



Special Interest Articles:

- Farmed Cervid Legislation at the Minnesota State Capitol
- Board Meeting Minutes
- Exploring Minnesota Raised Elk in School Meals
- New Zealand Meat Industry News
- New Zealand Velvet Research
- Vet Corner

President's Message by Jim Byrne



President's Rant for April 2018

We're once again under the gun in the Legislature. The DNR, Deer Hunters Association and the Governor's Office have placed extreme pressure on the Board of Animal Health to support changing the Minnesota statutes governing the cervid industry.

Even with the deadlines for legislative committees to hear testimony on pending bills expiring last week, pressure from the Governor's Office is forcing committee chairmen to hear discussions for increased regulations on farmed cervidae in Minnesota. These discussions are in response to CWD in the state. (See: Legislative Report on Page 2).

Our association and lobbyist are working hard to put together a response to these proposed changes, however the timelines for adequate preparation are extremely short. We were under the assumption that the legislative audit requested in the 2017 session would be made available before any actions were taken to change how the Board of Animal Health is responding to CWD. We may not be able to prevent bill amendments from being introduced to the full House for final vote. Any such amendment made on the House floor would then also need to pass on the Senate floor as well.

If we are made aware an amendment will be added to an existing bill on the floor of the House, we will need every supportive legislator we have to defeat this language. This is where the efforts you have made in getting to know your legislator and having him/her be familiar with your farm operation will pay off. Be prepared to contact your representatives on very short notice urging them to vote NO to additional farmed cervidae regulations. **If you receive an email from MnEBA asking you to contact your representative, contact them as soon as possible.** It is your operation that will be directly affected if this is enacted.

2018 MnEBA Summer Picnic JULY 28, 2018

Hosted By

Wolf Creek Elk Ranch – Craig, Kathy, Clint & Lora Wylie
89281 Oak Hill Road, Sturgeon Lake, MN 55783

POT LUCK LUNCH BEGINS AT NOON

Mark your calendars! More details in the June newsletter!

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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Farmed Cervid Legislation at the Minnesota State Capitol

By Jim Byrne, Government Relations Chair

Last year we had the state Legislature request an audit of the Board of Animal Health (BAH) to evaluate three issues. One of these issues was, "How well the BAH has carried out its permitting, licensing and surveillance activities".

Now, before that audit is complete and made available to the legislature, the DNR, Deer Hunters Association and the Governor's Office have drafted language to amend Minnesota statutes concerning governing of the cervid industry. In effect the language they've presented so far, places greater emphases on DNR enforcement through seizure and destruction of animals.

Within these possible amendments, there would be numerous changes to the state statute which are unacceptable to the Minnesota Elk Breeders. Briefly, discussion proposed includes;

- Dividing the industry into Commercial and Non Commercial herds.
- Requiring two redundant gates at all entry areas.
- Seizing and destroying any herd if more than two escape incidents occur in any 12-month period.
- Newborn animals must be identified before September 15 or they will be seized and destroyed by the DNR.
- Annual inspection fee increased to \$350.
- Owner of premise where CWD is detected must record with county recorder or registrar a deed restriction effective for five years.

In the past these types of changes would have been discussed with all principle parties in the Cervidae Advisory Committee. However, with changes in leadership in the BAH and restructuring of the committee to conform to MN law, this committee has not had the opportunity to meet and discuss any of the current issues.

While the above mentioned discussion points have not been a part of a legislative committee hearing as of yet, the Governor's Office is pressuring committee chairmen to schedule a hearing anyway. The latest news is that we may be invited to take part in an informational hearing after the Easter break. We are very concerned about amendments added to other existing bills on the House floor, but we believe that any amendments offered will still not be acceptable to the industry without full review by all affected parties.

There are fewer discussions going on in the Senate, but an amendment from the Senate floor could still be offered to an existing bill. This makes it important to contact both your Representative and Senator if called upon to do so.

We need each member, and I mean each member, to contact their representatives if called upon. Potential legislation could dramatically alter how we operate our facilities and who has oversight authority of the cervid industry.

Don't know who represents you? Go to

<https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>. Just type in your address and the names & contact info for your legislators will appear! **Look these up ahead of time** so if/when you are notified to contact your legislator, you will be ready.

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.

Board Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors met at the home of Lance & Brenda Hartkopf on March 26, 2018. Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Byrne began the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

MnEBA's lobbyist Tony Kwilas called in to the meeting to discuss what was going on at the Capitol in regards to potential farmed cervid legislation, in particular HF3669. He brought the group up to speed on what's been happening including daily discussions, potential changes and a possible path in both the House and Senate. Kwilas went individually through each new potential section added to Chapter 35 relating to farmed cervidae to get reaction and direction from the board.

