President's Message by Jim Byrne



I'm looking forward to the beginning of calving season. This exciting time is always a wonder for me. Those beautiful looking cows that were wandering around the pasture in the fall and winter have now transformed into shaggy lumbering beasts. Won't it be grand when the shaggy coat disappears, the new summer coat shines again and the new little ones are nestled in the high grass? I hope everyone has a highly productive and healthy calf crop this year. Be safe out there when ear tagging and make sure someone is watching your back.

As you should already be aware, the deadline for the Brucellosis/TB rules change comments has now come and gone. We will again have to wait to see if our efforts have proven effective. Hopefully we will have some feedback by the time of the summer picnic.

The summer picnic will be at Greg & Roxy Lubinski's farm in Plainview this year. I expect that it will be a fun time for everyone who can attend. One of the things I would like you to think about, and it will be talked about at the picnic, is the re-introduction of elk into Minnesota areas that do not have native herds at this time. The Board is seeking direction on this topic. Eventually our association will be asked to take a stance on this issue. Since we had no major issues in this last legislative session, we would like to be prepared when this is presented for action at the Capital.

Enjoy the warmer weather and be safe in all your endeavors this summer.

Jim



President Byrne hosted an elk farm tour for two different classes of students from Kasson-Mantorville school this spring. This connection was a direct result of the MnEBA Booth at the Minnesota FFA Convention!



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.

Board of Directors

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(612) 366-5078

Director

Greg Lubinski
(507) 273-0525

Director

Kraig Wurst
(507) 273-6174

Executive Secretary to the Board

Brenda Hartkopf
(320) 543-2686

Velvet Update

June is upon us and many of us are now cutting velvet. The big question these days is, "What will the price of velvet be this year?"

At the time of this writing, buyers are not saying anything about prices for 2016. The only things we have to go by are indicators of what the world market is doing at the present time. A recent velvet report from Ian Thorleifson recapped the recently ended New Zealand velvet season this way: *"The velvet antler harvest and sale season in New Zealand is wrapped up, with steady demand and all product sold except some volume of 'Hairy Hard' antler. Chinese grades were a bit softer than last season, but Korean demand was stronger. Overall average price for larger herds was \$50 CDN or \$38 USD per pound at the farm gate."*

One U.S. buyer has recently mentioned that he doesn't expect spike antler to receive a premium this year, but also stated that in the past, even they may not know for sure until just days before buying is to commence. This does not mean you shouldn't cut your spike antler this year. It only means that no promises are being made that spike antler will fetch a higher price than regular well-cut antler.

On grossly overgrown antler or "hairy hard", if this has not sold well in New Zealand this year, it likely will not sell well here either.

In the end, the best advice is to cut antler at the proper time, don't overgrow it, and stay in touch with the buyers as to when they will have the final price and be ready to buy your antler.

Your local buyers include:

Brian Wager (612) 366-5078

Scott Groen (320) 979-0911

Scott Salonek (612) 850-8684



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.

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting Minutes – April 16, 2016

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a meeting April 16, 2016 at the home of Lance & Brenda Hartkopf. Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Jim Byrne began the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Byrne asked for corrections to the February 6th board meeting minutes as presented. Wagner moved to approve, Wurst seconded, motion carried. The treasurer's report which also included the draft 2016 budget was then reviewed with several adjustments made to the budget. Current checkbook balance was \$35,460.52. Luedtke moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented with amended budget, Wagner seconded, motion carried.

Reviewed current MnEBA auto policy. Hartkopf to ask insurance agency if the current policy covers MnEBA for replacement value of the trailer or current market value and also if the contents of the trailer are covered. Hartkopf to report back to the board and await further instruction.

Discussed criteria for MnEBA members to receive reimbursement for attendance at the USAHA annual conference. Additional new criteria for receiving reimbursement were developed which include:

1. Make sure it is clearly known you are representing MnEBA. Name badge must clearly indicate representation from the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association
2. Attend whole portion of the USAHA national meeting through the last vote of the full assembly meeting
3. Vote in the best interest of MnEBA members
4. Provide a written report of your activities and how you voted to the board prior to check reimbursement. Information to be contained on this report includes:
 - a. What committees you were a part of
 - b. What was voted on and how you voted
 - c. What was voted on at the full assembly meeting and how you voted
5. Final approval of report from board is required before reimbursement will be made

Hartkopf was asked to have this printed separately, apart from the meeting minutes, in the newsletter as well.

Discussed if MnEBA would like to commission another Economic Impact Study in conjunction with the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association (MDFA) as we are coming up on the five year anniversary of when the last study was released. Byrne has spoken to Gary Olson, Vice President of the MDFA. Gary will pose the question to their board and report back to Jim. Decision was made to table this project until the deer breeders respond. In the future, board would like to have a supply of these study reports in the booth for all events MnEBA participates in.

Board reviewed a draft comment letter from MnEBA for the TB/Brucellosis proposed rule. A couple changes were noted. Hartkopf was asked to send amended version to Dr. Anderson for his review and double check that Brucellosis hasn't been found in farmed cervids in over 40 years, specifically in North Dakota. Once final version is approved, Hartkopf was asked to courtesy copy the MDFA.

Board reviewed spreadsheet listing several different proposals for the 2017 MnEBA Annual Conference. Board chose the bid from Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria for the weekend of January 13-14th. Hartkopf to follow up.

Greg & Roxy Lubinski have volunteered to host the summer meeting on Saturday July 23, 2016. Greg noted to make sure to use the farm address for all communications, not his personal residence which is away from the farm. Schedule to include noon potluck meal, membership meeting, farm tour and open forum pasture management session.

Reviewed inquiry about adding sales of a velvet antler dog supplements to the inventory of sale items at the State Fair. After much discussion, it was decided that between promotion of the industry and selling the items already being sold, it would be too much to add another product that would require further dissemination by booth workers to the lineup of sale items. Hartkopf to make sure to add this product to member profile on the web site and also make sure they are listed on the State Fair velvet sales list.

Booth workers reported very good interest from people looking into raising elk at the recent Outdoor News Deer & Turkey Show. MnEBA will plan to attend again next year. Discussed getting a new backdrop for the booth to replace the current banner. Hartkopf to see if MN Grown dollars can be used for this and to explore options.

Hartkopf gave an update on the Membership Drive Calling Campaign. She reported good discussions with several previous members who are interested in expanding their current operations and someday rejoining MnEBA. One previous member has rejoined and several more are looking to rejoin soon.

Discussed the opportunity to give presentations at a meeting of Ag Educators in St. Cloud on July 7th. Hartkopf plans to attend and give a 10-minute presentation to various groups of teachers. Board members to check their schedules to see if they can also attend.

Board reviewed and updated the MnEBA Goals & Objectives document from 2013. Hartkopf to update document and recirculate to the board for final approval.

