



## Special Interest Articles:

- Velvet Buyers Are Now Buying Antler
- Membership Meeting Minutes
- Minnesota Funds Elk Restoration Study for Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- MnEBA Scholarship
- 2017 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar
- 2016 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt
- Board Blog
- Welcome New Members
- ACA Updates
- Vet Corner
- Plants, Prions, and Possibilities: Current Understanding and Significance of Prion Uptake into Plants
- Minnesota State Fair
- Committee Reports

## President's Message by Jim Byrne



Calving season and velvet harvest are complete for this year. Next is trying to figure out which animals are destined for the harvest market and which ones go for processing. This I think is the hardest part of the industry. With all the time, effort and money we place in establishing the pedigrees of our herds, we now have to decide which animals are to be sold or processed. I find that these determinations are the most difficult decisions to make; I want to keep them all.

One way I've found to help with figuring out who goes and who stays is by talking with you at the different meetings that are held this time of year. Next weekend (July 23, 2016) is the summer picnic, which is being held at Greg & Roxy Lubinski's farm in Plainview. Not only will we hold our mid-year association meeting but also great food and lots of information will be shared for all who attend. Come early, stay late and learn from those around you. We will have our MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendars available, so you can pick up what you need to help make this year's fund raiser as successful as last year's was.

If you don't get enough information and food that weekend or maybe weren't able to attend MnEBA's event, the following weekend (July 28 -30, 2016) there is the North American Elk Breeders Convention in Omaha, NE. Another great learning opportunity to both gain and share your personal experiences.



*Thank you to Greg & Roxy Lubinski of Lubinski Elk Acres for hosting this year's MnEBA Summer Picnic!*

**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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## Velvet Buyer's Are Now Buying Antler!

Contact buyers ASAP to make arrangements to sell your antler!

Velvet buyers are now actively out purchasing elk from all around Minnesota and the rest of the country. As of this writing, the price is \$31 per pound.

Buyers will not be buying for much longer. If you haven't already done so, please contact the following to make arrangements to sell your antler ASAP:

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

Scott Salonek - (612) 850-8684

## MnEBA Gives Presentation at MN Ag Educator Conference

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association was recently given the opportunity to give a presentation on raising elk to Minnesota ag educators at the July Minnesota Ag Educator's Summer Convention in St. Cloud. It was a great opportunity to let Minnesota's ag educators know what resources MnEBA can provide as well as giving the industry a great chance to tell our story!

About 10 different ag-related groups from MN Beef, Pork and Turkey Associations to the Midwest Dairy Association and the MN Ag Water Resource Agency gave presentations. We were given 10 minutes to give the presentation and 2-3 minutes for question and answer before the next group came in two minutes later. They allowed time for 4 presentations.

Brenda Hartkopf gave the presentations on behalf of MnEBA. She asked each group how many of them have had an elk farmer as a guest speaker in their classroom, or have brought a class out for a tour of an elk farm? Only one educator throughout the whole day had done this. Hopefully, this presentation has created more interest from our state ag educators about including discussions about raising elk in their classrooms. Don't be surprised to get a call from an ag educator near you!



*Brenda Hartkopf pictured here giving a presentation on elk farming to a group of Minnesota ag educators at the recent MN Ag Educators Convention.*

## 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

### Summer Membership Meeting – July 23, 2016

The membership of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held their summer meeting on July 23, 2016 at Lubinski Elk Acres in Plainview, MN.

President Jim Byrne called the meeting to order at 1:50 p.m.

Byrne asked for additions or corrections to the January 9, 2016 secretary report. Daphne Evenson moved to accept the report as written, Rita Prodzinski seconded, motion carried.

The treasurer's report included both the 2015 and 2016 balance sheet showing 2016 a little stronger than 2015. The current checkbook balance was \$27,574.70. Perry Olson moved to accept the treasurer's report, Don Kaplan seconded, motion carried.

President Byrne also directed members to review the newly updated MnEBA Goals & Objectives document which was included in the meeting packet and to direct any questions or comments to the board.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Government Relations:** President Byrne reported on a quiet legislative session in terms of elk-related issues in 2016. This is an election year where all state senators and representatives will be up for re-election. Byrne encouraged everyone to make efforts to get to know their legislators and let them know about the elk farms in their districts.

**Fundraising Raffle:** Brenda Hartkopf reported the new 2017 calendars are now available and could be picked up at the meeting. Even though calendars sold out last year, the board elected to keep the number printed at 750 once again. If this year's calendars sell out, the board will consider having a higher number of calendars printed next year. Another gun will be given away this year in a separate drawing for anyone who sells 10 or more calendars and returns stubs and money by December 31, 2016. This year's prize is a Winchester SXP 12ga 3.5" full camo Waterfowler shotgun.

**Promotions:** Hartkopf reported that the Outdoor News and Turkey Classic was a great show for MnEBA and that the association plans to attend again next year. She also reported that MnEBA was invited to give a series of short presentations at the MN Ag Educators Summer Conference in St. Cloud earlier this month. This opportunity proved to be extremely positive for the elk industry and we hope to be invited

again next year. MnEBA has also developed a new indoor display which will be set up for the first time at the NAEBA convention next week. Finally, MnEBA is thinking of setting up a booth at a Minnesota farm show once again. The membership was asked to give feedback on which farm show they would recommend.

