



Special Interest Articles:

- Gun Calendar Raffle Ticket Sales Deadline
- MnEBA Board Meeting Minutes
- MnEBA Annual Conference Details
- CWD Found in Two Wild Deer in Southeastern Minnesota
- MnEBA FYI's
- Board Blog
- MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt Press Release
- USDA Releases New Program Standards Review
- ACA Update
- Vet Corner

President's Message by Jim Byrne



The holidays are upon us. Where has the year gone? It seems the weeks and months have flown by this year. Thanksgiving is over and Christmas is just around the corner. January 13 - 14th at Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria we will come together for our annual meeting. We have an exciting agenda for that will make this worth your time to attend.

Once again we are going to have to deal with the finding of two CWD infected wild deer. They were found down in Fillmore county this hunting season. The DNR is still in the process of establishing their management area, but we know that there will be an impact on at least one association member. I ask that as you give thanks for all that you have been blessed with, and that you keep in mind those impacted by this finding.

Reflecting back on this year I must say that overall it's has been a good year. I've had the pleasure to work with a very dedicated and hard-working Board of Directors and an extremely talented and energetic executive secretary. Through their efforts the association has flourished this year. The Board is in the process of making plans about how we can further develop the association this next year.

Once again I cannot overstate the pride I have had in serving such a dedicated and focused group such as MnEBA. I look forward with great anticipation to this next year. MnEBA is rightfully considered the leaders in the elk industry and we still have work to do to make this industry thrive. Thankfully we have you as the membership. Your willingness to participate, to support and your dedication to this industry is what makes this industry strong and moving forward. My heartfelt thanks goes out to each one of you - you're the best.

May the Lord bless you all with a happy holiday season and a profitable new year!



A Great Christmas Gift Idea!

Elk Garlic Summer Sausage For Sale!!!

There are just (13) 16oz Elk Garlic Summer Sausage chubs left over from the State Fair and they have to go! These sausage chubs are priced at a closeout price of just \$8 each and make a wonderful gift idea for Christmas!

You can also buy and freeze them for yourself and have delicious sausage available any time of year. Please call or email the MnEBA Office to order your chubs today at 320-543-2686 or info@mneba.org.



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

President

Jim Byrne
(507) 358-6505

Vice President

Mark Luedtke
(320) 630-5419

Secretary/Treasurer

Brian Wagner
(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

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.

Gun Calendar Raffle Ticket Sales Deadlines

Return Stubs and Money by December 31st to be Eligible for Special Gun Drawing and FREE 2017 Membership

There are currently 742 calendars in the hands of members to sell, with just 47 stubs returned so far. The potential is there sell out again if all calendars which are now out get sold! Let's make it happen!

A very important deadline is coming up – December 31st is the day members become eligible for great incentives for selling calendars! A free MnEBA membership for selling 30 or more calendars and returning stubs and money before December 31st is being offered once again this year and in addition, for every 10 calendars sold with stubs and money being returned before December 31st, 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! **To be eligible, make sure to get your calendar stubs and money turned in before December 31st!**

Call the MnEBA Office if you're needing more calendars. There are some members with calendars who may not be able to sell them all that we can get a supply from to fill other orders.

Remember, the drawing date is January 14th at the MnEBA Annual Conference. All stubs, payments and unused calendars must be turned in at that time.

Thank you to all who are participating! These sales are what allow MnEBA to continue the great marketing and charitable activities which are a part of our great association!

FUNDRAISING ITEMS NEEDED!

2017 MnEBA Annual Conference

Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center ~ Alexandria, MN
January 13-14, 2017

Your fundraising items are needed for the both the Silent and Live Fundraising Auctions for the upcoming MnEBA Annual Conference. Any and all donations would be very much appreciated!



Please mark on your registration form what you will be bringing so we can be prepared for the items coming in.

Thank you for your support of MnEBA!

MnEBA Board Meeting Minutes

Howard Lake - October 12, 2016

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a meeting October 12, 2016 at the home of Lance & Brenda Hartkopf. Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Greg Lubinski was absent. Jim Byrne began the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Byrne asked for corrections to the April 16 board meeting minutes as presented. Wagner moved to approve, Luedtke seconded, motion carried. The treasurer's report was reviewed with a current checkbook balance of \$22,194.78. Wurst moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented, Wagner seconded, motion carried.

Board reviewed financials from the State Fair booth in more detail, also comparing them to last year's sales. Hartkopf reported that much of the leftover jerky from the fair went bad in the weeks following the fair, as happened last year. There has also been concern about selling a sausage product that has the word "Garlic" in the title. There was much discussion about what products to sell next year and where to purchase them from. Hartkopf was asked to research other shelf-stable product sources and report back to the board.

The MN Farmed Cervid Economic Impact Survey questions used in 2011 were reviewed along with a couple small suggestions from the study author. Board requested an additional question on age and additional data collection based on that question. Hartkopf to follow up with study author. Also discussed sending the survey out in mid-January rather than in November as the timing is better in helping to come up with the numbers needed for the survey – producers should already have computed the data when doing 2016 taxes so it should be readily available.

Discussed the upcoming MnEBA Annual Conference in great detail. Seminar topic and speaker ideas were put together, Hartkopf to follow up. Also discussed fundraising ideas.

Hartkopf offered proposed ideas on creating two banner stands for the MnEBA indoor booth which would complement the new table top display. One banner stand to be geared towards industry diversity and the other to attracting consumers to purchasing elk products. Everyone was in agreement with the ideas brought forth. Hartkopf to continue to work on this project.

Luedtke reviewed what he knew of industry resolutions which are expected to be presented at the upcoming USAHA convention. There will also be much discussion about proposed changes to the CWD Standards which

the working group has been negotiating for the past several months.

