



## Special Interest Articles:

- Farmed Cervid Economic Impact Study
- Legislation at State Capitol
- MnEBA & MDFA Speak at State Capitol
- MnEBA Responds to Misinformation
- Board Meeting Minutes
- MN Board of Animal Health News Release
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## President's Message by Jim Byrne



It is amazing how one year differs from another. Last year the government relations committee was drifting along on a nice peaceful stream with clear skies and smooth sailing. This year is totally the opposite - seems more like white water and rapids. All this was set off by the finding of CWD in both the wild and farmed herds in the state. Early on we all read the media articles and heard the ranting of those who oppose our industry both in the local papers and outdoor venues.

At this point I have noticed the shift from attacks on our industry to attacks on the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH). The BAH is now under scrutiny for how it handles the disease management of all livestock under their authority. The main criticism is that they are too involved with the livestock operations and not authoritarian enough in their approach. I keep asking myself the question, what is wrong with mutual respect which fosters cooperation and compliance? The BAH is now on a short list in the legislature to be audited for their approach to livestock management.

It is my feeling that the BAH, if audited, will be shown to be well run and will have an approach to livestock industries that is worth mimicking in other state agencies. The BAH has long been noted and recognized as a leader in organizations throughout the nation and their expertise has been sought out on many levels.

Another attack on the industry is Rep. Rick Hansen of South St. Paul who has tried to introduce a moratorium until 2020 on the creation of any new farms raising domestic elk and/or deer. This has been successfully blocked at this point by the efforts of our lobbyist and supporters in the legislature. There are still avenues for its introduction on the floor of the legislature but the likelihood seems slim.

With all this going on, I'd like you to thank your MnEBA Board members, Brenda Hartkopf and Tony Kwilas for their outstanding efforts to meet this challenge with level heads and energy. They continue to work for the association and the benefit of the industry. They should make you proud to belong to this association.

## 2017 MnEBA Summer Picnic LOOKING FOR A HOST!

Looking for a host for the 2017 MnEBA Summer Picnic.  
Date yet to be determined, but typically occurs in mid-late July.

MnEBA will help plan the program and assist with details as needed.  
Please contact the MnEBA Office ASAP if interested!

**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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## 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.

## Farmed Cervid Economic Impact Study

### Make sure you sent your survey in - last call!

Every farmed cervid producer in Minnesota received a Minnesota Farmed Cervidae Economic Impact Study Questionnaire in the mail the end of January. Did you complete yours and have you returned it? If not, please do so ASAP!

This survey will help the Minnesota farmed cervid industry continue to foster awareness of the importance of our farms/businesses to the state of Minnesota thereby garnering more support from legislators, the general public and others. Every survey returned helps to maintain the accuracy of the report and helps to track growth of the industry.

This survey was purposely sent out just before tax season so that when you filled in the numbers, you would have that data already gathered and at your fingertips.

Again, if you haven't returned your survey, please do so immediately. The deadline was April 1<sup>st</sup> and the study coordinator will be working to tabulate the results very shortly. No one sees the individual data except for the study coordinator – it's completely anonymous in every other way.

For those who have already turned your survey in, a huge THANK YOU to all!

## Legislation at Minnesota State Capitol

On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Rep. Rick Hansen, DFL-St. Paul, introduced HF 1948 which sought to create a moratorium on new deer and elk farmers starting in the business by denying them a registration and not allowing farmed elk or deer to be located where they haven't been previously. Rep. Mary Murphy, DFL-Hermantown, Rep. Jean Wagenius DFL-Minneapolis, Rep. Diane Loeffler, DFL-Minneapolis, and Rep. Rob Ecklund, DFL-International Falls were co-authors (Rep. Ecklund later removed himself as an author). Due to the great work of MnEBA's lobbyist Tony Kwilas and a lot of proactive work by MnEBA over the years, as well as the MN Deer Farmers Association and lobbyist Lynne Osterman, this bill never received a hearing. There was never a companion bill in the Senate.

HF1948 has missed the deadline for introduction as a stand-alone bill. However, Tony will be watching very closely to make sure similar language does not get added on as an amendment to an existing bill which is still active.

Again, HF 1948 is dead as a stand-alone bill, but the language is provided below for your review:

A bill for an act

Relating to agriculture; establishing moratorium on deer farms.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

#### **Section 1. DEER FARM MORATORIUM.**

Until January 1, 2020, the Board of Animal Health must not allow new registrations for the possession of Cervidae or the movement of farmed Cervidae to a location where farmed Cervidae have not been previously located.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE.

This section is effective the day following the final enactment.

## MnEBA and MDFA Speak at State Capitol



### Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Alliance Invitation

In mid-March, the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association (MDFA) was invited by the Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Alliance (MOHA) to be a special guest speaker at their bi-weekly sportsmans' caucus at the State Capitol on Wednesday March 29<sup>th</sup>. They wanted the industry to discuss our perspective on measures to control the spread of CWD among farmed and wild cervidae. MOHA typically uses this time to meet with legislators, legislative assistants and committee administrators to discuss important outdoor topics. MDFA invited MnEBA to join in this effort.

MnEBA worked with MDFA to create a PowerPoint presentation and handout to all attendees. There were MOHA members, legislators and others in attendance. MnEBA was represented by board member Greg Lubinski, lobbyist Tony Kwilas and Brenda Hartkopf. Brenda gave the presentation on behalf of the industry.

There were a lot of good questions and discussion from the group. Industry was well received by MOHA who invited us to come back any time.