Luedtke moved to adjourn, Wagner seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

In The News

The First Detection of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Europe

Norwegian Veterinary Institute
April 19, 2016

The Norwegian Veterinary Institute has diagnosed Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in a free-ranging reindeer from the Nordfjella population in South-Norway. CWD is a lethal disease in cervids. The disease is well known in North America; however this is the first detection of CWD in Europe. Also, this is the first detection of natural infection in reindeer worldwide.

The sick female reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus tarandus*) was detected in the middle of March 2016 in connection with capture for GPS-collaring using helicopter performed by the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA). It died and the carcass was submitted to the Norwegian Veterinary Institute in Oslo for necropsy and laboratory

examinations. It was an adult animal, says wildlife pathologist Turid Vikoren at Norwegian Veterinary Institute, who performed the necropsy.

The body condition of the reindeer was below medium, but it had still some adipose tissue left. In cervids older than 18 months, we routinely collect sample of the brain for CWD examination as part of the national surveillance program for CWD, and that was also done on this reindeer, Vikoren continues.

The head of the Norwegian Reference Laboratory for animal prion diseases at Norwegian Veterinary Institute, Sylvie Benestad, states that the brain sample from the reindeer was positive for the detection of

prions both by the first routine test (ELISA-test) and in two supplementary tests (Western Blotting, Immunohistochemistry).

CWD is an endemic disease in North America, in which natural infection occurs in mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), white-tailed deer (*O. virginianus*), elk (*Cervus elaphus nelsoni*) and moose (*Alces alces shirasi*). The reindeer from Norway represents the first detection of CWD in Europe. Also, this is the first detection of a natural infection in reindeer worldwide.

The Norwegian Veterinary Institute will take the initiative to follow-up surveys of this disease in the Norwegian wild reindeer populations.

2016 MnEBA Summer Picnic Saturday, July 23, 2016

Lubinski Elk Acres – Greg & Roxy Lubinski
23759 East County Rd 8 – Plainview, MN 55964
(507) 273-0525

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.

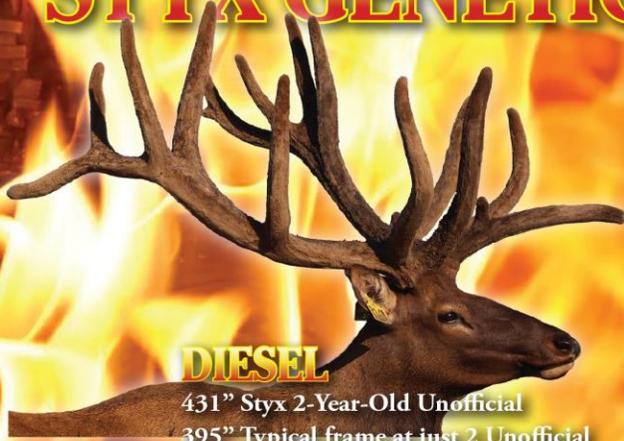
There will also be lots of good discussion about seeding pastures.

Bring a dish to pass.

Elk barbeques and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided!

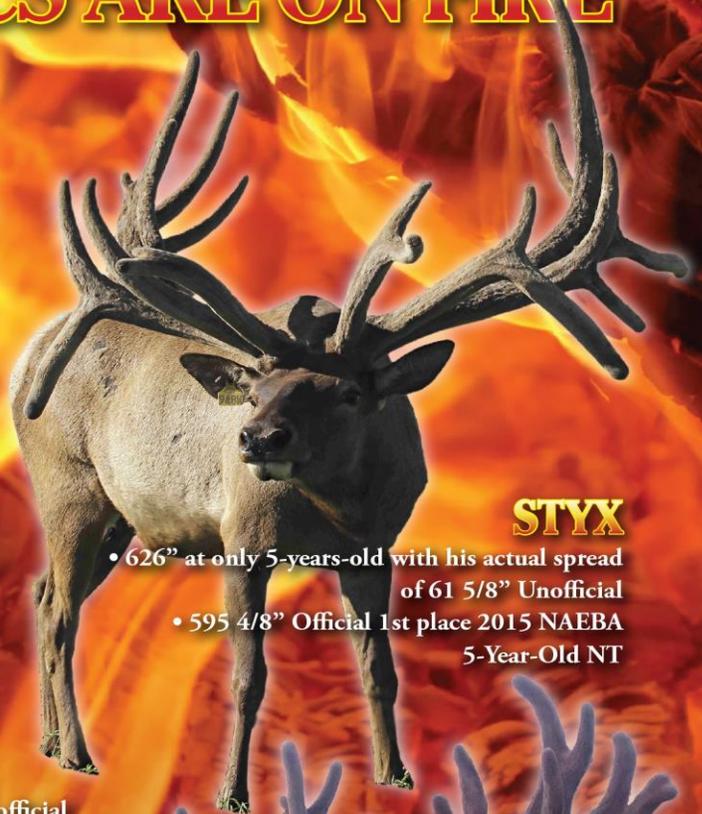
DIRECTIONS: From city of Plainview, one mile east of town on County Rd 8. Farm will be on the right hand side.

STYX GENETICS ARE ON FIRE



DIESEL

431" Styx 2-Year-Old Unofficial
395" Typical frame at just 2 Unofficial



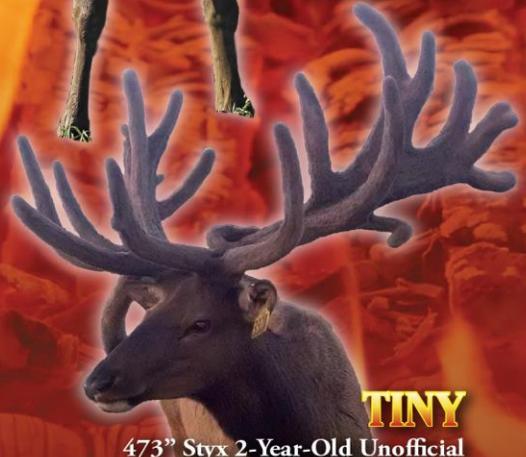
STYX

• 626" at only 5-years-old with his actual spread of 61 5/8" Unofficial
• 595 4/8" Official 1st place 2015 NAEBA 5-Year-Old NT