Decisions were made to have Hartkopf work with Kwilas on testimony based on Board discussions in preparation for testifying against the proposed amendments to HF3669 potentially later this week or next week. MnEBA to also reach out to the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association (MDFA) to discuss what each of the association's talking points will be. Hartkopf to schedule this meeting with as many board members from each organization as possible.

Discussion also centered around encouraging the Board of Animal Health to call a Farmed Cervidae Task Force meeting as soon as possible. Both Hartkopf and Byrne have relayed this request to BAH in recent days.

In other business, board reviewed submitted bids for the 2019 MnEBA Annual Conference and mutually agreed upon the Sheraton Hotel in Minnetonka for the weekend of January 11-12, 2019. Hartkopf to follow up with contract.

Board discussed selecting a chair and committee members for the MnEBA Scholarship committee. Byrne to follow up. For now, applications will come to the MnEBA Office then be sent to the new chair for committee discussion and final selection of scholarship recipients.

Board reviewed the list of non-renewing members and divided out who would reach out to each non-renewing member in order to encourage them to renew.

Wagner gave a follow up report to the latest American Cervid Alliance meeting regarding discussion of Senator Tester's bill for more national CWD funding. He reported that other associations had the same recommendations that MnEBA had.

Board reviewed the February 22, 2018 meeting minutes. Luedtke moved to accept the report as written, Wagner seconded, motion carried.

Hartkopf reminded the board it was time to review MnEBA Goals and Objectives once again. President Byrne made the recommendation to hold off until later in the year, after the legislative session was over and things have settled down.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

February 22, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a phone conference on February 22, 2018. Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Byrne began the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Wagner addressed the board asking for comments on Senator Tester's federal bill which would create more funding for CWD testing, research and compensation. Two recommendations were made:

1. Further spell out terminology supporting farmed cervidae as well as wild cervidae
2. Include language on further development of a live animal test and genotyping research

Hartkopf reported that recent communications from MnEBA's lobbyist indicated he was meeting with legislators to get a feel for what they were thinking in regards to any possible farmed cervidae legislation. He also indicated a good time for an educational day would be in late March or early April, right around committee deadlines. Representatives from the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association (MEFA) were reported to be meeting on February 23rd with chairs of the environment and ag committees.

Byrne reported that MnEBA had been notified by the Board of Animal Health that MnEBA and MEFA would only be allowed two representatives on the newly organized Farmed Cervidae Advisory Committee. After discussions with Luedtke, Byrne made the executive decision to appoint Mark Luedtke and Brenda Hartkopf to be the MnEBA representatives on the committee.

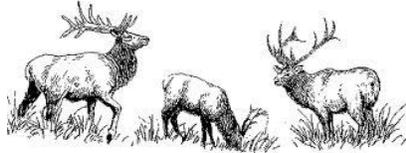
Luedtke reported on a conference call he recently sat in on in regards to the newly revised federal CWD Rules and Standards. It was reported in this meeting that the revised CWD Standards will be rolled out very soon and that MnEBA should be prepared to review and comment on the document, but that it would take effect at the time it is presented.

Luedtke reported on his review of the recent USDA response to MnEBA's information request on bone piles in CWD positive areas.

Lubinski reported that he has assembled all the help he needs for the upcoming Outdoor News Deer & Turkey Expo. Wurst reported that he purchased a TV/DVD player for the booth and plans to set it up at the show to see how it works.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary



Inserts to this Newsletter Mailing

2018 MnEBA Membership Directory

The new directory is now available. Please let the office know if there should be any changes or updates made to your listing or if you need additional copies.

2018 MnEBA Scholarship

If you have a college age young adult in your family, make sure to check out the MnEBA Scholarship. TWO scholarships will be given out once again this year, each worth \$350. The scholarships are being made available to sons/daughters or grandsons/granddaughters of any active/lifetime MnEBA member who is pursuing a post-secondary degree in the Fall of 2018. An agriculture-related field of study is preferred, but not limited to. For further details, see the insert in this mailing, or if you receive your newsletter online, see the insert included with your 2018 Membership Directory mailing. Deadline to apply is **May 15th**. There will be no extension of this deadline.

2019 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar Sponsorship

By now, the MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar has become such a tradition, that more and more people are asking us for calendars before we ask them! We have now sold out three years in a row and hope to do that again this coming year. Thank you to all members who have helped to sponsor calendar ads and sell calendars to help MnEBA raise much needed funding to help cover the cost of MnEBA activities and marketing efforts. Sales for new 2019 calendars will be conducted beginning this coming July and will conclude at the MnEBA Annual Conference in Minnetonka next January.