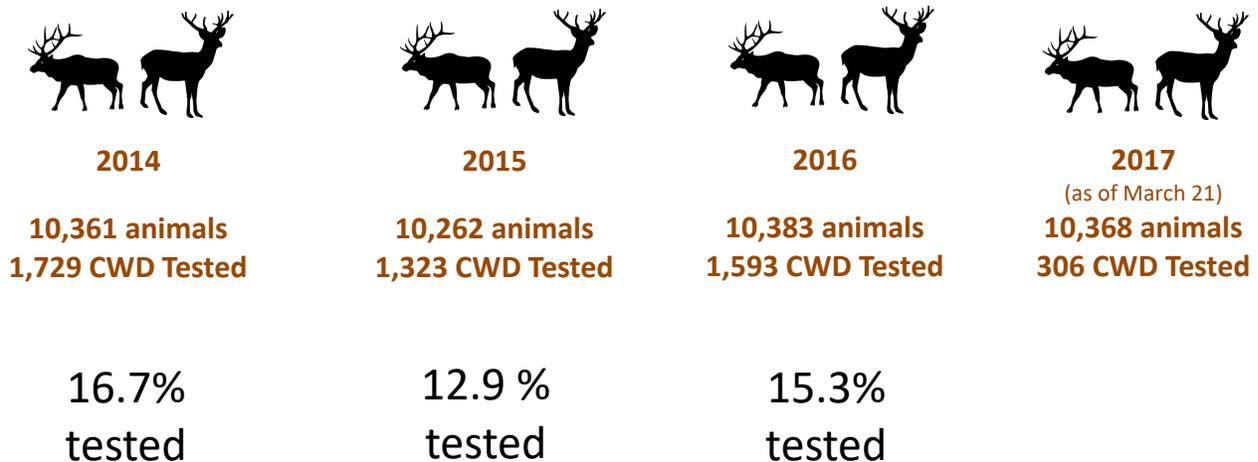
MnEBA and MDFA also took some time to meet with legislative leaders to discuss a possible moratorium or double fencing amendment by Rep. Hansen on the House floor. Leaders assured us they supported the industry and the work of the Farmed Cervid Advisory Committee and would oppose such an amendment. A one-page industry fact sheet was also distributed in legislator's mailboxes which can be viewed on the following page.

One point industry wanted to bring out was that industry has been under mandatory CWD testing for over 13 years and have amassed thousands of negative tests. In the past three years alone, with an overall farmed cervid inventory that remained relatively constant at about 10,300 animals, great percentages of animals were tested each year (see below).

MnEBA and MDFA will also be giving a similar presentation to the Board who oversees the Minnesota Board of Animal Health on April 19<sup>th</sup>. These are fantastic opportunities to tell our story!

## CWD SAMPLING NUMBERS from 2014-2016

### ----- Farmed Populations -----





## Minnesota Elk Breeders Association & Minnesota Deer Farmers Association



# Controlling the Spread of Chronic Wasting Disease: It's Everyone's Responsibility

## Quick Facts about the Minnesota Farmed Cervid Industry

### Board of Animal Health numbers indicate:

- ✓ A total inventory of 10,368 farmed cervids on 453 Minnesota family farms.
- ✓ There are elk or deer farms located in 77 of 87 Minnesota counties throughout the state.
- ✓ Among the top 10 in the nation in number of farmed cervids raised and number of farms.
- ✓ Minnesota Farmed Cervidae Economic Impact Study due out in the summer of 2017.

## Responsibility for Health

Minnesota farmed cervid producers have consistently shown responsibility for the health of our animals since original farmed cervidae laws were drafted in the early 90's:

- Tuberculosis
- Brucellosis
- Chronic Wasting Disease

## Farmed Cervidae Advisory Committee

Initiated in the 1990's, this committee handles farmed cervid issues such as disease concerns, legislation, rulemaking, animal movement and import/export protocol. Good work happens here!

These meetings are convened by the Board of Animal Health. Stakeholders at the table include:

|                           |                    |                              |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| MN Board of Animal Health | USDA/APHIS         | MN Dept of Natural Resources |
| MN Dept of Agriculture    | UMN Diagnostic Lab | MN Deer Hunters Association  |
| MN Dept of Health         | MN Zoo             | MDFA/MnEBA                   |

## Cervid Farming Regulations

Minnesota farmed cervid producers are heavily regulated, more than any other livestock industry in Minnesota.

- Mandatory registration of all animals on farm
- Report movement of animals for any reason (including slaughter and on-farm deaths) within 14 days to BAH
- Annual inspection of fence, facilities and animals
- Two ID's are required
- Importation of animals only from farms/ranches in Level 6 CWD status (more than 5 years testing)
- Same slaughter laws apply as for beef, poultry, swine, etc.
- In the event of escape, allowed only 24 hours for capture before state steps in
- EVERY death must be tested for CWD. This has been happening for over 13 years
- **Over 4,600 farmed cervids have been CWD tested in past three years alone (12-16% per year)**

## Common Ground

No one wants CWD in Minnesota

Industry has upheld mandatory CWD monitoring, surveillance and testing for over 13 years

Safeguarding Minnesota from CWD is the goal

All Stakeholders need to acknowledge where we have gaps and work TOGETHER to close those gaps:

Farmed Elk/Deer Industry = Heavily Regulated and Enforced

Natural migration of wild deer from CWD endemic areas = Uncontrollable

Wild deer carcass transportation/disposal = Not Well Regulated or Enforced

**Hunters/Taxidermists Need to Be Educated!**

## MnEBA Responds to Misinformation

Ever since CWD has been found again in Minnesota, in not only the wild in southeastern Minnesota but also in farmed herds in Crow Wing and Meeker counties, there has been a steady barrage of misinformation and letters to the editor from individuals who haven't heard industry's side of the story.

