



Special Interest Articles:

- 2018 MnEBA Annual Conference Seminar Descriptions
- Board Meeting Minutes
- Minnesota BAH Update
- Minnesota DNR Update
- U.S. Air Force Veteran Harvests Bull Elk
- In the News
- ACA Updates
- Board Blog
- In Memory
- Minnesota Grown
- 2017 USAHA Conference Recap
- Vet Corner
- Scholarship Thank You's
- Committee Reports
- Classified Ads

President's Message by Jim Byrne



The holidays are upon us! Another year has come and gone. It seems the weeks and months have flown by. Thanksgiving is over, Christmas is near, and the New Year waits on the horizon. We can continue the spirit of the holidays by enjoying the company of friends on January 12-13, 2018 when we come together for our annual meeting.

Reflecting back on this year, I must say that it has been a good year. I've had the pleasure to work with a very dedicated and hard-working Board of Directors and an extremely talented and energetic executive secretary.

I look forward with great anticipation to this next year. MnEBA is rightfully considered a leader in the Elk industry. And still we have more work to do to make this industry thrive. Thankfully we have you the membership with your willingness to participate, to support, and your dedication to this industry. This is what makes this industry strong and moving forward. My heartfelt thanks goes out to each one of you in the membership.

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

2018 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar Important Deadlines

Return Stubs and Money by December 31st to be Eligible for Special Gun Drawing and a FREE 2018 Membership

Be ready for **December 31st** which is the day members become eligible for great incentives for selling calendars! A free MnEBA membership for selling 30 or more calendars and returning stubs and money before December 31st is being offered once again this year and in addition, for every 10 calendars sold with stubs and money being returned before December 31st, your name goes into a drawing to win a Henry Golden Boy .22 LR. The more calendars you sell, the more chances to win! **To be eligible, make sure to get your calendar stubs and money turned in before December 31st!**

There are currently 691 calendars in the hands of members to sell, with just 103 stubs returned so far. The potential is there to sell out again for the third year in a row but 60 more calendars need to go out the door to be sold. Please contact the office to order more calendars if you can sell them.

The drawing date is **Saturday, January 13th** at the MnEBA Annual Conference. All stubs, payments and unused calendars must be turned in at that time.

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

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.

2018 MnEBA Annual Conference Seminars to Offer Wide Range of Great Topics

The upcoming 25th Anniversary MnEBA Annual Conference at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Brooklyn Center, MN on January 13th will definitely leave you going home having learned something new! It's also a great time to reflect on how far the industry has come in the past 25 years while continuing to build better herds and businesses for tomorrow!

Seminar topics include:

ADM Animal Nutrition Seminar – Back by popular demand, Rick Balsbaugh and Leo Windschitl of ADM Animal Nutrition will be sponsoring a Friday evening dinner and presentation on the latest research in maximizing elk production through proper nutrition. (*Watch your mailbox for invite and RSVP.*)

NAEBA Elk Income Forecasting Project – A group of NAEBA members are undertaking an effort to create business plan spreadsheets of Elk Operations estimated income, expense, etc. for different kinds of elk operations (utilizing one, several or all markets). This seminar would share the need for this information, the process by which they are putting this information together and how it's expected to be used.

BAH Update with Dr. Linda Glaser – This is a great opportunity to meet Dr. Linda Glaser, our new Board of Animal Health Farmed Cervidae Program Director who replaced Dr. Anderson in June of this year. With the re-occurrence of CWD in Minnesota in the past year in both wild and farmed cervidae, Dr. Glaser will answer your questions and address your concerns. She will also provide updates of program activities.

Getting Elk Meat into Minnesota Schools – Did you know that one of the five goals of the MN School Nutrition Directors Association is to increase the amount of MN product/food in their school meals, (breakfast, lunch)? Did you know that every day schools feed 900,000 students/teachers at least once a day? With that opportunity in mind, two experienced business leaders conducted a survey of MN School Nutrition Directors to explore what prevents them from buying local products. In their presentation, they will talk about how often a school would/could use elk in their menu plans, how the product needs to be delivered, when; and specifically which school districts are not only ready but actively looking to connect and buy local product(s).

Beyond a Website - Marketing Opportunities on the Internet – While having a web site is still highly recommended, there are other opportunities on the internet to market your farm and elk products. Paul Hugunin and marketing director Danielle Daugaard of MN Grown will talk about the different opportunities there are to market your operation online, even giving live demonstrations on how to do it. Bring your digital elk pictures, you might increase your online presence even before the end of the seminar!

Breeding for Your Markets – While a lot of us might think the main goal of our elk operation should be to grow the largest antler bulls possible, is this really the right way to go about managing our breeding programs? Especially if we are raising elk for multiple markets? Presenter Mark Luedtke will help attendees consider the question, "Shouldn't we be breeding for what the end consumer is looking for?"

See conference insert in this newsletter and register today!

CHEMNOBULL



- Over 600" and over 50" wide unofficial on his head in 2017
- 597 3/8" official at 5, winning NAEBA's 5-Year-Old Non-Typical Class, 620" with his 66" actual spread unofficial
- Only (2) 2-year old-sons in 2017



571C

- 2-Year-Old Chernobull son
- Cut 20.16 lbs. official placing 4th in NAEBA's 2017 2-Year-Old Velvet Class



NUKE

- 2-Year-Old Chernobull son
- Over 400" unofficial in 2017

MOHLMAN
ELK FARM

Eric, Kim, Chase and Kyra Mohlman
 4985 West Blue Hill Road, Ayr, NE 68925
 402-469-1831
 mohlmnelk@gtmc.net

Board Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a phone conference on November 20, 2017. Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Director Kraig Wurst was absent. Byrne began the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Hartkopf reported on reaching out to specific MnEBA members whose state senator and/or representative is a chair of an agriculture or environment committee. These members have been asked to invite these legislators to their farm for a tour and were also provided educational materials to give them.

Byrne gave an update on several upcoming meetings. He reported that on November 21, he, Tony Kwilas and Brenda Hartkopf will be meeting with the auditor who is carrying out the legislative audit of oversight of the farmed cervid industry by the MN Board of Animal Health. Board discussed the scoping document which offers details of the audit. Board shared questions they had about the meeting.

Luedtke discussed details of a meeting he has scheduled on November 29 between the boards of MnEBA, the MN Deer Farmers Association, Daryl Simon (reindeer producer) and the BAH to discuss goals and objectives of a newly restructured Farmed Cervidae Task Force.

Byrne discussed scheduling a day at the Capitol for MnEBA representatives to go up to meet legislators on a day when the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) meets as that is when a number of legislators would be at the Capitol at the same time. Tony is looking at future meeting dates and will forward date options.