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

The Results Are Striking

NAEBA Competition All Time Rankings

Non-Typical Hard Antler Scoring

Spikers	2 Yr. Olds	3 Yr. Olds	4 Yr Olds	5 Yr. Olds
Top 2 All Time	Top 3 All Time	Top 3 All Time	#2 All Time	Top 2 All Time
Only 1 >300"	6 of Top 8	3 of 4 >500"	1 of 2 >550"	2 of 3 >575"
6 of 12 >200"	6 of 11 >400"	7 of 14 >450"	2 of 9 >500"	

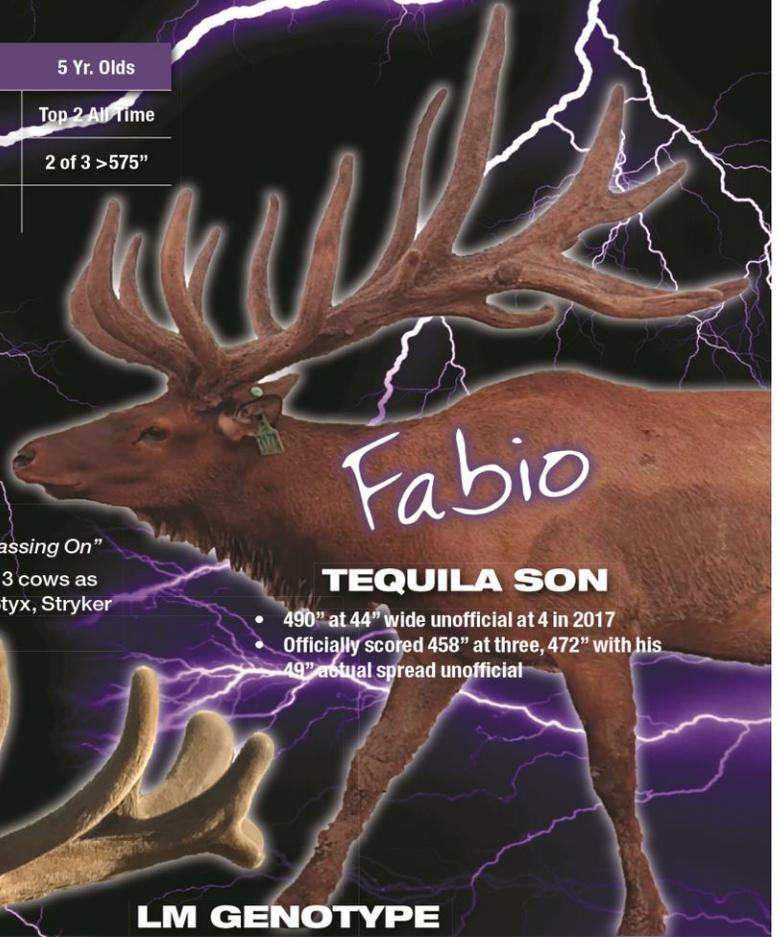
Velvet Weights

2 Yr. Olds	3 Yr. Olds	4 Yr. Olds
Top 5 All Time	3 of Top 4 All Time	#1 All Time
15 of Top 22	5 of 9 >32#	
24 of 44 >20#		

"Want Production Like This?"

"It Takes World Class Cows Bred To Great Bulls That Are Passing On"

"Mohlman Elk Farm is releasing the first group of Maggie 13 cows as part of our bred cows for sale. This package could include Styx, Stryker and Fury's dams. Call for details."



TEQUILA SON

- 490" at 44" wide unofficial at 4 in 2017
- Officially scored 458" at three, 472" with his 49" actual spread unofficial



BERETTA 50 CAL. SON

26.43 lbs. Official 1st Place
2017 NAEBA 2-Yr.-Old Class

LM GENOTYPE

- Heaviest Official 2-Yr-Old Velvet Weight
- LM/LL Genotype
- Dam: EMF 303A is LL Genotype

MOHLMAN ELK FARM

2015, 2016 and 2017
Non-Typical Hard Antler
Premier Breeder
Award Winner

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Exploring Minnesota Raised Elk in School Meals

Contributed by Jean Ronnei, The Stine Group

The Farm to School (F2S) movement has been strong in Minnesota, so why has elk not found its way onto school lunch trays? Well I say, it is high time it does!

