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President's Message by Jim Byrne



By the time this message goes to print, July will have rushed by and the MnEBA Summer Picnic and 27th Annual North American Elk Breeders Convention and International Antler Competition will be a fond memory. Now we have the MN State Fair to look forward to. I hope that you have scheduled a time to serve at the booth. It's a great experience.

Looking back at the legislative session, we were able to successfully avoid any further regulation on our industry. However, the unfortunate finding of CWD late last year in the wild has once again made CWD an issue in the state legislature. The DNR is already making the rounds at the Capitol apparently setting the stage for a push in the next session of some type of regulation on the cervid industry. At this point we assume that it will be dealing with double fencing.

Now here's the main point, if we as producers do not initiate discussions with our local representatives, we may not have the time to forestall introduction of negative legislation. Let's let them know about our industry and give them the opportunity to visit our farms before the session starts. "The ball is in our court" as they say. If we don't make the effort now while session is in recess we may reap a bitter harvest later.

We have accomplished a lot so far, but there is yet much to do. With the energy and abilities this association possesses, the remainder of this year will be productive and fun. I wish you all safety and health in the months ahead, and the best of luck in this coming breeding season.



Thank you to Jim & Eileen Byrne of Byrne Farm for hosting this year's MnEBA Summer Picnic!

MnEBA News is a bimonthly publication of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association. It is mailed out on the first day of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Deadline for information, articles, and advertisements is the 15th 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.

Tuberculosis DPP Test Update

Progress Made But Testing Backlog Still Exists

Several associations including the North American Elk Breeders Association (NAEBA), North American Deer Breeders Association (NADeFA) as well as MnEBA have been in contact with both NVSL and Chembio on getting the backlog of pending TB tests completed so herds can have their TB status brought back to accredited status before bulls need to move.

NAEBA went as far as to reach out to leaders at USDA APHIS and also to multiple state vets expressing concern for elk producers who are caught up in the wait. NAEBA reported on June 23rd:

“Because this situation is out of the hands of our producers, several state veterinarians have stated they would be willing to consider temporary extensions beyond the 90 days of TB Herd Accreditation for movement purposes on a case by case basis (for both exporting herds or importing herds in other states), for long standing accredited herds in areas that have no TB in free ranging and no active investigations in adjacent livestock herds. These state veterinarians request you start this process now or give at least two weeks' notice for state departments to consider your request. Remember, each state could handle this differently. Once the blood test results finally come in, your accreditation will be renewed for the next three-year cycle.

To be clear, if you are an owner caught in this backlog and need to move animals this summer or fall, NAEBA recommends you do not wait for the backlog to clear. NAEBA recommends you either contact states you intend to ship to and ask them if they would consider allowing you to ship in August or September or proceed to skin test individual animals you plan to ship this fall.”

NADeFA's Executive Director Shawn Schafer recently reported on progress of enough kits becoming available soon to get caught up on the backlog:

“I have been working closely with the manufacturer of the DPP test kits, Chembio, and they believe they have worked through their problem with the antigen used to produce the kits. They have supplied enough kits to take care of a little more than half of the backlogged samples and are working on certification of two more batches that will supply enough kits to finish the pending samples as well as the testing season coming up this fall.

USDA has assured me they will bring in additional staff and have approval for overtime to expedite the processing of the backlogged samples. I am hopeful all samples will be completed in the next few weeks.”

If you are still waiting for your test results, take the time to call ahead to the state you're moving animals to and discuss your situation with them to see if they will allow movement due to these special circumstances. Don't be afraid have your vet call NVSL and ask where they're at in their testing. The lab can tell you on what date your samples were received and where they are at in their testing. They likely will not however, tell you when you can expect your tests to be complete. But at least you'll know if it's close or not.

Skin testing is still an option if it's possible in your herd. For many herds at this time of year, that is difficult. But it is an option to complete testing for accreditation.

Membership Meeting Minutes

Summer Membership Meeting – July 22, 2017

The membership of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held their summer membership meeting on July 22, 2017 at Byrne Farm in Pine Island, MN. President Jim Byrne thanked everyone for coming and recognized special guest Dr. Beth Thompson, Executive Director of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health. Byrne called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

President Byrne asked for additions or corrections to the January 14, 2017 secretary report. Pat Prodzinski moved to accept the report as written, Greg Lubinski seconded, motion carried.

Brenda Hartkopf reviewed the treasurer's report. The current checkbook balance was \$22,497.43. Kraig Wurst moved to accept the treasurer's report, Rita Prodzinski seconded, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Government Relations: President Byrne reported the Government Relations committee was very busy during the 2017 legislative session. MnEBA's lobbyist Tony Kwilas was instrumental in helping MnEBA squash a couple House floor amendments which would have been detrimental to the industry. Byrne recognized legislators who stood up on industry's behalf to speak against these negative amendments. Byrne went on to further explain that reports are the DNR is already lobbying legislators for tougher restrictions on cervid farmers, notably double fencing. Byrne strongly encouraged members to invite their legislators for a tour of their farms to help them understand what we do so when they hear incorrect information, they have a reference to go by.

Byrne also spoke of a pending legislative audit of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) in which a strong focus will be examining BAH oversight of the farmed cervid industry. Byrne expressed confidence that the end result will quiet a lot of the negativity regarding the farmed cervidae program. Byrne also mentioned the two presentations MnEBA gave last spring; one to the Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Association at the State Capitol and another to the Board who oversees the Board of Animal Health.

Jim also reported on the retirement of Dr. Paul Anderson on June 12th and that his new replacement is Dr. Linda Glaser, a 12 year veteran of the BAH. Dr. Glaser has recently notified Minnesota Farmed

Cervidae Advisory members that a meeting will likely be called in early fall.

Fundraising Raffle: Brenda Hartkopf reported that new 2018 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendars are now available! Because calendars have sold out the past couple years and have been well received, no significant changes were made. She encouraged attendees to pick them up in person to help save on postage costs. The same incentives apply as the past two years with the complimentary membership for selling 30 or more calendars and offering the incentive gun drawing for each ten calendars sold and stubs and money returned to the office by December 31. The incentive gun this year is a Henry Golden Boy .22 LR.

