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## President's Message by Jim Byrne



Our annual conference was held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Brooklyn Center on the 13<sup>th</sup> of this month. A very good attendance of 70 active members braved the winter roads and cold. There was a lot of interest in all the seminars. If you couldn't attend, you missed a very informative day. Thank you to all who helped put the conference together and made it a success.

I think we are now entering into the season of paperwork. The Agriculture Census came today along with my income tax work sheets. Going over herd reports, breeding results, and plans for which animals stay and which go will keep me busy for quite a while. Think I'd rather be mowing pastures at this point.

One of the carryovers from last year is the audit of the Board of Animal Health (BAH) by the Office of the Legislative Auditor. Their report is due out in the latter part of April. We don't expect a lot of legislative action until this report is released. There will no doubt be recommendations for the BAH and we will need to be prepared to address them. We need to continue to contact our representatives and senators about our industry and be able to talk with them on a personal basis.

The board had two open positions which needed to be filled at the annual meeting. Greg Lubinski and I were up for reelection. The results of that election left the Board unchanged. We will serve for the next three years. Thank you for your confidence.

Respectfully,  
Jim



*Many thanks to Paul Hueg for bringing in this beautiful elk display with a special MnEBA 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plaque.*

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

### Board of Directors

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Greg Lubinski  
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#### Executive Secretary to the Board

Brenda Hartkopf  
(320) 543-2686

## MnEBA

### Mission Statement

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association represents a unified voice that strengthens the Elk farming industry in Minnesota by creating awareness about Elk production and promotion and consumption of Elk products.

## MnEBA Celebrates 25 Years at this Year's Conference!

### Engaging Seminars ~ Great Fun!

The 2018 MnEBA Annual Conference took place January 13, 2018 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Mpls North hotel in Brooklyn Center, MN. Seventy people attended this year's event. While celebrating MnEBA's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was a highlight, we were excited to have a great variety of seminars, some of which engaged members right away!

For a second year, ADM Animal Nutrition hosted a complimentary dinner and nutrition seminar on Friday night. This event once again drew a big crowd!

The membership meeting on Saturday provided a comprehensive update on association activities. The afternoon seminars offered MnEBA members the chance to hear from our new Board of Animal Health Program Director Dr. Linda Glaser. Dr. Glaser's presentation was very informative and drew many questions and some concerns from the crowd. The Stine Group's presentation on the idea of pursuing the serving of elk meat in Minnesota schools was a new concept which many producers haven't given much thought to. They drew a large crowd in the hallway from attendees who were looking for more information. Similarly, Minnesota Grown spoke about online marketing, specifically "Google My Business" and also went deeper into Facebook to teach us more about boosting posts to create higher social engagement. People were on their phones during much of the presentation engaging in the pages they were talking about. Mark Luedtke closed with a thought-provoking discussion about business planning on our farms. Many thanks to all speakers for the great informative seminars you shared with us!

This year's conference featured three vendors including ADM Animal Nutrition, Spring Coulee Elk Farm/Spring Coulee Freeze Drying and North American Elk Breeders Association. Thanks to all for being an important part of this year's conference!

Thanks also to Eileen Byrne for manning the gun calendar raffle table and registration desk during the busy morning hours.

The MnEBA awards committee recognized Kaye Zebarth with the MnEBA Appreciation Award for her great work as the Scholarship Committee Chair and also to Don & Dianne Bakken for donating their time and objectiveness in choosing our scholarship winners each year.

Board member elections were held on Saturday for the expiring terms of Jim Byrne and Greg Lubinski. Both expressed an interest to continue to serve and with no nominations from the floor, were re-elected by unanimous ballot.

Several members generously sponsored events throughout the day. They included:

- **Morning Break Sponsor:** *Roger & Saichon Nietfeld*
- **Afternoon Break Sponsor:** *Leo Windschitl/ADM Animal Nutrition*
- **Table Decorations:** *Pat & Rita Prodzinski*
- **Saturday Night Hospitality:** *Brian Wagner & Tena Martin, Bill & Karen Knutson and Lance & Brenda Hartkopf*

A big thanks to President Byrne for emceeding the conference and to Mark Lucas for serving as auctioneer for the live auction. Thanks also to Brian Wagner & Kraig Wurst for acting as ring men.

A final thank you to all who attended, made donations to the live and silent auctions, bid on fundraising items and helped in any way. It was a great conference!



## Membership Meeting Minutes

### MnEBA Annual Conference - January 13, 2018

The membership of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference on January 13, 2018 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Mpls North in Brooklyn Center, MN. President Jim Byrne thanked everyone for coming and called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

President Byrne asked for additions or corrections to the July 22, 2017 secretary report. Daphne Evenson moved to accept the report as written, Mark Lucas seconded, motion carried.

Brenda Hartkopf reviewed the treasurer's report. The end of the year checkbook balance was \$20,711.08. Brian Wagner moved to accept the treasurer's report, Greg Lubinski seconded, motion carried.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Government Relations:** President Byrne gave a recap of government relations activities from the past year which encompassed many items. Topics of discussion included dealing with the public and political reaction to the finding of CWD in wild and farmed deer in several Minnesota locations, the completion of the position paper on wild elk relocation in Minnesota, the attempt at the State Capitol to put a three year moratorium on starting any new deer farms in Minnesota (which was soundly defeated on the House floor), the Board of Animal Health audit by the state auditor which is ongoing, industry presentations given to the Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Association and Board of Animal Health, and the retirement of Dr. Paul Anderson and the appointment of Dr. Linda Glaser as the BAH farmed cervidae program director.

In addition, he reported that the MN Farmed Cervidae Committee is being reorganized and that BAH is looking for nominations to serve a two year term on the committee. He asked any members who had an interest in serving on this committee to let a board member or the office know.

Finally, Byrne reported MnEBA would like to get more member involvement on the Government Relations committee and asked members to contact any board member or the office if they had an interest. Depending on feedback, he may be calling members to solicit committee members as well.

**Fundraising Raffle:** Brenda Hartkopf thanked everyone who participated in any way with the

calendar raffle and reported 629 calendars were sold before the December 31, 2017 incentive deadline versus 575 at this same time last year. The high seller so far was Brian Wagner at 142 calendars sold followed by Wade & Heike Schimmelpfennig at 75. 2018 memberships were given to 8 members who turned in stubs and money for thirty calendars before December 31<sup>st</sup> and 55 names went into the hat for the incentive gun drawing. Morrie Evenson was the winner of that drawing. While there were a few calendars left at the registration desk, another sell out was expected.

Byrne questioned the membership on conducting the gun raffle calendar again and it was widely agreed to do it again for 2019. There was a question from one member about possibly adding archery items? The Board will consider this and would welcome additional member suggestions. Other feedback included staying at 750 printed calendars.