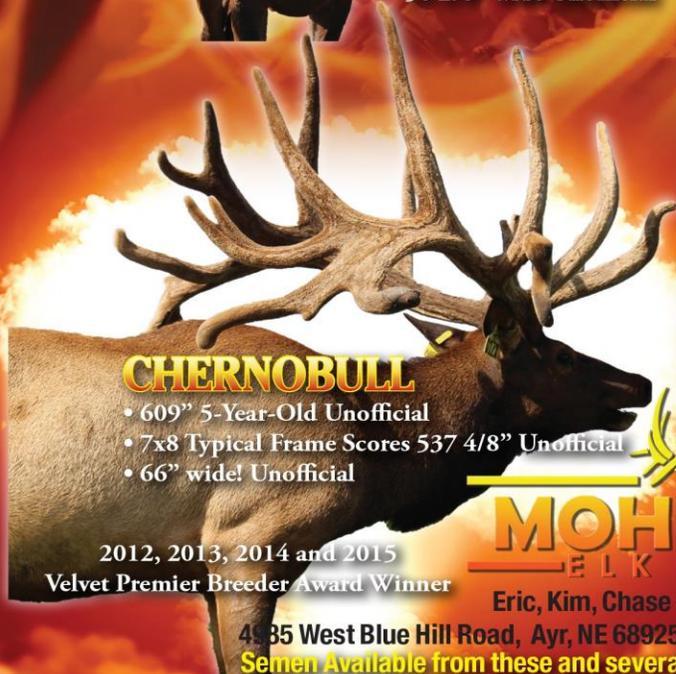
STRYKER

550" Styx 3-Year-Old Unofficial
56 2/8" wide Unofficial



TINY

473" Styx 2-Year-Old Unofficial
Special thanks to Herb Fritch of Two Feathers Elk & Bison for his purchase of Tiny. Make semen inquiries to Mohlman Elk Farm who retains 1/2 semen rights.



CHERNOBULL

• 609" 5-Year-Old Unofficial
• 7x8 Typical Frame Scores 537 4/8" Unofficial
• 66" wide! Unofficial

2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015
Velvet Premier Breeder Award Winner

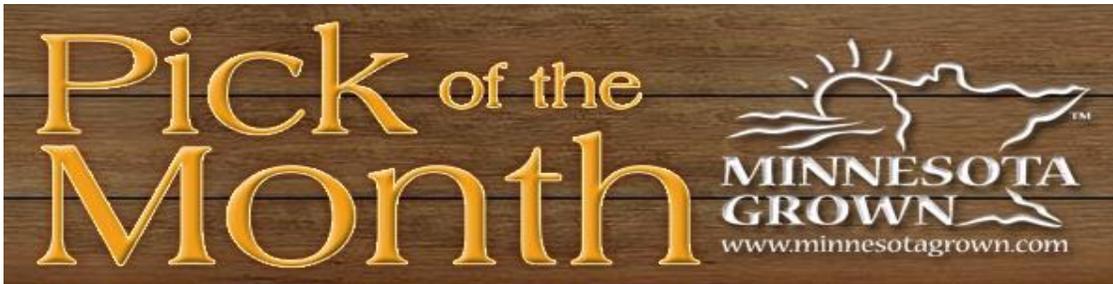


Eric, Kim, Chase and Kyra Mohlman

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2015 Non-Typical Hard Antler
Premier Breeder Award Winner
1st Two Class Winner in the Same Year



The May 2016 Edition of Minnesota Grown's Pick of the Month featured a great Memorial Day section on Minnesota grown meats including beef, chicken, bison and Elk! They featured a Minnesota Grown member grower to represent each kind of meat. Please see below for the section on Elk:

Want to try your hand at grilling elk this Memorial Day? Brenda Hartkopf of Splendor Ridge Elk Farm in Howard Lake, Minnesota filled us in on her favorite aspects of raising elk, the best tips for cooking and grilling elk, and shared some of her favorite recipes to make your Memorial Day elk a success.



Hartkopf Family

"There are many great aspects about raising elk, but perhaps the greatest is watching the bulls grow their antlers in the spring and summer. Elk bulls grow a new set of antler every year, gaining 3-4 pounds of new growth every year until about 8-10 years of age, then generally maintaining that yearly size thereafter. They can literally grow 40 pounds of antler on their head in just 120 days. And they do this over and over every year! It is amazing to watch this process and to think about how an animal can physically do this year after year. It's incredible to see what the bulls look like with their full display of antler and how regal and truly majestic they are. And we are fortunate enough to behold them in all their splendor every day on the farm." -Brenda Hartkopf, Owner

Splendor Ridge Elk Farm's Cooking Guide

Elk can be substituted for red meat in any conventional recipe and is easily prepared by grilling, roasting, broiling, stir-frying, or pan-frying. Because of elk's very low fat content, care must be taken during the cooking process so that it does not become dry. Cooking with lower temperatures, less time, and added moisture will help to insure that elk meat does not dry out. For the best results, cook elk to no further than medium doneness. To try your hand at cooking elk, here are a few tips for a successful meal:

ROASTS: Roasts cook very well in a crock-pot or roaster. Add 1-2 cups of water along with desired seasonings. Or instead of water, try your favorite creamed soup plus a ½ can of milk. Feel free to use whatever form of moisture you desire. Elk is a very versatile meat. Oven roast elk at 275 to 300 degrees until your meat thermometer reads 140 to 160 degrees for a medium-done roast. If using a crock-pot, add desired liquid and spices and cook for 4-6 hours on high or for a "melt-in-your-mouth" roast, cook on low heat for 10 to 12 hours.

BURGER: The most versatile of all elk cuts, elk burger can be substituted for ground red meat in almost any kind of dish and adds tremendous flavor and texture. Elk burger is great by itself, but if more moisture is desired, add 1 tsp. olive oil or 1 egg per pound of ground elk. Fry or grill burger patties for 5 minutes per side over medium heat.

STEAKS: Steaks work well in a cast iron fry pan or over the grill when cooked to medium-rare. Fry steaks in olive oil with your favorite seasonings. If grilling, marinating steaks in your favorite oil marinade creates the ultimate steak experience. Fry or grill elk steaks over medium heat for 6 to 7 minutes per side.

Recipes

As you can tell, the Hartkopfs' know a thing or two about preparing elk. Thankfully, they were willing to share a few of their favorite recipes for us to try and enjoy. With their helpful cooking guide and delicious recipes, we can all become elk meat experts this summer.

Elk Steak Marinade

3 Tbsp. canola oil	1 Tbsp. soy sauce
1 tsp. garlic powder	1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
½ tsp. pepper	¼ cup onion, minced
1 Tbsp. lemon juice	1½ lbs. elk steak

Mix all marinade ingredients together in a small measuring cup. Place elk steaks in a large zip lock bag. Pour marinade over steaks and seal bag. Place flat so steaks are in a single layer. Refrigerate at least 4 hours, turning several times to marinate each side. Drain marinade and grill steaks to desired doneness. Double or triple this recipe accordingly for additional pounds of steak.

Swedish Elk Meatballs

1½ lbs. ground elk	1 egg
1 tsp. salt	¼ cup onion, minced
1/8 tsp. pepper	1 tsp. dried parsley or 1 Tbsp. fresh, minced
1/3 cup dry bread crumbs	1 can Cream of Mushroom or Cream of Chicken soup
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce	

Mix all ingredients except can of soup lightly. Shape mixture into balls the size of a walnut. Brown in ¼ cup oil. Remove meatballs from frying pan. Pour soup plus one soup can water into the pan drippings and mix until smooth. Return meat balls to pan. Simmer for 15-20 minutes. Makes 6 servings.