Hartkopf discussed a request which came to the office from the Cass County Issues Committee who is organizing an event called Water, Woods and Wildlife Discussion at Northern Lights Casino on December 7. They have asked MnEBA to be featured on the panel to give a general presentation about elk farming and to answer questions. Wagner and Lubinski volunteered to represent MnEBA with Wagner being the lead person on the panel. Lubinski will reach out to other MnEBA members from the area who may want to attend. Wagner to work with Hartkopf on an informational PowerPoint presentation and/or handouts.

Luedtke discussed recent USDA and Minnesota DNR data requests he and Hartkopf have initiated. These requests came about after discussions Luedtke had at the recent USAHA meeting and also at the request of the American Cervid Alliance in preparation for potential PR campaign articles. Board approved the \$60 payment the Minnesota DNR requires to extract the data that has been requested.

Board also discussed other data requests which may be made in the future.

Board discussed working to expand the MnEBA Government Relations committee. Each board member is to submit two or three names of potential candidates to the office by December 1st. Hartkopf to compile the names and report back to the board.

Hartkopf discussed two more seminar ideas which have been submitted for the upcoming MnEBA Annual Conference since the last board meeting. Board reviewed list of potential ideas and finalized the seminar topics. Board agreed to fund the honorarium required for the Getting Elk Meat into Minnesota Schools seminar through credits from Minnesota Grown. Also discussed more ideas for the keynote speaker, decided on appreciation award recipients and list of legislators who will be invited to attend.

Luedtke briefly reviewed the resolutions which passed at the USAHA meeting in October and other points of interest about the meeting. It was a successful meeting for the farmed cervid industry. He made a point to reiterate that these resolutions are only recommendations by USAHA to other state and federal agencies which may or may not be acted upon.

Board reviewed response from the Lake Superior SCI chapter about MnEBA having a booth at their April convention in Hinckley. Decision was made to pass on having a booth there in light of the cost.

Hartkopf reported 653 calendars are out at the present time which is at about the same pace as last year. Hartkopf will be sending out an e-blast shortly to remind members to order their calendars.

Hartkopf reported on the success of the recent MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt and what a difference the hunt has made in the life of this year's recipient. She also reported he plans to attend the upcoming MnEBA conference.

Hartkopf explained that the first draft of the 2016 Minnesota Farmed Cervid Industry Economic Impact Study was recently submitted but it was missing three sections so she sent it back for more work. Once it comes back, she will notify the board and also the MN Deer Farmers Association so all can review it. The goal is to have it ready for the upcoming MnEBA Annual Conference.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

October 11, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a phone conference on October 11, 2017. Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Kraig Wurst, Brenda Hartkopf and guest Tony Kwilas were present. Director Greg Lubinski was absent. Byrne began the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Kwilas addressed the board with an update on discussions legislators have had with him about the farmed cervidae industry since the regular session ended. To help with legislative concerns, MnEBA will continue to encourage members to invite legislators to their farms to help their elected officials become more knowledgeable about the elk industry, will work to schedule a meeting to speak with key legislators possibly on November 30th, prepare an updated fact sheet, and encourage legislators to wait for the legislative audit of the Board of Animal Health before any action would be taken legislatively. The 2018 session begins February 20th. Tony suggested MnEBA consider inviting a legislator or two to address the membership at the upcoming MnEBA conference in January.

Kwilas also reported on a meeting between Jim Byrne, Brian Wagner, Brenda Hartkopf and himself with Dr. Glaser and Dr. Thompson last month. He recommended MnEBA meet with BAH at least once per year to discuss any updates, changes or issues which should be addressed.

Hartkopf reported that 2017 State Fair sales at the MnEBA booth broke the all-time high record and were up 30% over last year's sales with a profit estimated at over \$5,200. As far as recommendations for next year, the Board recommended the TV which plays the MnEBA video be replaced with a flat screen TV with built in DVD player.

Discussed seminar and program ideas for the upcoming 25th Anniversary MnEBA Annual Conference. Will make final decision on agenda at next meeting.

Luedtke reported he will be representing MnEBA at the upcoming USAHA meeting on October 14-19. There are several resolutions being proposed by the farmed cervidae industry mostly regarding relief on TB and Brucellosis testing requirements.

Board discussed which shows MnEBA should exhibit at in 2018. Decision was made to once again set up a booth at the Outdoor News Deer & Turkey Classic, but not the North American Farm and Power Show. Hartkopf was asked to check into availability and cost of setting up a booth at the SCI convention once again.

Hartkopf reported that 512 gun raffle calendars are currently in circulation and that there are a number of people who haven't yet picked up their calendars who have sold them in the past. Hartkopf will be contacting those members to see how many calendars they may be willing to sell this year.

Hartkopf reported everything is in place for the 2017 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt which is scheduled for October 16-18 at Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch in Baudette.

Hartkopf reported that a draft version of the 2017 Minnesota Farmed Cervidae Economic Impact Study has still not yet been made available, even after repeated emails from the study coordinator saying it was forthcoming. Hartkopf to push study coordinator for review draft for next meeting.

Board made note of the new call-in number for MnEBA conference calls.

Board discussed what feedback should be given to BAH on the restructuring of the MN Farmed Cervidae Advisory Committee. There was a question of why the DNR and Minnesota Deer Hunters Association were on the list. Luedtke, Byrne and Hartkopf to prepare response draft once Luedtke gets back from the USAHA meeting to email to board for discussion and submit formal comment to BAH by November 1st.

Wagner discussed soliciting more involvement from the membership on the Legislative committee. Board to identify objectives and recruitment at next meeting.

Board set Monday November 20th at noon for the next board meeting conference call.

Meeting was adjourned at 1.56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

*Spring Coulee
Velvet Capsules*



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Bill & Karen Knutson
Home of Spring Coulee Elk



Minnesota Board of Animal Health News Release

For Immediate Release: November 22, 2017

Contact: Eric Crider – erin.crider@state.mn.us

Chronic Wasting Disease discovered in Winona County farm

St. Paul, Minn. - Routine disease sampling has led to a positive CWD test result in a three-year-old white-tailed buck from a Winona County farmed herd. The Minnesota Board of Animal Health confirmed the results with the USDA, and has already quarantined the herd and begun its disease investigation. The Board also confirmed it has 10 years of records on this registered herd, which show it has a good history of CWD surveillance.

“This herd is a good example of why dedicated, routine, CWD surveillance is important, and producers should never become complacent with the Board’s testing requirements,” said Dr. Linda Glaser, Board of Animal Health assistant director and cervid program manager. “Those testing and movement records will significantly aid in our CWD investigation of this herd.”

The current herd inventory is seven adult white-tailed deer. The next step for the Board is to track movements of deer into and out of the herd within the last five years. If this tracing effort reveals movements to or from other herds within Minnesota, those herds will become part of the investigation. An initial review of the movement records shows the most recent event occurred in April 2016 when three animals were moved out of the herd. The Board regulates farmed deer and elk in the state, while the DNR responds to and manages CWD in wild deer.