**State Fair:** Greg Lubinski reported the State Fair is coming up on August 25-September 5th. He reported that two open slots remain on the schedule and encouraged members who hadn't yet signed up to check out the schedule and see if they could help out.

### NAEBA

Bill Knutson reported that the Annual NAEBA Convention & International Antler Competition will be taking place July 28-30<sup>th</sup> in Omaha, Nebraska. He encouraged everyone to attend and also reported that all was going very well with NAEBA.

### OLD BUSINESS

Hartkopf reported there were 5 applicants for the 2016 MnEBA scholarship. Because 2016 gun raffle calendars sold out, MnEBA was able to award two scholarships this year which were awarded to Libby Groen and Madison Strodman.

President Byrne reported that the national TB/Brucellosis Rule comments are still being reviewed and that industry leaders have been told not to expect any news until after the end of the year. The results of the upcoming presidential election could also further delay the process.

### NEW BUSINESS

President Byrne announced that MnEBA will be working in conjunction with the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association to conduct a Minnesota farmed cervid economic impact study at the end of this year. MnEBA has commissioned similar studies every 5 years and it is now time for a new study to take place. He asked that all members take the time to fill out the study questionnaire when they receive it so the industry can be most accurately reflected in the results.

A general discussion took place about the movement by the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa to reintroduce elk to northeastern Minnesota and how MnEBA needs to take a position on this matter. Perry Olson moved that the board develop a broad position on elk reintroduction to northeastern Minnesota and

be ready with a recommendation to the membership at the upcoming winter meeting. Craig Wylie seconded, motion carried.

Hartkopf reported that the 10th Annual MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt is scheduled to take place on October 10-12 at Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch. MnEBA continues to seek disabled veteran nominations from the membership. If none come forward by August 1<sup>st</sup>, MnEBA will work with Midwest Outdoors Unlimited to select this year's recipient.

President Byrne spoke about members who might consider becoming a MnEBA delegate at the annual USAHA conference and reported that funds are available to help partially augment trip expenses. Currently, Dr. Glen Zearth and Mark Luedtke represent MnEBA but additional participants would also be welcome. Anyone interested should contact a board member. He also reported on Governor Dayton not allowing Minnesota's Board of Animal Health personnel to attend the upcoming October meeting which takes place in Greensboro, North

Carolina because of North Carolina's bathroom gender laws. MnEBA is working with Minnesota's other breed associations to see if anything can be done to convince Governor Dayton to allow their trip to take place.

Hartkopf reported that the 2017 MnEBA Annual Conference will be held in Alexandria at the Arrowwood Resort the weekend of January 13-14. This also happens to be a holiday weekend and she encouraged members to bring their children/grandchildren to enjoy the great water park at the Arrowwood.

President Byrne thanked the Lubinskis' for their fine hospitality and for hosting this year's summer picnic.

Pat Prodzinski moved to adjourn. This motion was seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary



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## Minnesota Funds Elk Restoration Study for Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

*Indian Country Today Media Network.com*  
By Douglas Thompson

June 2, 2016 - The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa are one step closer to reintroducing elk on their traditional territory, thanks to \$330,000 in state funding for a feasibility study.

The bill, signed into law by Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton on May 31, will help the Fond du Lac evaluate whether elk can be restored in a portion of the animal's historic range in eastern Minnesota. Another \$5,000 each is being contributed by the Fond du Lac Band and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. The Fond du Lac Band is seeking an additional \$30,000 to supplement the effort even further, bringing the potential funding total to nearly \$400,000.

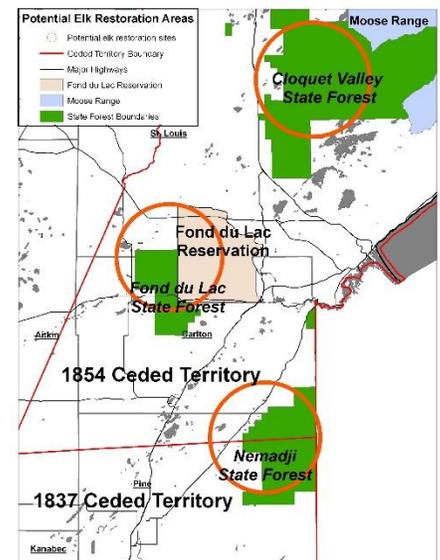
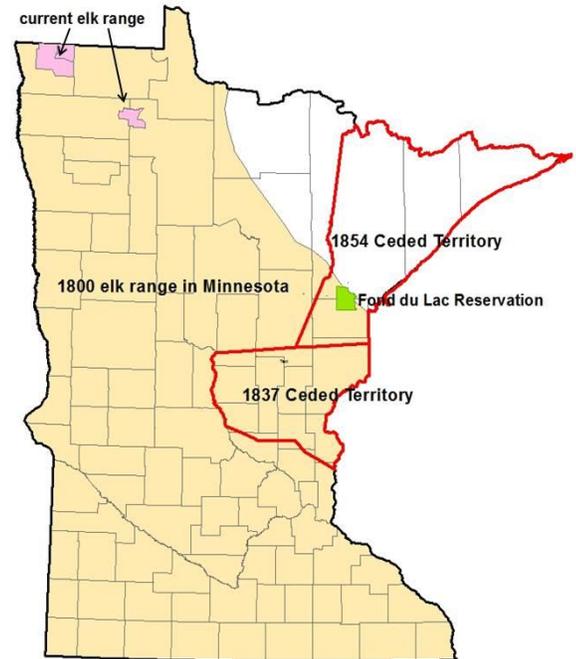
The feasibility study is a partnership between the Fond du Lac Band, the University of Minnesota and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and will focus on southern St. Louis, Carlton and northern Pine Counties as potential restoration sites. The two-part study will first assess public attitudes toward elk, then determine where and how much potential elk habitat is available.