Below are two Letters to the Editor from MnEBA - one to Outdoor News which was printed, and one to the Rochester Post Bulletin which will hopefully be printed soon.

### Submitted and printed in Outdoor News on March 17, 2017

#### Comments on CWD Missing the Mark

*Recent articles speaking out against the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) and the Minnesota cervid industry miss the mark in telling the whole story.*

*Some would destroy the Crow Wing county farmed herd, designated as CWD positive; there are laws against the taking of private property without due compensation. The federal government needs to provide the funding to legally purchase these animals like they would for cattle with TB, pigs with pseudo-rabies, and poultry with avian influenza. The BAH is among the best in the nation and is looked at as a*

*model by other state agriculture agencies across the nation. Is it a bad thing for a regulatory agency and the constituents they oversee to have a strong working relationship? Positive collaboration leads to better communication, surveillance and the ultimate goal, which is compliance.*

*The Minnesota farmed cervidae industry has been "keenly focused" on CWD and along with the Board of Animal Health have consistently monitored farmed herds for CWD for over 13 years. Whereas, wildlife agency testing and surveillance over*

*this same time frame has been sporadic at best.*

*No connections have been identified between the CWD cases in the wild in southeastern Minnesota and the facility in Crow Wing County.*

*To ignore the issues of deer migration across state boundaries from known endemic areas, disposal sites of untested carcasses, or of hunter moved carcasses as a means of moving CWD is a grave mistake.*

### Submitted to the Rochester Post Bulletin on March 27, 2017

*In Eric Atherton's article "Legislator seeks Limits on deer, elk farms", Representative Rick Hansen completely misses the mark on CWD. While he points to farmed animals as a major vector, he completely ignores any other source of contamination – that is natural migration of infected wild whitetail deer from neighboring states, which will happen regardless, and carcass movement and disposal of hunter-harvested animals that is largely unregulated and unenforced.*

*Movement of farmed deer and elk into and out of Minnesota follows a strict protocol. In addition, every farmed cervid herd in Minnesota has been under mandatory CWD testing for over 13 years. In the past three years alone, there have been over 4,000 CWD tests of farmed cervids. The current inventory of farmed cervids in the state is just over 10,300 animals.*

*If Representative Hansen and the DNR don't acknowledge the issue of hunter-carcass movement and disposal as a*

*serious threat to Minnesota's wild deer herd, then hunters won't understand the importance of proper movement and disposal either. Failure to address this issue dooms the state to more CWD showing up in the future.*

*Now is the time to focus our efforts on the parts of the CWD puzzle which are least regulated and unenforced – hunter carcass movement/disposal and natural migration. This is where the real difference will be made for Minnesota's deer future.*

## Board Meeting Minutes

### March 22, 2017 – Pine Island, MN

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a face to face meeting in Pine Island on March 22, 2017. Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Byrne began the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Byrne asked for corrections or additions to the January 26<sup>th</sup> board meeting minutes as presented. Wagner moved to approve, Wurst seconded, motion carried. Financials were then reviewed with a checkbook balance of \$35,649.98. Wurst moved to approve the treasurer's report, Wagner seconded, motion carried.

### OLD BUSINESS

Board reviewed the 2017 budget as drafted in January. After discussion, Luedtke moved to approve the 2017 budget as presented, Lubinski seconded, motion carried. Hartkopf was directed to send the \$1,500 budgeted ACA donation right away.

Board reviewed most recent version of the MnEBA Elk Relocation Statement. Decision was made to print this version in the June newsletter and follow up with membership discussion at the summer membership meeting in July.

Discussed CWD testing in SE Minnesota wild deer which now has found 11 positives. Also discussed the CWD-positive Crow Wing county farm and four trace-out farms from that herd. A Meeker county trace-out herd found a positive, two other herds have tested out and the fourth may be testing two mule deer they purchased from the index facility in the near future.

MnEBA has been asked to give an industry CWD presentation to both the Minnesota Outdoors Heritage Association (MOHA) and the citizen board who oversees the Board of Animal Health in the coming weeks. Board reviewed outline of potential talking points. Hartkopf to work with Lynne Osterman of the MN Deer Farmers Association to finalize the presentation for both events. When the group goes to the capitol to speak to MOHA on March 29<sup>th</sup>, they will also meet with as many legislators as they can find and hand out fact sheets. Discussed seeing if MnEBA could possibly give a presentation to the MN Deer Hunters Association. Decision was made to research this possibility.

Byrne reported on HF1948 which would create a moratorium on any new deer or elk farms starting up until the year 2020. This bill had no companion bill in the Senate and did not receive a hearing. MnEBA's lobbyist is watching carefully to make sure that language doesn't get added on as an amendment to an existing bill.

Discussed the possible Board of Animal Health audit which is in the hands of the Audit Commission and the timeline of events should that occur.

Board reviewed MN Deer Farmers Association articles in response to CWD in Minnesota which have been crafted with the assistance of ACA. Wagner to follow up with ACA and Hartkopf to follow up with Lynne Osterman to further discuss.

Luedtke spoke about creating an official platform of 3-5 important facts regarding CWD for MnEBA. He will be continuing to craft this platform over the coming months.

Lubinski gave a recap of MnEBA booth activities at both the Outdoor News Deer & Turkey Show and the North American Farm & Power Show. There was much more activity and younger demographics at the Outdoor News Deer and Turkey event. Very little to no concern about CWD in farmed cervids and a lot of interest in raising elk at both events. The new booth exhibits were very well received.