Promotions: Hartkopf reported that MnEBA exhibited at the Outdoor News Deer & Turkey Show, the North American Farm and Power Show and the State FFA Convention last spring. Greg Lubinski, who organized the show schedules and worked most days of all events, gave a short recap of each event. Hartkopf reported on The Land articles that came about because of MnEBA's participation in the North American Farm & Power Show and the newspaper and radio interviews Jim conducted prior to the summer meeting – all good publicity. Hartkopf also spoke about the association formulating a press release once the MN Farmed Cervid Industry Economic Impact Study is released as well as exciting changes in the Minnesota Grown program of which MnEBA is an active member.

State Fair: Greg Lubinski encouraged members to sign up for the remaining open slots of the State Fair schedule. The fair set up will be similar to last year. President Byrne encouraged everyone to work a shift or two at the booth and explained that it is a very positive experience!

NAEBA

Hartkopf reported on details of the upcoming NAEBA Convention and encouraged MnEBA members to attend, even if only for a day. She also spoke about the NAEBA 3 Chance Raffle.

OLD BUSINESS

Attendees reviewed the updated MnEBA Position Statement on Elk Relocation in Minnesota. After discussion, Scott Salonek moved to approve the proposed version amended to spell out who "the board" is in the fourth paragraph. Greg Lubinski seconded, motion carried.

Hartkopf reported there were three applicants for the (2) available \$350 MnEBA Scholarships. Rebecca Schmitz and Logan Schmitz were the selected recipients.

Byrne reported the federal TB/Brucellosis Rule is on indefinite hold. However, USAHA will be taking up testing relief on TB and Brucellosis at the upcoming USAHA Annual Meeting in October. Dr. Thompson reported the USAHA TB committee has requested the past three years of TB testing data to see if there's enough data to recommend moving from 3 year TB re-accreditation testing to 5 year TB re-accreditation testing.

Hartkopf reported the Minnesota Farmed Cervidae Economic Impact Study first draft is expected from the study coordinator by the end of this month and that a final version should be available by late summer/early fall. She reported that of just under 500 questionnaires sent out, 140 were completed and returned.

In other old business, there were membership questions about what happens to herds who are deemed to be located in the 10-mile radius of a CWD positive wild deer. There was also a question about what will be considered an official tag and what tag requirements will be at the beginning of next year.

Board Meeting Minutes – June 12, 2017

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a phone conference to discuss several imminent topics on June 12, 2017. Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Byrne began the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Discussed proposed gun list by The General Store for the 2018 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. After discussion, the submitted list was approved. After reviewing the list of incentive guns, board agreed to choose the Henry Golden boy .22LR as the incentive gun.

Brian Wagner reported receiving a call from Gary Olson of the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association (MDFA) regarding setting up a joint meeting between MnEBA, MDFA and the new Board of Animal Health Farmed Cervid Program Director, Dr. Linda Glaser. It was decided to contact Dr. Glaser and try to set up a meeting within the next two weeks with three representatives of MnEBA. Hartkopf to contact Dr. Glaser to set up meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Hartkopf reported plans for the 11th Annual MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt are progressing well. MnEBA is seeking members to contact the office for an application form for any military veteran they know who would be interested in applying. Application forms are due August 1st.

Hartkopf reported the 2018 MnEBA Annual Conference is MnEBA's 25th Anniversary and that chair Rita Prodzinski has been working on making it a special event. She encouraged members to contact Rita or the office with any anniversary celebration ideas or seminar topics. This meeting will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Brooklyn Center (formerly the Crowne Plaza).

In other new business, Greg Lubinski asked if MnEBA knows where they are getting the jerky processed this year as we have been having problems with jerky product the past two years. No decisions have been made.

After asking for any other business Byrne asked for a motion to adjourn. Patty VanGundy so moved, Greg Lubinski seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

Board discussed the American Cervid Alliance special fundraiser at the American Wildlife Spectacular event in Texas on June 24th. They are looking for donations from state associations to put on the auction block where the proceeds will benefit the American Cervid Alliance. Decision was made to contact both Charly and Laurie Seale about making a monetary donation for a \$400-\$500 item to compliment the sale. Could be a firearm or another item they would suggest.

In other business, Hartkopf relayed a request from the scholarship committee to revisit the MnEBA Scholarship guidelines. Topic to be discussed at next meeting. Wagner asked if there was anything else MnEBA needed to do to prepare for the upcoming convention. Hartkopf mentioned assistance was still needed in the Hospitality room.

Wagner moved to adjourn, meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary



MnEBA Members in the News

The following article came about from MnEBA connecting with The Land reporter Dick Hagen at the North American Farm and Power Show in Owatonna last March. He conducted two interviews with MnEBA members. The first with Greg Lubinski which was featured in May/June MnEBA News and a second later interview with MnEBA member Scott Groen as follows.



Scott Groen with elk bronze of King

Groen Elk Farm Trophy Bulls Originated with 'King'

By Dick Hagen - The Land Magazine
May 5, 2017

BLOMKEST, Minn. – Scott Groen's farm in Kandiyohi County could grow great corn and soybeans. But his primary crop is signature elk, namely "super bulls" which he delivers to hunting ranches in the Southwest which sponsor big game hunts.

Currently in his 22nd year as an elk farmer, Groen's involvement with elk started as a hobby. "But once I got into marketing bulls for super hunts it didn't take long for this to become our primary income," he said. "I've got about 100 head. My heifer calves are mostly replacements for my older cows. I raise the bull calves for the trophy bull business. Plus, some get sold as breeders to other elk farms. I also sell bred cows and heifers."

Groen also harvests the velvet from elks' antlers. He estimates the first four to six years of a bull's life covers the cost of production. He doesn't sell the meat. "There's just no money in elk meat," he said.

Once your elk have built a reputation, trophy bulls for hunts are a good business. Last year Groen marketed about 25 bulls to various trophy hunting ranches. This coming year he estimates he'll sell about 14. He sells to

the same hunting ranchers each year, hauling his bulls in a five-stall bedded trailer to Missouri, Texas and Colorado.

"This has become a competitive market," Groen states. "You've got to have a reputation. Many hunting ranches don't trust some elk producers. Today, the bigger demand is for smaller to medium-sized bulls. Not everybody has the bucks to shoot the big trophy critters. There's three to four times the money difference in shooting a 300-inch bull versus a 500-inch super bull."

