



## Special Interest Articles:

- AEPF Market Update
- Board Meeting Minutes
- Legislative Auditor Oversight Report
- BAH Fencing Requirements Letter
- QDMA Map Spells Trouble for the Future of Deer Hunting
- 28<sup>th</sup> Annual NAEB Convention & International Antler Competition
- DNR Whitetail Management Plan
- Board Blog
- MnEBA Comments on USDA/APHIS CWD Program Standards
- Vet Corner
- Lobbyist Update

## President's Message by Jim Byrne



This newsletter has a lot of very important articles concerning what's been going on legislatively both on the federal level and in Minnesota. I encourage you to take the time to read each article carefully. You will need to be aware and know the facts of what went on this year because it's going to come back next year again, I guarantee it.

Calving time is upon us and it is a very beautiful reminder of why we are in this business. We went from April snows to May rains and now to summer heat all in a matter of days. With these changes we can now look forward to the Summer Picnic which will be hosted by Wolf Creek Elk Ranch in Sturgeon Lake, MN. It will be a good time to meet and discuss what has been going on and what to expect in the coming months.

August will bring the NAEB Annual Convention & International Antler Competition in Fargo, ND, followed by the Minnesota State Fair. I hope you have signed up for the fair, it is both fun and informative to talk with those that stop by the booth. Don't miss this great opportunity.

Respectfully,  
Jim

## 2018 MnEBA Summer Picnic Saturday, July 28, 2018

*Hosted By*

**Wolf Creek Elk Ranch – Craig, Kathy, Klint & Lora Wylie**  
89281 Oak Hill Road ~ Sturgeon Lake, MN 55783  
218-820-9653 (Klint)

### POT LUCK LUNCH BEGINS AT NOON

A Noon Potluck meal is being planned followed by the MnEBA summer membership meeting and farm tour.

Bring a dish to pass, beverages will be provided!

**DIRECTIONS:** From 35W North heading towards Duluth, take Exit 209 towards Sturgeon Lake. Turn left onto Laketown Rd for 1.8 miles. Once in town, turn left onto Hwy 61/Main Street then right onto Cty Hwy 46, then right onto Farm to Market Rd. Go 5.8 miles and turn left on Oak Hill Road. The ranch is about a mile down on the right.

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

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## MnEBA

### Mission Statement

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

## American Elk Products Foundation Market Update

The American Elk Products Foundation (AEPF) is appealing to elk ranchers across the United States to help improve the current supply and demand of elk stock and products.

### *The AEPF released the following statement on May 14, 2018*

*There is still an oversupply of elk trophy bulls forecasted for 2018, which means it may not be in the best interest of breeders to sell as many trophy bulls this year. In contrast, early reports from velvet buyers indicate velvet value per pound will not be less than last year and there is a high demand for product.*

*The elk industry is no different from other markets that are susceptible to supply and demand trends. If at all possible, we encourage breeders to velvet as many bulls as they can while the trophy market demand catches up. The elk industry has a unique opportunity to use their animals for multiple product avenues and can influence the supply and demand market.*

*Bulls that are not culls should be able to harvest enough velvet to cash flow themselves. If you are interested in harvesting velvet, now is the time.*

*Consult your 2018 NAEBA Directory for the list of velvet buyers to inquire for sales.*

*If members plan to enter velvet antler in the NAEBA International Antler Competition, there will be at least one buyer present to purchase velvet on site in Fargo.*

### **A Look at the Possible 2018 Velvet Market**

By now, most farms have begun cutting velvet. And again this year, no velvet price has been announced as of yet.

Velvet buyer Scott Salonek reports that he will once again be purchasing velvet for Lee Han. Lee has told Scott this year's price will not be lower than last year (last year's price was \$35/lb for Grade A velvet).

Ian Thorleifson has reported the 2017 / 2018 overall average price for New Zealand velvet antler, paid to the producer before levy and sales taxes was \$129.50 NZD per kg = \$58.75 per pound NZD x 0.904 Exchange = \$53 per pound CDN or \$40.82 per pound U.S. New Zealand pricing does not necessarily correlate to U.S. pricing, but this is a strong overseas price.

Brian Wagner and Scott Groen report that they will once again be buying as well. Brian stresses the importance of making sure to continue to cut velvet at the proper time and to not overgrow it. They do not have an indication of the U.S. price as of yet.

Stay in touch with the buyers as to a final price as we get closer to the end of cutting season and be ready to sell your velvet later this summer.

#### **Buyer Contact Information:**

Scott Salonek (612) 850-8684  
Scott Groen (320) 979-0911  
Brian Wagner (612) 366-5078

## Board Meeting Minutes

### April 25, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors met at the home of Lance & Brenda Hartkopf on April 25, 2018. Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Byrne began the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Discussed details of the legislative audit regarding BAH oversight of farmed cervidae which was released on April 20<sup>th</sup>. An informational hearing took place with Senate environment committees on April 24<sup>th</sup> at which Byrne testified. An informational hearing is also expected in the House next week. All agreed it would be good to use the same testimony as used in the Senate hearing.

Luedtke requested MnEBA make a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request about the data which was collected for the audit citing one-third of producers did not submit every sample they should have from the years 2014-2017. Information request to include: Copy of data used to create Table 2.5; ask how many missed tests were location issues, escapes or simply not submitted; and what data was reviewed that didn't include animal identification with the CWD samples? Hartkopf was also asked to work up a press release to send to the media who reported on the audit story.

Discussed ACA recommended comments to the CWD Standards document which is out for public comment. No one had any additional comments to add. Hartkopf was asked to put together a comment letter from MnEBA and also to send information out to the membership and encourage all members to make comment. Comment deadline has been extended to May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Byrne explained how federal slaughter plants are now requiring a hold on carcasses until the corresponding CWD results come back. Hartkopf to check with BAH and USDA representatives to see if industry can have discussions about allowing for a quick ELISA CWD test to release carcasses sooner.

Board reviewed the newly released DNR Deer Management Plan which is currently out for public comment. Several issues were identified with particular concern about double fencing and requiring calves to be tagged at birth. Hartkopf to send Deer Management Plan link along with talking points to the membership and encourage everyone to make comment through the

online comment questionnaire. Comment deadline is May 9<sup>th</sup>.

A meeting has been put together by the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association (MDFA) with the DNR, BAH, Governor's Office and industry for April 30<sup>th</sup>. MDFA has invited MnEBA to be a part of this meeting allowing for two MnEBA representatives and our lobbyist. Wagner expressed interest in attending this meeting. Board chose Hartkopf to be the second representative. Topics for discussion to include concerns about wild deer carcass movement, taxidermy waste stream and genotyping.

MnEBA's lobbyist Tony Kwilas called in to the meeting to give an update from the state capitol. He spoke about working with the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) to request funding for CWD research topics such as taxidermy waste stream, carcass movement and genotyping research. Tony also reported industry should be expecting additional legislative bills regarding farmed cervidae in the coming days. The legislative session is scheduled to end on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Byrne, Hartkopf and Wagner all reported attending Minnesota Farmers Union listening sessions and speaking to Farmers Union President Gary Wertish about support for the farmed cervid industry at the State Capitol.