**Promotions:** Hartkopf reported that Minnesota Grown is working with their members who sell meat to conduct a survey of their meat customers to gain feedback on customer satisfaction, price points, etc. She encouraged members who sell elk meat to consider taking part. She also reported that Minnesota Grown is helping to fund several MnEBA projects including the Economic Impact Study, booth improvements, renewing the MN Elk Trademark and conference speakers later that day.

Hartkopf shared some of the positive elk stories which have come out since the summer meeting and encouraged members to check them out on Facebook and the MnEBA News page. She encouraged members to share future stories they are a part of with the office so they can also be posted.

Hartkopf reported MnEBA will be having a booth at the upcoming Outdoor News Deer & Turkey Show on March 9-11 and to contact Greg Lubinski to sign up to help. MnEBA is also planning to have a booth at the State FFA Convention the end of April. Lubinski also took a few minutes to give more detail on last year's booth activities.

**State Fair:** Paul Hueg spoke about a few ideas for updating the Minnesota State Fair booth including replacing the current television and creating new information panels. The committee is looking for ideas on what kind of panels would work well in an outdoor setting. Greg Lubinski reported that several

new people took a shift at the fair this past year. Feedback from the membership was to consider highlighting the MnEBA 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the booth and to consider a giveaway.

### NAEBA

NAEBA's Executive Director Travis Lowe was in attendance and gave a summary of NAEBA activities. He pointed out that "elk advocacy" for all of North America is a big part of what NAEBA does and these activities help keep all elk producers in business. He also reported a strong movement by NAEBA to eliminate Brucellosis import requirements in every state. Since there is no national Brucellosis program for farmed cervids, this needs to be done on a state by state basis. Colorado recently dropped their Brucellosis entry requirements as a result of this endeavor.

Lowe also reported on ongoing work to increase the TB accreditation whole herd testing interval from 3 years to 5 or possibly 6 years. It will likely be another 2-3 year process before it could become final, but he is hopeful this will happen.

He also invited everyone to attend the upcoming March Mingle in Overland Park, KS March 9-10 and the summer convention in Fargo, North Dakota on August 2-4. He shared that there's a 2 for 1 elk transfer special going on now through February 28<sup>th</sup> that members should take advantage of and also that NAEBA is currently exhibiting at the National Western Stock Show in Denver.

### OLD BUSINESS

Hartkopf reported the 2017 Minnesota Farmed Cervidae Economic Impact Study was now complete and copies were available at the registration desk. This was a joint project with the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association. The quick take home message was that the study showed a significant rise in average income over the 2012 study and that elk/deer farming could be profitable on a small amount of acreage.

Hartkopf and Tony Beckel shared details of the recent MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt which took place last October. The hunt recipient, Brian Burke plans to speak to the membership at the evening banquet later this evening. Hartkopf thanked Beckel for hosting this year's hunt as well as Midwest Outdoors Unlimited,

Lake Superior SCI and Dennis Engebretson for their roles in making this hunt possible.

Mark Luedtke reported on October's USAHA meeting and that progress was made to work towards eliminating Brucellosis testing requirements on a state by state basis, increase the number of years between whole herd TB tests to maintain accreditation, making available better statistics on wild deer CWD testing and improved reporting on EHD and Blue Tongue. He also reported good discussion on allowing multiple test alternatives to deal with TB false positives, however no resolution was made in that regard. While the resolutions coming out of this meeting are strictly recommendations, these resolutions are taken very seriously at USAHA and most of the time, recommended changes are eventually made.

### NEW BUSINESS

With the terms for Jim Byrne and Greg Lubinski ending, there was an election to fill the two expired terms. Pat Prodzinski moved to re-elect both Jim and Greg and to close nominations. This motion was seconded and passed.

Byrne reported MnEBA is once again looking for a summer meeting host farm and that interested individuals should contact a board member or the office.

No other new business was offered. Pat Prodzinski moved to adjourn. This motion was seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

*Spring Coulee  
Velvet Capsules*



*Bill & Karen Knutson*  
Home of Spring Coulee Elk

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## Annual Conference Fundraisers a Success!

### A Big Thank You to All Donors/Buyers!

Many thanks to everyone who donated and bid on items for this year's live and silent auctions! Over \$4,800 was raised through the auctions and fundraising games for MnEBA! Thanks to Brian Wagner for his assistance in finding special items for the auction. Thanks also to Mark Lucas for serving as auctioneer and to Kraig Wurst and Brian Wagner for their assistance in taking bids.

Item	Donor	Buyer
(10) Bags ADM 18% Complete Supplement x 2	Leo Windschitl/ADM Animal Nutrition	Darrell Turek
AllFlex 5ml Precision Syringe	Brian Wagner & Tena Martin	Brian Wagner
Bird Puzzle	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Brenda Hartkopf
Vacation at Casa Madera Condo (7 days)	Don & Joyce Kaplan	Eric Mohlman
Screwdriver Set	MnEBA	Holly Harguth
Elk Sculpture	Larry & Sherry Winter	Brian Burke
Custom Made Barnwood Mirror	Kraig & Jenny Wurst/MnEBA	Brian Burke
Leedstone Quarter Zip Fleece Shirt x 2	Leedstone	Brian Wagner
Set of (4) Elk Bowls	Greg & Roxy Lubinski	Brian Wagner
WCDEFA Membership #1	WCDEFA	Brian Wagner
WCDEFA Membership #2	WCDEFA	Kraig Wurst
Shotgun Shell Salt/Pepper Set	Leo Windschitl	Greg Lubinski
Food Saver	MnEBA	Carol Mudek
Custom Made Barnwood Mirror with Hooks	Ken & Carol Mudek	Chad Lawler
Barnwood Birdhouse	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Dan Parsons
Ringbills Print	Larry & Sherry Winter	Dan Parsons
South Bend Fishing Pole	Leo Windschitl	Dennis Engebretson
Snow Goose Decoy	Larry & Sherry Winter	Greg Lubinski
ADM Thermos #2	Leo Windschitl	Greg Lubinski
Browning Quarter Zip Winter Shirt	MnEBA	Jerry Campbell
Cabelas 119 Special Anniversary Edition Knife	John & Shirley Fredrickson	Jerry Campbell
Hiking Stick	Leo Windschitl	Jerry Campbell
Normectin Wormer 5ml with Applicator	Brian Wagner & Tena Martin	Jim Byrne
Ice Cleats	MnEBA	Jim Byrne
Cookie Jar with Cookies	Greg & Roxy Lubinski	Jim Byrne
ADM Thermos #3	Leo Windschitl	Jim Byrne
Women's Scarf	Mark & Michelle Lucas	Karen Knutson
Cap Light	MnEBA	Ken Mudek
Shotgun Shell Light Set	MnEBA	Brenda Hartkopf
Work Light	MnEBA	Brenda Hartkopf
\$25 Leedstone Gift Certificate X 2	Leedstone	Brenda Hartkopf
ADM Flashlight	Leo Windschitl	Ken Mudek
Pink Fishing Pole	Leo Windschitl	Ken Mudek
Leedstone Quarter Zip Shirt	Leedstone	Kraig Wurst
Elk Stationary	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Linda Campbell
Metal Sign 10 Commandments	Leo Windschitl	Linda Campbell
Himalayan Salt Chrystal Night Light	Leo Windschitl	Linda Campbell
BBQ Fork Set	MnEBA	Lynn Hueg
Canada Snow Goose Decoy	Larry & Sherry Winter	Mark Lucas
Mossy Oak Bottle Opener	Leo Windschitl	Mark Lucas
Ear Muff/Glasses	MnEBA	Mark Luedtke
Corona Bucket	Darrell & Sheila Turek	Mark Luedtke
Elk Wine Chiller	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Michelle Lucas
Barnwood Framed Mirror with Shelf	Ken & Carol Mudek	Michelle Lucas