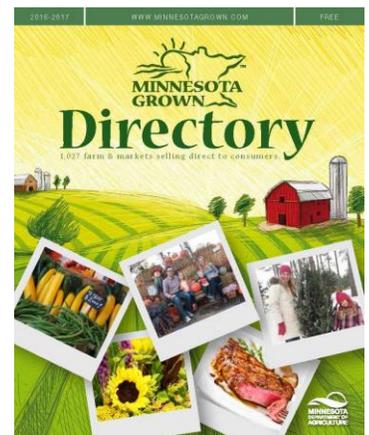
Elk Meatloaf

2 eggs	¼ tsp. pepper
1 can (8 oz.) tomato sauce	1½ lbs. ground elk
¼ cup onion, minced	3 Tbsp. brown sugar
1 cup dry bread crumbs	3 Tbsp. mustard or Dijon mustard
1 tsp. salt	3 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar

In a large bowl, lightly beat the eggs then add tomato sauce, onion, bread crumbs, salt and pepper. Add ground elk and mix well. Press into an ungreased 9"x5"x3" loaf pan. Combine the brown sugar, mustard and apple cider vinegar then pour over the top of the meatloaf. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 70 minutes.



Find elk producers near you in the Minnesota Grown Directory (www.minnesotagrown.com) and Minnesota Elk Breeders Association website (www.mneba.org/buy-meat).





Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

Goals & Objectives

Completed on April 16, 2016

MnEBA MISSION STATEMENT

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

ONE-YEAR GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1. Strategic Planning

- A. Review and update one, three and five year plan bi-annually
- B. Review industry trends annually
- C. Review mission statement

2. Relationships with External Organizations

- A. Maintain an active Government Relations committee
- B. Maintain an active presence on the Cervidae Advisory committee
- C. Maintain network with all other elk associations
 - a. continue to exchange newsletters with all other state associations
 - b. maintain web links when possible
 - c. have NAEBA representative meet with the MnEBA board and membership at least once per year
- D. Maintain lobbyist activities at state level
- E. Continue and expand relationships with relevant organizations such as MN Deer Breeders Association, NADeFA, Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, American Cervid Alliance, Future Farmers of America (FFA) and U of M Veterinary Students

3. Member Communications

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

4. Position MN as the Leader in the Elk Industry

- A. Continue to make available promotional materials for sale
- B. Encourage participation in the TB and Brucellosis accreditation programs
- C. Encourage member compliance with all state required regulations such as testing, fencing and escapes
- D. Promote Minnesota status as a leader in the industry
 - a. have representatives on major national committees

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

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

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

6. Improve Outreach to the Public

- A. Continue presence at shows
 - a. State Fair, Outdoor News Deer & Turkey Show, FFA Convention, Ag Teachers Convention
- B. Seek new shows to become involved in
 - a. Explore ag show opportunities
 - b. Explore MN Cooks at State Fair
- C. Encourage utilization of booth and educational materials
 - a. members
 - b. educators
- D. Continue developing press releases
- E. Encourage members to join MN Grown program
- F. Increase awareness of elk products
 - a. explore advertising opportunities
 - b. increase number of members utilizing the MN Elk Trademark logo
 - c. increase association use of MN Elk Trademark logo
 - d. increase meat sales at MN State Fair
 - e. increase awareness of velvet antler for people and pets & dog chews for pets
- G. Continue MN Charitable Elk Hunt
 - a. increase public awareness of this project
- H. Continue to update Ag Statistics or Economic Impact study on at least a 5 year cycle
 - a. continue to partner with other cervid organizations in Minnesota
 - b. continue to explore new study options
- I. Continue to be involved with FFA Foundation Blue Jackets/Bright Future Campaign
- J. Continue involvement in Farm Bureau Ag Communicator meetings
- K. Continue to offer elk farm tours for U of M veterinary students

7. Increase Membership in MnEBA

- A. Have 50% of registered Minnesota elk producers be members of MnEBA
 - a. continue to contact non-renewing members by April 1 of each calendar year
 - b. continue to contact non-member producers at least once per year
 - c. have annual board discussion about ideas to increase membership
- B. Increase membership benefits
 - a. continue to expand scholarship opportunities
 - b. highlight farms in newsletter

8. Web Site Enhancement

- A. Continue to expand consumer information section
- B. Continue to expand product availability information
- C. Encourage development of member web sites
- D. Continue to build linked sites listing
- E. Continue and expand involvement with Facebook
- F. Increase number of banner ads

9. Budget

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

THREE-YEAR GOALS

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

FIVE-YEAR GOALS

1. Reverse trend from declining membership to gaining membership
2. Disease testing relief for all farmed cervids (CWD, TB, Brucellosis)
3. Have direct importation of North American velvet into Korea
 - a. NAEBA and Canadian Cervid Alliance
4. Increase velvet antler usage in U.S.



Elk Bull Needed for 2016 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt

MnEBA is seeking an elk bull for the 2016 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt to be held at Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch in Baudette, MN the weekend of October 10-12th. MnEBA has half the money needed to purchase a bull.

Looking for someone to donate the other half of funding and also someone willing to sell a bull measuring 300"-350". This elk hunt will be awarded to a disabled Minnesota veteran of the United States armed forces. This will mark the 10 year anniversary of the MnEBA sponsored hunt!

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

Do You Know a Disabled Minnesota Veteran Who Might Want to Apply?

MnEBA is also seeking to find this year's hunt recipient and is looking for suggestions from MnEBA members. Candidates to be a disabled Minnesota veteran (or have Minnesota ties). Applications are now available and will be **due by July 1st**.

Please contact the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 or info@mneba.org to request an application!

Board Blog by Brian Wagner, MnEBA Secretary/Treasurer



Once again here we are with everyone's favorite time of the year - green grass, new baby calves, watching antler grow and the smell of fresh cut hay. When it comes to raising elk, there may only be one time a year that could be better and that would be getting the check for velvet and harvest bulls.

I would like to thank Mark Lucas and Wade Schimmelpfennig for their many years as board members working hard for MnEBA and also welcome new board members Mark Luedtke and Kraig Wurst. I feel they will bring some great knowledge to the table.

Not to bring up a bad subject, but proposed federal rules and regulations are potentially once again being forced on us. The new TB/Brucellosis proposed rules were something that we all took very serious. President Jim Byrne, Brenda Hartkopf and Dr. Paul Anderson along with the rest of the board have put many hours into reading and writing responses to try to get this new rule changed. My feelings are hopeful but also good that this will happen. I'd like to thank the members that were involved and also those who took this serious and wrote letters. Representative Collin Peterson is a very powerful man in ag politics at the Washington DC level and may have a huge part in helping us with this. Fortunately for us, Representative Peterson is from Minnesota and we've had several members contact him personally or his office with their concerns. Leaders from NAEBA and the ACA had direct contact with him as well. The end result is if we can get this proposed rule changed, then elk producers will once again have the choice if they wish to be Brucellosis certified or not.