The first meeting of the newly formed Farmed Cervidae Task Force will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Buffalo. Mark Luedtke and Brenda Hartkopf are the two MnEBA representatives. Topics at the upcoming meeting include discussions on the OLA Audit, Exclusionary Fencing and Farmed Cervid Business Viability in Endemic CWD Areas.

Byrne, Lubinski and Hartkopf gave a report on the April 12<sup>th</sup> quarterly meeting of the Board of Animal Health which included updates from USDA, BAH and others.

Hartkopf let the board know that MnEBA has been asked to participate in the upcoming Foot and Mouth Disease Mock Emergency Exercise May 8-10.

Wurst moved to adjourn, Wagner seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned 1:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

## State of Minnesota Office of Legislative Auditor Releases the “Board of Animal Health’s Oversight of Deer and Elk Farms” 2018 Evaluation Report



During the 2017 Minnesota Legislative session, legislators ordered an evaluation of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health’s Oversight of the Farmed Cervidae Program of the Office by the Legislative Auditor. On April 20, 2018 this report was released to legislators and the general public. For the full version of this report, go to <https://www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us/ped/2018/deerfarms.htm>.

The report had its first reading on April 20<sup>th</sup> to the Legislative Audit Commission. It was then heard again in a joint meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup> with the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance in the Senate, and again on May 3<sup>rd</sup> in a joint meeting of the Agriculture Policy/Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance committees in the House. Please see following summary as printed in the audit report:

### Key Facts and Findings:

- \* The Board of Animal Health (BAH) is responsible for protecting the health of Minnesota’s domestic animals, including deer and elk. (p. 3)
- \* The board has five members, but not one who represents the general public. (pp. 11, 12-13)
- \* As of April 2018, Minnesota had 398 registered herds, consisting of about 9,300 deer, elk, and other similar species. (p.4)
- \* Minnesota law does not require that deer and elk identification tags be read and recorded when completing an animal inventory. (pp. 21-22)
- \* Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is an always fatal, neurodegenerative disease found in both farmed and wild deer and elk. (p. 6)
- \* Since 2002, CWD has been identified on eight Minnesota deer and elk farms and in wild deer in two Minnesota counties. (pp. 40-41)
- \* BAH staff do not systematically analyze whether deer or elk producers submit tissue samples for CWD testing for all deceased animals. (p. 25)
- \* From 2014 to 2017, about one-third of producers that reported dead deer or elk failed to submit tissues from at least one of those animals for CWD testing. (p. 26)
- \* BAH has, in some instances, failed to enforce deer and elk regulations. However, the board has improved its deer and elk program over the past several months. (pp. 30-34)

- \* BAH and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have struggled to appropriately share the information they both require to respond to CWD outbreaks. (p. 47)
- \* While Minnesota’s CWD regulations are among the most rigorous in the nation, there are some areas where other states’ policies better protect deer and elk against the disease. (pp. 49-50)

### Key Recommendations:

- \* The Legislature should consider expanding the number of board members and adding at least one member of the general public. (p. 14)
- \* BAH should clarify expectations of whether and how often producers must verify their herd inventory on an animal-by-animal basis. (pp. 23-24)
- \* BAH should (1) systematically analyze CWD-testing compliance, and (2) appropriately penalize those producers who fail to submit CWD-testing samples. (p. 27)
- \* BAH should develop an approval program for deer and elk producers who wish to collect their own CWD test samples. (p. 30)
- \* BAH should (1) ensure producers follow Minnesota deer and elk laws, (2) strengthen consequences for producers, and (3) monitor field staff performance. (p. 33)
- \* BAH and DNR should draft a memorandum of understanding outlining each agencies’ responsibilities with respect to data sharing. (pp. 47-48)
- \* The Legislature should convene an advisory task force to evaluate the state’s regulations related to deer feeding and live animal imports. (p. 51)



*The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association testified at both the House and Senate legislative audit hearings that followed the announcement of the audit results. The following testimony was given on behalf of MnEBA:*

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committees,

First we would like to thank the Office of the Legislative Auditor for their thorough review of the Board of Animal Health's oversight of farmed cervidae. It was good for all parties to evaluate what has been successful in the past and what could be improved on within the existing framework or statutes and rules and we look forward to helping implement their recommendations.

That being said, this audit was heavily weighted towards farmed cervidae regulations which is only a portion of the accountability factor in keeping CWD out of Minnesota. We as an industry, have additional concerns with potential transport of CWD into MN which the scope of this report only touched on.

CWD is a complex disease and so are the ways it can be transferred. One needs only to have a conversation with USDA personnel who conduct the epidemiology of each farmed CWD case to begin to understand all possible risk factors. Of particular concern to the farmed cervid industry is the fact that both of the past two index herd owners also appear to be taxidermists.

Experts will agree that waste materials from taxidermists can possess the ability to transfer CWD infectious agents. While taxidermists are monitored by the DNR, their "waste stream" practices are not at all regulated.

Illegal carcass transport from other states into Minnesota was not intended to be a focus of the study and was only briefly mentioned, but is of much concern. Last year alone, over 150 warnings or tickets were issued by the DNR for illegal transport of hunter killed carcasses into Minnesota. And these are only the ones they caught. How many more came in undetected? And where did the potentially undetected carcasses end up? While laws are in place against bringing in whole carcasses, this law does not appear to be well known or adhered to by hunters.

We were concerned to see from the audit that about one-third of farmed cervid producers who reported dead deer or elk failed to submit tissues from at least one of those animals for CWD testing from 2014-

2017. The media was quick to misstate this fact by removing the phrase "at least one". Further in the report, it also reads, "We estimated the overall statewide compliance rate for CWD testing to be between 85 and 95 percent for the years 2014 through 2017. These numbers are remarkably higher than the press would report and also much closer to reaching 100% of animals being tested.

Let's put these numbers into further perspective. The report states that in 2016 alone, 1,376 farmed cervids WERE tested for CWD. With the report indicating this was 13% of all farmed deer and elk registered in Minnesota that year, this would mean there were an estimated 10,000 farmed cervids in inventory in 2016. In the world of surveillance testing statistics, that is a high level of assurance. Remember, the test can only be done on animals which have died as there is no live animal test which has been approved for official testing purposes. The farmed cervid industry has tested thousands of animals since 2004 with thousands of negative results. Additionally, the audit report states there are elk or deer farms in 75 of 87 counties in Minnesota thereby creating testing throughout many areas of the state.

We were surprised to see the audit determined an advisory task force should be convened to evaluate the state's regulations relating to live-animal imports. The audit report states that in 2017, the number of live animal imports were just 23 animals. The number of cervid carcasses coming into Minnesota from other states is a far greater number as evidenced by the number of warnings or tickets issued in just 2017 alone. To our knowledge, no epidemiology report has come back from USDA linking specific farmed animal imports to CWD on any Minnesota farms.

Industry stands ready to participate on the recommended Farmed Cervidae Task Force in any capacity requested. We additionally feel further study of CWD is of utmost importance and would offer our assistance in obtaining funding, federal grants and/or animals for such studies.