Item	Donor	Buyer
Remington Golden Bullet Bucket .22lr	MnEBA	Morrie Evenson
Purple & Yellow (Vikings) Ice Fishing Pole	MnEBA	Pat Prodzinski
Long Handled Hay Knife	Greg & Roxy Lubinski	Pat Prodzinski
Steiner Military Marine 8x30 Binoculars	Mark & Michelle Lucas	Pat Prodzinski
Elk Bathmat	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Paul Hartkopf
Metal Sign Right of the People	Paul & Lynn Hueg	Paul Hartkopf
Hunters Prayer Plaque	Ken & Carol Mudek	Paul Hartkopf
ADM Thermos #1	Leo Windschitl	Paul Hartkopf
Patriotic Rifle Case	MnEBA	Paul Hartkopf
Browning Prism II Knife	MnEBA	Paul Hartkopf
Couch Quilt Handmade by Eileen Byrne	Jim & Eileen Byrne	Paul Hueg
Browning Flannel-Lined Jacket	MnEBA	Roxy Lubinski
Elk Plate	Jim & Eileen Byrne	Roxy Lubinski
Wine/Chocolate Basket	Paul & Lynn Hueg	Roxy Lubinski
Leedstone \$25 Gift Certificate	Leedstone	Wade Schimmelpfennig
Women's Backpack	Mark & Michelle Lucas	Sheila Turek
12 Gauge Shotgun Shells X 2	Paul & Lynn Hueg	Wade Schimmelpfennig
Comfort Basket	Darrell & Sheila Turek	Rita Prodzinski
Swan Decoy	Larry & Sherry Winter	Pat Prodzinski
Wildlife Prints	Larry & Sherry Winter	Leo Windschitl
Redhead Duck Decoy	Larry & Sherry Winter	Tony Beckel

## 2017 Minnesota Farmed Cervid Economic Impact Study

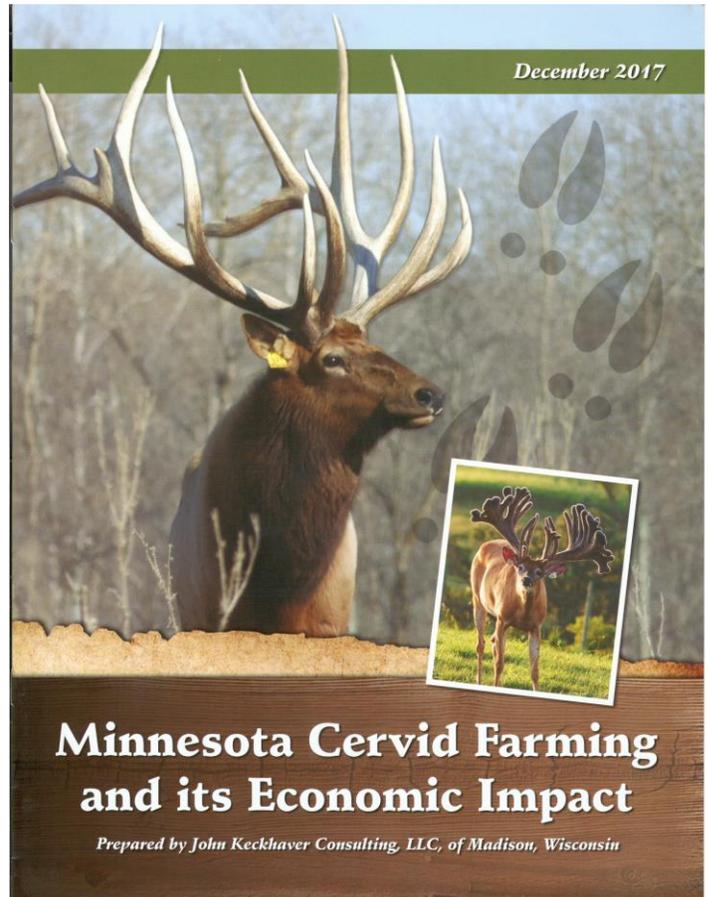
The 2017 Minnesota Cervid Farming and its Economic Impact survey is now complete and your copy is included with this mailing.

There were a few pleasant surprises in this year's study – the biggest of which was that survey respondents reported farm sales which averaged \$47,490. This was up over 400% from what was reported in the 2012 survey! Expenses were up as well, a mere thirteen percent which ultimately shows the reader that cervid farming is a viable pursuit on Minnesota farms. Considering the average size total acreage from study respondents was 29 acres, those numbers are even more impressive!

As was expected, overall herd numbers and inventory was down, but showed a leveling off from 2016 to 2017.

The overall economic impact of the Minnesota farmed cervidae industry was \$24.2 million, an increase of 37 percent over the 2012 study.

MnEBA would like to thank the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association and Minnesota Grown for helping to fund the study. This information will be used in future legislative endeavors, to help generate content for a new industry press release and gives all interested parties a chance to consider the importance of the farmed cervidae industry in outstate Minnesota and value to the greater Minnesota economy. A final thanks to all who participated to help generate the data that was needed to complete this important project!



## MnEBA Board Meeting Minutes

### January 24, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a board meeting on January 24, 2018 at the home of Lance & Brenda Hartkopf. Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Byrne began the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

The 3/22/17, 6/12/17, 10/11/17, 11/20/17, 12/21/17 and 1/11/18 secretary reports were on the agenda to review and approve. Since the minutes of all six meetings had been distributed prior to the meeting, Byrne asked if the board wished to approve them all together. Lubinski moved to accept all secretary reports as presented, Luedtke seconded, motion carried.

Board reviewed 2017 end of year financials. The 2017 year end checkbook balance was \$20,711.08. Wurst moved to approve the financials as presented, Luedtke seconded, motion carried.