Discussed the 2017 MN farm show schedule and which show MnEBA might consider setting a booth up. Hartkopf to research prices and see if there are any openings available for shows in Rochester, Owatonna, St. Cloud and/or Willmar.

Hartkopf reported that sales of the 2017 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar are about what they were at this same time last year, but that fewer calendars are in the hands of sellers. She has identified a number of members who have not yet ordered their calendars and will be following up with them to see how many calendars can be sent their way.

Hartkopf reported that the 2016 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt was a success and that the recipient had just completed her hunt earlier in the week. Everything went well and it was another great group effort to put everything together.

MnEBA was contacted by the lobbyist of the MN Deer Farmers Association (MDFA) about the DNR putting together a new MN Deer Advisory Board. MDFA would like to see a MN farmed cervid industry representative on this committee, which is now accepting applications. Kraig Wurst indicated that MnEBA Director Greg Lubinski is interested in applying. Hartkopf to follow up with Lubinski with the information necessary to apply.

Hartkopf made the board aware of the upcoming five year anniversary date of the registration renewal for the MNElk logo. She has been in contact with the lawyers who drew up the paperwork and they have offered the timeline and pricing for registration renewal. Hartkopf to inquire with MN Grown if funding can be secured to help cover the costs associated with updating the registration.

Wurst brought up discussion about the MnEBA board forming a position on elk reintroduction to northeastern Minnesota for the membership to review at the upcoming annual meeting. As there will be much discussion about elk reintroduction in general at the upcoming USAHA meeting, it was decided to table discussion pending the outcome of resolutions at USAHA and to follow up accordingly.

Luedtke moved to adjourn, Wagner seconded and motion was carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary



2017 MnEBA Annual Conference

January 13-14, 2017



Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center

2100 Arrowwood Lane NW ~ Alexandria, MN 56308

Room Rates \$99 (no Waterpark passes) / \$129 (with Waterpark passes) ~ 320-762-1124

Ask for "Minnesota Elk Breeders" Room Block Rate. **Room Block Release Date is December 12!**

Annual Meeting ~ Informational Seminars ~ Evening Banquet

Bring the family, this is Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend!

The Arrowwood Resort has a fantastic indoor water park for the kids and the city of Alexandria has many unique shopping destinations.

MnEBA is excited to return once again to the Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center for the 2017 Annual Conference! It has been many years since MnEBA has been at the Arrowwood (think back to the North Central Antler Competition many years ago). For families with children or grandchildren, you'll definitely want to take advantage of the Big Splash Minnesota Indoor Waterpark where you'll find 38,000 sq. feet of water park fun for the entire family! Since this is a federal holiday weekend, many kids will have the Monday afterwards off!

New for this year is a special free Friday night dinner and Nutrition seminar put on by ADM Animal Nutrition. Everyone will be receiving a letter from Leo Windschitl of ADM Animal Nutrition with an invitation and RSVP to attend about three weeks prior to the conference. It's very important to return this RSVP to Leo so he can get an accurate meal count and not have to pay for extra meals!

The program for Saturday includes discussion of a variety of today's important topics in the elk industry. You won't want to miss these important opportunities to learn more about what's going on! Topics include:

Minnesota Farmed Cervidae Hot Topics – Dr. Paul Anderson will speak about how CWD in Minnesota's wild deer herd is impacting cervid farmers in southeastern Minnesota along with other current updates.

Domestic Elk Product Marketing – American Elk Products Foundation (AEPF) chairman Andy Azcarraga will join us to talk about the activities and vision for this new organization which is committed to expanding public demand of elk products nationwide. Public interest in domestic elk products is the future.

Aspects of Good Pasture Management – Good pastures are invaluable in providing excellent nutrition for your elk while also decreasing the amount of additional feed needing to be provided for your animals. Tim Bennett, a soil agronomist with Pro Ag Farmers Co-op, will talk about good pasture management practices including general pasture management, weed control, fertility, choice of grasses/legumes and inter-seeding.

Hard Antler Scoring Tips – Trophy bull buyers are reporting there are still multiple misconceptions on how to accurately score a set of hard antler. Trophy bull buyer Brian Wagner will demonstrate proper scoring techniques and answer your questions about scoring antler.

Moving Bulls for the Trophy Market Roundtable – A panel of trophy bull buyers including Scott Salonek, Scott Groen, Brian Wagner and Andy Azcarraga will share their tips for scoring bulls, preparing paperwork, completing required health tests, loading, etc. to create smoother transactions for both trophy bull sellers and buyers.

See conference insert in this newsletter for more information and register today!!!

CWD Found in Two Wild Deer in Southeastern Minnesota

Minnesota Board of Animal Health News Release

For immediate release: November 22, 2016

Contact: Michael Crusan

Chronic Wasting Disease discovered in two wild deer in southeast Minnesota

Control zone deployed to protect deer and elk farms

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) identified two positive cases of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in wild deer near Lanesboro. The Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) is responding to help protect the state's farmed and wild deer populations. A disease control zone with a 10-mile radius will be established around where the two CWD positive deer were found. Farmed deer and elk herd owners within this zone will not be allowed to move deer or elk into or out of the zone until an investigation has been completed and movement restrictions released. There are four deer or elk farms located within this CWD control zone.

"We are restricting movement of farmed deer and elk within the disease control zone until we have finished our investigations and evaluated the risks on each farm for the transmission of CWD from wild to farmed animals," said BAH assistant director, Dr. Paul Anderson. "Our staff will personally notify each deer and elk farmer whose herd is located within the disease control zone and will begin the investigations."