Board reviewed options for the 2018 MnEBA Annual Conference. Hartkopf to follow up with the Doubletree by Hilton in the north metro to negotiate on one more item. If they will not negotiate, then will go with the Willmar bid. Hartkopf to follow up.

There was concern that the velvet antlers in the booth are showing signs of wear and that MnEBA should get a new set.

Hartkopf did not receive updated survey numbers from the ongoing MN Farmed Cervidae Economic Impact Survey in time for the meeting but reported that six weeks ago, there were 141 surveys returned out of 460 that were mailed out. She was hopeful there would be a good number that had come in since that time. The study coordinator has already begun putting tables together and is all set to compile final results after the April 1 deadline.

Hartkopf reported that no one has yet volunteered to host the summer picnic for this year. Board to make some calls and see if they can find a host.

### NEW BUSINESS

Hartkopf reported receiving a call from state fair co-chair Paul Hueg asking if MnEBA could make use of MN Grown funds to update the outdoor panels used in the booth. Hartkopf and Hueg have begun investigating options and will hopefully have some recommendations for the next board meeting.

Lubinski reported on discussions at the recent MN Deer Farmers Annual Conference which he attended last weekend.

Hartkopf reported that the MN FFA Career Fair at the upcoming State FFA Convention will be taking place on Monday April 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am-2:00pm. She will be sending in the registration form and payment for MnEBA to have a booth at this event.

Board shared concerns about the TB blood test kits still not being available. Hartkopf was directed to send a letter

and follow up with discussions citing our concern and to express urgency to rectify the situation as soon as possible.

Wagner moved to adjourn, Luedtke seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

### January 26, 2017 – Howard Lake, MN

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a face to face meeting in Howard Lake on January 26, 2017. Jim Byrne, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Craig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Byrne began the meeting at 10:16 a.m. Mark Luedtke joined the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Byrne asked for corrections or additions to the January 4<sup>th</sup> board meeting minutes as presented. Wurst moved to approve, Wagner seconded, motion carried. The decision was made to approve the treasurer's report after going through financials to set the budget for 2017.

### OLD BUSINESS

Hartkopf reported 80 conference attendees over the course of both days (up from 68 last year). Board discussed comments received. The ADM dinner and nutrition seminar was very popular.

Board reviewed final details of the 2017 Gun Calendar Raffle. All 750 calendars were sold and none were lost. Eight free memberships were awarded and 52 names went into the hat for the incentive gun drawing.

Board reviewed a revised version of the MnEBA Elk Relocation Statement which included recommendations made at the annual conference. It was suggested that MnEBA consider taking the position of requiring TB testing per current BAH rules for interstate movement and also adding the state of Missouri to the list of states who have allowed elk relocation in recent years. Board approved draft, after confirming Missouri. Next step is to review the draft with members of the Cervidae Advisory Committee, ask their opinion on the interstate TB requirement, modify if needed, post in April newsletter and present for membership ratification at the MnEBA summer meeting. Hartkopf was also asked to forward the draft version to the Minnesota Cattlemen's Association.

Reviewed latest information regarding CWD in farmed deer in Crow Wing and Meeker counties as well as CWD in southeastern Minnesota in wild deer. Various board members are planning to attend the Dr. Kroll meeting,

MN Deer Advisory Meeting and the Cervidae Advisory Meeting in early February. Still waiting to hear when an

Information Day will be scheduled at the State Capitol regarding Minnesota farmed cervidae. MN DNR and BAH have testified in several committee meetings. MnEBA's lobbyist is keeping in constant contact with MnEBA on discussions at the capitol and also educating legislators as opportunity arises.

Reviewed the upcoming show dates and schedule and discussed who could work and when. Will need a lot of membership participation outside of the board to fill open spots.

### NEW BUSINESS

Election of officers was held. Wagner moved to keep the slate of 2016 officers. All current officers offered willingness to stay in current roles. Lubinski seconded, motion carried.

No one has stepped forward to host the 2017 MnEBA summer meeting. Notice will be placed in the upcoming newsletter with the date being open ended in mid-July, before the NAEBA convention on July 27-29 in Mankato.

Discussed location for the 2018 annual meeting. The Sheraton in Minnetonka is very interested in having MnEBA back but have conflicts with the second weekend of January. Hartkopf to research alternative dates and ideas to possibly make this location work. If a resolution cannot be made, will research other properties.

Discussed the 2018 MnEBA Gun Calendar Raffle. Talked about making changes, but decided to keep number of calendars printed at 750, as well as number of guns purchased and cash prizes as is. Will reevaluate number of calendars printed again in 2018. Fewer pump shot guns were suggested.

Board went through each line item on the financials and set budget for 2017. Hartkopf to have copier removed from assets. Byrne asked for additions or corrections to the treasurer's report. Wagner moved to approve, Lubinski seconded, motion carried.

Wagner moved to adjourn, Lubinski seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

# Minnesota Board of Animal Health News Release

For Immediate Release: February 28, 2017

## No Chronic Wasting Disease in Board's latest test results

### Herds in Brainerd and Mountain Iron released from quarantine

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health received negative test results for Chronic Wasting Disease on five white-tailed deer it traced out of an infected herd in Merrifield, Minnesota. Four of the deer were tested from a herd in Brainerd, and a single deer was tested from a herd in Mountain Iron. Those farms are released from quarantine because of the negative test results. Working with the USDA and the herd owners, the Board gathered samples from the suspect deer and sent them to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa for official testing.