F2S efforts have mostly been focused on fresh fruits and vegetables, but schools have made strides to include locally raised beef, turkey, chicken and even bison on their menus. School lunch is perfectly suited to teach children, staff and the community about locally raised elk. As nutrition services director in Saint Paul Public Schools, we introduced our students to a dish that included bison and hand-harvested wild rice. We were able to honor our native students and community, and, introduce others to foods they were not familiar with. Clearly, a win-win!



While elk is more expensive than the beef generally served in schools, the reasons to serve elk on occasion are clear. Bring these ideas to your local school nutrition services director:

- Introduce students to elk that is raised on XYZ Ranch in your community.
- October is MN Farm to School Month, a perfect time to add elk to the menu along with MN grown apples, squash, etc.
- Elk breeder(s) can come to school(s) to talk to students and/or set up an informational “booth” to learn about the elk heritage in the community.
- Elk meat can replace other similar items in chili or lasagna easily, so menu planning is a breeze.
- While elk is more expensive than the beef typically purchased by the director, serving it once or twice per year will yield excitement and be well worth the extra expense.
- Elk is processed in a USDA-inspected facility.
- Elk can be purchased under the federal micro-purchasing guidelines of under \$3,500. Note that individual school districts may have more restrictive rules.
- Gain positive press – invite the local paper to school the day it is served.
- Kudos from the school board and district leadership – invite them too!
- If you get a yes, most of you will need a firm commitment from the director for quantity and menu date so you are able to stock up.
- Bring with you the ideas on packaging. Generally, 10# chubs will work.
- Be prepared to arrange for delivery. Most districts do not have trucks.

If this has piqued your interest, learn how Montana cattle ranchers and local schools have been partnering at the link below. More than a dozen Montana schools are taking advantage of these resources by purchasing local beef for school cafeterias. This practice has the potential to increase kids’ understanding of Montana’s ranching heritage and where their food comes from, while also providing economic support for local ranchers, meat processors, and agricultural communities.

https://farmto cafeteria.ncat.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2014/07/MT_Beef_to_School_10_28_14.pdf

Jean served as president of the MN School Nutrition Association (MSNA) and the National SNA. She is the former nutrition services director for Saint Paul Public Schools. Jean was a speaker at our MnEBA Annual Conference along with Catherine Stine, The Stine Group. jronnei54@gmail.com (651) 262-4807.

New Zealand Meat Industry News

From Deer Industry New Zealand:

“Pampered” pets drive deer prices upward

Thursday, March 15, 2018 - Strong demand from the pet food industry has helped underpin a stellar season for venison farmers.

Typically, prices to farmers peak in spring when demand from European markets is at its highest, then ease off from November. But not this season, says Deer Industry NZ chief executive Dan Coup.

“Average venison schedule prices to farmers lifted steadily in almost a straight line from about \$7.90/kg in January last year to just over \$10 in December. Since then, they have continued to rise. By mid-March, a 55 kg stag carcass was fetching between \$10.20 and \$11.00/kg, up from \$6–\$7 in March the previous three seasons,” he says.

“A growing appetite for venison from the booming pet food market – globally worth more than US\$75 billion and growing by about 4 percent a year – has been a major factor. Trim and mechanically deboned meat are being snapped up for premium pet foods at prices that can’t be matched by the human food service sector. They now account for about \$80 of the value of a deer carcass.”

Helping drive the popularity of venison as a pet food component has been a worldwide shift in attitudes towards companion animals from owners who want the best for their pets. This

includes an increasing interest in feeding them natural paleo-type diets.

Coup says venison is used in special hypoallergenic pet foods for cats and dogs with skin or allergy problems and in premium products like Ziwi Peak ‘Daily-Dog’ Air Dried Venison Cuisine, currently selling in New Zealand for \$189.99 for a 2.5 kg bag.

“The demand from the pet food sector is unprecedented. Like most other markets, pet food is prone to fashion swings so there’s no way of knowing how long the demand will last. But the word from the market is that prices are probably about as high as they will get,” he says.

Not that there’s any suggestion that prices to farmers are likely to fall any time soon.

“Venison production is at a historically low level. At the same time, venison marketers have been making great progress finding new year-round human customers in non-traditional markets,” Coup says.

“This combination of low supply and new demand is driving product innovation. Processor/marketers are successfully developing novel grilling cuts that offer a great eating experience at prices that appeal to restaurants, while increasing the overall value of the venison carcass.”

He says having greater year-round demand is a long-term goal that the industry is making progress against, but noted that the industry’s most important group of consumers is still the Continental Europeans, with their very strong seasonal preferences.