Minnesota is home to more than 11,000 farmed deer or elk on 462 farms around the state. All farmed deer and elk producers are required to test their animals for CWD. From each herd, all animals 12 months of age and older that die or are slaughtered must be tested for CWD. Tissue samples are tested for CWD at the University of Minnesota's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. To maintain accurate CWD surveillance, producers must report to the BAH all deer or elk that die or are moved out of the herd to other locations.

CWD is a disease of deer and elk and is caused by an abnormally shaped protein, called a prion, which can damage brain and nerve tissue. There is not a danger to other animal species and CWD is not known to affect humans. It is most likely transmitted between deer and elk through shedding of prions in saliva, feces, urine, and other fluids or tissues. There are no known treatments or vaccines.

Editor's Note: A few more details include:

- *The two positives were both wild bucks, shot one mile apart from each other*
- *There are three deer farms and one elk farm where movement is restricted as of this writing, which are located within 10 miles (as the crow flies) from the location these bucks were harvested*
- *The Minnesota DNR will be planning an intense special harvest to test additional samples and thin the herd in this area as a result of these findings, details yet to be determined*

MnEBA FYI's

Minnesota Farmed Cervid Industry Economic Impact Survey Update

The 2016 Minnesota Farmed Cervid Economic Impact Study project is progressing well. It was previously reported that these surveys would be mailed out in November. This date was pushed back to mid-January in an effort to wait until tax numbers have been compiled by breeders so economic figures needed in the survey are readily available. The deadline for submission will be April 1.

It is crucial to the success of the project that every farmed cervid producer in the state of Minnesota complete and return the survey. The results will be compiled in study form and will be widely used for legislative and marketing purposes. This data has proven to be invaluable in the past and it gives the industry much more credibility with legislators and the general public.

A survey will be mailed out to every farmed cervid producer in Minnesota whether they are an association member or not. Please be watching for your survey and do your part to help make this project a success.

Attention Anyone Doing TB Testing this Fall/Winter – Blood Test Kits Temporarily Depleted!

NVSL ran out of APHIS ChemBio DPP test kits in early November. In a recent call to the lab, they are hoping to have more kits in again by the end of January.

The immediate problem is this: If people have recently sent in blood for TB testing and the test kits are depleted, they likely cannot switch and use the skin test. They will have to wait until kits are available for NVSL to complete the test on already submitted samples which could potentially be the end of this coming January, or later.

Long term, if you're up for TB re-accreditation in the coming months and are planning to use the DPP blood test, you will want to consider the status of the test kits so you know when your results will likely be available. If time is of the essence and you need results sooner than later, you may need to consider the skin test.

MnEBA will do its best to get the word out when kits are back in inventory.

New Zealand Deer Industry News Source

Have you ever wondered what's happening in the deer industry in New Zealand?

Deer Industry New Zealand has a great web site full of great information which also includes access to their bi-monthly publication "Deer Industry News" located under the Publications tab. Among other topics of interest, they routinely offer updates on the New Zealand meat and velvet markets. The web site can be found at www.deernz.org.

The Power of AgMax®

We created AgMax specifically to serve the unique needs of commercial agriculture operations and related businesses, including:



Wade Scott
111 Paul Ave North
Cologne, MN
952-442-4402

- Producers who process, retail or direct market
- Equine and kennel operations, including boarding, breeding and training
- Agritainment and agritourism
- Hunting and other farm-based recreation

Call today to learn how I can provide flexible, customized insurance protection for your operation.

AgMax®

www.AgMaxInsurance.com

AgMax is underwritten by Western Agricultural Insurance Company/West Des Moines, IA. CA019-ML-1 (4-12)

Board Blog by Kraig Wurst, MnEBA Director



Hello everybody, I hope fall has been good for you. With the harvest and breeding season it has been quite hectic around our farm. I need a little practice for our Christmas card so I will give you an update on the family; Vienna (8 months) just started to crawl, which means nothing is safe on the floor anymore. Vincent (2 yrs) wants to see the elk and have a tractor ride every time we go outside (which seems like a good idea to me also). Violet (5 yrs) just started kindergarten, she likes it but complains she doesn't have enough time to play in her room anymore. The wife and I just celebrated our 7th anniversary and when anything goes wrong she likes to remind me that I used up all my luck snagging her (she might be right).

Things are winding down for the year now, I've changed my worming program since I last wrote in the newsletter. After talking with Rick Jensen at the national convention he gave me the idea because of the hard winters here to only use Ivomec Long Range in the spring, then test for worms or use a shorter lasting (cheaper) wormer in the fall. I ended up using Cydectin this fall to get a different mode of action. So far the elk are fat and happy.

Another new thing we tried at the farm this year was using a halter while velveting elk. After reading Brian Wagner's article this spring in the NAEBA magazine about velveting we were inspired to try a halter ourselves. After a few adjustments it has worked quite well. I have talked to a few other farmers who are using halters with their elk as well. All the halters seem a little different but everybody I have talked to seems to like them.

Last month Mark Luedtke went to the USAHA meeting to represent our association. It sounds like things went well for elk farmers, I am looking forward to talking to Mark and hearing some of the details, and thank him for going. He foots most of the bill personally and that is not a job that everybody would be good at, especially me.

I would also like to encourage everyone to attend our convention coming up in a couple of months. It is always a fun and informative time. We have some good seminars lined up and it's fun to talk to all the other farmers to hear how the year went. I look forward to it every year.

It has been close to a year that I have been on the board, and I have enjoyed it very much. It has kept me much more informed on what is happening in the elk world and the other board members have been a joy to work with. Every one of us also owes a great big thank you to Brenda. I always knew she did a lot for our organization but being on the board has shown me how important she really is to us, so THANK YOU BRENDA!

I hope everyone has a great Christmas and to see you at the convention. Feel free to contact me at kraig.wurst@gmail.com or (507) 273-6174 anytime.