The Board's investigation of movement records out of the herd-of-origin in Merrifield show deer were moved to four other Minnesota farms during the five year trace-back period. The Board shares information with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, which responds to and manages CWD in wild deer. The Board regulates farmed deer, and it works with the USDA as it investigates CWD cases.

Recap of current CWD investigations of farmed deer in Minnesota:

Merrifield, Minnesota (Crow Wing County): Herd of origin for the current CWD investigation. Positive CWD test from two white-tailed deer. Remains under quarantine.

- Dassel, Minnesota (Meeker County): Positive CWD test from one white-tailed deer. Remains under quarantine.
- Freeport, Minnesota (Stearns County): No CWD tests conducted. Remains under quarantine.
- Brainerd, Minnesota (Crow Wing County): Negative CWD test from four white-tailed deer. Released from quarantine.
- Mountain Iron, Minnesota (St. Louis County): Negative CWD test from one white-tailed deer. Released from quarantine.

"We never want to find CWD in Minnesota and these negatives are good news for deer and elk," said Dr. Paul Anderson, assistant director at the Board of Animal Health. "While we still don't have a definitive answer to how CWD infected the original herd in Merrifield, these results limit the scope of our response and the potential spread of the disease."

CWD is a disease of deer and elk caused by an abnormally shaped protein, a prion, which can damage brain and nerve tissue. There is no danger to other animal species. The disease is most likely transmitted when infected deer and elk shed prions in saliva, feces, urine, and other fluids or tissues. The disease is always fatal and there are no known treatments or vaccines. CWD is not known to affect humans, though consuming infected meat is not advised.

Information about Minnesota's farmed deer and elk herds can be found at <https://www.bah.state.mn.us/deer-elk/>.

## Important Updates

### TB DPP Test Kits

MnEBA spoke to officials at NVSL late last week to get an update. They reported that over 5,000 TB test samples have been cataloged since November. In mid-March, 4,000 test kits came in and they are in the process of testing previously cataloged samples in order of receipt. Their estimate was that these 4,000 kits would take care of submitted samples through mid-February. Dr. Anderson has reported seeing a handful of test results come back in to the Board of Animal Health.

NVSL reported approximately 1,600 TB samples will remain catalogued as well as any additional TB samples which come in until more test kits are made available. The kit supplier has not given a target date for when this may happen.

### CWD in Wild Deer in Southeastern Minnesota

In the March 31, 2017 edition of Outdoor News, it is reported that the DNR's contracted sharpshooting of wild deer in the CWD core area of southeastern Minnesota has concluded and all the tests have come back. An additional two deer tested positive during the sharpshooter phase bringing the current number of CWD-positive wild whitetail in that area to 11 since DNR reported the first two last November. All but one of these positives were in a cluster about four miles west of Lanesboro with one about 5 miles north of the main cluster.

It is also reported that DNR wildlife research manager Lou Cornicelli says staff will get back together and plan a strategy for the area next fall. He plans to hold a follow-up public meeting in Preston the end of April.

## Inserts to this Newsletter Mailing

### 2017 MnEBA Membership Directory

The new directory is now available. Please let the office know if you need additional copies. While every attempt is made to keep membership information updated, please let the office know if there should be any changes or updates made to your listing.

### 2017 MnEBA Scholarship

If you have a college age young adult in your family, make sure to check out the MnEBA Scholarship. TWO scholarships will be given out once again this year, each worth \$350. The scholarships are being made available to sons/daughters or grandsons/granddaughters of any active/lifetime MnEBA member who is pursuing a post-secondary degree in the Fall of 2017. An agriculture-related field of study is preferred, but not limited to. For further details, see the insert in this mailing, or if you receive your newsletter online, see the insert included with your 2017 Membership Directory mailing. Deadline to apply is **May 15<sup>th</sup>**. There will be no extension of this deadline.

### 2018 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar Sponsorship

This will be the ninth year of MnEBA's Gun Raffle Calendar which has become a tradition and a much sought after commodity! We have now sold out two years in a row with more and more people seeking out calendars before we even ask! Thank you to all members who have stepped up to sponsor calendar ads and sell calendars to help MnEBA continue the tradition. Sales for new 2018 calendars will be conducted beginning this coming July and will conclude at the MnEBA Annual Conference next January.

Now is the time to make your commitment to sponsor a month in the calendar. Sponsorship applications are included as an insert to this mailing. All that's needed is a picture from your farm, a business card (or business card info) and payment. This is a great way to get a special picture and information about your farm in front of a diverse group of individuals all across Minnesota. If you're interested in sponsoring a calendar month, be sure to forward payment as soon as possible to secure a spot. The deadline to sponsor an ad is **May 15<sup>th</sup>**.

# Board Blog by Greg Lubinski, MnEBA Director



**MUD.** That is all I see out the shop window looking at the elk.

March has been busy with two shows – one at the Outdoor News Deer & Turkey Show in St. Paul and the second at the North American Farm & Power Show in Owatonna. I want thank all who helped out at both shows. We even got some good press at the Power Show with an interview from The Land Magazine by

Dick Hagen. It sounds like Dick Hagen will try to make it to Mankato for the NAEBA Convention in July.

Kraig Wurst and myself have been busy helping Jim Byrne out with his feeding of hay since he had knee replacement surgery recently. I think he liked seeing the tracked loader floating on the mud and deep snow. That’s how elk people are helping out where we can for others. I know Jim really appreciates it. While I was writing this, Jim had just called for another demo of the tracked loader. Besides I really like playing in the mud anyway.

Hope all goes well this spring for everyone!