“This pet food phenomenon has changed the shape of the venison schedule this season, but our expectation is that we will see a return to a more traditional schedule curve in the future. While the spring price premium is expected to return, future seasonal peaks and troughs are likely to be less pronounced than they have been in the past – thanks to the great market diversification work that our companies are doing.”

The deer industry views the demand from the premium pet food sector as a positive development that they expect to continue – albeit at an unknown price level – in the future.

“It’s a new segment and we don’t have a good understanding of whether venison pet food is here to stay or not. With so many pet food companies having invested in product development and marketing, it’s certainly not going to disappear overnight, but we will have to wait and see whether consumer demand and pricing levels are sustainable in the long term.”

New Zealand Velvet Research

Velvet tested for memory benefit

By Tim Fulton, Deer Industry News writer
Deer Industry News

Otago University researchers are exploring the role of velvet antler in maintaining healthy brain aging, with a focus on the effects of velvet consumption on memory. The former NZ Warnham & Woburn Deer Society donated residual assets of about \$50,000 to VARNZ for this research when it wound up.

The rodent-based cognitive study is partly an attempt to show how velvet acts on the brain, and whether velvet supplementation could help slow down age-related mental and cerebral blood flow deterioration.

There is growing demand for natural products to support brain function in the middle-aged.

University of Otago Associate Professor Ping Liu became interested in the effects of aging on cognitive function while working in a large hospital in China. Ping was a medical doctor in the Department of Geriatrics and worked with dementia patients for many years in China.

She became a researcher after moving to New Zealand. Her research interests have been the mechanisms and intervention of cognitive decline during aging and Alzheimer's disease. A focus of her work is arginine (an amino acid) metabolism.

Brain endothelial cells become dysfunctional in older people, which contributes to cognitive decline during normal aging and neurodegeneration in Alzheimer's disease. Velvet antlers grow very fast, up to 2cm a day. "There must be some

mechanisms to support this," Ping says.

In a pilot study using New Zealand freeze-dried velvet antler powder, Ping's group found arginine and other compounds that are essential for cell growth and the maintenance of normal endothelial function. These preliminary findings have led Ping to postulate the anti-aging and cognitive enhancing properties of New Zealand freeze-dried velvet antler powder.

Recently her team started a five-year Health Research Council programme to focus on Alzheimer's. There are many theories for the cause of the disease, but none could explain everything. Drug trials repeatedly failed to treat the disease. Ping and her colleagues are also working on blood and cerebrospinal fluid markers for the diagnosis and prognosis of Alzheimer's.

Since aging is the major risk factor for more than 95 percent of late-onset Alzheimer's cases, healthy ageing is a critical turning point for the prevention of the disease, Ping says.

The work funded by DINZ is a side project of Ping's main research on Alzheimer's disease.

"My research group has been working on age-related memory deficit, and whether we have any way to slow down aging. We have trialed a number of drugs, some naturally occurring in the brain, which can enhance learning and memory ability in aged rats, and even some young ones."

They are planning to assess the effects of velvet supplementation on memory and cerebral blood flow in rats as a pilot study. "There is one enzyme involved in converting arginine to nitric oxide. This enzyme, presents in the endothelial cells and plays an important role in maintaining normal cerebral blood flow." Ping's previous work has demonstrated that the enzyme levels in the brain are reduced in aged rats and in patients with Alzheimer's. Therefore, they will also look at how velvet supplementation affects this enzyme.

In April, the University of Otago researchers will start the velvet project and carry out a rat memory test to make more sense of the arginine link.

The university will provide staged reporting to DINZ under the terms of its funding contract.

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Velvet-healing project targets stem cell proteins

By Tim Fulton, Deer Industry News writer
Deer Industry News

Associate Professor Dawn Coates at the University of Otago Dental School is investigating the role of antler stem cells in post-velvet healing and antler growth.

It's a good fit for the former Invermay-based deer researcher, who specializes in the cellular and molecular mechanisms involved in tissue growth and repair.

Dr. Coates and PhD student Zhen Dong are leading a study to examine the proteins that regulate antler growth and the well-controlled "wounding inflammatory response" in antler. This allows identification of the healing properties of antler and why antlers don't typically get infected when they cast.

"We've done a lot of research on different types of human stem cells so it wasn't a big leap to be working on antler," Coates says.

The zone of most interest in the velvet growth and healing study is 4cm below the cut antler, where deer have an unusually high concentration of stem cells. "They're really quite a special type of cell. We're focused on what proteins these cells are producing." The team is also looking at extracts of velvet, with an overall aim of trying to work out what factors control antler growth.