Minnesota Grown

Marketing Opportunities for Minnesota Elk Producers

Could you use some help connecting with consumers to sell your Minnesota grown elk meat, velvet antler capsules for people and pets, hard antler or hides? Are you looking for an online presence for your farm?

If you answered "yes" to either of these questions, joining Minnesota Grown is for you! For just \$60 (\$20 license fee and \$40 MN Grown Directory listing), Minnesota Grown will feature your farm and link you directly to consumers through their annual printed and

online directories. The elk producers who regularly advertise in the Directory renew without fail year after year as the name recognition and consumer reach of this program is unmatched! See www.minnesotagrown.com for more information.

To request an application by mail or for further details, contact Jessica Miles at 651-201-6170 or jessica.miles@state.mn.us. **Deadline to sign up for the 2017 Directory is January 31, 2017.**



NEWS RELEASE: Thursday October 20, 2016

Contact: Brenda Hartkopf, Minnesota Elk Breeders Association, 320-543-2686

U.S. Navy Veteran Harvests Bull Elk

Minnesota Elk Breeders Association (MnEBA), October 20, 2016 – Each of the past 10 years, MnEBA has selected a special individual with Minnesota ties, to harvest a majestic bull elk in the beautiful Lake of the Woods area of northern Minnesota. In most years, this has been a disabled veteran of the U.S. military. But this is the first year a female recipient has been chosen for this once in a lifetime opportunity which recently took place on October 10-11, 2016.

Eileen Vasquez served in the United States Navy from February 1998 – April 2004 where she worked as a Nuclear Machinist Mate. Her ship, the USS Enterprise, was part of the first battle group to respond to the terror attacks of September 11, 2001. During her time in service, Eileen became visually impaired due to radiation damage while working as a nuclear mechanic and thus, was medically discharged. Eileen is married to fellow Navy veteran Jon Vasquez, who sustained a traumatic brain injury during his time in service. While Eileen has lived in Duluth, the Iron Range, and Coon Rapids, she and her husband currently live in St. Paul, Minnesota.

In the true spirit of coming back from adversity, Eileen is making the most of her time with the limited eyesight she still has, which is slowly diminishing. She has since completed her college education and is the owner of Locavore Thyme, a company in the St. Paul area which works to bring organic food to the marketplace. The title of her company, "Locavore" reflects the movement in recent years to eat locally sourced food. She is also active with the Regional Group of Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) who work to bring together local blind and visually impaired veterans, their friends, family and community to improve the quality of life for all impaired veterans experiencing vision issues. Eileen has also served as a national BVA Field Service Officer for Region 6 North. An avid hunter, she has also been involved with several disabled veteran hunts.

Not surprisingly, Eileen was the first hunt recipient to find her prey a mere 94 yards away by noon of the first day of her hunt on a beautiful October day. She took three shots before the elk collapsed on the edge of the woods, just a few yards from where it was first spotted. Eileen says, "I had practiced at 100 yards before the hunt so it couldn't have worked out more perfectly."

She and her husband took the meat home to be processed locally and are planning to donate some of her harvest to a local DAV game feed so other veterans can enjoy a delicious meal featuring elk as well. Eileen was excited about her recent experience and thanked everyone involved in this special project saying, "Thank you for this great opportunity, I appreciate it very much!"

MnEBA would like to thank everyone who generously supported this year's project including Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch, Midwest Outdoors Unlimited, Lake Superior Chapter of Safari Club International (SCI), Splendor Ridge Elk Farm and White Rump Acres.

MnEBA offers our heartfelt thanks, support and gratitude to Eileen and her husband Jon, and to all United States military men and women for their service to our country.



U.S. Navy Veteran Eileen Vasquez with husband Jon (back left) and Tony Beckel (hunt guide).



USDA Releases New Program Standards Review Deadlines and Finalizes Others

NOTICE: Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Program Standards - Review and Comment By November 15, 2016

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Bulletin

November 1, 2016 - United States Department of Agriculture's APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) has released the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Program Standards Working Group Summary Document for review and comment. This document summarizes the work of a 12-member working group that included representatives from the farmed cervid industry, State animal health and wildlife officials, a prion science specialist, and VS representatives. The group met in person for 3 days and continued discussions over a series of six conference calls.

The objectives of the working group were to identify changes that APHIS should consider for the CWD Program Standards and to describe additional options to consider for compliance with 9 CFR 55 and 81. Specific discussion topics included clarifying the purpose of the program standards, certified herd surveillance and compliance requirements, definitions, CWD susceptible species, ante-mortem testing, carcass disposal, epidemiology investigations and reporting, indemnity prioritization, and requirements for interstate transport of wild-caught cervids.

The full text of the document may be found on the Cervid Health website:
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/SA_Alternate_Livestock/SA_Cervid_Health

Please submit written feedback by November 15, 2016 to: vs.sprs.cervid.health@aphis.usda.gov

VS will use the working group summary and stakeholder comments to revise the current CWD Program Standards by early 2017. The revised program standards will then be published in the Federal Register for comment prior to release.

NOTICE: VS Guidance 8000.1 Surveillance and Testing Requirements for Interstate Transport of Wild Caught Cervids

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Bulletin

November 1, 2016 – United States Department of Agriculture's APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) issued a guidance document, VSG 8000.1 Surveillance and Testing Requirements for Interstate Transport of Wild Caught Cervids, in September 2016.

This guidance document clarifies the process for approval of interstate transport of wild-caught cervids by establishing a minimum standard for testing and providing a uniform process of disease risk assessment to help prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease, tuberculosis, and brucellosis.

Prior to its finalization, the guidance document was reviewed by State Animal Health Officials and Wildlife Officials in States that have conducted these movements in the recent past.