"We anticipate beginning work on the public attitudes part of the study sometime this winter, with the habitat portion of the work beginning next year," said Mike Schrage, wildlife biologist for the Fond du Lac. "We are looking at a June 2019 completion date for the final report."

The answers will determine whether there is enough potential elk habitat and enough public support to take further steps in the restoration process. The presence of an active forest products industry in the region would appear to provide ideal habitat for the animals, which prefer open brush lands, meadows and young forests for foraging.

While available habitat may be favorable, social acceptance could be far more important for a successful elk restoration. Conflict surrounding an elk population found in Minnesota's far northwestern corner illustrates this point. There, complaints from farmers have prompted the state to develop a program to compensate landowners for damage caused by the animals, while managing the herd at a very low population threshold in an effort to mitigate conflict.

In response to these ongoing tensions over elk, Dayton signed another bill, also on May 31, requiring the state commissioner of agriculture to verify that there has been no increase in the amount paid for elk-related crop and fence damage during the previous two years, before the state allows the northwestern herd to grow. While this is aimed at Minnesota's existing elk herds elsewhere in the state and thus has no impact on the feasibility study, the way the bill is written could pose a challenge for restoration of an eastern Minnesota herd and will need to be addressed in future legislative sessions, Schrage said.



If restored, it would be the first time elk would freely roam portions of the 1837 and 1854 Ceded Territories of Minnesota in more than a century, Schrage noted. The exploration into the potential for restoration has been ongoing for more than a year.

“Restoration of this native species would be important culturally and ecologically,” said Schrage. “Over the long term, elk could provide an important food staple for tribal communities in the region and help them adapt to climate change. If our studies show that there is enough public support and suitable habitat to have elk here in eastern Minnesota, it’s still going to be a long road and a lot of work for elk restoration to be successful.

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/print/2016/06/02/minnesota-funds-elk-restoration-study-fond-du-lac-band-lake-superior-chippewa-164684>

## MnEBA Scholarship

MnEBA is pleased to announce that this year, because calendar sales topped 700 calendars, MnEBA was able to award two scholarships, both valued at \$350. There were five applicants for this year’s scholarships. The judges had a difficult time making their decision, but in the end, the following individuals became this year’s scholarship recipients:



### **Libby Groen**

Libby is the daughter of Scott & Sue Groen. Libby has recently graduated from high school and will be attending the College of Saint Benedict this fall where she plans to major in Biology.

In high school, Libby was involved in athletics, dance, music, student council, National Honor Society, FFA and 4-H where she held numerous positions of office. Libby also found time to volunteer in a variety of projects.

Growing up on a family farm has taught Libby that the more effort you put into something, the more satisfying the outcome will be!

MnEBA wishes Libby all the best as she begins her college career at Saint Benedict!



### **Madison Strodtman**

Madison is the daughter of MnEBA members Dick & Jill Strodtman. Madison has also recently graduated from high school and will be an incoming freshman at Southwest Minnesota State University majoring in Exercise Science.

Throughout high school, Madison was involved in volleyball and basketball where she gained numerous achievements and awards. She has also found several ways to volunteer in her community as well.

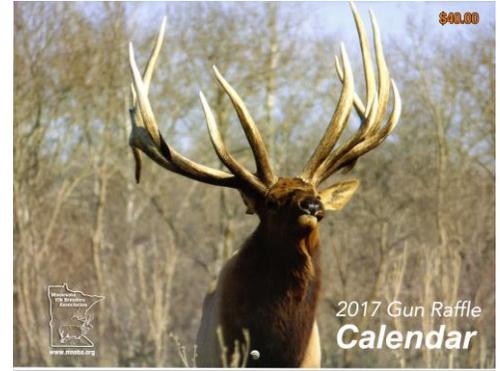
While Madison’s plan is to still be involved with the family farm, her ultimate goal is to become a physical therapist where she can get people back to doing what is important in their lives.

MnEBA wishes Madison much success as she begins her college career at Southwest State!

## 2017 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar

Calendars are now available! Great incentives to sell and chances to win!

For the first time ever, MnEBA sold out of gun raffle calendars for the 2016 campaign! Members are reporting that past customers are now coming to them looking for the elk calendar they usually purchase each year! While more calendars could have been sold, the board decided to stay with the same number of 750 calendars printed. If calendars sell out for this coming year, the number of calendars printed for 2018 will be reevaluated.