We are working on the ever popular gun raffle calendar again. I'd like to thank all of the sponsors, donors and sellers that make this a success every year.

We're also working on the veterans elk hunt so if anyone knows of a wounded veteran that they think would deserve this once in a lifetime experience, please give the office a call to get their name on the list for this year or even one of the future years. At this time we have a donor for half the cost of a bull, so if anyone has a bull or would like to donate money for a bull, let the office know.

Keep your calendars marked for the MnEBA summer picnic at Greg and Roxy Lubinski's farm on July 23rd and also the NAEBA convention in Omaha, Nebraska July 28-30th.

Hopefully ya'll have a great summer.

God bless,
Brian Wagner

*Spring Coulee
Velvet Capsules*



Bill & Karen Knutson
Home of Spring Coulee Elk

N7447 Cty Hwy D
Holmen, WI 54636
Phone (608) 526-4477
Cell (608) 792-4477
Fax (608) 526-2055
miniman41@centurytel.net

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MnEBA Members Making a Difference!

There has been a lot of frustration by elk producers over the sudden emergence of proposed rules by USDA/APHIS regarding TB/Brucellosis with the biggest surprise being the proposed requirement of whole herd Brucellosis testing in order to move animals interstate. With only 14 of the 129 elk herds being Brucellosis certified as of January 1, 2016 in Minnesota, this proposal affects almost every producer in the state!

MnEBA members Scott Groen and Dennis Engebretson took it upon themselves to appeal to their elected federal official, Representative Collin Peterson, to explain their frustration and to see what Representative Peterson could do to help.



Scott Groen



Dennis Engebretson

After hearing directly from his constituents, the North American Elk Breeders Association and Exotic Wildlife Association were able to build on Minnesota's grass roots efforts to have Representative Peterson personally write a letter directly to the Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, regarding his concern with the proposed rules (see following page for the actual letter).

While it seems like one or two voices couldn't possibly make a difference on the federal level, this goes to show that it does! Great job Dennis and Scott!

An advertisement for Rack Plus. It features a large, detailed illustration of an elk's head with impressive antlers, set against a brown background. Below the head is a green oval containing the text 'Rack PLUS™' in white. To the right of the head is a dark rectangular sign with white text that reads 'PROVEN PERFORMERS FOR BIGGER BODIES & ANTLERS'. In the bottom right corner, there is a blue triangular area containing the ADM logo, which consists of a stylized white leaf shape above the letters 'ADM'.

For more info, contact Leo Windschitl at 218-820-0658
AN_DeerHelp@adm.com • ADMAnimalNutrition.com



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 12, 2016

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Re: Docket No. APHIS-2011-0044

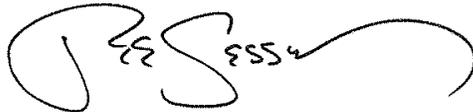
We write today to share our concerns about the USDA/APHIS Tuberculosis (TB) and brucellosis proposed rule and the negative impact it may have on deer and elk farmers.

The health and welfare of the U.S. animal herd is critical, and we fully support the goal of looking for ways to improve coordination and effectiveness of current TB and brucellosis control efforts. However, we are concerned that proposals to streamline procedures and require the testing of entire deer and elk herds will create unnecessary economic burdens without substantial added benefit.

The proposed testing expansion would have a significant economic impact on deer and elk farms, adding testing costs, veterinary fees, and losses due to animal stress. Based on USDA information, brucellosis in the cervid population is essentially contained within the Greater Yellowstone Basin, but the proposed testing requirements are nationwide. Recognizing that brucellosis in the cervid population is geographically limited, the U.S. Animal Health Association recommends eliminating testing in many species. State animal health officials note that brucellosis is not a "silent killer" like TB and therefore should not require the same level of monitoring in areas with no history of the disease in the cervid population.

We appreciate your review and consideration of these concerns and request that the final rule properly balance the best available science and risk assessments to ensure that this updated animal health testing scheme will adequately protect the U.S. animal population without causing unnecessary harm to the industry.

Sincerely,



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association is one of many organizations and individuals who contribute to the national Public Relations Campaign organized by the American Cervid Alliance. Here are a couple recent examples of this program at work. This highly successful campaign is beginning its third year!

Guest Commentary: Elk Disease Cause for Study, Not Panic

Southwest Times Record

By Travis Lowe

May 2, 2016 - Two months ago, Arkansas found Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) for the first time by way of a wild elk cow in the northwest area of the state. The finding led to reports from Arkansas wildlife officials passing it off as an isolated incident. Now, a few weeks later, there are 79 confirmed cases of CWD in the state. There is speculation by disease researchers that it has been in the state for more than 10 years.

But while the news was met with predictably dire warnings, hunters shouldn't worry.

The deer population in Arkansas is unlikely to be affected by CWD. While news reports were quick to note that CWD is "always fatal" to deer and elk (it does not affect humans), the disease has a long incubation period. Researchers looking at CWD in other states have failed to find that it has significantly affected deer populations in Wisconsin and Colorado, where it has existed in the wild for years. It's been in Arkansas for years and no one noticed.

One reason it went unnoticed is because Arkansas wasn't looking for it very hard, and the deer and elk were apparently not dying of CWD. Arkansas only tests about 500 free-ranging deer and elk every year for CWD - out of a population of 1 million animals. Arkansas isn't alone. All states have low testing rates for CWD, which has led to a situation where CWD is suddenly "found" or "pops up" where it hasn't been seen before. In fact, it's probably in more places than we know - but because it doesn't affect humans or deer populations, it has simply quietly existed.

One mystery is how it got into Arkansas in the first place. In other states, some have tried to blame the spread of CWD on deer farms and the movement of

deer between farms and breeders, but there's been little credible evidence of this. In Arkansas, deer farming has been banned for years, and no deer are allowed to be imported into the state by humans. Of course, there's no wall at the state line; free-range deer could have brought it in from neighboring areas. CWD has been found in central Missouri, and animal migration could have transported the disease. Additionally, hunters could have accidentally brought back infected carcasses from out-of-state hunts.

It is more likely, however, that CWD spread into Arkansas because of the state's elk relocation program. About 30 years ago, the state imported elk from Nebraska and (primarily) Colorado. Colorado is ground zero for CWD and it was first detected in the wild in that state around 30 years ago. Lo and behold, the first case in Arkansas was in an elk.

There is no approved CWD test for live animals, so it's hard to get a good idea of where the disease is. Institutions or businesses that participate in the federal CWD certification program, for instance, have to be CWD-free (via testing mortalities) for at least 5 years to get certification, and then must continue to track and test all of their animals to maintain certification. If CWD is found, a quarantine can be put into effect to control the disease.

In contrast, it's hard to control or eradicate CWD in the wild. It's impractical or impossible to monitor all 1 million deer in Arkansas. So what can be done?