“Department of Natural Resources will follow its CWD response plan for wild deer and work with the Board to obtain information needed to develop a strategy specific to this farm,” said Dr. Lou Cornicelli, wildlife research manager for DNR.

The only other currently quarantined cervid herd in Minnesota is in Crow Wing County. The Board recently issued a press release announcing continued “CWD not detected” testing results from that herd.

CWD is a disease of the deer and elk family caused by an abnormally shaped protein, a prion, which can damage brain and nerve tissue. The disease is most likely transmitted when infected deer and elk shed prions in saliva, feces, urine, and other fluids or tissues. CWD is not known to naturally occur in other animals. The disease is fatal in deer and elk, and there are no known treatments or vaccines. Consuming infected meat is not advised.



Minnesota Board of Animal Health News Release

For Immediate Release: November 9, 2017

Contact: Eric Crider – erin.crider@state.mn.us

Disease not detected in latest round of CWD tests

St. Paul, Minn. - Minnesota's only currently quarantined farmed deer herd in Crow Wing County continues testing deer harvested on the farm for Chronic Wasting Disease. The latest results released by the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory did not detect CWD in deer tissue samples. The Minnesota Board of Animal Health quarantined the herd in December 2016 when two white-tailed deer tested positive for CWD. When the herd was quarantined, it consisted of 110 white-tailed deer and 33 mule deer. Samples have been taken from 51 white-tailed deer and five mule deer in the herd to date in 2017; all have been "not detected."

Despite the continued "CWD not detected" results, the herd remains quarantined and the owner is restricted from moving animals. The Board will report any additional testing. The owner continues to uphold a herd plan agreement with the Board and the USDA, and declined an offer of indemnity to depopulate the entire herd. Instead, the herd will remain under quarantine until 2021 when it expires.

"Deer remain on this farm, and as long as we continue receiving 'CWD not detected' results, we'll stick to the herd plan we have with the owner," said Board Assistant Director, Dr. Linda Glaser. "We hope to keep this trend going, and obviously 2021 is a long time from now, so the chance of a positive test result remains on our radar. If CWD is detected again in this herd, we will re-examine the herd plan with the owner."

The Crow Wing County farm owner has made infrastructure improvements since the initial CWD detection in 2016. The owner installed additional exclusionary fencing to prevent contact between the farmed deer and wild deer. This practice is widely recognized to reduce the risk of disease spread.

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. Consuming infected meat is not advised.

The mission of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health is to protect the health of the state's domestic animals through education and cooperation with veterinarians, producers, owners and communities.



From the DNR Web Site

Five (Wild) Deer Test Positive, Two Still Presumptive in Southeast's CWD Zone

Final test results show that five deer harvested in southeast Minnesota's disease management zone during the first firearms deer season are infected with chronic wasting disease.

Two deer that had tested presumptive positive were found to be CWD-free. One of those deer was harvested in Forestville State Park. The other was harvested north of the park and east of Wykoff.

Final results still are pending on two deer that initially tested positive for CWD.

Results of precautionary testing for chronic wasting disease done in cooperation with hunters in the north central, central and portions of southeast Minnesota outside the disease management zone are updated on weekdays as they become available at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/cwdcheck/index.html#results>.

Mandatory Testing Continues in Area 603 through January 14, 2018

Mandatory CWD testing continues in southeast Minnesota's disease management zone during the 3B season and is encouraged for hunters in the permit areas surrounding area 603.

Carcasses still can't be moved from area 603 unless a negative CWD test is received. Hunters in 603 can check their results online at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/cwdcheck/index.html>.

DNR encourages hunters in permit areas 343, 345, 346, 347, 348 and 349 to have their deer voluntarily tested at one of the 603 sampling stations. Carcass movement restrictions do not apply to these hunters.

Attend MnEBA's 25th Anniversary Annual Conference

You won't want to miss it!

Join in the fun as we:

- * Celebrate 25 years of learning and friendship together
- * Attend seminars that benefit and grow your business
- * Work together to better understand and offer suggestions on today's regulatory climate
- * Gather our time and talents together to help the elk industry continue to thrive



This industry has changed immensely in the past 25 years – much due to the hard work and dedication of many current and past members. As we reflect on the past 25 years, let us also look towards the future and continue to work together to grow and prosper the industry which enjoys the privilege of raising America's Greatest Animal – ELK!



NEWS RELEASE: Friday November 10, 2017

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

U.S. Air Force Veteran Harvests Bull Elk

Minnesota Elk Breeders Association (MnEBA), November 10, 2017 – TSgt. Brian Burke, a disabled veteran of the United States Air Force, recently experienced a day he will never forget - the day he harvested a beautiful bull elk at Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch in Baudette, Minnesota. Even a few days after the hunt, Sergeant Burke was elated. "My elk hunt was the best! I've never done anything better than that.... I don't know if you could ever top that." Sergeant Burke was the recipient of the 11th Annual MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt which recently took place on October 16-18, 2017.

Sergeant Burke served in the United States Air Force and worked in the ammunition unit and as an emergency room combat medic/nurse over his 20½ years in the military. He served 10 deployments, six of which were combat tours. In 2004, his team was hit with serin nerve gas and just a few months later, his team was hit by an IED on the left side of their hummer. The explosion destroyed Sergeant Burke's entire neck vertebrae. He went through much reconstruction and had a 10% chance of living and a 15% chance of ever walking if he did live. He did live and does now walk, but his entire nervous system was destroyed and he lives in constant pain with reduced stamina and strength. Sergeant Burke had all but given up on the dream to ever go hunting again. Once an avid hunter who hunted for all his own food and taught many others to hunt, it was a major disappointment to give up something he had always loved to do.

But this disappointment was also a great motivator to beat the odds and continue to improve his quality of life. "I have retaught myself to walk, so I said 'hey, why not relearn 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." While he has set high goals for himself, he also realizes his limitations. "No matter how much I can re-learn 'or try' hunting a big game animal myself, it will never happen again for me alone. I will always need the help of others."

Not only did Sergeant Burke go home with the thrill and satisfaction of harvesting a majestic bull elk, but this experience has given him the confidence to give hunting another try. "I didn't think I could do it, but this hunt proved I could do it. I'm going hunting this year."

The moment he harvested his bull elk was a magical moment for Sergeant Burke. "We searched all day for the bull and I was getting really sore. I prayed that I would be able to finish." He continued, "The bull came out of the brush just as the sun was going down." After getting himself situated to take the shot, he said "The sun illuminated the bull in the sunset, it was like an elk in a golden sun." After taking his shot, the bull dropped "like a building being demolished. When I went up to it, I was speechless for 15 minutes."

Sergeant Burke was beyond thankful for this experience. "Everyone was phenomenal up there, I had the time of my life. Thank you to Tony and his family, Ron and his family and the whole Minnesota Elk Breeders Association family. I can just never, ever thank you enough." While this hunt was a great experience, he is enjoying the bounty of his hunt as well. Burke is not only having the head mounted and enjoying the meat from the animal, but he's also making a point to utilize the hide and ivories as well.