Once again this year, members are eligible for great incentives when selling the new 2017 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar! A free MnEBA membership for selling 30 or more calendars and returning stubs and money before December 31<sup>st</sup> is being offered once again this year. Also back by popular demand, for every 10 calendars sold with stubs and money being returned before December 31<sup>st</sup>, your name goes into a drawing to win a Winchester SXP 12ga 3.5" Full Camo Waterfowler shotgun! The more calendars you sell, the more chances to win!

MANY THANKS to all MnEBA members who stepped up to sponsor a month in the 2017 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. This year's sponsors include: Jim & Eileen Byrne, Jerry & Linda Campbell, Dennis & Jacky Engebretson, Lance & Brenda Hartkopf, Greg & Roxy Lubinski, Mark & Lisa Luedtke, Perry & Sandy Olson, Darrell & Sheila Turek, Brian Wagner, Leo Windschitl, Kraig & Jenny Wurst and Klint & Lora Wylie.

If you're attending the MnEBA Summer Picnic or NAEBA Convention in Omaha, make sure to pick up your calendars! They're also available by contacting the MnEBA Office at 320-543-2686 or [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org).

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## MnEBA Kitchen

*How many of you have zucchini in your garden that you're wondering what to do with? This recipe could provide a nice, light summer meal and help use up a bunch of those zukes! If you don't have any, you might want to get some from someone and try the recipe below!*

### Sausage-Stuffed Zucchini Boats

4 medium zucchini, cut in half lengthwise	Salt and fresh-cracked pepper to taste
1 Tbsp. olive oil	½ cup parmesan cheese, shredded
1 lb. elk sausage	½ cup mozzarella cheese, shredded
1 tsp. garlic, minced	¼ cup bread crumbs
1 small onion, chopped	2 Tbsp. chopped, fresh parsley
2 medium, vine-ripened tomatoes	



With a spoon, scoop out the flesh from the inside of the zucchini so they resemble boats. Place zucchini boats in a 9x13" casserole dish. Chop the zucchini flesh and set aside.

In a medium saute pan over medium-high heat, add the olive oil and let heat through. Add the elk sausage and cook for 5 minutes. Add the garlic, onion, chopped zucchini flesh, tomatoes and some salt and pepper. Cook until softened, about 4 minutes.

In a medium bowl, add together both cheeses, bread crumbs and parsley; mix to combine. Spoon in and mound the sausage mixture into the zucchini boats. Sprinkle the bread crumb/cheese mixture over the top. Bake at 400 degrees for 20 minutes until top is golden.



## 2016 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt Final Plans Are Being Made

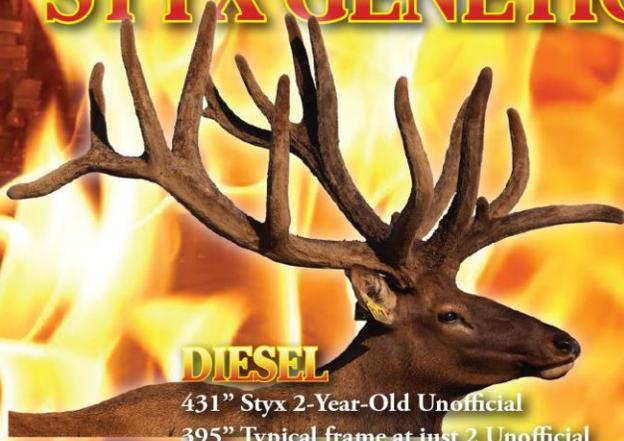


MnEBA is making final arrangements for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt! This anniversary hunt is scheduled to take place October 10-12<sup>th</sup> at Tony's Trophy Elk Ranch in Baudette, MN.

No nominations were received by MnEBA members for this year's hunt recipient as of yet. If you know of a disabled veteran who has a dream to harvest a beautiful elk bull, please contact the MnEBA Office by August 1<sup>st</sup>. If no nominations come forth, MnEBA will work with Midwest Outdoors Unlimited to select this year's hunter. MnEBA is still also considering several purchase options for bulls.

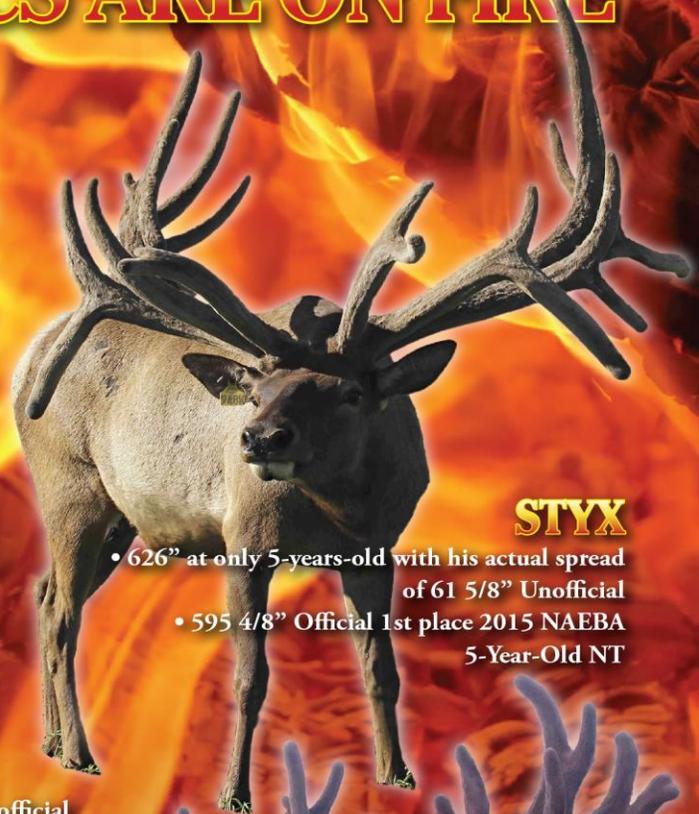
MnEBA offers many thanks to everyone who is helping to make this year's hunt possible. They include Tony Beckel – Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch, Lance & Brenda Hartkopf for the purchase of the bull, and Ron Welle of Midwest Outdoors Unlimited who is making all the final arrangements and accompanying hunt recipient. It's exciting to think about this being the 10<sup>th</sup> year of this event! Many, many thanks to all who have made it possible over these past ten years!