"For my bulls with a 320-inch rack I'm averaging \$4,000 to \$5,000 delivered," Groen added. "I don't know what the rancher charges for a super hunt on his ranch. I'd wager it could be in the \$20,000 bracket and higher for a big bull with a super rack."

He estimates that for every 500-inch trophy bull harvested, there will be 50 guys shooting a 320-inch bull.

His herd's reputation originates from the genetics of King, a super bull which was crowned National Champion 15 years ago. King scored an incredible 506 inches and produced over 50 pounds of velvet. Frozen semen

from King continues to be the breeding power of Groen Elk Farm.

His elk cows start calving around May 25. His herd has a reputation for strong, fast-growing calves.

"Because we do the velvet, we're harvesting antlers on bulls up to 7 years old," Groen said. "Some of my cows I've had up to 17 years."

On April 1, a dozen University of Minnesota pre-vet med students visited his ranch.

"First time visit to an elk farm," Groen said. "They asked lots of questions. They seemed to appreciate this new chapter in their education."

As you might expect, Groen Elk Farm also attracts students from area schools. Visitors even see buffalo since he finishes out some buffalo for the buffalo meat market.

To learn more, visit www.GroenElkFarm.com. Those interested in visiting the farm are encouraged to call ahead at (320) 979-0911.

In early July, AgriNews contacted MnEBA Summer Picnic hosts Jim & Eileen Byrne to learn a little more about MnEBA's summer event and the association in the following article. Jim also recently conducted a radio interview with a Fargo, ND station AM 890 Ag News on elk farming as well!

Couple Pleased with Elk Herd

By Holly Galbus - AgriNews

July 12, 2017

PINE ISLAND, Minn. – Jim Byrne and his wife Eileen, have raised elk for 22 years and been Minnesota Elk Breeders Association members for the entire time.

"I'm very thankful for the support and backing from the association," said Jim. He said the association was the best resource for him as he got into the industry. The information, education and support provided by the association was helpful for the Byrnes, particularly as they transitioned from their jobs – he worked at Mayo Clinic for 37 years and wife, Eileen was a teacher – to their retirement years in elk farming.

"I had never owned livestock before, so I had a lot of questions," Jim said. "They patiently answered all my questions. I'm not sure I would have been in it this long without them." Jim and his wife, Eileen, are hosting the association's annual summer picnic, July 22, at their elk farm located three miles outside of Pine Island, on County Road 113.

The picnic will be potluck and the event will have games for both children and adults. The Byrnes are expecting about 50 people – general members as well as board members – to attend, which they described as a day to

"bring together breeders in a social gathering."

Eileen said it will give everyone the opportunity to share stories and ask questions about the issues they encounter on their farms. "We really appreciate this informational exchange of ideas," Eileen said. "We've known many of these people for years, we've made friendships. Plus, it's fun to have the new people come."

There are more than 110 farms within the association, and people will come from near and far to attend the annual gathering. The association has one other yearly event, the winter meeting, which is held each January, and is a more formal 2-day event, with speakers and seminars.

The association is active in promoting and educating people about the elk industry, through a booth at the Minnesota State Fair and through their mobile booth, which visits FFA groups and various agriculture shows. "We want to educate people about the quality of the meat, as well as how the animals are taken care of," Jim said. "Also, we'd like to see more people get into the industry."

Farmed elk are classified as livestock. Jim is quick to point out elk are livestock, not pets.



Photo by Holly Galbus/Agri News

He said he works closely with the Minnesota Board of Animal Health, where the elk are registered. They are all tagged and identified and the board checks the inventory and fencing annually.

Jim said there is a high demand for elk meat, but a low availability. They struggle to meet the demand. In addition to raising animals for meat, they also sell Byrne Farm Velvet Antler, a dietary supplement made from freeze dried elk antler marrow. They also sell mature bulls to hunting preserves. He also provides breeding stock for those who are just getting into the industry or need new genetic stock.

The Byrnes said they enjoy their retirement years as elk farmers. Eileen said she likes the variety in her day, the people that she meets, as well as the customers who pull up in the driveway. Jim said he may take a customer out to see the elk, as he finds them intriguing creatures. "They are majestic animals," he said. "Beautiful to watch. I am totally amazed by them."



Minnesota Board of Animal Health News Release

For Immediate Release: June 27, 2017

Contact: Michael Crusan – michael.crusan@state.mn.us

Stearns County deer herd released from quarantine

Part of farmed deer and elk disease investigation

Saint Paul, Minnesota -Two farmed deer in Stearns County tested negative for Chronic Wasting Disease. The Minnesota Board of Animal Health received the negative test results last week and has since released the herd from quarantine. The herd had been quarantined since the start of this year because it received four deer from a CWD infected herd in Crow Wing County. The Board shared the test results with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, which responds to and manages CWD in wild deer. The Board works with the USDA as it investigates and regulates CWD in farmed deer.

This case is part of a disease investigation dating back to the end of 2016 when the Board discovered CWD in a Crow Wing County farmed deer herd. This led the Board to trace and test animals in five counties (Crow Wing, Meeker, St. Louis, Stearns, Wright) and quarantine those herds until all animals with ties to the Crow Wing County herd were tested.

Two deer herds and one farm property are currently quarantined as part of the Board's investigation. The herd in Crow Wing County and one herd in Wright County remain quarantined. The Meeker County farm chose to euthanize all its animals and the empty property remains quarantined for five years.

"We're working with the USDA and the two remaining herd owners as we develop plans for testing and containment," said Board Assistant Director, Dr. Linda Glaser. "The Board is committed to eradication of this 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.

MnEBA Scholarship Recipients

MnEBA is pleased to announce that once again this year, because calendar sales topped 700 calendars, MnEBA was able to award two scholarships, both valued at \$350. There were three applicants for this year's scholarships. The judges, who are retired educators who are not affiliated with MnEBA, always have a tough job making the final decision. MnEBA greatly appreciates their dedication to choosing a final two!

Rebecca Schmitz



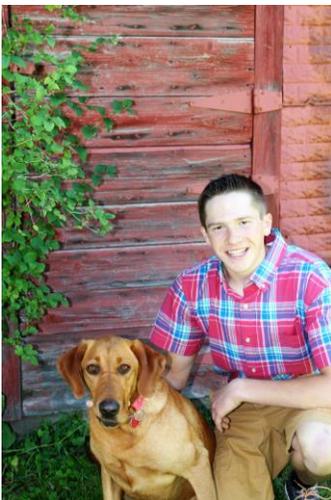
Rebecca is the daughter of MnEBA member Marlen Schmitz. Rebecca will be starting her second year of college at St. Cloud State University this fall where she is majoring in Nursing.