Our very livelihoods and in many cases, retirement, rests on owning healthy animals. The last thing we want on our farms, or in the wild, are sick animals. To that end, we look forward to being part of a larger stakeholder group to ensure the future for Minnesota farmed and wild cervid herds.

## Outdoor News Letter to the Editor

The following Letter to the Editor was also submitted on behalf of the industry and appeared in the May 11, 2018 edition of the hunting publication 'Outdoor News'. (Please note, Outdoor News Letters to the Editor are limited to only 250 words so this is a very condensed version of what could be said.)

### Spotlight Should Be On Deer Carcass Imports

The recent audit of Board of Animal Health oversight over farmed cervid herds highlighted the failure of some producers to get every last CWD sample submitted. What newspapers did not report was how the study also estimates the overall statewide compliance rate for CWD testing to be between 85 and 95 percent for years 2014-2017. The report also states that 1,376 or 13% of all farmed cervids WERE tested in just 2016 alone. Given the total population number of farmed cervids at just over 10,000 at the time, that is a high level of assurance that CWD testing is happening in statistically significant numbers in farmed herds.

What should deeply concern Minnesotans are the number of deer taken by hunters in the four counties with the highest rates of CWD in Wisconsin.

According to the Wisconsin DNR, in the 2016-2017 hunting season alone, over 32,000 deer carcasses were taken out of that four county CWD hot zone by hunters from 49 states, including vast numbers to Minnesota. How many of those carcasses came into Minnesota whole and where did the waste end up?

The sheer volume of potentially undetected carcasses coming into Minnesota each year from CWD hot zones across the country could be staggering if this report is any indication. It makes the industry's miniscule 23 live animal imports which came from CWD Level 6 monitored herds in 2017 with known documented status, pale in comparison.

It's time to take the issue of hunter-killed carcass movement seriously.

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**Editor's Note:** Every Minnesota farmed cervid producer received the following letter from the Minnesota Board of Animal Health at the end of April. A few calls have come in to the office wondering why there is such a crackdown on fence height. There are several reasons for this with the primary reason being, this is the law. Secondly, with the increasing number of farmed cervid escapes, an inadequate fence height in the last CWD positive herd and increasing pressure from the legislature to fully enforce the current laws to the letter, the BAH is conducting ongoing work to review current procedures and make changes accordingly. That being said, it is in industry's best interest to support BAH in their work and to do our best to comply with all rules and regulations. Failure to do this may cause legislators to make changes to farmed cervidae laws to bring in more DNR involvement which is something industry would want to avoid.

Please do your best to comply with the following notice from BAH:



## BAH Fencing Requirements for Registered Farmed Cervid Herds

April 20, 2018

Farmed Cervid Producer,

The Board of Animal Health statute, MN Stat. §35.155 Subd. 4, requires all perimeter fences, including gates of the perimeter fence for enclosing farmed cervids, be at least 96 inches in height. Fences may exceed a height of 96 inches, **but the lowest point allowable anywhere along the fence line is 96 inches**. In addition, fencing must be constructed and maintained in a way that prevents the escape of farmed cervids or entry into the enclosure by free roaming cervids.

This letter serves as a reminder of this requirement and field staff will be inspecting entire perimeter fences to ensure your fence meets this standard. Fences must be in compliance with this requirement by July 1, 2018.

If your fencing is inspected after July 1, 2018 and does not meet this requirement **in any location**, you will be issued a Civil Penalty of \$250 and a timeline must be set with your Board inspector to become compliant. A second inspection will be conducted to verify the perimeter fence meets the statutory requirements.

Failure to correct this violation by the agreed timeline will result in further compliance actions by the Board including additional civil penalties, injunctive action or criminal prosecution. Please contact your inspector or the farmed cervid program at the Board office with any questions regarding this notice.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Linda C. Glaser, DVM  
Farmed Cervid Program Director  
Board of Animal Health

Contact:  
[farmed.cervidae@state.mn.us](mailto:farmed.cervidae@state.mn.us)  
651-296-2942



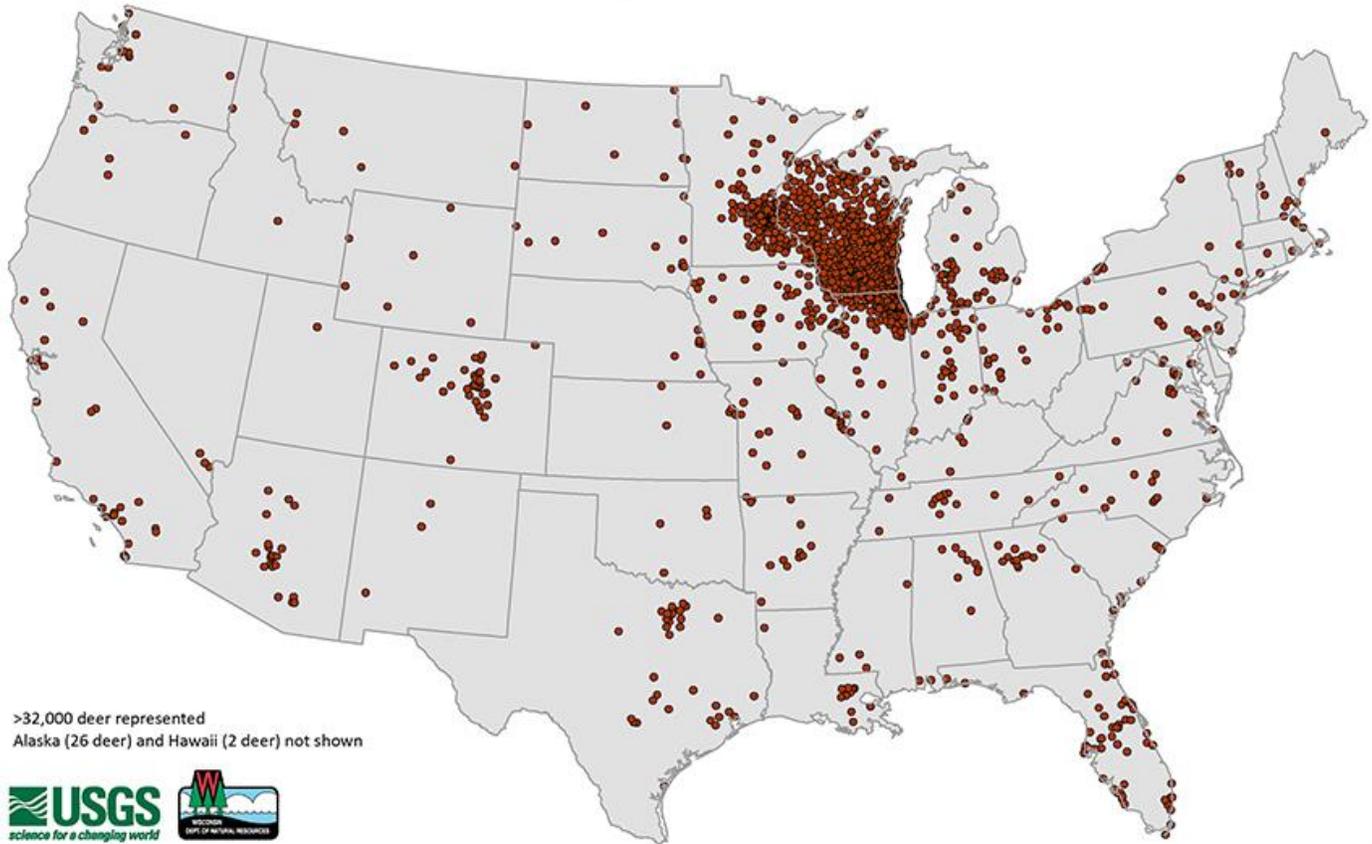
# This Map Spells Trouble for the Future of Deer Hunting

*By Lindsay Thomas Jr.*

*April 25, 2018*

**Home Zip Codes of hunters harvesting deer in Dane, Iowa, Richland and Sauk Counties, Wisconsin, 2016-2017**

Data: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



The map scares me. Once you understand what it shows us about deer hunters and chronic wasting disease (CWD), it should alarm you, too. It's a map of one of the ways we will lose the war against CWD unless we take action, and I hope it shocks us awake.