### OLD BUSINESS

MnEBA's lobbyist Tony Kwilas then joined the meeting via speakerphone to give the board an update on recent discussions he's had with legislators regarding the farmed cervidae industry. In particular, Tony discussed a recent meeting with Rep. Rick Hanson who shared his concerns and ideas for possible solutions to ongoing issues. While Rep. Hanson did not share specifics on any bill introductions in the upcoming session, Tony said to expect to see something. Tony also reported that industry should expect to also see a bill introduced from the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association. He has reached out to their lobbyist to ascertain what that might entail. For now, it was agreed to have Tony schedule meetings between leaders of the Agriculture and Environment committees and MnEBA representatives, have MnEBA send a copy of the recent Economic Impact Study to all Agriculture and Environment committee members and that we continue to push for legislators to wait with any bills until the results of the ongoing legislative audit are made public. These results are expected in April. This year's session runs from February 20-May 21. Tony left the meeting when the legislative discussion ended.

Hartkopf reported that 70 people attended the recent MnEBA Annual Conference. She shared the financials from the meeting and everyone reported on feedback received from the event.

Hartkopf reported the 2018 Gun Calendar was a sell-out except for two lost calendars. There were 8 free memberships given out and 55 names went into the hat for the incentive gun. High sellers were noted.

Luedtke gave an update on recent information requests made to both the USDA and Minnesota DNR. The USDA request has to do with identifying observed bone piles in the Crow Wing county area. While this request was made in

October, MnEBA has just been informed that the information requested will hopefully be available by February 9<sup>th</sup>. The Minnesota DNR request was made to gather statistics on numbers of wild deer in each Minnesota permit area as well as number of CWD tests conducted on free-ranging deer throughout the state in 2014, 2015 and 2016. A statistician with the ACA will work to gather numbers on percentages of animals tested, to compare to percentages of animals tested in the farmed industry. This data has been submitted and is in the hands of the statistician with results expected in a few weeks.

Hartkopf and Lubinski discussed the Outdoor News Deer and Turkey Show schedule. Lubinski will solicit shift workers. Lubinski and Byrne plan to man a MnEBA booth at the 2018 State FFA Convention later this spring.

### NEW BUSINESS

Election of officers was held. Lubinski moved to keep the slate of officers the same as in 2017, Luedtke seconded, motion approved.

Board discussed nominations for the newly revised Farmed Cervidae Advisory Group per notification that came from the Board of Animal Health earlier this month seeking nominations until February 1. Wagner nominated Mark Luedtke, Brenda Hartkopf and Jim Byrne be the MnEBA representatives. After more discussion, Luedtke nominated Brian Wagner and Perry Olson as alternates and Byrne nominated Kraig Wurst as an alternate. Lubinski to speak to Tony Beckel about being nominated as the representative from the trophy ranch market and Hartkopf to speak to Dr. Glen Zearth about his willingness to be nominated for the accredited veterinarian representative position. If they are willing to be nominated, MnEBA will also nominate them. Lubinski will also reach out to his own veterinarian as well.

Byrne discussed a follow up proposal related to the Farm to School presentation by The Stine Group to lay the groundwork in Minnesota schools to have elk producers work with schools to serve elk meat. After much discussion, it was decided to table the proposal and that if the membership requests the association pursue this, then the proposal would be reconsidered. Hartkopf to follow up with The Stine Group.

Hartkopf reported that at the recent conference, Craig Wylie expressed a willingness to host the 2018 Summer Picnic and that Pat Prodzinski offered to host the 2019 Summer Picnic. The Board was very pleased to get two such proposals and gave the go-ahead to move forward with both event locations.

Board discussed possible 2019 conference locations and directed Hartkopf to get a wide range of quotes for their consideration. Discussed inviting ADM Animal Nutrition back for a Friday night supper and presentation which has gone over very well. Board would ask that the presentation

be a little less technical in nature the next time. Board also discussed a having a different menu and seminar ideas which came from fellow members at the recent conference.

Board discussed the 2019 gun raffle calendar and per membership feedback, decided to keep to the same number of calendars printed and same amount of prizes. It was recommended to add to the Rules page that if winners wish, they can take the value of the gun they win and put that value toward other store merchandise.

Wagner brought forth a request from the Texas Deer Association for a donation for their Antler Fest event. Board declined to make a donation.

Wagner updated the Board on recent ACA topics including the Texas live animal test project and proposed certification program and how he voted.

Board went through each line item of the financials and set the 2018 budget. Hartkopf to plug the numbers into a new spreadsheet and distribute to the board for their review.

Spoke briefly about filling the MnEBA's Scholarship chair position as Kaye Zebarth has stepped down. Board to consider replacement options and bring their ideas to the next meeting.

Luedtke moved to adjourn which was unanimously agreed upon. Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

### January 11, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a phone conference on January 11, 2018. Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Byrne began the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Board reviewed the upcoming conference schedule and determined final fundraising details and timelines.

Hartkopf reported 629 of the 750 gun raffle calendars were sold by December 31 and that there were just 6 unclaimed calendars at the office at the present time. Additionally, she reported that 55 names will go into the hat for the incentive gun drawing and there were 8 members who earned a free membership for selling 30 or more calendars and returning stubs and money by December 31. The high seller so far is Brian Wagner with 142 calendars sold.

MnEBA was approached by the Wisconsin Deer & Elk Farmers Association (WCDEFA) about donating a membership to their annual conference fundraiser the end of January. Board approved the donation. Hartkopf to ask WCDEFA for a reciprocal donation for our upcoming conference as well. Meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

### December 21, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a phone conference on December 21, 2017. Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Byrne began the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Board discussed the Minnesota Cervid Farming and its Economic Impact draft. In general, all thought it contained good information and that all areas were addressed. Board noted a couple sections which could be reworded slightly. Hartkopf to make those changes and send back out to Board, Minnesota Deer Farmers Association (MDFA) and the study coordinator for review and approval. This needs to go to the designer/printer ASAP to be ready to hand out at the MnEBA Annual Conference.

Hartkopf reported the study coordinator was willing to forfeit the 2<sup>nd</sup> half payment because of the lengthy delay in receiving the study draft. Byrne moved to withhold \$500 of the final payment and split the difference with MDFA, Wurst seconded, motion carried.

Board discussed working to solicit more Government Relations committee members to:

1. Involve more members
2. Do a better job of communicating
3. Get more opinions and idea contributions from the membership as well as being a sounding board
4. Have more help for committee chair

Byrne will ask for more membership involvement during his committee report at the upcoming conference and/or also make phone calls to solicit committee members.