Besides attending college, Rebecca is involved in volunteer activities and works at a nursing home.

Growing up on an elk farm, Rebecca helped her dad with the elk and enjoyed caring for the dogs and cats they had while she was growing up. She says, "My love for animals at a young age helped me to realize that I want to help others."

MnEBA wishes Rebecca all the best as she begins her second year of classes at St. Cloud State!

Logan Schmitz



Logan is the son of MnEBA member Marlen Schmitz. Logan recently graduated from Melrose High School and will be an incoming freshman at North Dakota State University studying agronomy.

Throughout high school, Logan was very active in hockey and won the Hobey Baker award as a senior. He's also taken part in volunteer activities and helped to coach and ump little league baseball and coached youth hockey.

Logan grew up helping his dad on the elk farm and continues to do so today. His goals are to acquire a job in agronomy in rural Minnesota to help farmers achieve their goals on their farms. Logan adds, "...and maybe someday, take over my dad's elk farm."

MnEBA wishes Logan much success as he begins his college career at North Dakota State University!





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 ACA has had articles published in regional Minnesota newspapers over the past year. This highly successful campaign is into its fourth year!

Reader's View: Elk Relocation Sparks Concern Over Disease

By Charly Seale
Duluth News Tribune

June 24, 2017 - The proposed elk relocation in nearby state forests shows the Department of Natural Resources' two-faced behavior regarding Chronic Wasting Disease, or CWD ("Best elk restoration sites identified in Carlton, St. Louis and Pine counties," May 31).

On one hand, the DNR has called CWD a critical threat and blamed the state's deer farmers for their alleged risk of harboring it. On the other, the DNR is supporting bringing in elk from populations that trace back to CWD-positive areas while undergoing less screening than is conducted by deer farmers.

Minnesota deer farms that want to import animals must abide by CWD monitoring that requires traceability and a minimum of five years of strict testing for CWD - 100 percent of eligible animals must be tested post-mortem for CWD (there is no approved validated live-animal test yet). Because farms are closed environments, it is easier to monitor and control for CWD. In contrast, the department wants to import elk that are not subject to the same protocols and let them loose in eastern Minnesota. If the DNR brings in CWD, will anyone at the bureaucracy be held accountable?

The situation is serious enough that last year the U.S. Animal Health Association called on the USDA to require more stringent screening of elk that are relocated as a part of these programs. The DNR should stop playing politics and pledge to abide by stricter protocols before importing any elk.

Charly Seale
Medina, Texas

<http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/readers-views/4288405-readers-view-elk-relocation-sparks-concern-over-disease>

Brakke Family Responds to Recent Iowa Supreme Court Ruling

July 17, 2017 - Last month, the Iowa Supreme Court ruled the Iowa Department of Natural Resources illegally quarantined land belonging to an Iowa whitetail deer rancher. After four years of litigation in multiple court venues, news regarding the final ruling was praised by the land owners and cervid industry.

Plaintiffs Tom and Rhonda Brakke offered the following statement to the cervid industry: "We are very pleased with the Supreme Court's ruling stating the action taken by the Iowa DNR was in violation of state law. This ordeal has forever changed our lives. Raising whitetail deer was a passion for our family. Finding any disease that can affect your animals is tragic."

"We want to sincerely thank everyone in the deer and elk industry for all the support you gave our family throughout this difficult time. When the chips are down, you find out very quickly who you can count on for support and compassion. We hope this experience will make the industry stronger, for it is an industry we will forever cherish."



North American Elk Breeders Association

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NAEBA Points to Holes in Health Canada's Chronic Wasting Disease Warning

In response to June 24, 2017's The Tye news article "*New Research Sparks Health Canada Warning Deer Plague Might Infect Humans*", written by Andrew Nikiforuk, the North American Elk Breeders Association offers the following statement:

The North American Elk Breeders Association is disturbed by a recent article published by The Tye in June regarding Health Canada's concern for Chronic Wasting Disease posing health risks to humans.

First and foremost, the North American Elk Breeders Association (NAEBA) holds Chronic Wasting Disease as a serious disease for elk, deer and moose that should be given adequate attention. NAEBA's own 501(c)(3) foundation, known as the Elk Research Council, has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on Chronic Wasting Disease research including efforts to develop a vaccine. However, NAEBA insists regulatory policy regarding Chronic Wasting Disease be based off best known science and not political bias.

Upon review of The Tye news article, NAEBA finds the article unjustifiably incites public fear. The title itself calls the disease a "deer plague". Plagues are historically considered by the public to be a disease that wipes out a large population. NAEBA disputes a rare disease such as Chronic Wasting Disease with an incident rate of 1/1,000 be likened to a plague.

Regarding Health Canada's announcement, NAEBA questions the validity of the research. NAEBA does not believe supernatural inoculation is valid, nor does feeding of severely infected meat to monkeys prove that transmission is possible to humans. There is no evidence to suggest a person has ever been infected with Chronic Wasting Disease. Administering a supernatural dose of a prion disease to any mammal is likely to cause some type of neurological event. There is no known lethal dose level for Chronic Wasting Disease, therefore researchers in a lab can work behind closed doors until they see a result they like. To stress this point, the United States Department of Agriculture's federal rule for Chronic Wasting Disease explicitly states the rule shall not apply to any species experimentally infected by the disease as it is not an indicator of natural susceptibility.

Chronic Wasting Disease has existed in the wild in Colorado and several other states for decades and people have been unknowingly consuming meat from Chronic Wasting Disease infected deer for decades. There is no evidence of a single case of a person contracting Chronic Wasting Disease. The World Health Organization says, "currently there is no evidence that Chronic Wasting Disease can be transmitted to humans," and researchers with the Public Health Agency of Canada reported this year that a review of 14 studies "provided no evidence to support the possibility of transmission of Chronic Wasting Disease prions to humans."

An article or study that promotes supernatural inoculation of mammals in lab experiments causes irreparable harm to the elk and deer ranching industry, as well as the free-range hunting community.