In the 2016-2017 hunting season, more than 32,000 whitetails were killed by hunters in the four Wisconsin counties with the highest incidence of CWD in the state – Dane, Iowa, Richland and Sauk counties. The red dots on the map above are the home zip codes for every hunter who harvested at least one of those deer. Yes, hunters from 49 states killed deer in Wisconsin's CWD hotbed in 2016-2017. Only Delaware was not represented in reported harvests. Even hunters from Alaska (26 deer) and Hawaii (two deer) traveled to Wisconsin to hunt in those four counties that year.

Why is this alarming? Consider all of the following.

### CWD HOT ZONE

These four counties which adjoin each other and form a block in southwest Wisconsin near the borders with Illinois and Iowa, are the hottest CWD infection zone in Wisconsin. If you were patterning your turkey shotgun, and each pellet was one record of a CWD-positive wild deer on a target shaped like the state of Wisconsin, you'd want these four counties to be the gobble's head. And you'd have a very dead gobble.

As of 2016, prevalence rates of CWD among adult bucks – meaning the percentage of tested adult bucks that were positive for CWD – included 15 percent in Dane, 42 percent in Richland, 45 percent in Sauk, and as high as 51 percent in north central Iowa County. Today more than half of all adult bucks in large portions of Iowa County probably carry CWD. Prevalence rates are lower for yearling bucks and does, and, as with bucks, the prevalence rates vary for these other deer across the map.

### MOST OF THESE DEER WERE NOT TESTED FOR CWD

I've learned from Wisconsin DNR that they tested 2,291 deer from the four counties in the 2016-17 season, or 7 percent of the harvest. (There are private services available for CWD testing, but the number of deer tested annually that way is the single digits statewide.) So, that year more than 29,000 deer harvested in those four counties were *not* tested for CWD. How many of those untested deer probably had CWD? Well, of the 2,291 that were tested, 17 percent were positive. This suggests approximately 5,000 of those untested deer were also positive.

### MOST DEER WITH CWD APPEAR HEALTHY

CWD incubates in a whitetail for an estimated minimum of 16 months and an average of two years before the deer becomes "clinical" and begins to show symptoms or act sick, at which point it won't last much longer. Therefore, the majority of CWD-positive deer killed by hunters will appear to be healthy. You cannot look at a deer you killed and determine whether it should be tested for CWD. If you shot it in a CWD zone, you should get it tested.

### WHERE THIS GETS SCARY

Given all these facts, here's what we can assume with near certainty: **Some number of these hunters killed CWD-positive deer, did not get them tested, and returned home taking parts of those deer with them.** The two primary routes for CWD to be introduced into new areas are:

1. In live, captive whitetails trucked legally or illegally by people.
2. In contaminated deer carcasses or high-risk parts.

How many hunters left the CWD zone or even the state of Wisconsin with an entire deer carcass, field-dressed or not? No doubt some of these did, especially those who lived close enough to drive rather than fly to Wisconsin. We can't know how many, **but it's not zero.** And it's happening every hunting season.

Regulations are being broken in many of these cases, because most states now ban the importation of certain deer carcass parts to prevent CWD from entering their state. In fact, a review of regulations shows there's no land route out of Wisconsin for a hunter hauling a carcass with an intact spinal column and skull. Every bordering state bans the importation of these parts, though Illinois allows it if you are taking the carcass directly to a licensed meat processor in Illinois. But just because there are rules doesn't mean hunters know about them. Most of these laws are relatively new, and surveys have shown that few hunters are aware of them (the low testing rate alone suggests that few hunters realize the precautions they should take with deer harvested in these counties). Nevertheless, many states are starting to make cases for violations. Last year Tennessee and Mississippi, among other states, charged hunters for illegally importing banned deer carcass parts into their home states.

The infectious prions that cause CWD are concentrated in a deer's nervous system, especially the brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils and lymph nodes. If these parts are discarded outdoors, prions will remain in the environment after the carcass has decomposed or been scattered by scavengers. Prions are extremely tough and do not decompose for many years. No one knows for sure how long they last, and they can infect new deer that come in contact with them.

Of those non-zero number of hunters who left Wisconsin in 2016-17 with intact carcasses of CWD-positive deer in the backs of pickups, we can't know how many of them butchered those deer at home or delivered them to

processors or taxidermists. From there, we can't know how many of those infectious parts like brains and spleens ended up discarded in the woods where they could potentially introduce CWD to healthy deer in a new area. **But it's probably not zero.**

"Clearly there is an opportunity for the inadvertent movement of infectious material within and across jurisdictions," said Bryan Richards of the USGS, who helped produce the map. "And this opportunity is not unique to Wisconsin."

The map shows 15 zip code markers in my home state of Georgia, which does not have CWD to our knowledge. A road trip from here to southwest Wisconsin would take about 14 hours – not easy but not impossible with a hunting buddy to share the wheel. Did any of those Georgians make a road trip and haul home a deer carcass? If not in 2016-17, what about other seasons? And as Bryan pointed out, Georgia hunters travel to other CWD zones besides the ones in Wisconsin to hunt each year. The USGS map only deals with one of them.

### **WHAT ABOUT YOUR HEALTH?**

So far, I've been concerned with all these hunters from all over the country potentially exposing healthy deer in their home states to CWD. I've said nothing of the human health concerns.

There is still no clear evidence that CWD can affect people, but it hasn't been ruled out, so the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization recommend that you play it safe by protecting yourself if you hunt a deer population known to be affected by CWD. Primarily, you should submit for testing every deer you harvest from that area and wait for an "all clear" before you eat the venison. If the deer tests positive, you should safely discard the venison, preferably by bagging it and sending it to a landfill.

So, go back to those 29,000 deer harvested in those four counties in 2016-17 that were never tested for CWD. How many of the hunters represented by zip code dots on the map above unknowingly ate venison from a CWD-positive deer they killed?

We don't know. **But it's not zero.**

### **WHAT HUNTERS SHOULD DO**

This map gives us a glimpse of one of the ways we will gradually lose the war against CWD, watching it spread to every corner of the whitetail's range, unless we take action. Answer the alarm by educating yourself and informing others. If you or people you know hunt deer out of state or even out of your home county, do your homework and learn whether you will be hunting in a CWD zone. If you will be, learn the local rules for tagging, testing and transportation of carcasses. Submit any deer you harvest for local testing, and wait for results before you eat the venison.