The guidance document is available on the Cervid Health website:
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/SA_Alternate_Livestock/SA_Cervid_Health

*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



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 articles are recent releases from ACA.

Deer and Elk Farmers on the Front Lines of Battle Against Chronic Wasting Disease

Midwestern University

November 2, 2016 - The effort to manage a fatal brain disease in deer and elk is taking significant steps forward thanks to a partnership between researchers, government experts, and American deer and elk farmers.

Researchers from Midwestern University, Colorado State University, the Colorado State Department of Agriculture, and the United States Department of Agriculture were part of a unique study aimed at managing chronic wasting disease (CWD) in ranched elk in areas where the disease is common in wild deer and elk.

The project, first reported during the 59th AAVLD/USAHA annual meeting in Greensboro, NC, received a major boost from deer and elk farmers, including the North American Deer Farmers Association (NADeFA), the North American Elk Breeders Association (NAEBA), and Whitetails of Wisconsin (WOW). Over the past few years, the groups have supported research into developing live animal tests - specifically relying on samples collected during herd depopulations. What has been lacking, until recently, is the application of those test developments towards solving real world problems.

The project, headed by Midwestern University's Nicholas Haley, D.V.M., Ph.D., focused on using conventional and experimental tests for CWD to identify and remove infected animals from a large elk herd living on thousands of acres of fenced property. The study provided a substantial body of samples that could provide for more sensitive tests than are currently available, but perhaps more importantly it has allowed insight into the genetic association between infection and disease resistance.

With the help of his collaborators, Dr. Haley has been able to examine the links between infection and a number of genetic markers found in elk known as microsatellites, using techniques commonly known as "DNA fingerprinting" which assist in building a family tree for the ranch and may prove useful in any number of other species as well. "I am time and again fascinated with the wealth of genetic data we've been able to collect," Dr. Haley said. "Imagine being able to predict which animals may become infected next year, or identify branches of animals more resistant to disease than others, and ultimately using that information to manage the disease from purely an agricultural perspective."

The project would not be possible without the cooperation of deer and elk farmers and their representatives, Dr. Haley says. "This project has allowed the deer and elk farming industries to take ownership of CWD management and play a critical and prominent role in bringing it under control."

In areas where CWD is common, deer and elk farmers have the very realistic ability to manage their animals by identifying desirable traits and selectively breeding for them - in this case, resistance to CWD. "What would take Mother Nature thousands of years to do, deer and elk farmers can do in our lifetime," Dr. Haley suggests.

Although the concept of managing CWD on-site through live animal testing and selective breeding is a relatively new one in the deer and elk farming arena, Dr. Haley hopes that this project is able to demonstrate the strengths and weaknesses of such an approach, allowing future work to build off of the novel findings and ultimately stop CWD in its tracks.

Court Ruling Strikes Down Regulatory Overreach on Chronic Wasting Disease, Upholds Private Property Rights; Blow to Missouri Department of Conservation Should Send Warning to Other States

Hunting and Conservation News

September 28, 2016 - Ayr, NE - On Friday, the American Cervid Alliance applauded a decision handed down from Osage County, Missouri Associate Court Judge Robert Schollmeyer ruling against the Missouri Department of Conservation's overreaching attempt to ban the importation of deer into the state by deer farmers.

The regulations were advanced under the guise of protecting the state from Chronic Wasting Disease, a deer and elk disease, but based on the evidence presented the court ruled the agency's claims didn't hold water and that deer farmers are protected under the Missouri Constitution.

The court imposed an injunction against a ban on importation of deer and also burdensome changes to the fencing standards on private deer facilities. The court found that MDC's regulations didn't stand up to legal scrutiny, in part since deer farms already face regulation from the Missouri and U.S. Departments of Agriculture. The court noted that MDC's "own experts acknowledged that the USDA program is based on good science, and that those who administer it in Missouri are good scientists."

The court also heard testimony from MDC's own witnesses that blew apart any rational justification for these regulations and exposed double standards:

- An MDC expert witness "admitted that free-ranging cervids pose a greater risk of spreading CWD-causing prions than enclosed cervids" on deer farms.
- MDC is hypocritical in its standards for bringing animals into the state. "While asserting that the [USDA's] herd-certification program for CWD is not a sufficient insurance against importation of CWD-positive animals, MDC nonetheless relies on a similar certification program to justify its own importation of elk from the State of Kentucky," the court wrote.
- The new fencing standards "are not based on documentation of any existing problems" but

instead based on "anecdotal, second-hand reports."

- CWD can be spread by the movement of hunter-harvested carcasses, "yet MDC has not imposed any restrictions on movement of carcasses within the state of Missouri."
- Deer on farms "are not 'game... [or] wildlife resources of the state' but are privately owned" and farmers are "engaged in 'farming and ranching' practices protected by the Missouri Constitution."

"This is a win for private property rights and rural businesses, and a blow to draconian government policy that is not science-based," said Charly Seale, American Cervid Alliance spokesman. "The Missouri Department of Conservation should stop wasting taxpayer money on a political crusade attacking family businesses and spend more time fighting CWD in free-ranging deer."

<http://huntinglife.com/court-ruling-strikes-regulatory-overreach-chronic-wasting-disease-upholds-private-property-rights-blow-missouri-department-conservation-send-warning-states/>

Advertiser Index

AgMax

Page 6

Spring Coulee Velvet Capsules

Page 9

Leedstone

Page 12

Mohlman Elk Farm

Page 14

ADM Alliance Nutrition

Page 15

Thank you for your support!

MnEBA Kitchen

Here's another great crock-pot recipe to warm up your family on a cold winter day!