NAEBA does not recommend anyone consume meat from any animal that displays Chronic Wasting Disease symptoms. This word of caution applies to any animal that looks sick; use common sense.

The North American Elk Breeders Association, or NAEBA, is a 501(c)(5) non-profit organization representing the elk ranching industry in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Formed in 1990, NAEBA is recognized by federal authorities as the voice of the industry and enjoys Allied Industry Status in the United States Animal Health Association.

Board Blog by Kraig Wurst, MnEBA Director



Hi all, it was great to see a lot of you at the summer picnic. I always enjoy our get-togethers, its fun to hear stories and catch up on elk gossip. My family is doing great; as the kids keep getting older they enjoy being around the elk more and more. If anyone is battling insomnia I have about 500 pictures of them feeding the elk that I would be happy to show you.

I have a few thoughts I wanted to share. The DNR has me worried. They do not like elk/deer farming. They would just as soon see all of us go away. They are trying to regulate us out of business and it's not a fair fight. Their livelihood is not on the line, ours is. It reminds me of a boxing match where only one fighter can throw punches. All we can do is try to block them. The best defense we have is our local legislators. We need to talk to them, explain our farming practices and invite them out to see for themselves. A phone call would be great, but if you are like me, a cold call to a stranger to talk about my elk farm is a little out of my comfort zone. I will be writing letters to all of them though telling them my concerns, and I will be looking for them at parades, town festivals, and fairs to speak to them in person. As Brenda said at the picnic, hearing from their constituents seems to carry more weight than hearing from our organization.

On a lighter note, one thing I did different cutting velvet this year was using a new saw. I better point out first that I might have a problem with tools (honestly, there is no reason anybody of my qualifications should have as many tools as I do). Since switching from a hand saw to a sawzall a few years ago, I have missed not having one hand free to hold the antler or an ear or something similar. This year I purchased an 18 volt Milwaukee Hackzall. I already had batteries and a charger from an impact wrench I owned so the saw itself only cost me \$100 (I would also recommend the impact wrench, it's the best way to over tighten and strip threads that I have found). I was more than happy with the way it performed. It was well balanced and easy to use with one hand, with plenty of power to cut through the antler. I matched it with a pruning blade that Jim Byrne recommended and it worked great.



Pictured is the Hackzall Kraig has been using to cut velvet.

I also have been working on getting rid of my thistle patches. I have been using a spray called Grazon, it was recommended by my local co-op. I have heard from others that it hasn't worked for them but it has worked great for me. I have been using it in a backpack sprayer because it will not kill the grass but it will kill clover and alfalfa. I started using some last year and it took out quite a few of them and I just finished up this year covering all the pastures.

On a final note, I would like to recommend if you didn't read last month's board blog from Mark Luedtke to go back and read it. It was so full of good information, I tore it out of the newsletter to save!

Thanks for reading!

Contact your legislator today to arrange for a tour of your elk farm this fall! Cervid farmers in Minnesota will need the support of legislators this next legislative session and it's important for legislators to understand what cervid farming is all about so they can support you at the State Capitol! Find legislator contact information at <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/hmem.asp/>. **Since we don't know what the DNR will be attempting to do at the Capitol, keep comments to facts as found on the following page.**



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 Kitchen

As the evenings get cooler, slow cookers will come out of the cupboard again. Here's a simple meat and gravy combination that will go great with new garden potatoes and fresh vegetables from the garden!

Slow Cooker Elk Steak

- 2 lbs. elk steak
- ½ cup ketchup
- ½ cup water
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 1 pkg. dry onion soup mix



Thinly slice elk steak and brown in a heavy frying pan over medium-high heat. Transfer meat to a slow cooker. Mix in the ketchup, water, chopped onion, brown sugar and dry onion soup mix. Cook on LOW for 6 hours or until tender.

.....
Do you have a great elk recipe or side dish to share?

Please send your recipes to info@mneba.org so they can be shared with other members who will enjoy them as well! Side dishes are also welcome as we need good food to pair up with our great elk dishes!

.....

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)

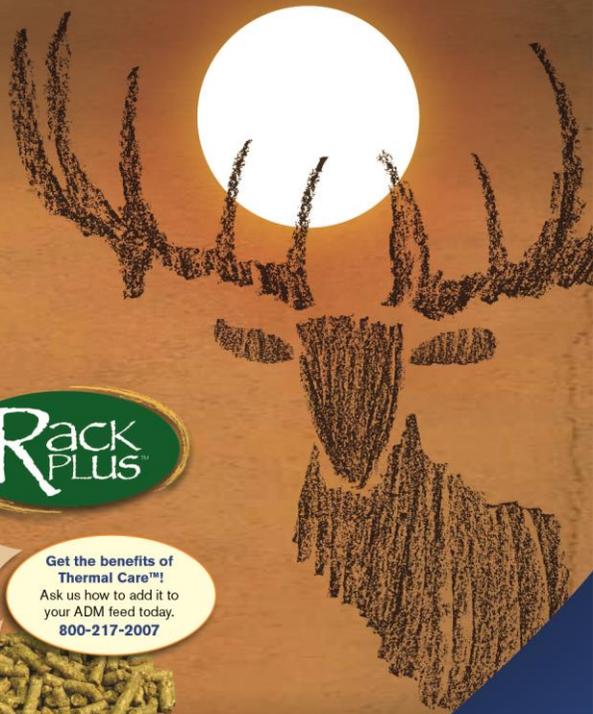
- Complete, pelleted feeds formulated specifically for deer and elk
- Provide multiple protein sources, stabilized rice bran, highly digestible energy and fiber sources, CitriStim®, and direct fed microbial
- Both products provide 18% protein and no more than 14% fiber; 18-4 provides 4% fat and 18-5 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.



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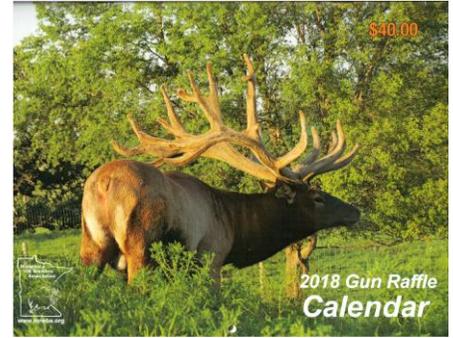
For more info, contact Leo Windschitl at 218-820-0658 AN_DeerHelp@adm.com • ADMAnimalNutrition.com



2018 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar

Calendars are now available! Order yours today!