Hartkopf gave an annual conference update. Sign-ups and hotel reservations have been slow to date, but most members indicate they are attending. Rita Prodzinski has been working on table decorations and other fun ideas to commemorate MnEBA's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Hartkopf has made final preparations for meals and set up at the hotel and Hartkopf and Wagner have purchased items for the fundraisers. Hartkopf to send out e-blast on upcoming deadlines.

Hartkopf reported members have submitted stubs and money for 291 gun raffle calendars to date, substantially more than at this time last year. There are 26 calendars left in the office at this time. Another e-blast reminding members to return their stubs and money before December 31<sup>st</sup> to be eligible for the selling incentives will be going out shortly.

Luedtke moved to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

## In the News

### Elk are part of the family at Turek's Arctic Hillcrest

By Matthew Lambert – AgriNews  
January 24, 2018

MONTGOMERY, Minn. – On top of a hill, slightly outside Montgomery, Minn., a farm sits.

The farm got its name, Turek's Arctic Hillcrest, from the blistering cold winds that blow during a January morning.

However, the elk who occupy that farm have no complaints.

Co-owned by Darrell Turek and Sheila Krukowski, the farm has been in the Turek name for more than a century, focusing on dairy and crops.

Turek continues to harvest crops, but didn't continue the dairy lifestyle. Nor did he continue raising whitetail deer, something his father started more than 25 years ago.

The couple raised the deer for a while as well, but didn't find it to be enjoyable. Turek, though, did have an interest in raising elk. So he sold the whitetails and purchased two elk from a Missouri farm.

The elk, now numbering 250, are "docile" animals, according to the couple. They're relaxed, Turek and Krukowski said, because of the constant human attention they receive.

Turek and Krukowski enter the pens every day. Even their 3-year-old daughter feeds the elk – she calls them "her boys" – with her pink bucket.

Seeing the animals is thrilling according to Turek, who said elk are naturally curious animals. "People are just amazed when they come down and look at the group of bulls that we're letting go to hard



antler," Turek said. "They really love seeing that."

Newborn elk will weigh about 35 pounds. A cow can weigh about 500 pounds and be about 6½ feet from nose to tail, and a bull can weigh 700 pounds, while stretching 8 feet from nose to tail.

Each year, Turek and Krukowski slaughter 10 to 20 elk, depending upon demand. They sell a variety of meat products and velvet pills. Their products can be purchased directly from them by phone or email. Odenthall Meats in New Prague, Minn., and Traxler's Hunting Preserve in Le Center, Minn., also sell the meat.

While government-mandated testing and paperwork can be hectic, the couple says the connection with the elk makes it worth it.

So close is the connection that once Turek heard a calf crying in the pasture.

"Normally a cow, if you went near that calf, it would probably kill you,"

Turek said. "I mean, they are very protective. You are a predator. They will take you out."

Turek entered the enclosure, and with the cow watching over, he picked up the calf. The cow followed Turek and the three entered the handling facility where Turek discovered the calf's front legs weren't working properly, making it difficult to nurse. So Turek approached the cow, who allowed Turek to milk her and feed her baby.

"She stood there, she didn't kick, she just kind of looked over at me, and that was it," Turek said.

The following day, Krukowski attempted the same maneuver, but was rejected by the cow.

"She didn't come attack me either, but I went to grab her udder, to fix it to move the calf up," Krukowski said, "and no kidding, she took my sleeve, grabbed it (with her mouth), and moved it away like, 'no, where's (Turek)?' As gentle as she could be, she moved it."

# 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



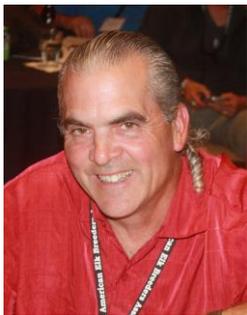
NUKE

- 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 Blog by Mark Luedtke, MnEBA Vice President



Hello everyone, I hope all is well with you, your families and your farms. I was lucky enough to have Brenda remind me a week in advance again, so I had some time to think about this little message to all of you.

This is the time of year I work on my business plan and strategic plan for the farm. Needless to say, this is one of those years that makes me look at making changes to my past business plan. I believe there is always room for improvement, especially when the market place shows signs of shifting and/or changing. 2017 was definitely a year that I experienced the market place shifting and changing. One of the things that I felt an impact from was CWD being found again in MN and another was the supply of trophy bulls in the marketplace appeared to have changed. I don't have a silver bullet answer for how to manage the final impact of these influences to our industry but that doesn't mean you should bury your head in the sand and try to ignore them or hope they will go away.

I had a few members talk to me after my seminar on breeding for your markets at our winter meeting that just happened, and I think there was a full spectrum of reactions. Some talked about the difficulty in doing a plan which I do understand, I think the important aspect to remember is your plan needs to work for you, not anyone else. So, as you make your plans to decide who to velvet and who to grow into hard antler all you need are tools that work for you and a level of documentation that makes you comfortable with what you are doing. I find it helps to have a level of documentation that I can forecast with and do post evaluations to determine if my past plans had merit and are worth building on for the future. For me it is helpful to have a level of confidence in my current years plan; typically I get that from examining my past plan and learning from what worked and what didn't.

I will openly admit I don't have a solid plan for this year in place yet. I have been working on a plan and with any luck in the next 4 to 6 weeks I will have something that I am confident with. I like to have a plan that has a solid foundation to stand on but has enough flexibility to deal with the myriad of unknown variables and almost certain shifts that will be encountered in the marketplace. It really is interesting how this process influences me; I often times start with uncertainty which sometimes grows to concern but almost always transitions to excitement for the coming year. The new year brings with it anticipation of seeing what future potential is presented from the current calving season and witnessing the current development of the bull herd from past planning decisions.

Hope you all have a great season,  
Mark



## Minnesota FFA Foundation Thank You's

MnEBA members Greg & Roxy Lubinski recently contributed funding in MnEBA's name for a fifth year in a row to the Minnesota FFA Foundation's "Blue Jackets – Brighter Futures" campaign. Two jackets were awarded to the Minnesota FFA members below who sent thank you's back to MnEBA as follows.

*Dear MnEBA,*

*Your donation to the MN FFA Foundation will buy me my first FFA jacket. This is important because it will be carried with me through my years of FFA. Some CDE's I am participating in are small animals and dairy products. This will further my education in animals and animal health.*

*I thank you once again.*

*Sincerely,  
Grace Kilian, Heron Lake-Okabena FFA*

*Dear MnEBA,*

*Thank you so much for selecting me to receive an FFA jacket. It means so much to me, and frankly, I can't wait to wear it.*

*I'll always remember what it will represent as I'll walk from class to class with pride when I wear it.*

*Sincerely,  
Daniel*

## MnEBA Kitchen

*This recipe makes the classic dish, lasagna, into a delicious soup sure to warm up even the coldest hands!*

### Slow Cooker Lasagna Soup

½ lb. ground elk	1 tsp. Italian seasoning
½ lb. Italian sausage	½ tsp. dried basil
½ cup chopped onions	1 tsp. salt
4 cloves garlic	½ tsp. pepper
1 cup diced carrots	3 cups water
2 (14.5 oz.) cans Italian style diced tomatoes	1 cup dry rotini or other small pasta
1 (15 oz.) can tomato sauce	2 cups mozzarella cheese (for topping)
8 oz. mushrooms, sliced	



In a large skillet over medium heat, combine ground elk, sausage and onions. Cook until the meat has browned. Stir in garlic and cook for another minute.