# STYX GENETICS ARE ON FIRE



## DIESEL

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



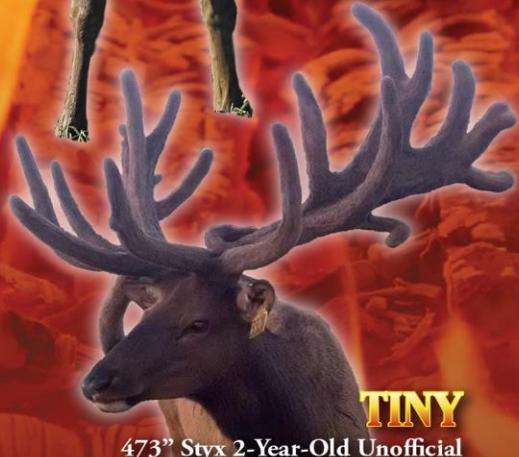
## STYX

• 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



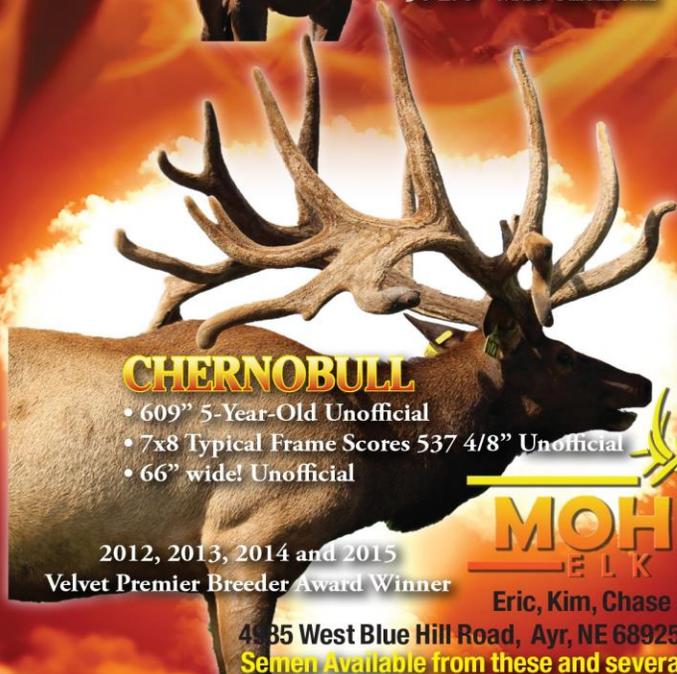
## STRYKER

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

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# Board Blog by Greg Lubinski, MnEBA Director



Hello everyone!

Summer is in full swing with plenty of heat and rain. I hope that everyone had a successful calving season. In southeast Minnesota, it has been raining about every third day. It is very hard to make dry hay or even wrapped bales.

The picnic is almost here and all the good food that comes with it! I will have to put off my diet until after! Our pastures are growing well. The picnic inspection crew can determine if we did a good job!

The state fair is approaching fast, it is a good time to promote the industry and your farms. There are still some open days that need to be filled! We hope to have a big turn-out for the picnic!

Greg Lubinski

## Welcome New Members

Billy & Brittany Krusmark, Outback Fence & Fabrication, 383 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North, Mazeppa, MN 55956, 507-951-7632, outbackfence@hotmail.com

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## In The News

### Missouri Legal Update

*This update was provided by the Missouri Deer Association*

June 28, 2016 - This year has been an important one for the Missouri Deer Association and its members. As you are aware, members of our association filed suit against the Missouri Department of Conservation to prevent MDC from enforcing the new regulations they implemented, which would have a devastating effect on the deer industry in the state of Missouri.

After almost a year of litigation, on August 13, 2015, we scored a huge legal victory, as the Court granted the plaintiffs' request for an order enjoining the Missouri Department of Conservation from enforcing its new regulations thereby keeping the borders open to the importation of deer across state lines and suspending enforcement of new fencing requirements.