MnEBA has sold out of gun raffle calendars each of the past two years thanks to the great work of the membership! Several members have reported they are already being asked for the new 2018 calendar. The 2018 calendars are now available with 365 calendars already in the hands of members to be sold!



The same great incentives are once again being offered for selling calendars - a free MnEBA membership for selling 30 or more calendars and returning stubs and money before December 31st and also back by popular demand, for every 10 calendars sold with stubs and money being returned before December 31st, your name goes into a drawing to win a Henry Golden Boy .22 LR. The more calendars you sell, the more chances to win!

MANY THANKS to all MnEBA members who stepped up to sponsor a month in the 2018 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. This year's sponsors include: Jim & Eileen Byrne, Jerry & Linda Campbell, Dennis & Jacky Engebretson, Lance & Brenda Hartkopf, Greg & Roxy Lubinski, Mark & Lisa Luedtke, Perry & Sandy Olson, Wade Schimmelpfennig & Heike Lewandowski, Brian Wagner, Leo Windschitl, Kraig & Jenny Wurst and Klint & Lora Wylie.

Now is a great time to order your calendars while they are still in stock. Contact the MnEBA Office at 320-543-2686 or info@mneba.org and we'll get them sent right out!

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SPLENDOR'S BLEND 806U

530 2/8" at 7, International Mature Champion!
506 5/8" at 6, placed 2nd at International



SPLENDOR'S RAY 071X

478 2/8" at 5, placed 3rd at International
Sired by X-Ray out of a Stalwart dam



2016 People's Choice Award

SPR 166Y

37 lbs. velvet at 5,
International Velvet Five
Year Old Champion!



Introducing

SPR 352A

402" at 3, unofficial
Sired by Styx out of a Stalwart dam

Bred Cows Available!

Proven cow lines include direct daughters of X-Ray, Styx, Bud,
Stalwart, Bounty King, Logman and above bulls!



Lance & Brenda Hartkopf
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Vet Corner by Dr. Glen Zearth

Even though USDA APHIS did not continue with the new brucellosis ruling, Minnesota recognizes two whole herd tests for brucellosis accreditation. States I've talked to are recognizing this and newly brucellosis accredited farms do not need to individually test before moving their bulls.

A new TB working group has been formed to explore ways to reduce the cost of TB testing for the cervid industry. Minnesota Board of Animal Health's Executive Director Dr. Beth Thompson is the chairperson of this committee. The committee hopes to release recommendations at the upcoming USAHA meeting in October.

Cervid Industry Requests Review of TB Certification Requirements

Reprinted from the July 2017 Issue of NAEBA News

HOWARD LAKE, MN - The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA)'s Chairman of the Tuberculosis Committee, Dr. Dustin Oedekoven, has created a new TB working group to address challenges surrounding the current requirements for cervid TB testing.

Several cervid industry leaders had approached Dr. Oedekoven and other state veterinarians to consider ideas for reducing current TB testing requirements including a proposal to move certification testing intervals from three years to five.

The new working group has eleven members, including three state veterinarians and three industry representatives - Travis Lowe (NAEBA), Laurie Seale (WOW) and Shawn Schafer (NADeFA). Minnesota State Veterinarian Beth Thompson has been named chairperson.

The charge of the working group is to review and discuss the potential for reducing the cost of TB testing to the cervid industry. Specifically, the working group will address:

1. The potential to advance state status in an effort to recognize minimal risk for transmission of TB by farmed cervids in interstate movement.
2. The potential to reduce the frequency of official herd testing intervals for TB Accredited free herds.

The working group will meet over the summer and is expected to present its findings, conclusions and recommendations during the TB Committee meeting of the USAHA in San Diego in October 2017.

"We are thankful to Drs. Oedekoven and Thompson for giving this consideration," Laurie Seale told the working group. "We have put forth efforts to review and revise our testing protocols at USAHA since 2002 with no success to date. APHIS' proposed federal rule released in 2016 took the industry backwards a decade... We have been patient but it is time for real reform."



Dr. Beth Thompson of the MN Board of Animal Health is chairing the new TB working group.



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2017 NAEBA Convention & International Antler Competition Fun!

Minnesota was proud to host the 2017 NAEBA Convention & International Antler Competition this past July at the Verizon Wireless Center in Mankato, MN. If you missed out on the chance to attend, you missed out on a great time! See highlights below!



Rep. Rod Hamilton gave an exceptional Key Note address to fellow agriculture enthusiasts!
Pictured L to R: Travis Lowe, Ken Mesaros, Rep. Hamilton & Jim Byrne



Ike Pohlman, Perry Olson and Marlen Schmitz discuss hard antler at the competition



There were many families in attendance. Lisa & Mark Luedtke (left) brought their girls Hannah & Hailie (right) and the girls were a huge help with the raffles and auctions!



Scott Groen with Travis Lowe



Andy Azcarraga with Scott Salonek



Herb & Kraig Wurst scoring antler



Several MnEBA members took advantage of the SCI course to become certified SCI measurers



Perry Olson received the NAEEA Member of the Year Award



THREE of four of the People's Choice Antler Competition Awards went to Minnesota breeders!
Pictured L to R: Lance & Brenda Hartkopf, Mark Luedtke and Ted Mehrkens all pose with President Azcarraga.



Pat & Rita Prodzinski get photo-bombed by Greg Lubinski



President Jim Byrne welcoming attendees to Minnesota

Thank you NAEEA for making this a great convention in Minnesota!

Other NAEBA News

NAEBA Creates New Membership Level for Veterinarians

July 17, 2017 - During the 1990's there were dozens of veterinarians involved with NAEBA and the elk industry. Recently, members and veterinarians have noticed that many of these knowledgeable veterinarians are retiring. This could result in losing decades of elk health knowledge in the coming years with no plan in place to retain or replace this knowledge and experience.

NAEBA wishes to offset this reality by ushering in a new wave of veterinarians to become more interested in the elk industry. These veterinarians can work closely with their elk clientele but also the existing veterinarians that are knowledgeable of the industry. NAEBA has been told these veterinarians are willing to help mentor new veterinarians that have an interest in learning more about treating elk and deer.