Meanwhile, add the carrots, diced tomatoes and their juice, tomato sauce, mushrooms, Italian seasoning, basil, salt and pepper to the slow cooker. Stir in water and meat mixture.

Cover and cook on High for 4 hours or Low for 8 hours. During the last 15 minutes of cooking time, stir in the pasta, cover and continue to cook until pasta has softened. Serve with mozzarella cheese and crusty bread on the side.

## Rack Plus™ for Outstanding results

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

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

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

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

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

\*Antler D is a trademark of Head Gear LLC.



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



**Proven Performance  
for Bigger Bulls**

For more info, contact Leo Windschitl at 218-820-0658  
AN\_DeerHelp@adm.com • [www.ADMAnimalNutrition.com/wildlife](http://www.ADMAnimalNutrition.com/wildlife)



## In Memory

*MnEBA lost not one, but two founding members in December. We remember them fondly and are thankful for the opportunities we had to grow in this great industry together. Blessed be their memory.*

### Alice Chan

October 25, 1934 - December 26, 2017

(No photo available)

Alice Leona Eblen Chan, age 83, of Forada, Minnesota passed away on Tuesday, December 26, 2017. Alice was born on October 25, 1934, the daughter of Elmo and Lillian (Heschke) Eblen in Hoffman Township. She attended District #3 school and graduated from Alexandria Central High School in 1952.

On June 1, 1953 Alice was united in marriage to Frank J. Chan. To this marriage three children were born: Kathryn, Judith, Todd. Through the years Alice worked a variety of jobs in Alexandria. She began working at JC Penny and after 30 years retired in December 1996 to spend her time at home.

In 1974, Frank and Alice purchased a small hobby farm in Forada. Together they raised a variety of farm animals. Later on they changed to game farming and later specialized in Elk farming. Alice could always be found working side by side with Frank. She was right there doing whatever needed to be done including building their home on the lake in 1985.

Alice was a social person who enjoyed entertaining and could whip up enough food to feed whoever would drop by. In 2004, Alice was diagnosed with Parkinsons and dementia. She continued to live at home until September of 2015.

Alice was preceded in death by her infant daughter, Kathryn; parents, four siblings: Earl Eblen, Vivian Tuttle, Ruby Brackin, Marvin Eblen; granddaughter, Brittany Chan.

She is survived by her husband, Frank; daughter, Judy (Jim) Chlian of Alexandria; son, Todd Chan of Forada, MN; granddaughters: Tonya (Keith) Franks of Keister, MN, Tara (Troy) Ellis of Sioux Falls, SD; step grandson, Mike Chlian; two great grandsons: Bryce Prouty and Brock Franks. Rest in peace until we meet again. All our love.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, December 30, 2017, 2:30 PM at the Anderson Funeral Home. Burial was at the Independent Bohemian Cemetery.

### Pete Serrin

May 28, 1927 - December 30, 2017



Pierce "Pete" Serrin passed away on December 30, 2017, at the Glenwood Retirement Village, at the age of 90½. He was the son of Franklin Pierce and Irene (Philipp) Serrin, born May 28, 1927 in Glenwood, Minnesota. He was baptized and confirmed in St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Glenwood, where his grandparents were early members in the late 1800's. The church is now located at the Pope County Museum, and in 2010, Pete repaired the damaged old white cross so that it could be re-installed above the bell tower.

Pete attended elementary and high school in Glenwood, graduating in 1945. Upon graduation he was immediately inducted into the U.S. Army. After basic training he was deployed to Korea for occupation following the end of WWII, and served with the 20th Inf. Reg. as Communications Chief. He was honorably discharged in January 1947. He then attended NDSU in Fargo, North Dakota, where he studied architecture for two years before becoming employed on the Soo Line Railroad in Glenwood as Fireman, then Engineer, and retiring in 1986.

Pete and wife Carol (Stavem) were married in the Little Brown Church in Nashua, Iowa, on November 2, 1951. They purchased land in Long Beach and moved into their new home in 1957. Pete was an animal lover and was well-known throughout the state for his "animal whispering" and Serrin Game Farm. He had a variety of animals over the years, starting with sheep, goats, horses, deer, waterfowl and exotic birds, and finally elk and buffalo. He tamed

many wild animal orphans including chipmunks, squirrels, raccoons, skunks, fox, and crows that learned to talk. It was not unusual for visitors to find wild animals as part of the family in the house. Pete was also known for his animated story-telling skills and his incredibly detailed knowledge of the old history of Glenwood, faculties that he retained until his death. He was a "life-long student" and an avid reader of anything historical or non-fiction. He was also extremely proud to be a member of the Masons, Eastern Star, American Legion, and VFW.

Pete is survived by his wife Carol; daughter Sabra Serrin Fawcett (Greg) of Fall City, WA, and sons Philipp Serrin of New Hope, MN, David Serrin (Lonna) of Spokane, WA, and Jonathan "Jack" Serrin (Karen) of Glenwood; grandchildren Andrew Fawcett of Issaquah, WA, Courtney Holmes (Rob) of Renton, WA, Blaine Serrin (Taylor) of Spokane, WA, Lindell Serrin (Casey) of Seattle, WA, Samantha Miller (Jeremy) of Spokane, WA, Dustin Serrin of Glenwood, MN, Brigitta Serrin of Seaside, OR, and Greta Serrin of Columbia, MO; eight great-grandchildren, and many cousins, nieces, and nephews who considered him to be a "legend". He was preceded in death by his grandparents, parents, and one sister, Mary Serrin Dobbins Church. A Memorial Service will be held next spring.