However, much like a temporary restraining order, a temporary injunction must be confirmed as final for it

to have lasting effect. A motion was made in late 2015 to set this matter for a final hearing to confirm the injunction as a final injunction and to put to rest some of the issues plaguing our industry due to the actions of the MDC. The final hearing on the injunction was scheduled and held June 8-9, 2016 in Herman, MO (Gasconade County). Now that that trial has concluded, post-trial briefs will be submitted the first week of July, and a judgement is expected from the court in early August.

Now, we will await the court's decision. Afterwards, the losing party will have the option to appeal the court's decision. This matter will not likely end at the trial court level. It will likely be finalized at the appellate level. Needless to say we are committed to fighting for our rights for some time to come.

BLACK VELVET ELK RANCH



# WANTED!

## Hard Antler Bulls

## Any & All Elk

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



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. The following is a recent example of this program at work. This highly successful campaign is beginning its third year!

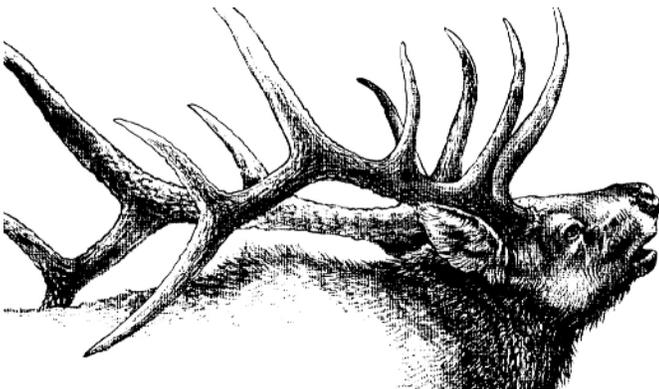
## ACA Councilmen Discuss CWD on Radio Interviews

Cervid industry leaders have been discussing Chronic Wasting Disease and other issues on the radio across the United States. Over the last month, 14 radio interviews have been put together with the help of the American Cervid Alliance' Public Relations Campaign.

As Chronic Wasting Disease captures headlines in Arkansas, Texas, Wisconsin, Missouri and others, it's important to ensure correct information is given to the public. Several news editorials have been published in major newspapers as of late written by the North American Elk Breeders Association's Executive Director Travis Lowe and the Exotic Wildlife Association's Executive Director Charly Seale.

Several radio interviews were requested with the ACA PR Campaign Chairman, Charly Seale and four in Wisconsin with Laurie Seale, who serves as the ACA council person and vice-president of the Whitetails of Wisconsin association.

The ACA thanks the associations that contribute to this campaign. If your state has an issue that needs to be addressed, please contact Charly Seale at [charly@myewa.org](mailto:charly@myewa.org) to address the issue.



The following is a list of just some of the recent radio shows featuring cervid leaders.

"Outdoors Radio with Dan Small" on NewsTalk 1130 WISN AM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgFMXWHhrs4>

The "Joy Cardin Show" on Wisconsin Public Radio

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=buglETHMbag>

KMZU "The Farm" 100.7 FM Carrollton, Missouri

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOt\\_RW7cLIo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOt_RW7cLIo)

CBS St Louis - "Total Information AM" on KMOX NewsRadio 1120

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpiBU98D7-Q>

CBS St Louis - "Overnight America" on KMOX NewsRadio 1120

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=58mi3osWgkk>

CBS St Louis - "KMOX At Your Service" on KMOX NewsRadio 1120

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=McuE7v8CQ48>

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Home of Spring Coulee Elk

## Vet Corner by Dr. Glen Zebarth

### Characterization of Hemorrhagic Disease and Vaccine Efficacy in Captive Elk

#### Elk Research Council Project Update

Source: USAHA News Alert Summary July 19, 2016

#### Project 1602 - Characterization of Hemorrhagic Disease and Vaccine Efficacy in Captive Elk

Prior to 2009 the elk industry had not seen significant mortality in animals associated with hemorrhagic disease caused by Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (EHDV) and Bluetongue Virus (BTV). Outbreaks of EHDV have since been regularly observed in both captive and free-ranging herds of elk.

Very little is known about the variation in viral strains from year to year, yet understanding strain variation is an important component of vaccine development, particularly for a disease caused by a complex set of virus strains. ERC Project 1602's goal is to understand the strains of HD that are causing mortality in captive elk herds and the efficacy of commercially available autogenous vaccines for HD.

For this project, the Elk Research Council is partnering with the University of Florida and Newport Labs to conduct studies on several ranches at different stages in 2016 and 2017.

Tissues will be harvested from animals suspected to have died from HD at specific ranches to determine the strain and genotype of EHDV or BTV present in the tissues. Collecting and identifying the strains of HD and bacteria circulating in 2016 will help in the formulation of the vaccine in 2017.

During January 2017 vaccinations, blood will be collected from each animal. Animals will be vaccinated using normal protocol and thus seroconversion will be the result of both vaccination and exposure to wild type strains. Results will allow us to describe a baseline immune response in elk to HD. A case-control study will be performed to understand the efficacy of herd-derived vaccine in elk. We will leave a portion of animals unvaccinated at each ranch to compare the survival of vaccinated vs. unvaccinated animals.