To help cultivate this interest, NAEBA has approved the creation of a new DVM membership level to the association that is open to DVM's and veterinary students that do not raise elk but support the elk industry and/or service elk clients. The membership level will be non-voting with dues scheduled at \$50 USD. The membership level is effective now.

"We see this as a good opportunity," said NAEBA President Andy Azcarraga. "It behooves producers to want their vet to know as much about elk as possible. They can't always be treated like cattle. If they are a NAEBA member, they will get all of our news, articles and updates on research from the Elk Research Council."

As the NAEBA Board approved the new level, several indicated they would personally pay for their veterinarian to become a member.

NAEBA Looking for Your Feedback on Amenable Species!

Review Pros & Cons and Submit Comments to NAEBA Office by August 31!

August 2, 2017 - Over this past year, NAEBA/AEPF has been looking for member feedback on whether or not the industry should petition USDA to make elk an amenable species. Your feedback is critical in making this decision. The NAEBA/AEPF Amenable Species Task Force has compiled a list of advantages and disadvantages for members' consideration.

A good amount of information listing pro and cons is available from NAEBA. If you are a NAEBA member, this information has gone out in publications and as an e-blast several times, most recently on August 2, 2017. Please review NAEBA Amenable Species Information and submit questions and feedback to the NAEBA office.

NAEBA recently held a robust discussion on this topic at the 2017 Annual Convention in Mankato, Minnesota.

Comments may be submitted to the NAEBA Office at info@naelk.org from March 1- August 31, 2017. After the membership comment period has closed, the NAEBA Board of Directors will review the comments and make a decision. State elk associations are welcome to submit comments to the NAEBA/AEPF as well.

Comments should indicate your position on the issue with explanation of rationale. This will help the Directors understand the weight of your concerns.

Aug. 24-Labor Day, Sept. 4, 2017

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

Just three slots still open! Call Greg Lubinski today to get signed up!

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to work the MnEBA booth for the upcoming Minnesota State Fair! While most slots are now filled, there are still three afternoon spots still open. Greg has been spending a lot of time making phone calls to try to fill the remaining spots. Please make life easier on Greg and give him a call to fill up the remaining openings!

If you've never worked the booth before, now is a good time to start a new tradition! Greg will be there in person to assist you, or he will pair you up with someone who will show you what to do. Many members also bring friends or other relatives to help out as well. Working the booth is a great time to talk all things elk with a very interested general public and is a great way to tell our story!

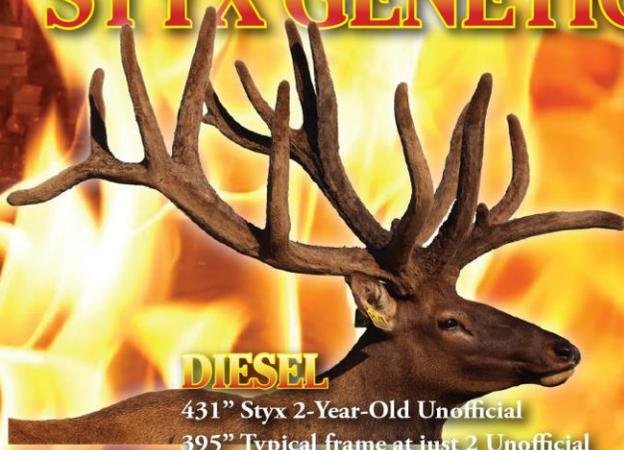
Please contact Greg Lubinski at (507) 273-0525 to sign up for any of the open shifts below. Contact Paul Hueg at (612) 791-0443 with any comments or suggestions for this year's booth display. If we can't utilize your suggestion this year, we can work on them next year. Paul will be setting the booth up in about a week so call today!



Past MnEBA Scholarship Award recipient Shelby Groen stopped by the State Fair booth last year to express appreciation for her scholarship – and posed for a picture!

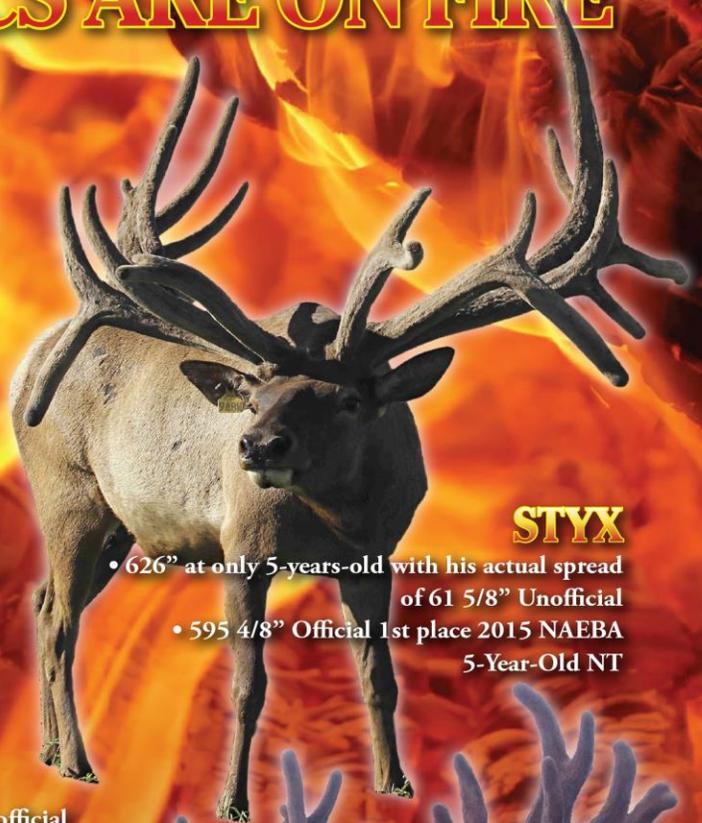
Date	Time	Workers	Date	Time	Workers
Pre-Fair		Set Up – Paul Hueg, Greg Lubinski	8/30	8 – 2	Pat & Rita Prodzinski, Luedtke Family
8/24	8 - 2	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf		2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	OPEN	8/31	8 – 2	Jim Byrne, Norm Schimmelpfennig
8/25	8 – 2	Aase Family		2 – 9	Jim Byrne, Norm Schimmelpfennig
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/1	8 – 2	Jim Byrne, Don Kaplan, Ray Smothers
8/26	8 – 2	Perry Olson		2 – 9	Jim Byrne, Don Kaplan, Ray Smothers
	2 – 9	Perry Olson	9/2	8 – 2	Dave & Dawn Claussen
8/27	8 – 2	Wade Schimmelpfennig & Heike Lewandowski		2 – 9	Darrell & Sheila Turek
	2 – 9	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	9/3	8 – 2	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf
8/28	8 – 2	Jim Byrne		2 – 9	Bryce & Megan Lubinski
	2 – 9	Ken & Carol Mudek	9/4	8 – 2	Greg & Roxy Lubinski
8/29	8 – 2	Kraig & Jenny Wurst		2 – 9	Paul & Lynn Hueg
	2 – 9	Luedtke Family			