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

MnEBA offers our heartfelt thanks, support and gratitude to Sergeant Burke and to all United States military men and women for their service to our country.



TSgt. Brian Burke

In the News

Elk is tasty, healthy and the new craze in Wisconsin-raised meat

USA TODAY NETWORK – Wisconsin

By Daniel Higgens

November 15, 2017

MEDFORD, WI - I was wondering if I would hear the call. I mean, I knew I would see elk. Even as we pulled in the long driveway of Rick Ewert's homestead just southeast of Medford I noticed the tall fences cut into the woods of his backyard.

Still, I wondered.

Then, as my boot landed in the half-frozen mud and before the first puff of white breath disappeared into the nearly freezing early November afternoon, I heard it.

The bugling call of elk.

Then a bugling response.

Then another bugling response.

Ah, mating season. The bulls are bugling, kind of a high-pitched squeal ending in a grunt sound, to let the cows know they're fit and to let other bulls know they're ready to fight to establish dominance.

I'm hardly the only person interested in the call of elk. Ewert says it's one of the first things people ask about when they find out he raises the large creatures.

"They usually ask about the bugling, because that's kind of a neat thing," says Ewert. "Of course, after two months nonstop it gets a little bit old. But it is neat."

Elk meat is in demand and the market for it is growing, thanks largely to its combination of high protein with low fat and calories.

You can find it at brewpubs in the form of elk burgers. It's trendy enough to make a dish at modern cuisine restaurants. And this year, you can even order a bowl of elk stroganoff at Lambeau Field during Packers games.

Fascinated by the elk after visiting a ranch, Ewert began raising his gang 10 years ago, in part as a trophy hunt operation that has since moved to primarily a meat-producing business, Hemlock Hills Trophy Ranch. He sells elk meat through his website.

Today he has 15 of his 110 acres fenced for elk at home. He has 10 of 68 acres fenced at another location, with the remaining land used to grow crops used as feed.

At times Ewert says it can be difficult to keep up with demand for the meat, most notably ground meat for burgers.

Terry Diedrich says he has 100 elk and 200 bison "roaming the pristine green grass valleys and woods," at his Navarino Valley Elk & Bison Ranch in Shiocton, but high demand does create a challenge.

"We actually are faced with a shortage of animals," says Diedrich. "I have pulled together a few other local rancher sources to meet demand. They raise the animals for my market demand and expansion of sales."

Diedrich started elk ranching in 1992 because he thought the "idea of farming elk was unique

and sounded like a great future farming opportunity as more consumers looked for healthier meat proteins raised all naturally." No hormones or chemicals, says Diedrich, are used in his farming operation.

Annual sales have increased 30-fold since that first year.

It may seem counterintuitive that it would be hard to meet demand when the animal you're shipping off to be processed typically weighs 500 pounds and produces about 350 pounds hanging weight. That is, until you factor in the life of the elk.

Cows, elk females, generally give birth to just one calf, and Ewert says it's usually three years before he will send elk to be processed.

Proof that some foods are worth the wait.

"It's a very good, highly sought-after meat. Nothing like whitetail venison type meat; it's not gamey," says Ewert. "It's more toward your high-end beef."

Not gamey, high-end beef – that's pretty much the same description you get from Diedrich.

Having tried several elk burgers, elk pastrami and elk stroganoff, I'd say that's a fair description of the meat. It really has its own unique flavor. Kind of a bison-deer-cow mashup.

Lean, it eats like red meat but with boneless, skinless chicken

breast nutritional values. A 100-gram (about 3.5 ounces) portion of elk delivers 31 grams of protein in just 166 calories and 3.8 grams of fat.

The catch? It's priced like high-end beef. You're not likely to find elk burgers or sausage for less than \$10 and entrees start around \$20. When you can find it on the menu. Because of its red meat qualities, it is versatile – though most often you will encounter elk on menus in the form of burgers.

Then there are kitchens exploring new realms of elk meat.

In Green Bay you have dueling elk stroganoff offerings. When elk stroganoff made the leap from the seasonal menu at 1919 Kitchen & Tap in the Lambeau Field atrium to the game day menu, it caught my attention.

You don't need Packers tickets to try the offering in the restaurant (\$19) made with braised elk, cremini mushrooms, pappardelle, pickled carrots and crème fraiche.

Meanwhile, across town at Mackinaws Grill & Spirits you can find elk stroganoff (\$22) made with slow roasted elk meat, onions, mushrooms and creamy sauce served over fettuccine.

Though, if you're cooking meat at home, heed the advice of the experts.

"People will ask if it is a dry meat," says Diedrich. "I point out to them that the moisture content per gram compared to beef is actually higher, but because of the low fat content, the moisture cooks out faster when cooking at too high a temperature. Elk is best prepared with lower heat

allowing the meat to cook without drying out."

There's also the bacon route. One item offered by Hemlock Hills is an elk chop wrapped in bacon (\$21.95 per pound). Pan fry to a medium-rare temp for what Ewert says is "probably the best thing you've ever had."

Elk is also available in the form of brats, bacon and snack sticks. There are whole tenderloins and ground meat options. If trying an elk burger or steak isn't adventurous for you, order elk liver or elk heart. If you're lucky. Those items get a "subject to availability" line in the description and Ewert says they are the fastest selling items.

If anyone out there has a good elk heart recipe, please, send it my way.





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Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

www.mneba.org

Collars to be used to track disease [deer - MN]

**By Tony Kennedy, Minneapolis Star Tribune
Northwest Arkansas Democrat**

November 7, 2017

MINNEAPOLIS - Wildlife crews will swoop down in helicopters above southeastern Minnesota early next year to capture and collar more than 100 deer to study how far they roam and what corridors they follow.

The chronic wasting disease research project by the Department of Natural Resources is being launched with \$350,000 in emergency

funding to help stop the largest-ever wasting disease outbreak in Minnesota's wild deer population.

The department will be seeking cooperation from private landowners to carry out the work on hilly, forested land that rings Fillmore County's 371-square-mile disease management zone. The zone was created last fall after routine testing of

hunter-killed deer discovered a cluster of infected animals.

State wildlife researchers have joined the fight with a plan to net 115 deer and place GPS tracking collars around the animals' necks.

Full text:

<http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2017/nov/07/collars-be-used-track-disease/>

Hunting season is here: Arby's tests elk sandwiches and releases venison sandwiches nationwide

By Mary Bowerman, USA TODAY Network

Oct. 11, 2017

The fast-food chain known for having "the meats," is putting its money where its mouth is this year with the release of venison sandwiches nationwide, and elk sandwiches in select markets.

Arby's venison sandwiches will be available on Saturday, Oct. 21 in all 3,300 restaurants across the country, and a limited-edition Elk Sandwich will be available in three restaurants in the states of Colorado, Wyoming and Montana.