Crock-Pot Hotdish

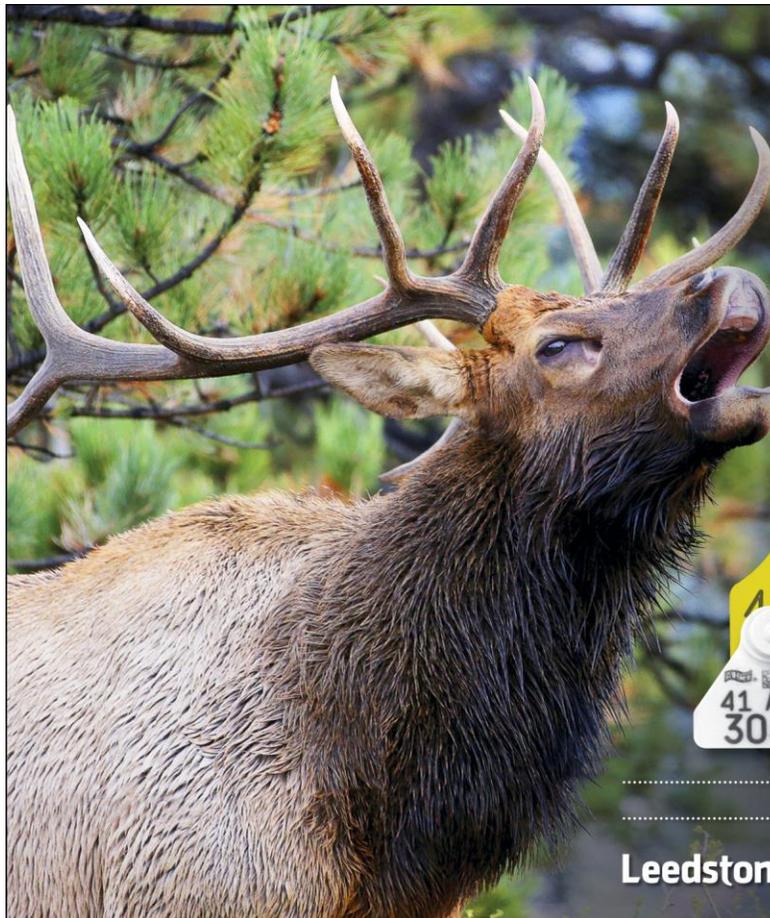
- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1½ lbs. ground elk | 1 tsp. Italian seasoning |
| 1 small onion, chopped | salt/pepper |
| 1 clove garlic, minced | 10 oz. frozen spinach, thawed and drained |
| 1 (15 oz.) can tomato sauce | 16 oz. bowtie pasta, cooked |
| 1 (15 oz.) can stewed tomatoes | ¾ cup parmesan cheese |
| 1 tsp. oregano | 1½ cups mozzarella, shredded |



Brown ground elk, onion and garlic. Put in slow cooker, add sauce, tomatoes and seasonings. Cook for 6-7 hours on low. Add the remaining ingredients during the last 45 minutes of cooking, mix well and turn crockpot to high. Save some of the mozzarella, add it on top and let it melt before serving.

Welcome New Members

Joel Cornelius
JC Elk LLC
1701 174th Avenue – Maquoketa, IA 52060
(563) 357-7787
jccornfarm@gmail.com



Leedstone[®]
Commitment. Relationships. Trust.

**Official Distributor of
MN NUES Tags**

Switching to plastic tags or just need more?

*We can help!
Call us to order.*



Animal Health & Pharmacy / Supplies

Leedstone.com

Customer Care Order Line
877.608.3877



Vet Corner by Dr. Glen Zebarth

The following article is courtesy of the American Cervid Alliance

Cervid Industry Lauds Successful Week at USAHA Conference

October 23, 2016 - GREESBORO, NC - The 2016 United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Annual Conference in North Carolina has concluded after days of action for the cervid industry. By the final day, all of the industry's resolutions were approved by the USAHA membership.

The 2016 USDA APHIS CWD Program Standards Working Group was an overall success for the cervid industry. NAEBA Executive Director Travis Lowe, EWA Executive Director Charly Seale and NADEFA Executive Director Shawn Schafer, who were part of the working group, praised the proposed changes that will fix many problems the industry has had issues with for the past three years. The proposed changes call for removing any mention of double fencing and 10-foot fencing and suggests new language to clarify trace outs for CWD herds. This is intended to prevent the "spider web trace outs" that some states have used for CWD positive herds. Many ambiguous sections will also be streamlined and clarified.

Ante-mortem testing for whitetail deer and elk is proposed to make its way into the CWD Program Standards as a tool for managing CWD herds and trace-outs. An approved USAHA resolution offered by the industry also encouraged the use of tonsil biopsies as a CWD ante-mortem test.

The industry representatives noted there is still heartburn over a couple proposed changes, including methods for considering a cervid species susceptible to CWD.

Overall, the industry considers the working group a success and praised Dr. Alecia Naugle for her effort to make the process possible. Dr. Naugle will accept comments from stakeholders until November 15. The agency will then publish the proposed document as amended after the first of the year. There will be a formal sixty day public comment period on the amended document.

The resolution adding rules for wild elk interstate relocation projects was quite an accomplishment for the industry. For the first time, the wildlife officials

could be held to a similar testing protocol as cervid ranchers. The industry has requested these changes for over a decade as agencies have moved several wild elk herds across state lines with little CWD surveillance. Several states are considering moving CWD susceptible species in the near future. This can possibly put the farmed herds in the destination state at risk. Moreover, many wildlife agencies claim their states are "CWD free" but test only a few hundred samples per year with wild populations of several million.