Even if you are hunting a non-CWD zone out of state, know your state's deer-carcass importation rules, which tell you the parts of deer you can legally bring home. This goes for states you will drive through on the way home. Their import regulations apply to you even if you are just passing through. To be safe, never leave any state with more than boned-out venison and a thoroughly cleaned skull plate attached to antlers. Many states ban the importation of hides unless they are tanned or part of finished taxidermy.

This very helpful web site (<http://ncwildlife.org/Hunting/Cervid-Carcass-Regulations>) compiles all state carcass import regulations in one place. It is hosted by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

To stop the spread of CWD and fight this threat to the future of deer hunting, we've got to work to inform ourselves, our hunting partners, and even folks we don't know. QDMA is stepping up our game in this area, too, with efforts like our **#KnowCWD** (<https://twitter.com/search?src=ty.pd&q=%23KnowCWD>) campaign. Help us by becoming a member, sharing information like this article on your social media network, and talking to hunters you know. It's clear that ignorance of this disease and how it spreads is one of the ways hunters are losing the battle already, but we can turn that tide.

To stop the spread of CWD, **we need a lot more zeros.**

# 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"	

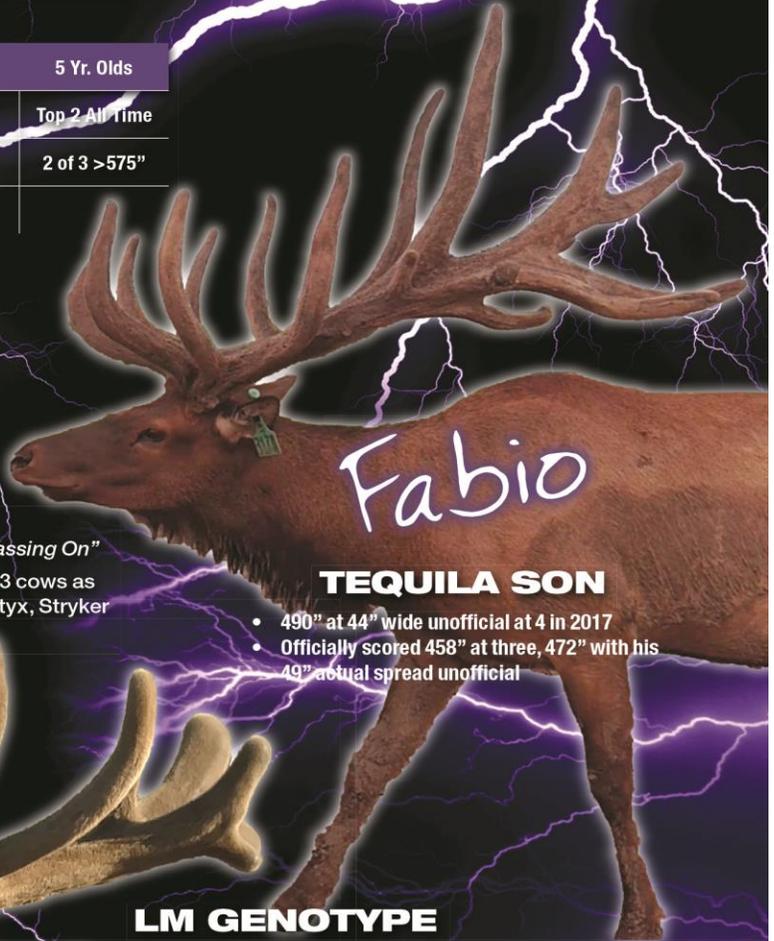
### Velvet Weights

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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**28<sup>th</sup> Annual North American Elk Breeder's Association  
ANNUAL CONVENTION & INTERNATIONAL ANTLER COMPETITION**

*August 2-4, 2018 ~ Holiday Inn Fargo ~ Fargo, ND*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Child(s) Name (for badge) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ranch/Business Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Full Registration** (Registration includes meals, seminars (except SCI Class) and trade show – FRIDAY & SATURDAY LUNCH NOW INCLUDED!)

	<b>Until July 1</b>	<b>After July 1</b>	
Single	\$200	\$225	\$ _____
Couple	\$375	\$425	\$ _____
Day Pass	\$100	\$125	\$ _____
Child (7-18)	\$50	\$75	\$ _____
Child (6 & under)	Free	Free	\$ _____
Wednesday Ranch Tour	Free	Free	\$ _____

**Exhibitor Booth Registration** (Includes 8' x 10' area, one 6' skirted table and two chairs)

Sign up by **June 1<sup>st</sup>** to be included in the convention program.

- Monarch Exhibitor (Two booth spaces & choice of space location) First come - First serve. **\$250** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Check here if electricity is needed
- Royal Exhibitor (One booth space) **\$100** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Check here if electricity is needed

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Ph# \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Products/Services \_\_\_\_\_

**Convention Program Advertising - Advertise in the Convention Program to Increase Your Exposure!**

Convention programs mailed to all members & distributed to all attendees. Convention program advertising deadline **June 1<sup>st</sup>!**

Front or Back Cover \$400	Inside Front or Back Cover \$350	Full Page \$300	
Half Page \$200	Quarter Page \$150	Business Card \$75	\$ _____

**Contributions/Donations - This event is NAEBA's largest fundraiser!** All donations & contributions generate revenue which allows NAEBA to operate throughout the coming year. Please consider making a monetary or item donation to benefit NAEBA. **As an Added Bonus - anyone donating \$1,000 Cash or more will receive a FREE Convention Pass!**

(List your donation(s) below to have them included in pre-convention promotions.)

Amount/Description \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsorship - To call ATTENTION to your company in a BIG WAY ~ Sponsor Convention Events!**

- Evening Banquet – \$3,000 (3 Convention passes **PLUS** Full Page Convention Program Ad **AND** Royal Exhibit Booth) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Hospitality Suite Sponsor (call for details) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Coffee Break – \$400 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Trophy (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>) – \$75/each (trophy class(es) \_\_\_\_\_) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Hotel Information – Holiday Inn Fargo** (701) 282-2700. Identify yourself as part of the North American Elk Breeders Annual Conference to receive the group rate of \$94/night ~ Thursday/Friday/Saturday ~ Room block deadline – **Tuesday, July 3, 2018**

**Payment – US Funds**

Circle one:        Visa/Mastercard        Discover        American Express        Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code (3#s on Back of Card) \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 Card Holder Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail/Fax this Form with Payment To: **NAEBA, 9086 Keats Avenue SW, Howard Lake, MN 55349 Fax: (320) 543-2983**

**Brenda Hartkopf, NAEBA Office Manager**  
 (320) 543-3665 Fax: (320)543-2983 info@naelk.org

**Taylor Schettler, NAEBA Event Coordinator**  
 (303) 525-8878 tay.schettler@gmail.com



# NAEBA's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & International Antler Competition

August 2-4, 2018 ~ Holiday Inn Fargo ~ Fargo, North Dakota  
3803 13<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103; Reservations (701) 282-2700