"The reason we're doing this is because stem cells drive antler growth at about 2cm a day. That's remarkable. Their doubling time when we grow antler stem cells in the laboratory is less than 24 hours, which is very fast."

The dental faculty lab team has recently acquired new equipment, allowing the detection of proteins in deer antler tissue with pressurized heat retrieval. By studying where families of proteins are in the tissue and how they interact with each other, the team aims to better understand how antler grows.

The work can also pinpoint where in the antler a particular protein is produced by growing antler stem cells and antler skin cells in culture dishes. "In the dishes we can control the cells; we can make the stem cells become bone, cartilage or even fat."

They will be adding key proteins and fractions made from velvet to the cells, as well as stopping the cells from producing certain proteins. They will then look at the behavior of the antler cells, particularly in relation to cartilage and bone formation.

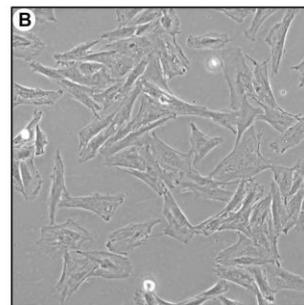
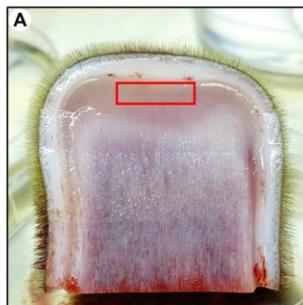
Applied commercially, the research could lead to the development of specialized velvet extracts. It's just one of numerous stem cell research

projects worldwide and stem cell-based therapies are just starting to offer new treatment approaches in medicine, Coates says. "We will see a medical revolution in the next 20 years around stem cells. It's about using your stem cells as a therapy on you."

The stem cell study started last April and is funded jointly by the University of Otago and Deer Industry New Zealand. Another key member of the team is Dr. Stephen Haines, from AgResearch in Lincoln, who will be doing large-scale protein identification on antler samples. The research is limited to New Zealand red deer. The team also has a very good collaboration with former Invermay biologist and deer researcher, Dr. Chunyi Li, who now works in China.

The New Zealand and Chinese researchers are working together on various projects, though any intellectual property generated from the University of Otago research will remain in this country.

*Reproduced with permission.
(Edited Version)*



Antler cells are collected from the stem cell region (A, boxed area). Growing the cells in the laboratory (B) allows us to understand the proteins being produced by antler and thus its potential health benefits. *Photo: University of Otago*



News Release

For Immediate Release: March 2, 2018

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

Samples positive for CWD from depopulated deer farm

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health received positive test results for chronic wasting disease (CWD) this week after depopulating a Winona County deer farm first identified with the disease in November 2017. All seven of the remaining white-tailed deer in the herd were harvested, sampled, and found to have the disease affecting deer and elk.

The producer had also moved deer into the Winona City Park, and those three animals were considered exposed to CWD and tested. Results showed no CWD was detected in samples collected from those animals. The next step in the Board's CWD response is to work with the herd owner to clean and decontaminate the enclosure that contained the positive deer.

"The response to the initial CWD detection and plan to depopulate and test the herd went very well," said Dr. Linda Glaser, Board of Animal Health assistant director and cervid program manager. "We had the herd owner's full cooperation, and the support of the USDA and DNR as we investigated the extent of the disease in this herd."

Only one farmed deer herd found infected with CWD in Minnesota has not been depopulated. That herd is currently quarantined and monitored by the Board. An update on that herd was issued in November 2017.

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 DNR News

Deer movement study begins in southeastern Minnesota's CWD zone

March 12, 2018 - A Department of Natural Resources research project that will examine how deer move across the landscape in southeastern Minnesota's chronic wasting disease management area is scheduled to begin on Monday, March 12.

"The data from this study will help us estimate male and female dispersal patterns as they relate to disease transmission and build movement models," said Dr. Chris Jennelle, a DNR research scientist. "We can use that information to predict likely pathways of potential chronic wasting disease spread and also estimate causes of death for use in population models."

The DNR's private contractor plans to capture 115 deer of varying age and sex classes and fit them with GPS radio collars. Daily movements will be tracked to determine seasonal movements and dispersal pathways. Deer dispersal occurs when juvenile deer come of age and move away from their mothers. Exactly when that occurs during the May-to-July time frame, and how far they go, can vary.

Deer will be captured in nets launched from a helicopter. Captures will occur on private land where the DNR has obtained landowner permission. Deer also may be captured on public land. All captures will occur on and around the periphery of the disease management zone, also known as deer permit area 603.