Arkansas and neighboring states must increase their testing of free-ranging deer and elk in order to get a better idea of where CWD is. The state can't test every animal, but it can increase it to scientifically significant levels to more confidently say which areas

in the state are CWD-free at present. To make this job easier, the state should invest in research into accurate tests for live animals; having to only test deceased animals is an obvious limitation.

The finding of CWD was a concern to many Arkansas hunters, though the disease had already existed in the state for some time. Hunters shouldn't worry about

the disease's minimal effects on deer populations. But they should ask the state to step up its efforts.

Travis Lowe is the Executive Director of the North American Elk Breeders Association.

<http://swtimes.com/opinion/guest-commentary-elk-disease-cause-study-not-panic>

Elk Foundation Wrong about CWD in KY

The Register Herald

April 28, 2016 - I have to take issue with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's claim that there is "no Chronic Wasting Disease in Kentucky at all" ("Elk Foundation sets dinner for April 16"; The Register-Herald, April 10). As we saw with the recent discovery of 78 cases of CWD in Arkansas - where experts believe the disease has been for years - we must remember that absence of proof is not proof of absence.

In Arkansas, CWD was found in elk. Elk were imported to the state in the 1980s from out west - including CWD-positive Colorado - to rebuild historic populations of the animals. The same thing happened in Kentucky about a decade out. It's possible that CWD came along with the animals, since the disease has a long incubation period and there's no approved live-animal test for CWD. (Deer farming is often used

as a political scapegoat when CWD pops up, but Arkansas has a decades-long ban on it.) Kentucky may not be CWD-free at all - the disease simply may not have been found yet. The Commonwealth only tests about 2,000 animals on average every year, despite having a population of 1 million free-ranging deer and 10,000 elk. The Department of Fish and Wildlife would do well to increase its testing to provide better surveillance.

Charly Seale
Chairman, Media Review Committee for the American Cervid Alliance

http://www.register-herald.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/elk-foundation-wrong-about-cwd-in-ky/article_09893240-fa85-56d9-a846-ef5c4cc6e50f.html



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Splendor Ridge Elk Farm
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Thank you for your support!

This photo came with a group of photos entitled, "Spring in Lake Benton" from Linda A-Blom of Prairie View Enterprises in Lake Benton, MN. It's what a lot of elk farms look like now with baby calves just hitting the ground!

Elk Reintroduction to Northeastern Minnesota

For nearly two years, there have been rumblings about a movement to reintroduce elk to Northeastern Minnesota. MnEBA has not been asked to give a formal position on this as of yet, but it appears time to begin having discussions about what that position should be. The following article gives a good synopsis of who is behind this movement and where it's going. **This will be a topic of discussion at the upcoming MnEBA Summer Meeting!**

At the time of this printing, the Legislature has sent a \$46.3 million bill that includes appropriations from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, which takes in money from the lottery. One of those projects includes: "\$300,000 to the University of Minnesota in cooperation with the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to look at habitat suitability and public support for restoring elk to northeastern Minnesota." This bill is awaiting Governor Dayton's signature.

Fond du Lac Elk Study Awaits Legislative Approval of Funding

Duluth News Tribune

By John Myers – January 15, 2016

Efforts by the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa to bring elk back to the eastern Minnesota landscape are waiting for the 2016 Legislature to approve funding.

The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources in October approved \$300,000 in state lottery conservation funding to study the elk restoration effort, one of 88 proposals to be recommended out of 186 requests.

Lawmakers, who will go into session in March, generally approve recommendations by the LCCMR, but not always.

If lawmakers agree, and the governor signs off, the money would be available July 1.

The grant would go to study habitat in southern St. Louis, Carlton and northern Pine counties where Fond du Lac hopes to reintroduce elk in coming years. But it will also study social acceptance for a restored elk herd.

Because elk have a history of adapting well to many kinds of habitat, but also have a history of roaming where they aren't always welcome, it's the public acceptance aspect that's expected to be the most challenging. Supporters say they will need buy-in from landowners, farmers, deer hunters and others before bringing elk into the region from another state or Canada.

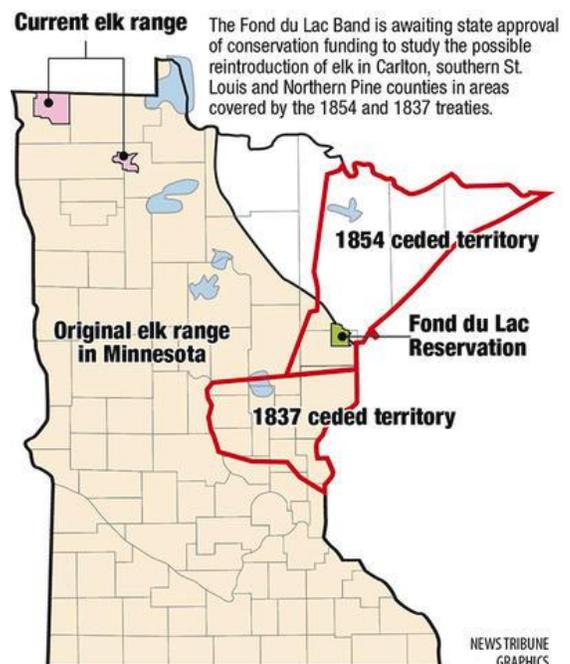
The research, led by the University of Minnesota, would take about three years, with money from the Fond du Lac Band and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to match the state funding. Any decisions on when and where to put elk would be

made after the study is complete, Mike Schrage, wildlife biologist for the Fond du Lac Band, has said.

Schrage is presenting the project today at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources "roundtable" stakeholders meeting in the Twin Cities.

The DNR has included the concept of elk in eastern Minnesota into its statewide elk management plan now up for renewal. The DNR is most concerned with the state's existing elk herd in northwestern Minnesota, but the agency did include the new elk proposal in its draft now out for public comment.

The proposed draft elk plan says the DNR will "support external research on the feasibility of elk restoration in eastern Minnesota."



The agency will “continue to voice support for research on potential elk restoration as proposed by the University of Minnesota and the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.”

County officials from St. Louis, Pine and Carlton counties also have given their backing for the study to move forward.

As first reported by the News Tribune in 2014, the Fond du Lac plan is an effort to bring back the big animal once important to the Ojibwe people that has been absent from the region for more than a century.

The problem in northwestern Minnesota, where there has been a small elk herd since the 1930's, is that some elk have settled in an area of intensive agricultural production where they damage crops. Local farmers and lawmakers have moved to keep that herd as small as possible and the elk have created strong political rifts.

If the study results are positive, the Fond du Lac Band would have to find a state or Canadian province willing to give up dozens, and potentially hundreds of elk. And the source herds or herds of elk must be certified as disease-free – especially for chronic wasting disease and bovine tuberculosis. The effort may stretch over a decade, Schrage has said, and include importing 200-300 elk.