## Tentative Schedule

### Wednesday, August 1

Afternoon (Time TBD) Elk Farm Tour - *Dr. Glen & Kaye Zebarth, Oak Point Elk Farm*

3:45 – 4:15 pm

SEMINAR: Reviewing What is Known About CWD Genotypes - *Don Davis, PhD*

### Thursday, August 2

10:00 am – 12:00 pm AEPF & CEPF Board Meetings  
12:00 – 7:00 pm International Antler Check-in  
12:00 – 9:00 pm Exhibitor Set-up  
1:30 – 2:30 pm NAEBA Board of Directors Meeting  
3:00 – 4:00 pm Elk Research Council Board of Trustees Meeting  
4:00 – 5:00 pm SEMINAR: Advanced Hard Antler Scoring - *Tom Peryea, NAEBA Hard Antler Judge*  
5:00 – 7:00 pm NAEBA Hard Antler Judge Training & Certification (Closed Session)  
7:00 – 8:00 pm SEMINAR: Harvesting Velvet from Yearling Bulls - *Perry Olson, NAEBA Velvet Antler Judge*  
8:30 pm Hospitality Suite

4:15 – 5:00 pm

SEMENAR: Understanding Meat Industry Product and Yields - *Scott Salonek, Elk Marketing Council*

5:00 pm  
6:00 – 7:00 pm  
7:00 – 9:00 pm  
9:00 pm

Cash Bar Opens  
Evening Banquet  
NAEBA's Fun Auction  
Hospitality Suite

### Friday, August 3

8:00 am – 6:00 pm Antler Judging  
Tradeshow  
Silent Auction  
Elk Meat Products Entry  
Photo Contest Entry & Voting  
Board Election Ballots Due  
8:15 am Continental Breakfast  
8:15 – 9:15 am Welcome to North Dakota - *NDEG President Emery Dubin*  
9:00 – 9:10 am General Membership Meeting  
9:10 – 10:00 am Morning Break  
10:00 – 10:30 am Regional Meetings: Central, North Central, Northeast, Northern, Southern, Western  
10:30 – 11:30 am Provided Lunch  
11:45 am – 1:00 pm LUNCH KEY NOTE: Campaign to Eliminate Brucellosis Testing - *NAEBA Executive Director Travis Lowe*  
12:30 – 1:00 pm SEMINAR: Improving A.I. Techniques - *Speaker TBD*  
1:30- 2:15 pm SEMINAR: Processing Velvet Antler from Antler to Capsules - *Bill Knutson, Spring Coulee Freeze Drying*  
2:15- 3:00 pm Afternoon Break  
3:15 – 3:45 pm

### Saturday, August 4

8:00 – 9:00 am  
8:00 am – 6:00 pm  
8:00 am – 3:30 pm  
8:15 – 9:15 am  
9:00 – 10:00 am  
10:00 – 10:30 am  
10:30 – 11:00 am  
11:00 – 11:45 am  
11:45 am – 1:15 pm  
1:15 – 3:00 pm  
3:00 – 3:45 pm  
3:45 pm  
3:45 – 4:30 pm  
4:30 pm  
5:00 pm  
6:00 – 7:00 pm  
7:00 – 7:30 pm  
7:30 – 8:15 pm  
8:15 – 9:00 pm  
9:00 pm  
9:10 pm  
9:15 pm

NAEBA Board of Directors Meeting  
Tradeshow  
Photo Contest Continues  
Silent Auction Continues  
Continental Breakfast  
SEMENAR: Elk Operation Business Forecasting - *Andy Azcarraga & Ian Thorleifson*  
SEMENAR: Making Better Tax Decisions – *Ken Anderson, Anderson Elk Ranch*  
Morning Break  
Hard Antler Competition Viewing & People's Choice Awards Voting  
Provided Lunch  
Velvet Antler Competition Viewing & People's Choice Awards Voting; Photos of Velvet Winners  
Afternoon Break  
Elk Meat Contest, Photo Contest & Silent Auction Ends  
SEMENAR: Getting Started in Elk Ranching - *Mark Luedtke, Luckyland Elk*  
Photos of Hard Antler Winners  
Cash Bar Opens  
Evening Banquet  
Announce Winners of Photo & Meat Contests, NAEBA Awards & Premier Breeder Awards  
NAEBA Benefit Semen Auction  
NAEBA Elk Marketplace Sale  
Closing Remarks  
Competition Antler Check-Out & Exhibitor Tear Down  
Hospitality Suite

## DNR Whitetail Management Plan



In April, the DNR came out with their long awaited Deer Management Plan which was put together by a 19-member deer management advisory committee over the course of the past year. This plan was supposed to outline a new approach to the DNR's management of wild deer.

Of particular concern to the farmed cervid industry was the plan's **Goals and Objectives for (Goal D. Healthy Deer, Strategy 20)**. (APPENDIX PAGE A-3):

### GOAL D: Healthy Deer Strategy

**Strategy 20:** *Collaborate with the Minnesota Board of Animal Health to minimize risk of interaction between captive cervidae and wild deer. For example,*

\* Pursue legislation to require mandatory double fencing of cervid farms to better ensure containment of farmed cervidae and exclusion of wild deer and to eliminate through-the-fence contact between farmed cervids and wild deer.

\* Pursue legislation to require mandatory marking of farmed cervids at birth.

Also of concern was **Recommendation 4: Minimize risk of chronic wasting disease spread to wild deer from captive cervids**. (APPENDIX PAGE C-2)

*Collaborate with the Minnesota Board of Animal Health to minimize risk of interaction between captive cervidae and wild deer through measures including, but not limited to,*

\* Pursuit of legislation to require mandatory double fencing of cervid farms to better ensure containment of farmed cervidae and exclusion of wild deer and to eliminate through-the-fence contact between farmed cervids and wild deer;

\* Pursuit of legislation to require mandatory marking of farmed cervids at birth; and

\* Other appropriate measures.

To read the entire plan, please go to <https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/wildlife/deer/plan/deerplan.pdf>.

DNR accepted comments by the general public on the plan through an online survey. MnEBA sent an e-blast to all MnEBA members asking them to respond to the survey by the due date which was Wednesday May 9<sup>th</sup>. We hope that many of you were able to make comment.

Possible comment suggestions included:

1. **No double fencing** - CWD is dose-dependent, not known to pass via casual contact. CWD has not been proven to pass from a farmed herd to the wild herd in any Minnesota CWD case. No state in the nation requires double fencing of all farmed cervid herds.
2. Tagging of calves is an issue behind the fence and not in the purview of the DNR. Ear tagging at birth has nothing to do with disease control.
3. The plan should include additional language to implement more research and support to better understand potential CWD transmission in the wild via whole carcass movement and taxidermy.
4. Taxidermy waste stream is not addressed.
5. The plan needs to address DNR bone piles.
6. DNR should properly dispose of and CWD test road kill.

Thanks again to all who were able to respond!

## DNR's Plan Outlines Stricter Rules for Deer Farms

Agri News

By Noah Fish, [nfish@agrinews.com](mailto:nfish@agrinews.com)

**April 15, 2018** - The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources last week released a 10-year deer management plan that sets a statewide harvest target, as well as recommendations for stricter defense on the state's deer and elk farms against the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD).