Source: <http://www.elkresearchcouncil.org/project-1602.cfm>

#### **Notes from Dr. Zebarth:**

*There are a lot of other causes of hemorrhagic diseases in elk including clostridial diseases, blackleg, babesia and leptospirosis. For all of these diseases, a lab diagnosis is needed. When an animal is lost, it must be brought into the lab. Diagnosis requires lab submission.*

*The common time these diseases show up is late summer or early fall. In all of these diseases, low copper may very well indirectly contribute to them, especially clostridium hemolyticum in elk; particularly in mature bulls.*

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## Plants, Prions, and Possibilities: Current Understanding and Significance of Prion Uptake into Plants

Tracy A. Nichols, Ph.D., M.S., M.A.

National Wildlife Research Center, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services, Fort Collins, Colorado

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is an infectious, neurodegenerative disease of deer (white-tailed and mule), elk, moose, sika deer and muntjac caused by a misfolded version of a normally occurring protein. The notion that CWD could be spread indirectly via the environment has been documented and accepted in the scientific community for quite some time. Deer and elk consume soil, inhale dust, and lick objects that have infectious material on them, resulting in chronic, low dose exposure. Surface contamination of plants with urine or feces is likely an additional source of exposure via ingestion and has been modeled in the laboratory by Pritzkow, *et. al.*, (2015). In 2014 Dr. Christopher Johnson and his colleagues at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the University of Wisconsin, Madison proposed a novel mechanism for CWD infectivity associated with plants at the international Prion meeting. Dr. Johnson and his group hypothesized and presented data supporting the idea that plants could take up infectious prion proteins into their tissues by contact and absorption through their roots. Although the idea of a plant pulling a protein into its roots seems a bit science fiction, it is in fact all science and no fiction. As early as the 1930's scientists documented the uptake of viruses into plant stems and leaves from the roots. Pathogen internalization by plants and its implications for human health has been widely studied. In a review article by Hirneisen *et. al.*, (2013) the authors list 19 studies that showed bacteria, such as *E. coli* and *salmonella*, could infiltrate plants from the roots, and four studies demonstrating infiltration with such viruses as polio, canine calicivirus, hepatitis A, and murine norovirus. In 1960 Jensen, McLaren and Jacobson demonstrated the ability of plants to pull proteins from the soil into their roots and were able to track their progress into roots using radioactively labeled proteins. More recent work by Paungfoo *et. al.* (2008) utilized fluorescent proteins to demonstrate that plants can pull proteins out of the soil and utilize them as a source of nitrogen if needed. It is therefore reasonable to question whether the prion protein could be taken up when it is an entire order of magnitude smaller (~ 10 nm) in diameter than bacteria such as *E. coli* (~ 2µm).

The USGS group is in the process of publishing their findings, but presented their data at the international Prion meeting in 2015 which demonstrated uptake into the roots of *Arabidopsis* (a common research plant), alfalfa, barley, and tomato plants by utilizing confocal

microscopy to see fluorescently tagged infectious prion proteins. They were also able to detect the infectious prion using an amplification assay called protein misfolding cyclic amplification (PMCA) in the leaves of *Arabidopsis*, barley, alfalfa and maize. The stems and leaves of *arabidopsis* were injected into the brains of a mouse model and were able to cause disease.

Two groups have published on the subject in the scientific literature, thus far. The first, Rasmussen *et. al.* (2014), failed to show prion uptake into wheat. However, this study utilized detection assays (Western blot, and Idexx and Bio-Rad ELISA) that are were not sufficiently sensitive to detect low levels of infectious prions. The other paper by Pritzkow, *et. al.*, (2015) utilized the amplification assay PMCA mentioned above, to look for infectious prions in the stems and leaves of barley plants grown in contaminated soil. Care was taken to prevent surface contamination from the soil. The authors were able to detect low levels of infectious prion protein in the stems of the barley after a 3 week period of growth on contaminated soil. They also estimated that the stems had approximately the same level of infectivity as that of a 10<sup>-6</sup> to 10<sup>-9</sup> dilution of infectious brain homogenate.

A research group under the supervision of Dr. Mark Zabel at the Colorado State University Prion Research Center is in the process of publishing their findings on plants as well. This group examined four types of native plants (multi leaf and grass) from a heavily contaminated CWD-endemic area. They are currently assessing prion contamination in these naturally exposed samples by PMCA, and rodent model tests to determine if transmission from these naturally exposed plants is possible.

It seems clear that prions can be on and inside of plants of various types, however is it currently unclear if the levels present in natural settings are sufficient to cause disease. The answer to this question is of considerable importance for both animal and human health. Currently at the USDA National Wildlife Research Center we are collaborating with the group from the USGS to answer this question utilizing an herbivorous rodent model and plant material procured from a heavily contaminated agricultural area. Because low dose animal studies are time consuming by nature, it will be a few years before the results are complete to answer the question.

**Editor's Note:** This article was written for, and first appeared in the North American Elk Breeders Association May 2016 Journal.

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

# MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

### Three open slots remain!

The Minnesota State Fair is less than a month away! It's a very exciting time to talk about elk when markets are strong making it a very fun time to work in the MnEBA booth!

There are still three open slots which are needing workers. Even if you've never worked the booth or don't know what's involved, please don't hesitate to sign up. 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.