## Advertiser Index

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## MnEBA Kitchen

*This recipe makes a wonderful, rich broth to go with the deliciousness of elk meat!*

### Elk Burgundy

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 2 lbs. elk stew meat, cut into cubes   | 1 bay leaf          |
| 1 cup red wine (Burgundy or Merlot)    | 2 cloves garlic     |
| ¾ cup brandy                           | 1 tsp. thyme        |
| 1½ cups beef stock                     | 2 Tbsp. butter      |
| 6 thick bacon slices, coarsely chopped | 4 Tbsp. flour       |
| 2 Tbsp. tomato paste                   | 2 Tbsp. corn starch |
| 1 onion, diced                         | Salt & pepper       |
| 8 oz. mushrooms, sliced                |                     |



Heat pan over medium-high heat and cook bacon until lightly browned. Remove and drain on paper towel. Leave bacon drippings in the pan.

Sear cubed elk meat in bacon drippings until browned on all sides. Remove and set aside. Add diced onion and chopped garlic and sauté until translucent. Add meat back to pan. Sprinkle flour over meat and stir to coat. Cook meat in pan for five minutes. Add wine, brandy, tomato paste and beef stock to meat mixture. Stir gently. Add thyme, salt, pepper and bay leaf. Place all into crock pot and cook on high for 4-5 hours.

An hour before serving, melt butter in a pan over medium-high heat and sauté mushrooms until browned. Add mushrooms to meat mixture in crockpot and continue to cook for remaining time. Remove bay leaf. (Optional: To thicken sauce, mix cornstarch and cold water together and pour into crockpot. Stir to thicken.)

Serve elk burgundy over cream style mashed potatoes or polenta.

## 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, CitiStim®, 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™\*

CitiStim®, an ADM proprietary feed ingredient, is a proven, truly unique whole-cell yeast product beneficial for all animals at all life stages. CitiStim may help the animal fortify its defense against health challenges. CitiStim *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 Bulls**

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



## Vet Corner by Dr. Glen Zebarth

### Use a Ring Block When Cutting Velvet Antler this Summer

As velvet season approaches, I would encourage anyone who is not presently using nerve block pain management to try it on a few animals. You will be surprised at the difference it makes.

Apply lidocaine ring block round the pedicle of the antler and wait 3 minutes for it to take effect. While you're waiting, place tourniquet around base and if you give a copper bolus, this is a good time to do that as well.

Use a good large tooth saw to harvest the antler and spray the wound well with fly spray. I don't recommend using blood stop or cement powder. These are both irritants and do more harm than good. Elk have a fantastic vasodilation constriction system and when handled with efficiency and with less stress, they can stop bleeding more quickly than you think possible. The more you wrestle with them in the chute, the worse the bleeding can become. Plus, there's really nothing you can put on a wound to make it heal any faster.

#### **Procedure for Cutting Velvet Antler (From NAEBA Velvet Handbook Third Edition)**

Preparing the squeeze chute and area for the procedure.

1. Velvet is a food product; therefore, it should be handled carefully and treated with cleanliness.
2. Equipment used during the velvet procedure should be cleaned. This includes the pen and chute, as well as the small equipment used.
3. In order to reduce the time the animal is in the chute, personnel and materials should be prepared.
4. Check that all equipment is in working order prior to introduction of elk into the handling facility.

#### **Preparing the bull in the chute**

1. To reduce time in the chute, record keeping and photography should be completed prior to restraining the animal.
2. The chute should have ample room to allow the bull to enter without stress or damage to the velvet antler.
3. Care must be taken to adjust the height in the chute to make the animal comfortable. Monitor breathing and check for proper airflow. A blindfold may be used during the procedure.
4. Check to confirm that the head is positioned to allow for a quick, even cut.
5. A head restraint may be used to limit the movement of the elk's head.
6. Apply analgesia to the pedicle area and allow time for maximum effect. (see section below on "pain control")
7. Make sure antler area is clean.
8. Surgical latex tubing is used as a tourniquet to block the flow of blood. (Refer to the section below on "blood control").
9. All procedures involving a medication for parasite or fly control are done after antler is harvested so the antler is not contaminated.

#### **Equipment and medications required for cutting, pain control and blood control.**

1. **Pain control-** A local anesthetic can be injected using a ring block around the base of the pedicle (Figure 1). For the proper technique on performing this procedure, contact your veterinarian. By repeating this procedure around the pedicle, overlapping areas of local anesthetic are created.
2. **Blood Control-** A tourniquet is applied using medical grade silicone tubing by stretching the tourniquet twice around one pedicle (see Figure 2). Then make a figure 8 by stretching the tourniquet across the skull and around the other pedicle and back to the first pedicle. Use a hemostat greater than 12 inches in length to clamp the tubing. This method applying the tourniquet is quick and allows for rapid removal.