DNR staff will keep participating landowners updated on how GPS collared deer use the local landscape. DNR scientists in Minnesota hope to share movement data across the upper Midwest with colleagues in Iowa, Michigan and Wisconsin. With that information in hand, research and management strategies can be developed that will have a better chance of slowing disease spread and benefiting the long-term viability of deer populations.

MnEBA Kitchen

This slow cooker recipe is the perfect answer to a busy day when everyone is hungry and there is little time for cooking. Let the crockpot do the work!

Busy Day Casserole

1 cup uncooked wild rice, rinsed and drained	½ cup slivered almonds
1 cup chopped celery	3 beef bouillon cubes
1 cup chopped carrots	2½ tsp. seasoned salt
8 oz. fresh mushrooms, sliced	2 lbs. elk round steak, cut into 1" cubes
1 large onion, chopped	3 cups water
1 clove garlic, minced	



Place ingredients in order listed in a slow cooker (do not stir). Cover and cook on high for 6-8 hours or until rice is tender. Stir before serving.

Board Blog by Kraig Wurst, MnEBA Director



Hello all! I hope you have made it through this cold winter okay. My family and my elk have been having a great winter. We have had our share of ice around here. The elk took it well, but it gave me a sprained ankle. If you thought I was slow before, you should have seen me this last month! My first bull dropped an antler just the other day, if that isn't a sign of a changing season, I don't know what is.

I had the enjoyment of working our booth at the Outdoor News show a few weeks ago. There was a lot of interest on the day I was there without any negative comments. In the past few years most of the questions were about the meat; I was surprised this year there were just as many questions about velvet capsules. Hopefully velvet is starting to get a firm foothold around here which leads to more local demand for our velvet. There were also a few people very interested in getting into the elk business, all of them had a small farm and were looking for something that would actually make them money. We filled their bags up with all the information we had and told them to contact Brenda for more. We also encouraged them to visit a few farms in their area to get a better idea about raising them. So if a stranger stops in to talk to you about elk, blame Greg and myself.

I noticed at our winter meeting how many different elk farm logos were on people's jackets. It was fun to compare them. I bought some hats, shirts and jackets about a year ago with our farm logo on them and have been surprised at how many people ask me about the elk when they notice my hat or jacket. It is very good advertising for the farm and the industry. Many people are unaware there are elk farms in Minnesota, and others still think the markets are down like they were fifteen years ago. If you don't have any jackets or hats with your farm name on them, I would encourage you to look into it. It's another way to make people aware of elk farming and it's also tax deductible!

Another thing I have come across is a new hinge for steel pipes. I have just started to switch over from wood to steel posts and was trying to figure out what to use for hinges. Luckily my dad came across e-z hinge in a farm magazine. I liked the idea that they are adjustable and not having to drill into or weld the posts. I try to keep my hinges spaced the same but my measurements are not always perfect. It's good to have post hinges that are adjustable.

I thought we might get through the year without any problems from the legislature but that hasn't worked out. I am sure Jim will go through everything in his column so I will skip the details, but it is pretty apparent that the people who want us out of business won't give up. Belonging to MnEBA and NAEBA are two of the best ways to fight back against these people. MnEBA has a great lobbyist in Tony Kwilas. He is always on top of what is going on at the capitol and keeps us well informed. He has been a very good representative for our association. I would hate to think what kind of rules they would stick us with if we were not organized. Please keep up your memberships and please talk to your local legislators.



I hope everybody has a good calving season and I look forward to seeing everyone at the summer picnic.

Kraig Wurst



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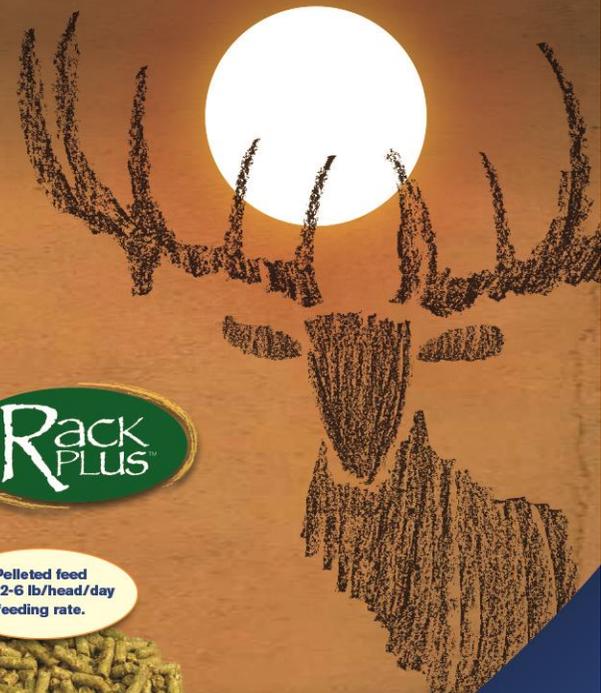
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Vet Corner by Dr. Glen Zebarth

Calving Season is Coming – Are You Ready?