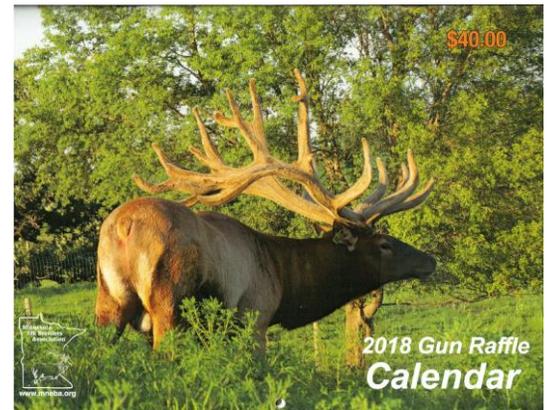
## 2018 MnEBA Gun Calendar Raffle Sells Out

### Calendars Sell Out for Third Year In A Row!

This is the third year in a row that MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendars sold out (except for two calendars which were lost). GREAT JOB to everyone who sold this year's calendars and THANK YOU for your time and efforts! Thanks also to everyone who sponsored a page in the calendar. This group effort continues to be amazingly successful and greatly aids in continuing all the endeavors which are so important to this organization.

#### Top Sellers

Brian Wagner was this year's top seller with a whopping 142 calendars sold! Wade & Heike Schimmelpfennig once again sold an amazing amount of calendars at 78 calendars sold. Next best in sales were Pat Prodzinski at 60, Greg Lubinski at 52, Paul Hartkopf at 50 and Dennis Engebretson at 37 sold.



#### Nine Producers Qualified for a FREE 2018 MnEBA Membership!

A total of nine producers qualified for a free 2018 MnEBA membership after selling 30 or more calendars and returning stubs and money before December 31, 2017. In addition to those listed above, Brian & Holly Harguth and Jerry Campbell earned free memberships as well. Mark Lucas also sold thirty calendars but as he is a Lifetime member, the free membership did not apply.

A total of 629 stubs and money were returned by December 31<sup>st</sup>, with 55 names put into the hat for the special gun incentive drawing for every 10 calendars sold. Morrie Evenson was drawn out of the hat as the lucky winner of the Henry Golden Boy .22 LR!

Every sale was important, no matter how many any one individual or couple sold. The group effort was once again amazing with tickets sold by 33 different members. THANK YOU to all!!!

#### When Winners are Posted

Monthly winners will be posted every other Wednesday on the MnEBA web site at [www.mneba.org](http://www.mneba.org). Check back frequently to see who the new winners are!

#### What will the 2019 calendar bring...

Feedback from the membership at the annual conference was consistent in recommending not to print any more calendars and to keep to the same type and number of prize winning days. If you have any suggestions, please contact a board member or the office.



## NAEBA's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual March Mingle Kansas Elk & Deer Association's Annual Meeting Missouri Elk Farmers Association's Annual Meeting

DoubleTree Hotel Kansas City-Overland Park  
Overland Park, KS ~ March 9-10, 2018

### ***Tentative Schedule of Events***

#### **Friday, March 9**

8:00 am	Registration & Exhibitor Set Up
8:00- 9:00 am	NAEBA Board of Directors Meeting (Room A)
9:00- 2:00 pm	Ranch Tour of Valley View Elk Ranch; Garnett, KS (lunch included on site)
2:30- 3:00 pm	<b>CONCURRENT SESSIONS:</b> NAEBA Update- <i>Travis Lowe, NAEBA Executive Director</i> (Room A) NADeFA Update- <i>Skip West, NADeFA President</i> (Room B)
3:00- 3:30 pm	Afternoon Break
3:30- 4:15 pm	<b>JOINT SESSION:</b> Chemical Immobilization of Elk & Deer- <i>Charly Seale, Exotic Wildlife Association Executive Director</i>
4:15- 5:00 pm	<b>JOINT SESSION:</b> SEMINAR- EHD and Bluetongue- Signs and Prevention- <i>Dr. Lee Cohnstaedt, Research Entomologist, USDA Ag Research Service</i> (Room A)
5:00- 6:00 pm	Cash Bar & Social Networking
6:00- 7:00 pm	Dinner Served
7:00- 8:30 pm	NAEBA Benefit Semen & Fun Auction- <i>Auctioneer services donated by Mayes Auction Service</i>
8:30 - 11:30 pm	Evening Music Entertainment- <i>"The Ben Taddiken Band"</i> & Social in Ballroom- <i>Music sponsored by Anderson Elk Ranch. Kegs sponsored by X4 Ranch and Black Rock Ranch.</i>

#### **Saturday, March 10**

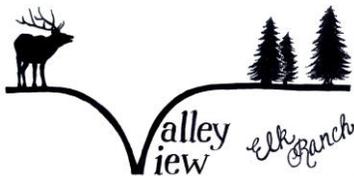
8:30 am	Registration
8:30- 9:15 am	Kansas Elk & Deer Association Board Meeting (Room A)
8:30- 9:15 am	Elk Research Council Board of Trustees Meeting (Room B)
9:30- 11:00 am	<b>CONCURRENT SESSIONS:</b> Kansas Elk & Deer Association Membership Meeting (Room A) Missouri Elk Farmers Association Membership Meeting & Missouri Legislative/Legal Update (Room B)
11:00- 11:45am	<b>CONCURRENT SESSIONS:</b> Kansas Animal Health Update- <i>Dr. Justin Smith, Kansas Animal Health Commissioner</i> (Room A) Missouri Animal Health Update- <i>Dr. Linda Hickam, Missouri Department of Agriculture State Veterinarian</i> (Room B)
12:00- 12:45 pm	Provided Lunch
1:00- 1:45 pm	<b>CONCURRENT SESSIONS:</b> SEMINAR: Field Scoring Elk Bulls- <i>Andy Azcarraga, Plateau Valley Elk Ranch</i> , (Room A) SEMINAR: Whitetail Deer Herd Health Part 1- <i>Laurie Seale, Maple Hill Farm</i> (Room B)

1:45- 2:30 pm	<b>CONCURRENT SESSIONS:</b> SEMINAR: Elk Animal Registration 101- <i>Travis Lowe, NAEBA Executive Director (Room A)</i> SEMINAR: Whitetail Deer Herd Health Part 2- <i>Laurie Seale, Maple Hill Farm (Room B)</i>
2:30-3:00 pm	Afternoon Break
3:00- 3:30 pm	<b>JOINT SESSION:</b> SEMINAR: Raising and Hunting Exotic Deer Species in the Midwest- <i>Charly Seale, Exotic Wildlife Association Executive Director</i>
3:30- 4:15 pm	<b>JOINT SESSION:</b> SEMINAR: Vaccinating Deer and Elk- <i>Dr. Darryl Ragland, Purdue University</i>
4:15- 5:00 pm	<b>JOINT SESSION:</b> SEMINAR: CWD Resistance in Elk and Whitetail Deer - <i>Dr. Nicholas Haley, Midwestern University</i>
5:00- 6:00 pm	Cash Bar & Social Networking
6:00- 7:00 pm	Dinner Served
7:00- 8:30 pm	KEDA & MEFA Benefit Auctions- <i>Auctioneer services donated by Mayes Auction Service</i>
8:30 pm	Check Out & Exhibit Tear Down
9:00 pm	Hospitality Room

### Friday Ranch Tour Information!

*Hosted by Valley View Elk Ranch*

*Lunch Sponsored by Valley View Elk Ranch & South Fork Elk Ranch*



- 9:00 am- Attendees Leave DoubleTree to Travel to Valley View Elk Ranch on own transportation (may caravan or car pool)
- 10:30 am- Ranch Tour Begins
- 12:00 am- Chili Lunch Served
- 1:00 pm- Attendees Depart for Double Tree to Arrive by 2 pm

Valley View Elk Ranch  
19324 NW Hwy 31  
Garnett, KS 66032

Located five miles west of Garnett on K-31 Hwy.