**Cutting velvet antler-** *This procedure should be completed in the shortest period of time to keep stress to the animal at a minimum.*

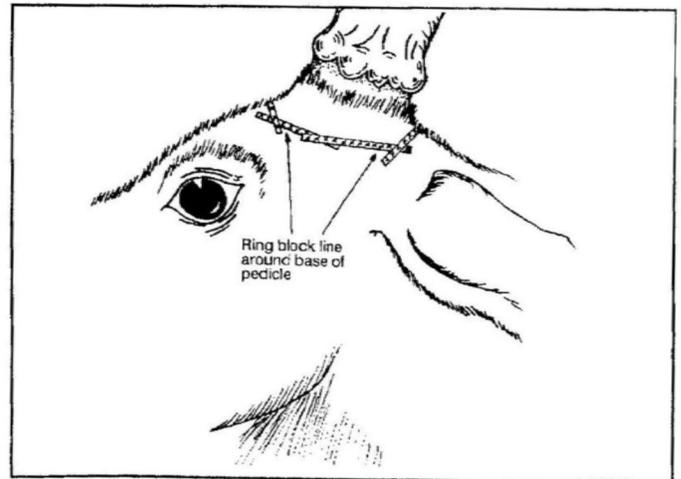
1. It is recommended that a #10 disposable scalpel or disinfected utility knife be used to cut the skin to the bone along the exit and entry points of the intended cut line. This will increase comfort and reduce chances of tearing of the skin.
2. Align the saw to allow cutting  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch above the coronet across the whole diameter. As a guide, wrap the thumb and index finger around the antler above the burr. Cut above your fingers.
3. Take long, steady, continuous strokes until the antler is removed.
4. Support the antler during the cutting procedure.
5. After removal, invert the antler to eliminate blood loss.

#### **Removing the animal from the squeeze chute**

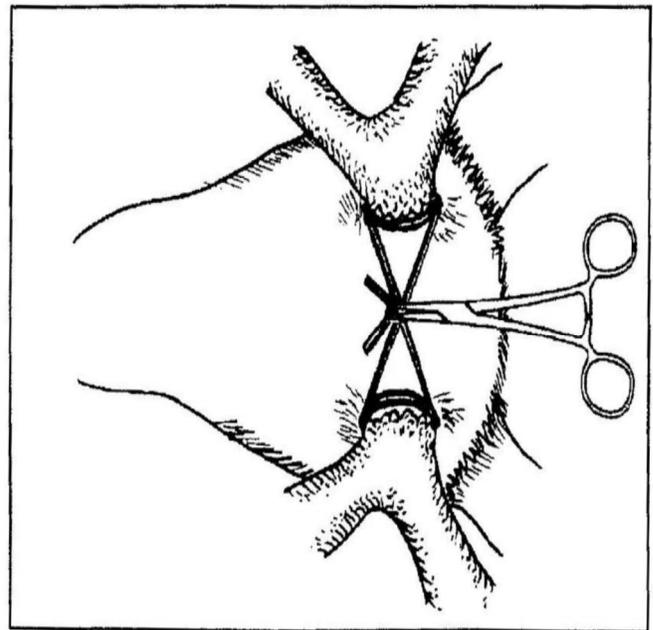
1. Immediately after antler removal, vaccinate and apply fly control (using screw worm spray for the velveting site and pour on insecticide for residual fly control on the body). Use de-wormer if your schedule coincides with this opportunity. Remove the blindfold and tourniquet as you open the squeeze chute. Immediate release of the animal will facilitate a speedy recovery.
2. The exit path should be a straight path with firm footing.

#### **Cleaning the squeeze chute area and equipment**

1. Thoroughly clean and disinfect the squeeze chute area. Avoid slippery floor.
2. Leave the facilities neat and tidy.
3. Disinfectant with Nolvasan (chlorhexidine)- All instruments used in the procedure should be disinfected between animals.

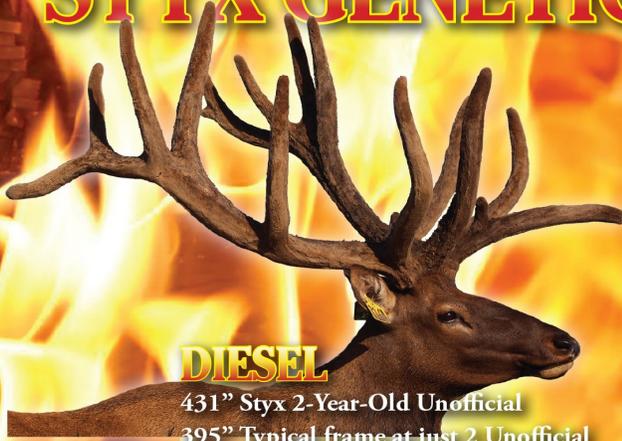


*Figure 1.* The local anesthetic is injected along the ring block lines around the base of the pedicle.



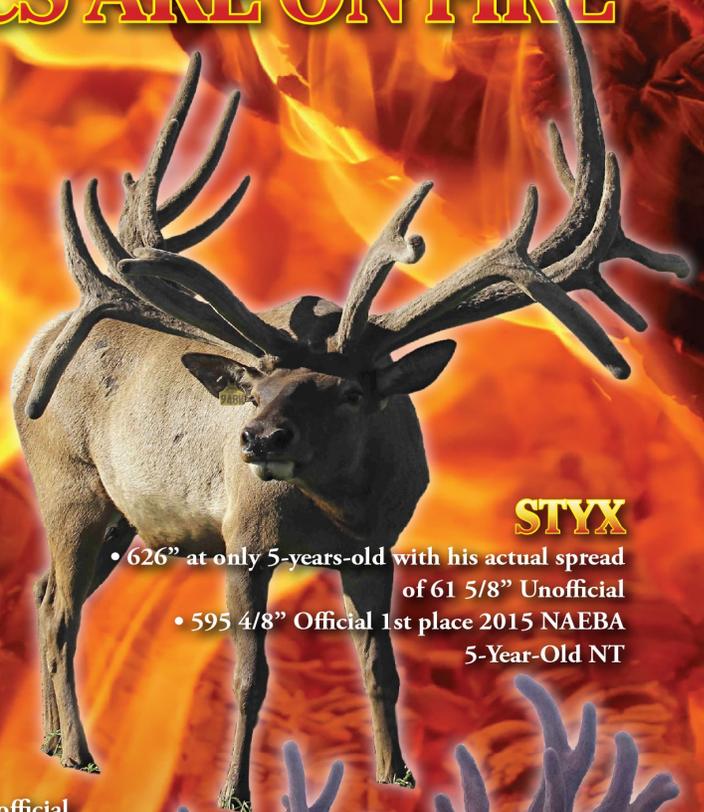
*Figure 2.* A tourniquet is applied using a medical grade latex tubing. The tubing is clamped using a 15" hemostat.