The venison sandwiches, which were first sold in a handful of states last year and sold out in minutes, are available while supplies last and will be likely to sell out quickly, Arby's Chief Marketing Officer Jim Taylor.

"If people are interested in trying the sandwich, the only way to

guarantee they can get one is to get there when we open or a little before and make sure they are in line, just like the folks last year," he said.

The fast-food chain uses a supplier in New Zealand that sells grass-fed free-range venison, according to Taylor. He said it took a year to work with suppliers to secure enough product for what he believes is the "biggest venison promotion in the world any restaurant has ever done."

The venison sandwich features a thick-cut venison steak and crispy onions with a berry sauce on a toasted roll, according to the company.

Taylor said the company used social media and feedback from hunters and wild game

enthusiasts to create the venison and elk sandwiches. He said the elk sandwich, which will be served in states where elk hunting is popular, is similar to the venison sandwich but uses a blackberry port wine sauce.

"We took a look at what hunters and wild game enthusiasts love to talk about eating and elk was something that kept popping up, and we said, 'this is another great tasting game meat, we think our guests would enjoy it,'" he said.

The elk sandwich will be available along with the venison sandwich at the following (city) restaurants:

Thornton, Colorado 80023
Casper, Wyoming 82604
Billings, Montana 59102



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 several articles published in regional Minnesota newspapers over the past year.

DNR has been asleep at the watch testing deer

Twin Cities Pioneer Press - Letters

November 10, 2017 - The Department of Natural Resources says it wants to conduct Chronic Wasting Disease testing in central and north-central Minnesota to determine if the disease is present ("Minnesota deer hunting opener: More deer to shoot, but disease tests required," Oct. 27). It's about time: The DNR has been asleep at the watch for years.

The DNR hasn't tested for CWD in Crow Wing County in 15 years. More generally, public data show that the DNR has only been testing around 3,300 deer annually for CWD, which is next to nothing in a state with 1 million deer. Therefore, the DNR's claim that CWD is not known to exist in certain parts of Minnesota is laughable: The DNR hasn't been looking!

The DNR says its testing is spurred by the detection of CWD at two deer farms. We should be cautious about labeling the farms as the source. Deer farms are highly regulated and conduct regular, mandatory testing of their animals for CWD. There's a very good chance that the free-ranging deer already have CWD and spread it onto the farm, not the other way around. If the DNR had been testing properly and doing its job from the get-go, we'd have a better idea.

Todd Robbins-Miller

The writer is president of the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association.

<http://www.twincities.com/2017/11/10/letters-the-dnr-hasnt-been-looking/>

Letter to the Editor - Deer farming not the reason for CWD

Cedar County Republican (MO)
Friday, October 20, 2017

Dear Editor,

Bud Olinger's claim Chronic Wasting Disease could have been stopped if Missouri banned deer farming as Colorado did simply is false. Colorado first detected CWD in a research facility in the 1960s and first found it in free-ranging deer in the 1980s. The disease has continued spreading throughout Colorado and into other states since; including Wyoming, which does not allow deer farming.

Even if you magically made deer farms disappear tomorrow, which isn't going to happen, CWD still would be in Missouri and still would continue spreading. It'd be a particularly pointless gesture when one considers that deer farms are enclosed environments for which numerous state and federal regulations exist to mitigate the risk of CWD. Deer farms are not the problem.

The Department of Conservation can help by testing more free-ranging deer for CWD so hunters have an accurate picture of where the disease is and is not; but since CWD already exists in free-ranging deer, there's no known way of stopping its spread.

It also would be wise for the Department of Conservation to stop importing free-ranging elk into the state which do not meet the stringent import protocols as deer farmers do.

Sincerely,
Charly Seale, American Cervid Alliance

http://cedarrepUBLICAN.com/news/letter-to-the-editor---deer-farming-not-the/article_9823ce46-b446-11e7-9983-5b8bc2c81e8f.html

Board Blog by Brian Wagner, MnEBA Secretary/Treasurer



Hard to believe another year is over as we move into December and the holiday season is upon us. All in all I think everyone would agree the elk business was good in 2017 but as I look back on this year and look forward to next year, we have an uphill battle on capitol hill. There is a continued effort to make changes to regulate us out of business. Your lobbyist Tony Kwilas has been doing a great job keeping us all informed and setting up many meetings with key senators and the Board of Animal Health (your money well spent). Brenda and the board have been doing a great job attending meeting after meeting.

MnEBA has had many members help out at the legislative level in the past. But now the board would like to create an active legislative committee of MnEBA members (mainly phone conference meetings) to get more thoughts and input from any of you that would like to be more involved. I take this very seriously. With the finding of CWD in wild deer, the DNR is in a big push to put us all out of business. I think their main beef is with the whitetail deer farms but we all get lumped together as cervids.

The board is putting together a list of a few producers to call on for this new committee but I also ask if you would like to help your association as we move into 2018. Please step up and call the office and ask to be put on the committee. We look forward to your calls as I hope you look forward to ours.

Brenda has put together a great conference on January 13, 2018 with a great central meeting location for everyone. You will be able to meet Dr. Glaser who is Dr. Anderson's replacement and also hear good seminars which will be very informative so plan to attend.

I wish you all a blessed and healthy Christmas and a happy new year with family and friends.

Best regards,
Brian

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.

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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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AN_DeerHelp@adm.com • www.ADMAnimalNutrition.com/wildlife



MnEBA Kitchen

Pair this delicious elk stew recipe with hot buttered noodles or warm crusty bread to provide a great meal to warm up family and friends over the upcoming holidays!

Elk Stew

4 oz. thick cut bacon, chopped	½ lb. frozen pearl onions
3 Tbsp. flour	3 cloves garlic, minced
1 tsp. coarse salt	½ dry red wine
½ tsp. pepper	3 cups beef broth
2 lbs. elk meat cut into 1" chunks	2 Tbsp. tomato paste
8 oz. mushrooms, halved if large	1 tsp. rosemary
1½ cups carrots cut into 1" chunks	



In a large frying pan, cook the bacon over medium heat until crisp. Drain on paper towel and save for later. Pour off all except for 2 tsp. bacon drippings and save for later. Place elk meat in a large plastic bag with the flour, salt and pepper. Shake meat until it is coated with the seasoned flour. Heat frying pan containing bacon grease to medium-high and sear half the meat cubes without turning until nicely browned. Brown other side and transfer to the crockpot. After adding more bacon grease, do the same with the last half of the elk meat and add to the crockpot when done. Throw the mushrooms, carrots, garlic and onions into the crockpot with the meat. Deglaze the frying pan by adding the wine, beef broth and tomato paste. Bring to a boil and deglaze pan by scraping the bits left over by the searing and mixing with the broth mixture. Pour this mixture over meat and vegetables in the crockpot. Cover and cook on High for 4-5 hours or Low 8-9 hours. Once meat is very tender, add the reserved bacon bits and the rosemary. Cook on High heat without lid to thicken the sauce. Taste for salt, you may want to add more. Serves 5.