STYX GENETICS ARE ON FIRE



DIESEL

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



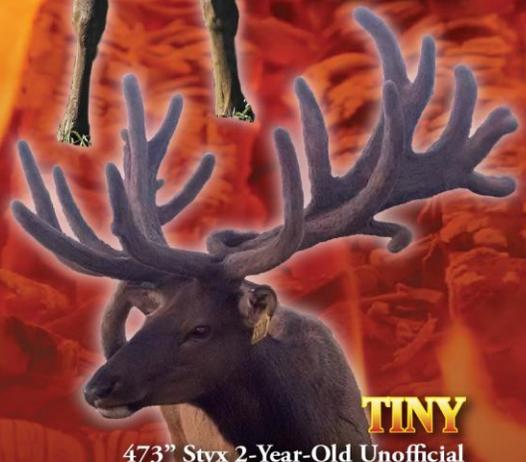
STYX

• 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



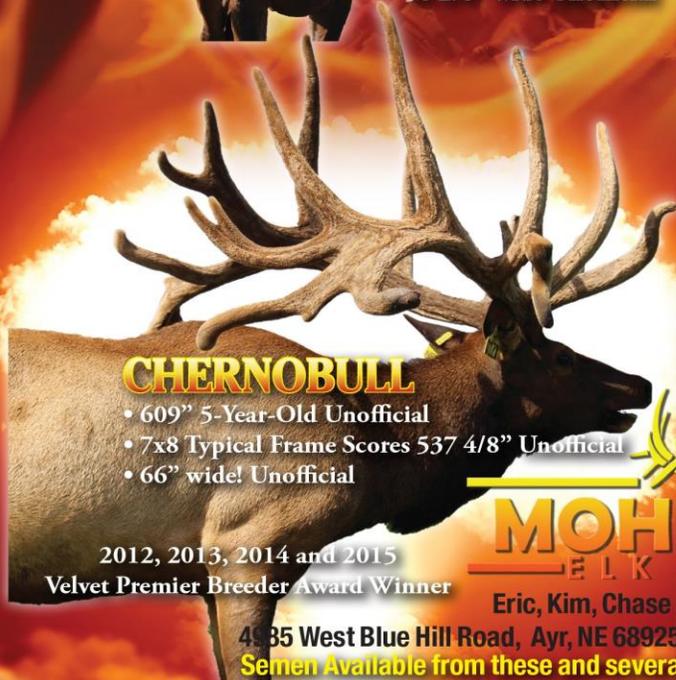
STRYKER

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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1st Two Class Winner in the Same Year

Committee Reports

2017 Charitable Elk Hunt Update

Thanks to the generosity of a number of MnEBA members and others, this year's MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt is scheduled to take place October 16-18th at Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch in Baudette, MN.

This year's recipient was acquired through MnEBA members John & Shirley Fredrickson. TSgt Brian Burke (ret) was beyond excited when MnEBA contacted him about being chosen for the hunt. "This hunt for me is a once in a lifetime opportunity," he said. "No matter how much I can re-learn 'or try', hunting a big game animal myself will never happen again for me alone."

TSgt Burke is no stranger to the military. He served in the United States Air Force for 20.5 years over 10 deployments of which six were combat tours. In September of 2004, his team was hit with serin nerve gas. Then a short while later on November 13, 2004, TSgt Burke and team were hit by an IED on the left side of their hummer. He received a large traumatic brain injury with a brain aneurysm. The explosion destroyed his entire neck vertebrae. At the time of his reconstruction, he had a 10% chance of living and a 15% chance of ever walking if he lived. He did live and he does walk. While his nervous system has been destroyed and pain is constant, TSgt Burke retaught himself to walk. "Then I said, 'hey', why not relearn how to shoot a rifle, then I taught myself to target shoot my bow. My next task is to try to get strong enough to run, then I want to hike with a backpack." TSgt Burke is a huge inspiration and an example to all to never give up!

A great big thank you to everyone who is helping to make this year's hunt possible. They include Tony Beckel of Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch, Lance & Brenda Hartkopf for funds to purchase a bull, Dennis Engebretson for providing the bull and helping to arrange transportation to the hunt ranch and Ron Welle of Midwest Outdoors Unlimited who is making all the final arrangements and accompanying TSgt Burke on the hunt. This marks MnEBA's 11th year of offering this opportunity!

Minnesota Farmed Cervidae Economic Impact Study

Thank you to all who completed the study last spring to help the farmed cervid industry in Minnesota update the economic impact of cervid farmers in the state of Minnesota. The study coordinator is very close to completing the initial draft and we look forward to completing this project very soon!

MnEBA 25th Anniversary Conference



Make sure you have marked your calendar for MnEBA's 25th Annual Conference on January 13, 2018 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Brooklyn Center, MN (formerly the Crowne Plaza). Conference chair Rita Prodzinski is working on some ideas to help

make this anniversary conference a special day! Please contact Rita or the office with any ideas for seminars, fundraising or other thoughts!

MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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

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Thank you for your support!

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

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)

August 2-4, 2018 – NAEBA Annual Convention & International Antler Competition, Holiday Inn, Fargo, ND

Classified Ads

For Sale: Elk cows with great genetics and proven production. Out of 500" bulls, bred back to 500" bulls. Call Lance Hartkopf at 320-543-3664 evenings, or email bhartkopf@embarqmail.com.

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 years and older on bulls. Call 719-657-0942 or email Rich@ElkUSA.com.

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

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

MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

9086 Keats Avenue SW
Howard Lake, MN 55349