# STYX GENETICS ARE ON FIRE



## DIESEL

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



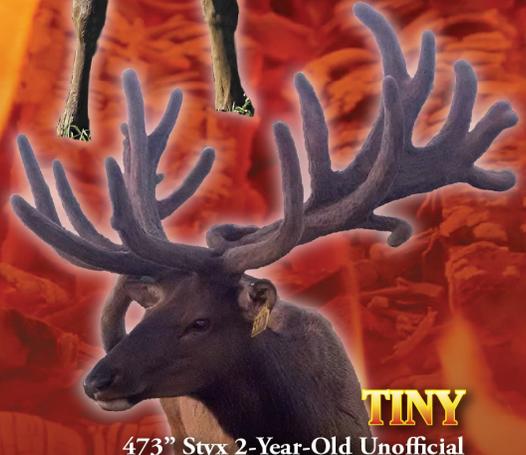
## STYX

- 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



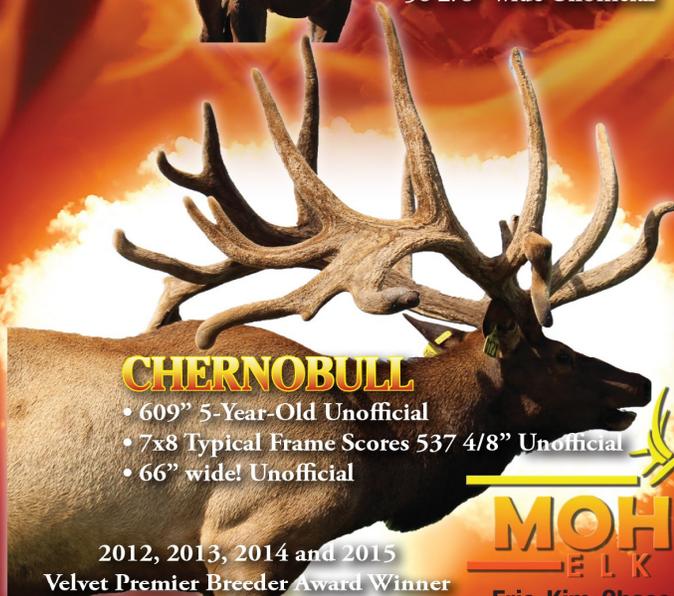
## STRYKER

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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Velvet Premier Breeder Award Winner



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Premier Breeder Award Winner  
1<sup>st</sup> Two Class Winner in the Same Year

## Committee Reports

### Outdoor News Deer & Turkey Show



#### Thank You to All Booth Workers!

Workers at the MnEBA booth at the Outdoor News Deer & Turkey Show reported a great show! The new MnEBA banners and backdrop drew lots of new interest by attendees.

Many thanks to the following individuals for helping man the booth: Greg Lubinski (coordinated the schedule and worked each day), Bryce Lubinski, Kraig Wurst, Scott Salonek, Wade & Norman Schimmelpfennig and Paul Hueg. Thank you for representing the Minnesota elk industry and promoting America's Greatest Animal – Elk!

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

### North American Farm & Power Show



It has been many years since MnEBA had a booth at the North American Farm & Power Show. There was less traffic at this show with older demographics, but there was still good interest in elk farming. MnEBA's presence also drew the attention of The Land Magazine who is in the process of working on a great feature piece about raising elk. As the article has not yet been published, the story will be reprinted in the May/June edition of MnEBA News.

Many thanks to Greg Lubinski for also coordinating the schedule for this show and again, working every day of the event! Thanks also to Kraig & Herb Wurst, Ray Smothers and Martin Zacharias for putting time in on each day of the event as well!

### 2018 MnEBA Annual Conference

The date and location for the 2018 MnEBA Annual Conference is set for next January 12-13, 2018 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Brooklyn Center, MN (formerly the Crowne Plaza). MnEBA held our annual conference at this same location in 2012. Mark your calendars today!



## Welcome New Members

**Josh Petersen**  
Rolling Hills Elk Farm  
3818 S. Custer Street – Manitowoc, WI 54220  
(920) 323-9594 (Home & Work)  
[shua06@hotmail.com](mailto:shua06@hotmail.com)

*Spring Coulee  
Velvet Capsules*



*Bill & Karen Knutson*  
Home of Spring Coulee Elk

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Holmen, WI 54636  
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[miniman41@centurytel.net](mailto:miniman41@centurytel.net)

**Minnesota Elk Breeders  
Association**

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320-543-2686

FAX:  
320-543-2983

E-MAIL:  
[info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org)

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

**Calendar of Events**

**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

**January 12-13, 2018** – MnEBA Annual Conference, Doubletree by Hilton, Brooklyn Center, MN

**March 9-10, 2018** – NAEBA March Mingle/KCBA and MEFA Annual Conference, Overland Park, KS (Kansas City area)

**Classified Ads**

**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.

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BREEDERS  
ASSOCIATION**

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Howard Lake, MN 55349