A Great Christmas Gift Idea

Elk Meat Sticks & Jerky for Sale

MnEBA has just a few discounted meat items left over from the State Fair which would make great Christmas presents! They include:

- (53) 1 oz. elk meat sticks
\$1.50 each
- (30) 1 oz. elk jerky
\$2.00 each
- (2) 6 oz. bags elk Southwest Chili snack bites
\$6.00 each

Please call or email the MnEBA Office to order elk snack items at 320-543-2686 or info@mneba.org before they are gone!

You're Invited!

Watch your mailbox in mid-December for an invitation to attend a free dinner and nutrition seminar hosted by **ADM Animal Nutrition** on January 12, 2018 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Minneapolis North in Brooklyn Center (the night before the MnEBA Annual Conference).

Take advantage of this great opportunity to go into greater depth about elk nutrition while enjoying a free meal! Make sure to RSVP so Leo can get an accurate meal count!



In Memory



MnEBA recently lost a long-time member and one of the most important figures in organizing the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association 25 years ago, Cheryl Kruckeberg. She and her late husband Kevin were passionate about the elk industry and helped a good number of breeders get started in the elk industry in the 90's. MnEBA owes a debt of gratitude to Cheryl for helping to pave the way in those early years.

Cheryl "Sherry" Kruckeberg, age 64, of Blooming Prairie, died Sunday November 19, 2017 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Cheryl was born March 6, 1953 in New Prague, MN to Virgil and Evelyn (Kriha) Beinhorn. At age 10, her family moved to Blooming Prairie. Cheryl graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1971. On November 20, 1971, Cheryl married her high school sweetheart, Kevin Kruckeberg. They built a life together on a farm north of Blooming Prairie and raised two kids, crops, elk, deer, various exotic birds and animals. Throughout her lifetime, she also worked at her parent's bakery in Blooming Prairie, Equity Bank in Claremont and the Steele County Recorder's Office in Owatonna.

Above all things, Cheryl valued faith, family and friends. She gave the best hugs and was always there for us. Her greatest treasures were her grandkids: Fisher & Bennett Kruckeberg and Josie and Allie Finne. She left us with strong values and many wonderful memories.

Survivors include her son Kasey and Marsha Kruckeberg of Rochester, MN; daughter Kerry and Chris Finne of Welch, MN; sister Ginny and Bill Burgart of Minnetonka, MN; brother Roger and Cindy Beinhorn of Blooming Prairie, MN; sister Lynn and Duane Hanson of Blooming Prairie, MN; 4 grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and friends whom she held dear.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, grandson Jacob Finne, sisters-in-law Marcia Camerer and Carol Kruckeberg and brothers-in-law Tom Camerer and Ralph Kruckeberg.

A memorial service was held at 2pm on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church with Pastor Lindsey Stolen officiating. Memorials are preferred to Homestead Hospice in Owatonna and Blooming Prairie Cancer Group. Condolences may be left online at www.mayerfh.com.



Minnesota Grown

Marketing Opportunities for Minnesota Elk Producers

Would you like to improve your connection with consumers to sell your Minnesota grown elk meat, velvet antler capsules for people and pets, hard antler or hides? Are you looking for an online presence for your farm?

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

directly to consumers through their annual printed and online directories. There's a reason elk producers who regularly advertise in the Directory renew year after year – the good value and consumer reach of this program is second to none! See www.minnesotagrown.com for more information.

To request an application by mail or for further details, contact Karen Lanthier at 651-201-6140 or karen.lanthier@state.mn.us. **Sign up to be included in the 2018 Directory by December 31, 2017.**

Minnesota Grown Offers a Unique Opportunity For You to Learn More About Your Customers!



Minnesota Grown is providing livestock producers with the opportunity to participate in a customer satisfaction survey early in 2018. ***This is the first time such an opportunity has been available to livestock producers!*** Past producers who participated in previous research projects have said:

"I know how much work a survey like this involves and I can't tell you how useful it will be. I can't imagine that any other state has done a survey as comprehensive as this one. The survey was very well thought out and the questions well-constructed."

"The most eye opening answer to me was the family income. I guess I hadn't thought of it before and didn't realize how many were in the \$150,000-200,000 bracket. Oh well, maybe if we can move our prices up a bit some of us producers will get there!"

After recent presentations of results to farmers and producers, we polled the audience:

- **93% of growers indicated they would make changes to their marketing strategies based on the information presented as a result of this research.**
- **100% of growers indicated they would like to continue this research in another 4-5 years.**

Participating livestock producers will receive a confidential, individualized report about their customers. They will also receive a state-wide aggregate report to use in bench-marking their results against others in the state. We will also present the aggregate results at industry tradeshow and other events.

- Who are your customers?
- What are their expectations?
- What are their spending habits?
- Where do they get their information?

Get the answers to these questions and more directly from your customers.

What does my livestock business have to do?

- *Tell us you want to participate:* **Sign-up by Sunday, December 10th, 2017.**
- *Give customers cards:* Give each customer a card to direct them to the online survey.
- *Donate a credit to one customer:* Each livestock producer donates a \$25 credit to be awarded to a survey participant. Credits are awarded to customers, selected at random, who filled out the survey and signed up for the chance to win.

How do I sign-up?

Register online and encourage others to register at: <http://tiny.cc/livestock>

This opportunity is open to Minnesota Grown members and new members only.

Questions? Contact Tina Cassler at 651-201-6688 or tina.cassler@state.mn.us



2017 USAHA Conference Recap

By Mark Luedtke

This year's USAHA meeting in San Diego, CA was very successful for the Cervid industry. However, I want to remind everyone how the system works. USAHA is a very diverse organization and is highly respected at both the federal level and at the state level, but USAHA can only make recommendations to the state and federal agencies. The state and federal agencies generally respond in alignment with the recommendations, but they do have the right and ability to amend or reject them as well.

This past year there were 4 significant resolutions passed and a 5th was sent to a scientific advisory committee to get a scientific analysis, review and recommendation.

Resolution #9 – Brucellosis Testing in Farmed Cervidae

- 1) The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, Veterinary Services to eliminate brucellosis testing requirements for interstate movement of farmed elk, red deer, and other cervid species that originate outside of the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) if and when a federal rule for Brucellosis is published.
- 2) The United States Animal Health Association urges state regulatory officials to eliminate brucellosis testing requirements for interstate movement of farmed elk, red deer, and other cervid species that originate outside the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA).



Mark Luedtke representing MnEBA at the recent USAHA meeting in San Diego.