The DNR's outline to address CWD in the plan came as unwelcome news to some of the state's deer and elk farmers, who see it as misled and excessive. A handful of the state's farmers showed up at the Rural Voices discussions hosted by the Minnesota Farmers Union throughout the state, saying the DNR is getting too involved with their farm operations.

The DNR governs the state's wild deer population, while the Board of Animal Health (BAH) presides over the state's captive deer and elk. When CWD is detected in the wild, the DNR is the lead agency; when CWD is found on farms, it's handled by the BAH.

One of the DNR's proposed measures would require double fencing on all deer and elk farms in the state. BAH Communications Director Michael Crusan said that BAH veterinarians require all deer and elk farms to have at least an 8-foot tall perimeter fence.

Greg Lubinski, owner of Lubinski Elk Acres in Plainview and a board member of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association, estimated that adding an additional fence to his farm would

cost more than \$50,000. He doubts an extra fence would halt CWD infections in the state.

Lubinski and many other farmers believe the spread of CWD is not to be blamed entirely on farmed deer and elk, but also on hunter-killed carcasses that are brought to Minnesota.

"They need to address more of the carcass imports that are coming in from other states," said Lubinski about the shipments coming from highly CWD-infected states like Wyoming and Colorado. "Because we positively believe these out-of-state carcasses amount for a lot of the CWD spread in the state."

The DNR did outline a measure in its deer management plan to provide stricter enforcement on out-of-state carcasses, but Lubinski said the agency has focused more on through-the-fence contact from farmed to wild animals.

DNR Regional Wildlife Manager Dave Trauba said the agency is focused on the one source they know to be true for the cause of CWD spread, which is nose-to-nose contact. "We're working real hard with local community landowners to reduce deer densities, and cut that cycle of nose-to-nose contact," said Trauba.

But Lubinski believes that other links to the spread of CWD, such as taxidermy, have yet to be addressed by the agency. In one of the more recent CWD outbreaks in the state, an entire captive herd in Winona County



Elk bulls at Lubinski Elk Acres.  
*Photo by Noah Fish.*

was infected with the disease. That farmer was a licensed taxidermist, a practice governed by the DNR. "They don't want to address it, or talk about," said Lubinski of the DNR's response to possible links from taxidermy to the spread of CWD. "Instead they're trying to throw blame onto legitimate livestock operations."

Although Trauba said the DNR is committed to being good partners with the BAH and deer and elk farmers in the state, the agency consulted with neither side for input on the deer management plan. Crusan said the BAH has no plans to get involved in the DNR's plan or speak on its validity, unless lawmakers ask for input.

"We're affected by everything that has to do with CWD, because it's a disease that impacts a species that we oversee," said Crusan. "But this is something internal that the DNR has created. If they bring all these things to the Legislature and say we want to enact laws to change these, then we will be involved."

The DNR is using a public process to develop the management plan, which is now in draft form. Public comments on the plan are being accepted through May 9, and meetings about the plan will be held in 35 communities throughout the state.

# Board Blog by Greg Lubinski, MnEBA Director



Hello everyone! Spring is here! Buttons have dropped, antlers are growing, hair is shedding and cows are heavy with calves. We expect to have calves arriving by the end of the month. The weather has been up and down this year. How we can go from 80 to 40 within days of each other? Only in Minnesota as we have our fireplace going right now! Planting season is upon us, may the weather stay warm and steady to get those crops growing!



The State Fair will be here before you know it! We still have days to get filled to work the booth. Give me a call if you would be interested. It's a great way to talk about these amazing animals. Let's get people interested in the elk business. I will be at the fair every day. If you have not worked the booth before, I would be glad to help the first timers.

### "The 96 Incher"

It sounds like a fish story.....but it's about our fencing. We all know the rule states that our perimeter fencing must be 96" or higher. I am in the process of raising the sections that are just shy of the height requirement. The picture shows the process that I decided to use, which to me is an easy way to get the job done.

I used 7/8" fiberglass rods cut into 1' sections. These rods are available predrilled at 2" spacing. I needed to drill an extra hole in the rod to attach it to the posts. I used metal fence clips to attach to T posts. The wood posts that are not tall enough, I attach the rods with 4" SPAX screws for treated lumber. I then string 11 gauge wire through the rods which brings the fence up to 96" or higher. This method has been working for me, it is going much faster than I thought it would! My fences overall are just 1"-2" short in spots where the fence has disappeared into the ground. It is time consuming but we all have to be in compliance with the fence height rule by July 1st. If anyone is interested in the process, give me a call.

I hope everyone has a successful calving season, good pastures and healthy elk!

## MnEBA Kitchen

*This is one of the fastest casseroles you will ever put together and it is delicious! Great for those busy days of summer!*

### Potato Hotdish

- 1 lb. ground elk
- 1 can Cream of Mushroom soup
- 1 can Vegetable Beef soup
- 1 can diced potatoes, drained
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese



Cook elk burger and season with small amount of Lawry's Seasoned Salt and pepper to taste. Mix in both soups and can of potatoes. Spread in greased two quart casserole dish and sprinkle with shredded cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until hot and bubbly.

## MnEBA Comments on USDA/APHIS CWD Program Standards

Thank you to all MnEBA members who submitted comments on the USDA/APHIS CWD Program Standards. While there were improvements made to this most recent version, other changes were cause for concern. Please see following comments made by MnEBA:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the latest proposed revisions to the USDA/APHIS Chronic Wasting Disease Program Standards document. The Minnesota elk industry is one of the largest in the nation. Our producers along with state animal health authorities have been very proactive in working to keep CWD out of Minnesota farmed herds.

Unfortunately, Minnesota has had two new index herds emerge in the past couple years. While no ties to animal imports of potentially infected live animals have been identified, both herd owners are taxidermists. One herd was found to have a bone pile of unknown origins in the same pen in which the positive animals came from and the other, a taxidermist who also hunted in Wyoming in CWD endemic areas and brought back whole carcasses.

You will see plenty of comments from wildlife agencies and hunters who want to place blame for CWD squarely on the industry, but in the latest Minnesota cases, the risks associated with movement of hunter-killed carcasses are emerging as the greatest risk of all. A map recently released by the Wisconsin DNR showed that in 2016 alone, more than 32,000 whitetails were harvested by hunters in just four of the highest incidence counties in Wisconsin. These animals were harvested by hunters from 49 different states. The sheer magnitude of potentially CWD-infected carcasses moving from not only these four highly infected counties, but from CWD endemic areas around the nation to each and every state is immensely alarming! Until wildlife agencies and hunters fully address the threat of CWD from hunter-moved carcasses, the disease will continue to spread.

In regards to the farmed industry and the newly proposed version the CWD Program Standards, we have these comments:

**Introduction (Page 4)** – The comment, “*States may also have additional or stricter requirements that exceed the minimum requirements described in the CWD regulations.*” is unnecessary. There is no reason to remind states of this fact, they are already aware. It creates the unnecessary suggestion to create stricter laws on already overburdened farmers.