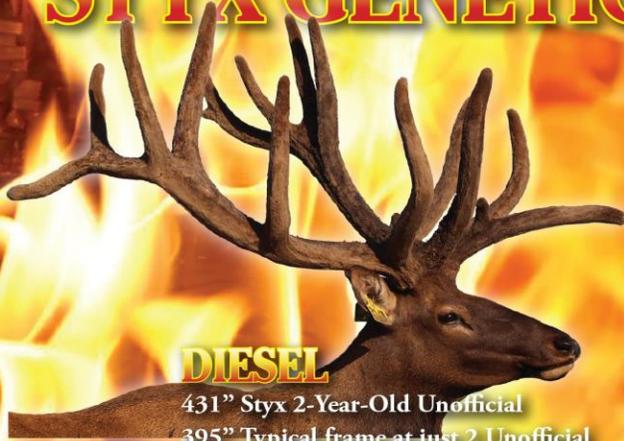
The industry thanked USDA APHIS for the new guidance document for wild herds that was recently published but noted it contained no firm testing benchmark and thus, "low risk" is a subjective term that varies by state.

Other resolutions offered by the industry included two TB resolutions. One intends to clarify rules for TB certified herds that purchase animals from another certified herd. Another aims to eliminate an unneeded quarantine for Manitoba cervids moving to the United States.

"I'd consider it a great week," said Todd Landt, representing the Iowa Whitetail Deer Association. "This was my fifth conference and I see every year the difference we make as we work to protect our industry."

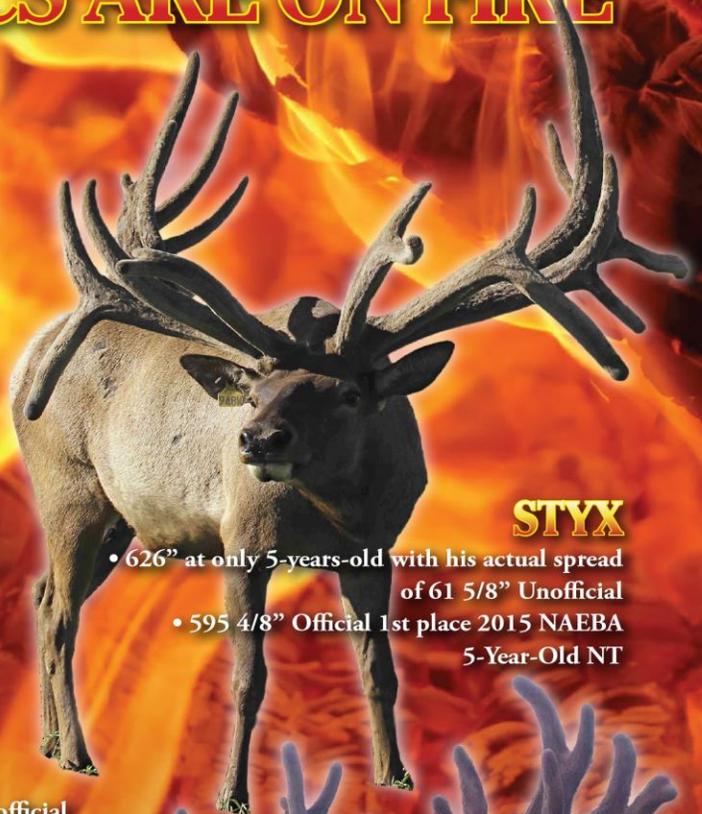
The industry attendees at the conference were Eric Mohlman and Travis Lowe representing the North American Elk Breeders Association, Laurie Seale for Whitetails of Wisconsin, Mark Luedtke for Minnesota Elk Breeders Association, Gary Olson for Minnesota Deer Farmers Association, Kyle Wilson and Daryl Simon for Reindeer Owners & Breeders Association, Patrick Tarlton for Texas Deer Association, Chalry Seale for Exotic Wildlife Association, Shawn Schafer and Skip West for North American Deer Farmers Association, Jacques DeMoss for Missouri Deer Association, Terry Klick for Ohio Whitetail Deer Farmers Association and Todd Landt for Iowa Whitetail Deer Association.

STYX GENETICS ARE ON FIRE



DIESEL

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



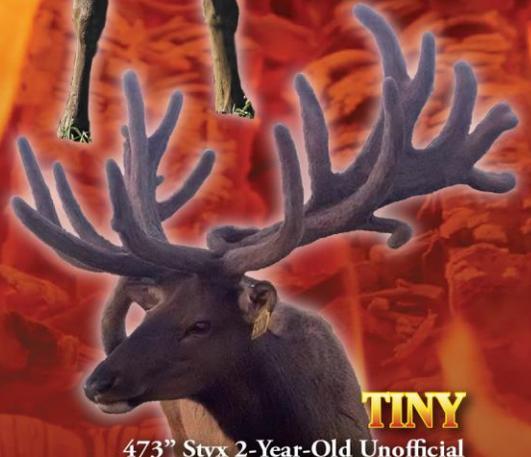
STYX

• 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



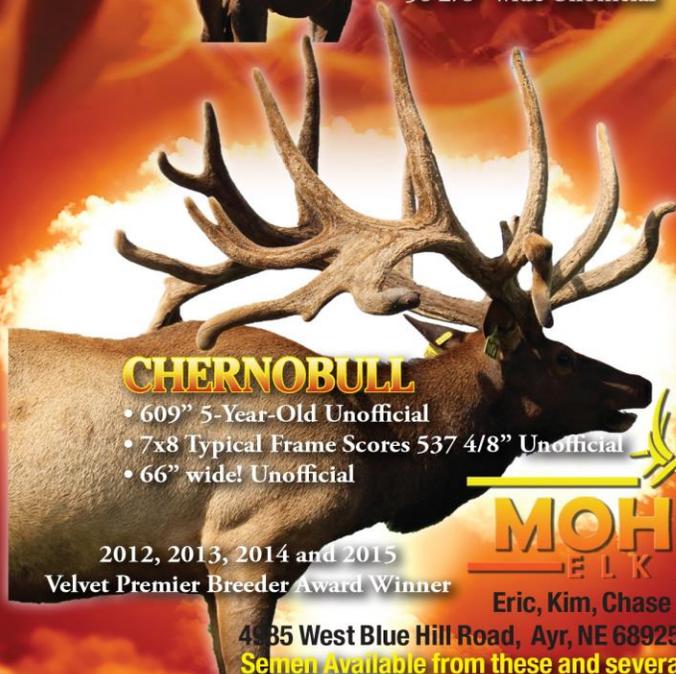
STRYKER

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

4335 West Blue Hill Road, Ayr, NE 68925 • 402-469-1831 • mohlmnelk@gtmc.net
Semen Available from these and several other Mohlman Elk Farm breeding bulls.