Resolution #10 – Farmed Cervid TB Herd Certification Testing Intervals

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, Veterinary Services to modify the tuberculosis test requirements for maintaining cervid accredited herd status described in Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 77.35 to allow the test interval to be extended to 5 years for certain cervid herds if all of the following requirements have been met:

- 1) The Cervid herd has continuously maintained accredited status for at least 6 years following initial herd accreditation.
- 2) Since initial herd accreditation, all non-natural additions to the accredited cervid herd have come from other accredited cervid herds only.
- 3) No evidence of bovine tuberculosis has been disclosed in either cattle or cervidae (wild or farmed) in the state or zone within the state in which the cervid accredited herd is located for the most recent 6 years.

Further, if bovine tuberculosis has been disclosed in either cattle or cervidae (wild or farmed) in a state or designated zone within the state in which the cervid accredited herd is located within the most recent 6 years, the test interval for maintaining cervid accredited status will be 3 years.

Resolution #23 – Annual Reporting on Chronic Wasting Disease Epidemiological Data

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, Veterinary Services and other appropriate federal and state agencies to work cooperatively to assemble, analyze, summarize and make available annually to the Committee on Wildlife and Captive Wildlife at the USAHA meeting all pertinent information from epidemiological investigations of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in cervid populations (including wild, free-ranging, and captive). Specific information requested may include:

- 1) Compiled CWD testing data from each state to include:
 - a. Overall state testing numbers of each susceptible species tested;
 - b. Number of CWD positive tests found annually in each state;
 - c. Overall state testing in wild populations;
 - d. Prevalence of CWD in positive populations;
 - e. Population totals for each susceptible species of wild herds in each state;
 - f. Demography of positive and negative animals in infected herds;
 - g. Results from all tissues that were tested;
 - h. Duration of monitoring prior to detection of the first case – including numbers of animals in the herd, numbers tested, and numbers not tested;
 - i. Results of trace-forward and trace-back investigations; and
 - j. All other pertinent data that will enhance risk assessment of CWD in cervids and identification of effective mitigation measures.
- 2) Compiled data should also be posted on USDA website.

Resolution #26 – Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease and Blue Tongue Virus Data

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, Veterinary Services to prepare a descriptive report to present at the 2018 USAHA Annual Meeting and each annual meeting, thereafter. The report shall include the following data that is available:

- 1) Number of estimated farmed cervid deaths related to Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) and Blue Tongue Virus (BTV) per state and cervid species in the previous year.
- 2) Number of estimated wild cervid deaths related to EHD and BTV per state and cervid species in the previous year.
- 3) Strains of EHD and BTV that have been known to be found in each state for both farmed and wild cervidae in the previous year.

The 5th proposed resolution which never made it through committee but was forwarded to the scientific advisory committee was related to the TB blood test and was basically asking for alternatives to euthanizing an animal after 2 non-negative test results. This was basically the same resolution as the industry tried to get passed in 2015.

Please contact me with any questions.

MnEBA Board Nominations Needed

This coming January, the board terms for both Jim Byrne and Greg Lubinski will be expiring. Jim and Greg have shared an incredible amount of time and talents with the Association. Please take a moment when you see them to thank them for the time and effort they have dedicated to MnEBA.

Board Terms	
Jim Byrne, <i>President</i>	Term ends 2018
Mark Luedtke, <i>Vice President</i>	Term ends 2019
Brian Wagner, <i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Term ends 2020
Greg Lubinski, <i>Director</i>	Term ends 2018
Kraig Wurst, <i>Director</i>	Term ends 2019

The length of time for Board terms are three years. Nominations for these open positions are now being accepted. If you know of anyone who would be a good candidate, or you as a member are willing to run, please contact the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 or info@mneba.org. Elections will be held during the MnEBA Annual Conference on January 13, 2018 at DoubleTree by Hilton Minneapolis North, Brooklyn Center, MN.

Vet Corner by Dr. Glen Zebarth

Seasonal Herd Health Tips

Ticks

Now is a good time to check your elk for ticks such as winter ticks which are large in size and easily seen, generally over the top of the back and shoulders. Deer ticks are also of concern. They are very small, not much bigger than a grain of sand, and are the ticks which carry Lyme disease. Tick problems are more common in the northern and eastern part of Minnesota, but can generally be found anywhere.

Signs of a problem would be hair missing off the back or shoulders caused by the animal itching and rubbing off the hair. Treatment for all tick problems would be using ivermectins like Ivomec®, long lasting permectrin pour-ons and most effective, amitraz if you can find it.

Body Condition

Now that the breeding season is winding down, it's a good time to evaluate the body condition on your cows. If they are on the thin side, continue to feed grain until they gain condition. If they are heavy, reduce feed to just mineral and hay.

For bulls and calves, continue to feed good quality hay and something more high-energy such as grain or hay silage. The fatter they are almost the better.

Worming

If you have a liver fluke problem in your herd and if you haven't wormed your animals since the hard freeze, you should worm again if flukes were found when you butchered animals this fall. Liver flukes are spread by snails, so if you clean up the problem now, they will be clean all winter.

Vaccinations

If vaccinating herd with Scourguard 3(K)/C and you haven't vaccinated your cows as of yet, vaccinate them now and then again 3-4 weeks before they calve. Work with your local veterinarian on the best vaccination protocol for your herd to prevent herd health problems dealt with in the past.

Purity Work and Registrations

If you have bulls which are not yet registered, now is a good time to go ahead and get the registry work done, or pull blood for purity so the bulls are ready to go next fall. Some years, it's an advantage to test and move bulls early.



NAEBA Offering a "Two for One Price" Promotion for Elk Transfers from January 1-February 28, 2018

NAEBA is offering a promotion to increase elk transfers on animals sold by the membership. From January 1- February 28, 2018, NAEBA will allow a "two for one price" special for requests received by the office during that time. For example, if a member sends in eight transfers, they will only be charged for four if they are filled out correctly.

The NAEBA Board of Directors approved the Registration Committee's recommendation for the special pricing during a recent board meeting. The committee noted elk transfers are required upon

change of ownership by our Breed Registry Rules. Failure to properly transfer the animals erodes credibility of our registry and can be problematic for several reasons, especially down the road.

The application for transfers is on the back side of the original Registration Certificate for the animal. The certificate must be signed by the seller, and mailed to the NAEBA Registration Office in Kansas City. A new certificate cannot be issued unless the seller forfeits the old certificate.

The cost of transfers is \$20. Please take advantage of this opportunity!

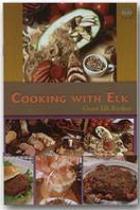
MnEBA Promotional Materials

The following items are available for promotional purposes. To see the full line of MnEBA promotional offerings, check out www.mneba.org and click on the "Promo Materials" button.

You can order online and pay by credit card or print off an order form and mail it to the MnEBA office along with a personal check. Contact info@mneba.org or call the MnEBA office at (320) 543-2686 with further questions.

MEAT PROMOTIONS

Elk Meat Poster 11" x 17" laminated poster in full color featuring elk burger and steak. \$5/each.