Go to [www.naelk.org](http://www.naelk.org) for more information and to register!

## Vet Corner by Dr. Glen Zebarth

*Reprinted from North American Elk Journal, November 2017 edition*

### Is management an effective solution for CWD in farmed elk?

*By Nick Haley, DVM, PhD, Midwestern University*

Two years ago, we began planning for an ambitious project, one that had never been attempted before in farmed cervids: to manage a herd of elk with chronic wasting disease. Our goals were broad, in hopes that we might learn something even if the project failed. We wanted to show that a live animal test could be effectively implemented to accurately identify infected animals. We hoped to improve on the available testing methods to find the disease in these animals earlier. We tried to learn more about the herd structure and genetic background of the animals to see if we could predict the animals most at risk of developing CWD. We hoped that by identifying infected animals we could remove them before they were able to spread the disease further, and we hoped that by understanding which animals were getting sick we could focus breeding efforts on the animals which were resistant – those with the 132ML and 132LL prion genotypes.

Our first year's outing to the ranch taught us a lot: how to collect samples quickly, the importance of fast and accurate reporting of results, and how to keep our toes from freezing off. We found that our new test, the real time quaking-induced conversion assay (RT-QuIC) was finding nearly double the number of infected animals compared to the standard immunohistochemistry (IHC) test. We are currently in the process of validating our test in other labs in hopes that the USDA will consider it as a significant improvement over IHC, for use with both CWD and mad cow disease testing.

Our first year's results showed that close to 15% of the animals were likely infected, and we recommended that all positive animals be euthanized to slow further transmission. The ranch opted to euthanize less than half that number, in hopes that the positive bulls might live long enough to be harvested in the fall. We learned that over the past 10 years, CWD had put quite the strain on the animals, though as a whole the herd was trying to adjust to that pressure with an increasing number of resistant 132ML and 132LL animals.

In the study's second year, we took everything we had learned in the first year and made significant improvements on both sampling and staying warm. It helped that the sun was out and it was about 20 degrees warmer this time around. We discovered that none of the infected animals identified in the first year wound up being harvested, and only a handful returned for the second year of the study; infected animals, which ranged in age from 2-12, were *six times* more likely to die in the field than CWD-negative animals. Each infected animal that was released is now an anonymous carcass in a field, continuing to put the remainder of the herd at risk.

Our testing in the second year showed that the percent of infected animals had increased significantly to somewhere near 20%, but we had a plan. Knowing that resistant animals were the key to the ranch's future, we set aside all of the 132LL cows and a few of the 132ML cows and hoped the ranch would import two or three 132LL bulls to breed them and produce a bumper crop of 132LL calves in the spring – calves that would be the founders of a productive, CWD resistant herd going forward. We again recommended that the ranch euthanize all infected animals.

Sadly, the ranch heeded neither of our recommendations. Instead, they opted to import genetically susceptible bulls over resistant, trophy quality breeding bulls, and the resistant cows that were set aside were eventually turned out. Again, only half of the infected animals were euthanized, and the CWD-positive bulls were released to die in the field and further contaminate the environment, dooming generations of elk to come – *if* they come.

*Continued Next Page...*



# Committee Reports

*Your Help is Needed!*

## Outdoor News Deer & Turkey Classic

This is the third year MnEBA will be having a booth at the Outdoor News & Turkey Classic at the State Fair Coliseum in St. Paul. It's a busy show with lots of great interest!

Due to the March Mingle being the same weekend, some of the usual booth workers will not be able to help out at this show. Please consider if you can help this year. Call Greg Lubinski today at 507-273-0525 to sign up!

### Shift Schedule:

Friday March 9 Set up – 8:00 - 11:00 am

Friday March 9 – 1:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Saturday March 10 – 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
2:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Sunday March 11 – 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

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



## Vet Corner *continued*

No one is sure what's in store for the third year of the study – will we be able to continue following what's left of the herd?

Will the ranch depopulate? Will the ranch be sold to a producer who will be more open to the advice of eminent scientists working to solve the CWD problem?

The United States Department of Agriculture has been recommending the depopulation of CWD-infected deer and elk herds for over twenty years now. In that time, we've learned a lot about the disease and what it might take to try to manage it in farmed cervids. The question of whether we can effectively manage the disease, for the moment remains unanswered. I'm disappointed we weren't capable of turning this herd around, not because we were stopped by the USDA, not for a lack of great ideas or too little effort, but because there wasn't enough motivation – not the legacy we had hoped to leave behind with this project.

I believe that CWD management can work, if given the chance, but should be reserved for the most determined of producers who are willing to make sacrifices knowing every one is a step towards improving the long term health of their herd. This project gave us a framework in which it could work – efficient testing, genetic evaluation, and selective breeding. Elk and deer farmers now hold the answer to whether or not it can be effective, and the only certainty for the future is that more positive herds will be identified and more states will find it in the wild.

## Advertiser Index

**Spring Coulee Velvet Capsules**  
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**Mohlman Elk Farm**  
*Page 11*

**ADM Alliance Nutrition**  
*Page 13*

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

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

## Calendar of Events

**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

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

**August 23-September 3, 2018** – Minnesota State Fair, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

## Classified Ads

**For Sale:** (10) bred cows, pregnancy checked positive 1/19/18, 46 lb/460 genetics, closed herd, TB accredited, CWD Level 6 certified, Colorado approved. Delivery available, \$2,400 each. Call Darrell Turek, 612-756-0712.

**Wanted:** Grande Natural pays competitive prices for Elk Hard Antler drops or cutoffs, spikes, buttons, etc. AND we will pay UPS shipping if you cut them down and pack 'em up. Call Rich at 719-580-0661, or email [Rich@ElkUSA.com](mailto:Rich@ElkUSA.com).

**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](mailto:outbackfence@hotmail.com). Book for your fencing needs and projects for 2018 now! Visit our website at [www.outbackMN.com](http://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](mailto:Rich@ElkUSA.com).

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

**Wanted:** Any and all elk meat animals, trophy bulls, breeding stock or whole herds. Brian Wagner, 612-366-5078

## MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

9086 Keats Avenue SW  
Howard Lake, MN 55349