As we are getting into spring, it's time to make sure everything is ready to go for a successful calving season.

Something you should be doing now is evaluating your cows. If they look too heavy this close to calving, it is not too late to take them off grain and offer them lower quality hay. Calving success is better when the cows are not overfat.

If cows are still needing copper, you can still offer a copper bolus. Now is also the time to vaccinate for clostridium and for any other viruses you've encountered in the past.

This is a good time to also check fecal samples for parasites and any worm problems the animals may be having and treat accordingly.

Be planning what pens you're going to have your cows calve in. The cleaner and drier the pen is, the better. Decide how you're going to get your calves tagged and get set up with the ear tags you will need before the first calf hits the ground.

Proper preparation before calving season begins is a good start to a hopefully successful season.

This Just In!

As reported by the American Cervid Alliance

USDA APHIS' Releases Proposed CWD Program Standards Changes

March 27, 2018 - The USDA APHIS' proposed revisions to the Chronic Wasting Disease Program Standards is now available to the public. The release of the proposed changes triggers a thirty-day public comment period that lasts from now until April 30, 2018.

It is very important the entire cervid industry review this document and plan to submit public comments accordingly. The American Cervid Alliance is scheduling an emergency council meeting to review the changes and highlight the positive and negative changes. The American Cervid Alliance has requested its 41-member associations to review the documents and call a special meeting of their respective boards in order to gather immediate feedback. The thirty-day period will end quickly, as it takes time for associations to meet, make determinations and generate grassroots efforts to post comments.

Exact instructions for submitting public comments will be distributed soon.

As a reminder, the cervid industry has anticipated this new document for over two years. During the 2015 USAHA conference in Rhode Island, the cervid industry offered a resolution that was approved to revise the CWD Program Standards, currently in effect. The working group convened in July 2016. The ACA thanks APHIS for this process taking place.

After the comment period closes on April 30, USDA APHIS will revise the document and publish the final version.

To read the Proposed CWD Program Standards, please go to:

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=APHIS-2018-0011-0002>

Committee Reports

Outdoor News Deer & Turkey Show



Thank You to All Booth Workers!

From all reports, the Outdoor News Deer & Turkey show generated a lot of interest in elk products and in raising elk! Show attendees were positive and very interested in the business of elk farming!

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

Lobbyist Update

By Tony Kwilas

The session's second committee deadline arrived on Thursday, March 29 — meaning committees must act favorably on bills, or companions of bills, that met the first deadline in the other body — and the House and Senate will work to finish its business before departing Friday for a 10-day Easter/Passover break.

The Governor has proposed in his 2018 Supplemental Budget, \$1.5 million to slow the spread of chronic wasting disease, which will include surveillance and ecology research. Both the House and Senate Agriculture Finance committees have heard overviews of the proposal and it is possible that some sort of funding will be included in both bodies supplemental budget bill.

On the policy front, discussions in the Dayton Administration between the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Natural Resources and the Board of Animal health have resulted in some proposed legislation to further regulate the cervid industry. The proposed legislation has not been discussed by other stakeholders involved in discussions surrounding Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). We think the proper venue for any changes to the cervid industry should begin with the Farmed Cervidae Task Force.

2019 MnEBA Annual Conference

Mark your calendars for January 11-12, 2019 for the 26th Annual MnEBA Conference to be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Minnetonka, MN (where the 2015 January Jamboree was held). Please be thinking of seminars you would like to see and/or fun ideas for next year's conference. Contact Rita Prodzinski at 507-458-8876 or rprod@hotmail.com, or the MnEBA office at 320-543-2686 or info@mneba.org with your ideas!

*Spring Coulee
Velvet Capsules*

Bill & Karen Knutson
Home of Spring Coulee Elk

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Thank you for your support!

Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

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

Calendar of Events

July 28, 2018 – MnEBA Summer Picnic, Wolf Creek Elk Ranch Inc, Sturgeon Lake, 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

January 11-12, 2019 – MnEBA Annual Conference, Minneapolis Sheraton West, Minnetonka, MN

Classified Ads

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

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.

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

MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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