Fond du Lac tribal leaders want to see the elk restored somewhere within the 1837 or 1854 treaty areas that cover much of eastern Minnesota where the band has court-sanctioned rights for hunting, fishing and gathering as well as natural resource management. Tribal leaders in 2014 authorized the band's natural resources staff to study the concept of reintroducing “omashkoozoog.”

Carlton County has about 72,000 acres of county-managed, tax forfeited public land, said Greg Bernu, the county's land commissioner. About 16,000 of those acres are within areas, such as the Nemadji State Forest, that have been eyeballed as potential elk habitat.

St. Louis County has more than 900,000 acres of county land, as well as extensive state land, including

the Cloquet Valley State Forest in the southern quarter of the county where elk restoration might be most likely. Elk were native to the area, much more so than white-tailed deer, until the elk were hunted out by the late 1800s as European immigrants settled the area. Before that, the Ojibwe had a history with elk as much as with deer, moose and caribou, band officials say.

Several other eastern states have successfully reintroduced wild elk herds, including Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Arkansas, Kentucky, Virginia, Missouri and Tennessee. None have reported any negative impact on deer. Michigan restarted its elk population with just seven animals in 1918, a herd that since has grown to more than 900 and is well accepted by both landowners and sportsmen in the state.

In addition to county and DNR backing, other organizations supporting the Fond du Lac elk restoration effort include the Minnesota Conservation Federation, Minnesota Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, the Carlton County Chapter of MDHA, United Northern Sportsmen and the Duluth Chapter of the Izaak Walton League.

Wisconsin Adding More Elk

Wisconsin started its second elk herd in August by importing 23 elk from Kentucky and releasing them into the Black River State Forest in the central part of the state. Wisconsin's first elk reintroduction effort started in 1995 near Clam Lake in Ashland County in the heart of the Chequamegon National Forest. That herd has grown slowly and sits at about 160 animals now.

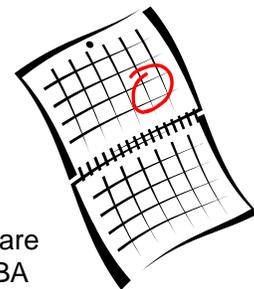
Wisconsin wildlife officials are planning on adding another 75 or so Kentucky elk to the Clam Lake herd this year to add genetic diversity and help the herd grow more quickly. The goal is about 1,400 elk in the Clam Lake area.

Of the Clam Lake elk that have died and been found by elk biologists during the past 20 years, 42 percent have been killed by wolves, 16 percent from vehicle collisions and 12 percent from bear attacks, mostly on calves 6 weeks old and younger. Like Minnesota, elk were native to much of Wisconsin but were extirpated by the late 1800's.

2017 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 2017 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. This year's sponsors to date include: Jim & Eileen Byrne, Leo Windschitl, Brian Wagner, Lance & Brenda Hartkopf, Perry & Don Olson, Craig, Kathy, Klint & Lora Wylie, Greg & Roxy Lubinski, Kraig & Jenny Wurst 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 great incentives to sell calendars this year! For each group of ten calendars sold by any one person, the seller's name goes in the hat for a special gun drawing outside of the raffle calendar. Must have stubs and money for all ten tickets turned in by December 31, 2016 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. With 26 guns and six \$100 Bonus Cash days, there are many great chances to win!

Looking for special donors! We're still looking for a sponsor for the special gun drawing for people selling 10 calendars or more and having stubs and money returned to the office by December 31st. Gun sponsorships would also be very helpful, as would sponsorship of any one of the six \$100 cash bonus days. Please contact the MnEBA Office ASAP.

Last year's calendars sold out! Last year was the first year MnEBA SOLD OUT of calendars! There were also a record number of members who sold 30 or more and received a free 2016 membership. Selling calendars is a win-win proposition with MnEBA benefiting from the fundraising to continue to grow activities of the Association, people winning new firearms and cash and members receiving free memberships. Everyone benefits on some level!

Calendar sales are important as we work to raise additional funds to continue to assist in the national public relations campaign effort to promote cervid farming, continue the Elk Hunt for disabled MN veteran, MnEBA scholarship program and FFA Foundation Blue Jackets Campaign, continue to build outreach at new events, continue to improve the booth at the MN State Fair, help to fund members to attend the annual USAHA convention, continue marketing activities with Minnesota Grown, conduct a Minnesota cervid industry economic study to keep up the effort to protect and grow cervid farming in Minnesota and continue all of the good work listed in the newly revised 2016 MnEBA Goals & Objectives as listed on Pages 8-10 of this newsletter. The efforts to sell gun raffle calendars are tremendously beneficial to all members!

Calendars will be available at this year's summer picnic on July 23rd at the MnEBA Summer Picnic in Plainview. They will also be available at the NAEBA Convention in Omaha, Nebraska the following weekend or by contacting the MnEBA Office. Let's sell out once again this year!!! Please forward your sponsorship pledge, questions or comments to the MnEBA Office at 320-543-2686 or info@mneba.org.



Looking for special donors!

We're still looking for a sponsor for the special gun drawing for people selling 10 calendars or more and having stubs and money returned to the office by December 31st. Gun sponsorships would also be very helpful, as would sponsorship of any of the six \$100 cash bonus days. Please contact the MnEBA Office ASAP.



Splendor's Blend 806U

525" at 7, unofficial
506 5/8" at 6, placed 2nd at 2015 International Competition
Total outcross genetics!



Splendor's Ray 071X

480" at 5, unofficial
435 7/8" at 4
Sired by X-Ray

**SEMEN
AVAILABLE
FROM BOTH
OUTSTANDING BULLS**



Lance & Brenda Hartkopf
9086 Keats Avenue SW • Howard Lake, MN 55349
320-543-3664, info@sprelk.com • www.sprelk.com

1 NORTH AMERICAN ELK | 2015 NOVEMBER JOURNAL

Vet Corner by Dr. Glen Zebarth

Early Calving Season Tips

(This article is an updated version of an article written by Dr. Zebarth for the Summer 2006 NAELK Journal. Dr. Zebarth updated the article for the May 2016 NAELK Journal. Much of what was important to maintain a healthy calf crop 10 years ago still applies today!)

As calving time once again approaches, it is a good time to check your cow's body condition. You want the cows calving to have a body condition score of 2.5-3.0. In the last two weeks of pregnancy it is good for the cows to start gaining weight. This will help them milk better. Usually fresh green grass does this nicely. If you're in a dry lot or short on grass, supplement with grain and alfalfa hay.

Small calving groups can be an advantage for tagging calves. Smaller groups also cut down on some pecking order problems, especially for younger and timid cows. It is a good idea to have first calf cows in a separate pen.

For neonatal diarrhea problems, something to consider is a system that has been used for a number of years in cattle called the "sand hills system". The procedure is to place all of the cows in one pasture to start calving. Every 10 days the cows that have not calved are moved to a new pasture. Approximately four moves would be typical for an elk farm during calving season. I realize this is not easy and requires tagging all the calves to be sure which cows have calved. The epidemiology that makes the above system work is the same cows are shedding small numbers of the bacteria or viruses. By not having older calves in the pasture where new calves are born, the cycle is broken.