"ELK, Meat for a Healthy Life" Brochure 50 ct., \$10/each

3rd Edition "Cooking With Elk" Cookbook

1-9 copies, \$2.00/each; 10-99 copies, \$1.50/each; 100+ copies, \$1.00/each (pictured)

Table Tents feature a juicy elk burger, a MUST HAVE for restaurants selling elk burgers. Sold in packs of 20 for \$5.

VELVET PROMOTIONS



Velvet Antler for People Brochures is an updated, general velvet antler brochure. \$12.50/pack of 50 (pictured)

Velvet Antler for Pet Brochures is a first of its kind general info brochure about velvet antler & pets. \$12.50/pack of 50

Velvet Antler Brochures is a general velvet antler brochure produced by NAEBA. \$.30 each

GENERAL INFORMATION



Elk Info Brochure with general elk health and market info. FREE to MnEBA members up to 100 copies. \$.50 each to non-members. (pictured)

Raise the Legend Book, a general info booklet specifically created for the new breeder or those contemplating raising elk. Up to five copies FREE to MnEBA members!

Elk, America's Greatest Animal – Minnesota Elk DVD, a DVD promoting all elk markets, with special emphasis on promoting Minnesota grown elk. Great tool for speaking to civic groups and classrooms. \$5 each.

HOME DÉCOR

Price includes shipping & handling.



Elk Trashcan (pictured) \$25 each

Elk Rug (Small) \$27.50 each

Elk Rug (Large) \$40 each

MNELK / MINNESOTA GROWN BOX

For meat sales or any other Minnesota grown elk products which can be boxed up. Box size 17"x10"x8.25". Designed to hold 30 lbs.

\$1 each



Scholarship Thank You's



Minnesota Elk Breeders Association,

I cannot thank you enough for allowing me to take home the \$350 scholarship. There are no words to describe how thankful I am. \$350 will go a long way, especially in helping to pay for books.

This scholarship couldn't have come at a better time because once I make it into the nursing program, spring semester, this money will help to pay for the expensive nursing material needed for every future nurse. Thank you again for everything.

~ Rebecca Schmitz



Minnesota Elk Breeders Association,

I want to say thanks for the \$350 scholarship that you have awarded me and I will use it wisely. \$350 will be going towards helping me pay for some of my college this fall.

Thank you again Minnesota Elk Breeders Association, I truly appreciate it.

~ Logan Schmitz

Also, a special thank you to Kaye Zearth who has chaired the Scholarship committee for many years, has collected the applications and set up fair and impartial judges to evaluate the applications. And an additional very special thank you to retired educators Don and Diane Bakken of Brandon, MN who have donated their time and talents to help judge all the scholarship applications over the years. MnEBA appreciates the outstanding work and dedication they exemplify towards youth education.

Your fundraising donations are needed!

Please bring an item or two for the silent and/or live auctions for this year's 25th anniversary conference fundraisers. Your donations help raise much needed funds to continue the important projects of the association and development of the industry!

They also bring variety to the usual fundraisers!

Could everyone bring at least one item?

Any and all donations would be greatly appreciated!

Committee Reports

Committee Members Needed

As seen to the right, MnEBA has openings for two committee chair-people in both the Health and Scholarship committees. In addition, committee members for each of these committees are needed.

The board is also looking to expand the Government Relations committee to encompass more than just board members. Are you involved in local boards or do you have an interest in learning more about MnEBA's work at the State Capitol? If you have even the smallest amount of interest, we'd love to hear from you! No experience is needed - we have a great lobbyist to provide guidance.

If you have any interest in becoming involved in any of NAEBA's committees, please contact the office or any board member.

MnEBA Seeking New Members

Do you know people who raise elk who are not MnEBA members?

Now is a perfect time for new or returning members to join MnEBA as the new 2018 membership cycle begins on January 1st. As the industry cycles up and down, new advances in nutrition and animal health keep evolving and wildlife groups try to promote their anti-farming agendas, there's no more important time to make sure all elk farmers in Minnesota are making the most of their farm investment by being informed about the industry! Here are just a few of many great reasons to be a MnEBA member:

1. Great information source for the latest elk industry news in Minnesota and also nationally!
2. Receive 6 newsletters per year plus e-blasts for late breaking news.
3. Receive emails when buyers have immediate needs for velvet antler, meat, trophy bulls and other items.
4. Better profit potential on sales of breeding stock, trophy bulls, velvet and meat by being better informed.
5. Education through annual conference seminars and newsletters on marketing, animal health, promoting the industry, etc.
6. MnEBA web site is second to none in promoting elk!
7. Be part of a network of producers who join together in promoting the industry, learn better management strategies, network and share knowledge, lifelong friendships and weathering crisis together.
8. MnEBA booth at the State Fair and trade shows around the state are great public education experiences.
9. Development of promotional materials to help market elk products not found anywhere else.
10. Local state lobbying to ensure longevity and success of the industry.
11. Monetary contributions to the work of the American Cervid Alliance and Elk Research Council.
12. Annual Charitable Elk Hunt and MnEBA Scholarship program.

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	OPEN
State Fair	Greg & Roxy Lubinski (507) 534-3247 Paul Hueg (612) 791-0443

Advertiser Index

Mohlman Elk Farm

Page 3

Spring Coulee Velvet Capsules

Page 5

Leedstone

Page 11

ADM Alliance Nutrition

Page 14

Thank you for your support!

And don't forget to invite anyone you know who raises elk or is thinking about it, to the upcoming Annual Conference at the DoubleTree by Hilton Minneapolis West in Brooklyn Center, MN in what promises to be a great event! *Thank you for your efforts!!!*

Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

9086 Keats Avenue SW
Howard Lake, MN 55349

PHONE:
320-543-2686

FAX:
320-543-2983

E-MAIL:
info@mneba.org

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

Calendar of Events

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

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

March 9-11, 2018 – Outdoor News Deer & Turkey Classic, Warner Coliseum, MN State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

Classified Ads

For Sale: Semen from White Lightning and Piranha. Call Jay Pronschinske at 507-458-7970.

Services Offered: Outback Fence & Fabrication is here for all your fencing needs. We specialize in - Exclusion Fencing, Trellis Fencing, Chain Link Fencing, Woven Wire Fencing, Steel and Wood Post Fencing. We fabricate fences and enclosures for applications like Deer, Elk, Bison, Livestock (cattle, horses, goats, sheep, etc.). We are also here for your fabrication needs specializing in - Livestock Equipment (feeders, bunks, cattle gates, buckets, etc.), Repair and Modification (trailers, wagons, tractors, machinery, etc.), Custom Entry and Enclosure Gates, In Shop or On-Site Equipment and Machinery Repair Services. Contact us today with questions or an estimate on your project at 507-951-7632 or outbackfence@hotmail.com. Book for your fencing needs and projects for 2018 now! Visit our website at www.outbackMN.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.

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.

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