MnEBA will be 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 three open shifts below. Contact Paul Hueg at (612) 791-0443 with any comments or suggestions for this year's booth display. Paul will be setting the booth up well in advance of the fair so call today!

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	Mark & Michelle Lucas
	2 – 9	Klint & Lora Wylie	9/1	8 – 2	Jim Byrne, Norm Schimmelpfennig
8/26	8 – 2	Aase Family		2 - 9	Jim Byrne, Norm Schimmelpfennig
	2 – 9	Don & Joyce Kaplan	9/2	8 – 2	Jim Byrne, Martin & Justin Zacharias
8/27	8 – 2	Don & Joyce Kaplan, Perry Olson Family		2 - 9	Jim Byrne, Martin & Justin Zacharias
	2 – 9	Perry Olson Family	9/3	8 – 2	Megan & Bryce Lubinski
8/28	8 – 2	Wade Schimmelpfennig & Heika Lewandowski		2 – 9	Darrell Turek Family
	2 – 9	<b>OPEN</b>	9/4	8 – 2	<b>OPEN</b>
8/29	8 – 2	Jim Byrne, Kraig & Jenny Wurst		2 - 9	Lance Hartkopf Family
	2 – 9	Greg Lubinski, Kraig & Jenny Wurst	9/5	8 – 2	Greg & Roxy Lubinski
8/30	8 – 2	Damon Melquist Family		2 – 9	Paul & Lynn Hueg
	2 – 9	<b>OPEN</b>			

### MnEBA Velvet and Meat Vendor Lists – Check Your Listing!

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

**Did you check your listing to make sure it was correct and that you did/did not want to be listed?**

**Please check today! To update your listing accordingly, please contact the MnEBA Office at [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org) or 320-543-2686 by August 10<sup>th</sup>!**

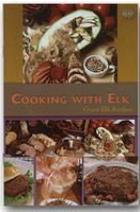
## MnEBA Promotional Materials

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

### 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





### Splendor's Blend 806U

525" at 7, unofficial  
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435 7/8" at 4  
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## Committee Reports

### Items Left at Summer Picnic

Two items were left at the Summer Picnic – a Pyrex bowl with cover that had a pasta salad in it and also a towel. Please contact Roxy Lubinski at 507-534-3247 to claim them.

### It's Time for a New MN Farmed Cervidae Economic Impact Study

Every five years, MnEBA conducts a new economic study of the industry to officially track the current status of the industry. This study is widely used for legislative and marketing purposes. This will be a joint effort in conjunction with the MN Deer Farmers Association to capture the economic impact and statistics of the entire Minnesota farmed cervid industry.

Expect to see your survey around November. These will be mailed out to every farmed cervid producer in Minnesota whether they are an association member or not. It is very important to fill this survey out so the results capture the most accurate picture of the industry. Please be watching for your survey and do your part to help make this project a success!

### 2017 MnEBA Annual Conference

It's time to be thinking ahead to the 2017 MnEBA Annual Conference! Mark your calendars for a full day of learning, networking and fun on January 14, 2017! This event will take place at the Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria, MN. This facility has a great water park for kids of all ages. This weekend happens to be a holiday weekend so it would be a great time to mix business with pleasure and bring the kids/grandkids! See [www.arrowwoodresort.com/recreation/waterpark](http://www.arrowwoodresort.com/recreation/waterpark) for more information.

Do you have any ideas for seminar topics or new fundraising ideas for the upcoming winter convention? Are there any topics which haven't been covered in awhile which you want to learn more about? Contact Rita Prodzinski at (507) 452-1282 or [rprod@hotmail.com](mailto:rprod@hotmail.com), or Brenda Hartkopf at (320) 543-2686 or [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org) with your thoughts and ideas!

### Your Elk Photos Wanted

MnEBA is looking for elk pictures from member farms and ranches to 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!



### MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

<b>Annual Conference</b>	Rita Prodzinski (507) 452-1282
<b>Fundraising</b>	Brenda Hartkopf (320) 543-2686
<b>Government Relations</b>	Jim Byrne (507) 358-6505
<b>Health</b>	OPEN
<b>Scholarship</b>	Kaye Zebarth (320) 834-4064
<b>State Fair</b>	Greg Lubinski (507) 273-0525 Paul Hueg (612) 791-0443

## Advertiser Index

### ADM Alliance Nutrition

Page 4

### Outback Fence & Fabrication

Page 8

### Mohlman Elk Farm

Page 10

### Leedstone

Page 11

### Black Velvet Elk Ranch

Page 12

### Spring Coulee Velvet Capsules

Page 13

### AgMax

Page 14

### Splendor Ridge Elk Farm

Page 18

**Thank you for your support!**

## Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

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[info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org)

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

## Calendar of Events

**July 28 – 30, 2016** – 26<sup>th</sup> 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

**March 10-11, 2017** – NAEBA March Mingle & Colorado Elk Breeders Association Joint Meeting, Holiday Inn Denver Lakewood, Denver, CO

**March 10-12, 2017** – Outdoor News Deer & Turkey Classic, Warner Coliseum MN State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

## Classified Ads

**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](mailto: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](mailto:Rich@ElkUSA.com).

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

**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](mailto: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

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

## MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

9086 Keats Avenue SW  
Howard Lake, MN 55349