Beef farms that have used this system have been able to quit vaccinating for scours in both cows and calves. This is a significant cost savings and has been very successful in stopping diarrhea diseases. It seems to also work for elk as the principles are the same. Several elk farms have tried this method with varying degrees of success, much of which is dependent on how many pastures are available to switch to. We've even used a corn stalk or alfalfa field after first cutting with good success. The main idea is to use "new" ground. The less it has been used for elk and the longer since it was last used, the better.

A compromise approach, especially if you have not had a problem in the past, is to watch for any signs of disease. If any are seen, then move all pregnant cows. Do not move any cow-calf pairs, as those calves are already exposed. If you have had a history of neonatal disease, move the pregnant cows on a schedule to prevent problems. As we all know, treating calves that are sick from scours or pneumonia is difficult, expensive and discouraging.

I would say that if you see an elk calf with diarrhea you have to treat it; it will not self-cure. If there are several, you will need to treat all. Consult your veterinarian for a prescription. Vaccination routine 8-way Clostridia plus separate clostridium type A with C & D. Routinely give each Vitamin A, D, E injections. Check a fecal sample for stomach worms, coccidia and cryptosporidium.

Submit diarrhea samples to diagnostic lab, especially for any viral diagnostics such as Bovine Virus Diarrhea (BVD), Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR), rota or coronaviruses. There are cattle vaccines for these viruses. The use of cattle vaccines should be between producer and herd veterinarian as to their benefit.

The number one medicine is colostrum from the cow, as soon as possible. Usually less interference is best. It is a judgement call when to intervene; calves need colostrum by 6 hours for sure.

Two non-infectious problems may also occur, the first being that cows are too fat. One thing that seems to help them on short notice is to increase exercise as much as possible. The next year get their body condition score down to 3.0.

The reverse problem is calves are too small or cows not milking, which are both signs of cows that are too thin, having a body condition score of 2.0 or less. Increase feed, as said before, with grain and alfalfa hay. Consult your veterinarian or nutritionist. Good luck calving!



Aug. 25-Labor Day, Sept. 5, 2016

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

*There are still lots of opportunities to sign up!
Sign up today to get your preferred day!*

Before we know it, it will be time for the Minnesota State Fair! Interest about raising elk and in elk products themselves is as strong as ever making it a very fun time to work in the MnEBA booth!

There are still many openings for members to participate! This is one of the best opportunities to share our story with a very interested general public! Plus, the State Fair is a fun place to be and has something of interest for everyone. The whole family can have a great time!

If you've never worked the booth or don't know what's involved, 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. It has become a tradition for some of our members to bring other friends and family to work with them year after year.

MnEBA will be once again selling elk snack sticks, sausage and jerky along with elk antler dog chews. Elk snacks always sell well and dog chews are gaining in sales every year!

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 is always thinking about new things to add to the booth and would be interested to hear your suggestions!

Date	Time	Workers	Date	Time	Workers
Pre-Fair		Set Up – Paul Hueg, Greg Lubinski	8/31	8 – 2	Pat & Rita Prodzinski
8/25	8 - 2	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf		2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/1	8 – 2	Jim Byrne, Norm Schimmelpfennig
8/26	8 – 2	Aase Family		2 - 9	Jim Byrne, Norm Schimmelpfennig
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/2	8 – 2	Jim Byrne
8/27	8 – 2	OPEN		2 - 9	Jim Byrne
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/3	8 – 2	OPEN
8/28	8 – 2	OPEN		2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/4	8 – 2	OPEN
8/29	8 – 2	Jim Byrne		2 - 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/5	8 – 2	Greg & Roxy Lubinski
8/30	8 – 2	OPEN		2 – 9	Paul & Lynn Hueg
	2 – 9	OPEN			

MnEBA Velvet and Meat Vendor Lists – Update Your Listing!

Enclosed with this newsletter are the most current versions of Meat and Velvet Antler lists which itemize which MnEBA members sell these products. The lists are distributed at the MN State Fair and other shows.

Please check to make sure you are/are not listed correctly. To update your listing accordingly, please contact the MnEBA Office at info@mneba.org or 320-543-2686 by August 1st!

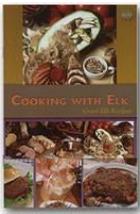
MnEBA Promotional Materials

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



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!

Minnesota FFA Convention Thank You!



Thank you to Jim Byrne and Greg Lubinski for setting up and manning the MnEBA booth at the recent MN State FFA Convention on the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota. This was the second year MnEBA has set up a booth for this event and in both years, interest has been huge! The kids asked great questions and showed a lot of enthusiasm for Elk - America's Greatest Animal!

USAHA Convention Reimbursement



MnEBA was fortunate enough to have two of its members, Dr. Glen Zearth and Mark Luedtke, representing MnEBA at the USAHA Annual Conference in Providence, Rhode Island last October. MnEBA continues to encourage its members to attend this very important meeting where producers can directly have influence in matters relating to the health of farmed cervids and federal oversight and rules. Having two voting delegate members from MnEBA last year specifically helped in one instance, to win a committee vote in the industry's favor by just one vote!

If you have an interest in attending the upcoming USAHA Convention in Greensboro, North Carolina on October 13-19, MnEBA does have funding set aside to help defray costs. Criteria for funding reimbursement include:

1. Make sure it is clearly known you are representing MnEBA. Name badge must clearly indicate representation from the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association
2. Attend whole portion of the USAHA national meeting through the last vote of the full assembly meeting
3. Vote in the best interest of MnEBA members
4. Provide a written report of your activities and how you voted to the board prior to check reimbursement. Information to be contained on this report includes:
 - a. What committees you were a part of
 - b. What was voted on and how you voted
 - c. What was voted on at the full assembly meeting and how you voted
5. Final approval of report from board is required before reimbursement will be made

Please contact the MnEBA Office no later than August 15th if you are interested!

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 Zearth (320) 834-4064
State Fair	Greg Lubinski (507) 273-0525 Paul Hueg (612) 791-0443

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 23, 2016 – MnEBA Summer Picnic, Lubinski Elk Acres, Plainview, MN

July 28 – 30, 2016 – 26th Annual NAEBA Convention & International Antler Competition, Ramada Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, Omaha, NE

January 13-14, 2017 – MnEBA Annual Conference, Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center, Alexandria, MN

Classified Ads

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

Herd Dispersal: A/I & ranch breeding since 1996 - Available September 2016. Herd is CWD tested since 2002, TB accredited, and will have 2nd whole herd brucellosis test September 1, 2016. Taylor Elk Ranch, Don Olson, 507-920-6935 or dono@taylorelk.com.

Wanted: Elk Rite Squeeze Chute. Wade Schimmelpfennig, 612-600-3888.

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

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

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.

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.

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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