World Class Breeding Bulls, Bred Cows and Trophy Bulls available. Taking Orders On 2017 Bred Cows.

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

Committee Reports

Board Nominations Needed

This coming January, the board term for Brian Wagner will be expiring. Brian has been a great asset on the MnEBA board. Please take a moment when you see him to thank him for the time and effort he has dedicated to MnEBA.

Board Terms

Jim Byrne, <i>President</i>	Term ends 2018
Mark Luedtke, <i>Vice President</i>	Term ends 2019
Brian Wagner, <i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Term ends 2017
Greg Lubinski, <i>Director</i>	Term ends 2018
Kraig Wurst, <i>Director</i>	Term ends 2019

The length of time for Board terms are three years. Nominations for this open position are now being accepted. If you know of anyone who would be a good candidate, or you as a member are willing to run, please contact the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 or info@mneba.org. Elections will be held during the MnEBA Annual Conference on January 14, 2017 at the Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center in Alexandria, MN.

Watch your Mailbox!!

A reminder to watch your mailbox in late December for the invitation to attend a free dinner and nutrition seminar hosted by ADM Animal Nutrition on January 13, 2017 at the Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center (the night before the MnEBA Annual Conference). Take advantage of this great opportunity to go into greater depth about elk nutrition while enjoying a free meal! Make sure to RSVP so Leo can get an accurate meal count!



Rack Plus™ for Outstanding results

Outstanding performance is the hallmark of ADM's Deer and Elk Feeding Program.

The Rack Plus program incorporates the latest technical advances in cervid nutrition with ADM's time and field-proven formulation and feed technology techniques to deliver the right balance of protein, energy, vitamins, and minerals that enable deer and elk to reach their full genetic potential.

Deer & Elk 18-4 (81686AAA) and Deer & Elk 18-5 Breeder (81692AAA)

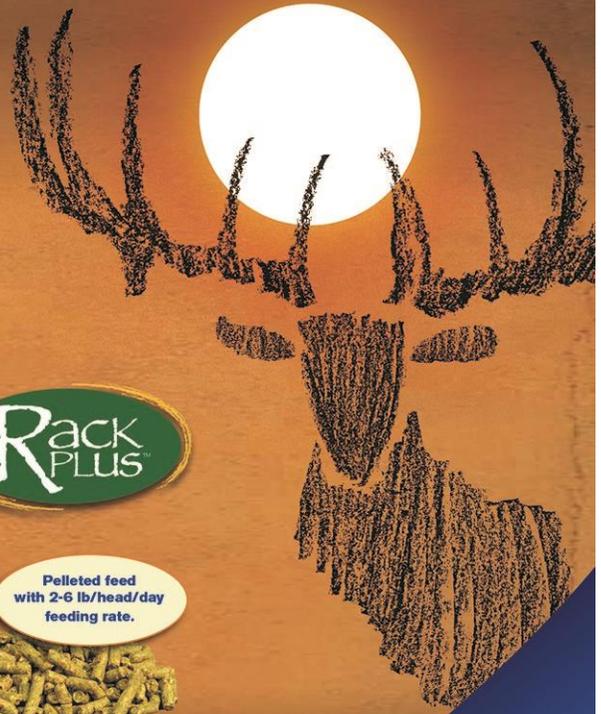
- Complete, pelleted feeds formulated specifically for deer and elk
- Provide multiple protein sources, stabilized rice bran, highly digestible energy and fiber sources, CitriStim®, and direct fed microbial
- Both products provide 18% protein and no more than 14% fiber; 18-4 provides 4% fat and 18-5 provides 5% fat
- 18-5 Breeder: Formulated specifically for the breeding herd; also provides natural-source vitamin E, B-complex vitamins, selenium yeast, and Antler D™*

CitriStim®, an ADM proprietary feed ingredient, is a proven, truly unique whole-cell yeast product beneficial for all animals at all life stages. CitriStim may help the animal fortify its defense against health challenges. CitriStim *Pichia guilliermondii* yeast adheres to pathogens and helps modulate body defense mechanisms. The overall result is potential production benefits and an animal that does not as easily succumb to health challenges.

*Antler D is a trademark of Head Gear LLC.



Pelleted feed with 2-6 lb/head/day feeding rate.



Proven Performance for Bigger Bucks and Antlers

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



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

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

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

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

July 27-29, 2017 – NAEBA Annual Convention & International Antler Competition, Verizon Wireless Center & Hilton Garden Inn, Mankato, MN

August 24-September 4, 2017 – Minnesota State Fair, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

Classified Ads

Elk Wanted: Elk meat animals wanted. Also wanted, trophy bulls, breeding stock, or whole herds. Animals must have good genetics and be CWD certified and TB Accredited. Please contact Klint Wylie at 218-820-9653 or by email at klintwylie@gmail.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 or email info@usafoxx.com. USA Foxx & Furs, Duluth, MN.

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

9086 Keats Avenue SW
Howard Lake, MN 55349