In addition, we would request that the original wording of “*These Program Standards will be reviewed at least annually by representatives of the cervid industry and appropriate State and Federal agencies.*” be reinstated. There is much in the way of CWD resistance genotyping and live animal testing trials going on at the present time. USDA APHIS needs to be ready to react to new science to help herds maintain and/or obtain disease-free status in a timely fashion.

**Definition of CWD-Susceptible Cervid Species (Page 7)** – We do not believe “*or experimental infections through intranasal and/or oral routes*” should be included in defining CWD-Susceptible Cervid Species. Forming regulations based upon experimental studies recklessly creates unintended government overreach and again, does very little to help stop CWD from spreading.

**Definition of Limited Contact (Page 9)** – Brief or incidental contact between animals has not been shown to pass CWD. The limited contact between cervids from different herds in sales, show rings or exhibitions should not make the facility bear additional burdensome regulations when science does not support the need.

**Additions of Animals to a Herd: Effect on Status (Section 2.3, Page 18)** – If animals are sold from a Level 6 CWD Certified herd with fewer months of CWD surveillance, to another Level 6 CWD Certified herd with more months of CWD surveillance, there should be no reduction of the herd status to the receiving herd as long as they are certified. Asking states to keep track of every transaction to the exact date of herd status is cumbersome and unnecessary.

**Mention of Double Fencing (Part A, Section 4, Page 23)** – The industry is in no position to double fence every farmed herd. We are small family farmers and an expenditure of this magnitude is not possible for each and every herd. The risk associated with limited casual contact between the fence is not worth the price as it is an extremely small and rare risk. Just the mention of double fencing in the Program Standards could cause states to initiate ill-fated laws which will do nothing to help curtail the spread of CWD.

**Mortality Reporting and Routine Surveillance (Part A, Section 5.2, Page 25)** – This section states that enrolled herd owners are required to conduct CWD testing on “*All animals under their ownership that are sent to hunting operations...*” even if that hunting operation is not in a CWD Surveillance Program. This creates an unnecessary burden on hunting operations who are not even enrolled in the CWD Surveillance Program. These operations should not be required to test when they are not participants.

**Sample Collection and Submission Procedures (Part A, Section 5.3, Page 25)** – Not every state has a program to “certify” CWD sample collectors. This section needs to be clarified to allow for trained individuals.

**Definitions (Page 5)** – “*Annual Removals: All adults (12 months or older) removed or lost from inventory for any reason since the previous annual inventory.*”

**Consequences of Poor Quality and Missing Samples Section 5.4 (Page 27).** “*Annual removals are defined as all adult animals (12 months or older) that were removed or lost from inventory for any reason since the previous annual inventory.*” This definition and section need to be clarified to not include animals which moved because of a change in ownership. Many of these animals are moving to other CWD monitored herds where testing will commence, despite the change in ownership.

Also in this section, **(Page 26)**, “*A requirement to replace missed or poor quality samples with testable post-mortem samples from an equal number of animals...*”. Sacrificing healthy animals is counterintuitive to what we are trying to accomplish in maintaining healthy herds and should not be considered as an option. *Option 3) “A direct suspension of herd status for some period of time.”* should also be eliminated. It makes no consideration of the number of good samples submitted, number of years in the program, etc. and would unjustly penalize participating herds with excellent surveillance.

Additionally on **(Page 28)** of this section, “*5) A non-certified herd with a 15 percent annual removal rate fails to test 2 animals that died in the herd. They agree to euthanize and test 2 comparable animals...*”. USDA APHIS should have no jurisdiction over non-certified herds.

**Trace Back, CWD-Exposed Herd(s) (Section 3.2, Page 39)** - The Program Standards should not automatically enact five-year quarantines, but should allow for science-based measures such as genotyping, live animal testing, etc. to be factored into the final length of each quarantine.

**Guidelines for Use of Whole Herd Ante-Mortem Testing of Herds that Contain or Contained CWD-Exposed Animals, (Page 49)** – We appreciate that USDA APHIS is beginning to recognize live animal testing in whitetail deer. We would ask that this section be re-written to include elk and other cervid species as science becomes available. The amount of time it takes to update the Program Standards is lengthy and could postpone needed changes unnecessarily.

**Guidelines for Use of Whole Herd Ante-Mortem Testing (Page 50)** – “*C. Herds with fewer than 50 percent GG animals will not be permitted to use ante-mortem RAMALT testing.*” USDA APHIS should allow for whole herd ante-mortem testing of any herd who wishes to use it to help build the database of known science to make better overall CWD monitoring decisions in the future.

**Guidelines for Use of Whole Herd Ante-Mortem Testing of Herds that Contain or Contained CWD-Exposed Animals (Page 51)** – “*10) If a positive result is found on rectal biopsy, the animal must be surrendered for further testing. There will be no compensation to the owner unless indemnity funds are available...*”. This allows for the taking of private property without compensation which is not allowed under federal law.

**Biosecurity and Decontamination Procedures for Farmed Cervidae Facilities (Appendix IV, Section B, Page 63)** – The CWD Program Standards should not dictate how every facility should decontaminate dry lots in which CWD-positive animals have been held. The language of “close confinement” is not defined and could be widely interpreted. Every CWD case and farm is different. We should allow for decontamination measures to be decided on a case-by-case basis.

We thank you once again for the opportunity to make comment and for your consideration of our concerns.

## MnEBA Has Booth at 2018 Minnesota State FFA Convention

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association recently participated in the 2018 Minnesota State FFA Convention Agricultural Career Fair held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the University of Minnesota. This was one of just a few nice days in April which was important as the career fair is held in an outdoor tent! Over 3,500 FFA members, teachers and others attended the three-day convention.

At the State FFA Convention, attendees participate in general sessions, competitive events, educational tours, leadership workshops, visit with colleges, and more. The Ag Career Fair is just one of many other activities. Here attendees get the chance to meet any number of vendors who are there to share agricultural opportunities in their respective fields.

Thank you to Jim Byrne and Greg Lubinski for manning the MnEBA booth at this year's event! This was a great opportunity to share with many Minnesota high schoolers who are interested in agriculture, what the elk industry is all about and what great products we produce. Hopefully the booth sparked an interest in several young people to consider raising elk some day!



### Elk Bull Needed for 2018 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt

MnEBA is seeking an elk bull for the 2018 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt to be held at Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch in Baudette, MN likely in October. MnEBA has half the money needed to purchase a bull. Looking for someone to donate the other half of funding and also someone willing to sell a bull measuring 300"-350".

This elk hunt will be awarded to a disabled Minnesota veteran of the United States armed forces. This will mark the 12th anniversary of this annual MnEBA sponsored hunt!

### Do You Know a Disabled Minnesota Veteran Who Might Want to Apply?

MnEBA is seeking a hunt recipient for this year and is looking for suggestions from MnEBA members. Candidates to be a disabled Minnesota veteran (or have Minnesota ties). Applications are now available and will be **due by August 1<sup>st</sup>**.

Please contact the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 or [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org) to request an application!

**Vet Corner** by Glen Zearth, DVM**NIH Study: No Chronic Wasting Disease Transmissibility In Macaques**

## NEWS RELEASE

For more information - Ken Pekoc, (301) 402-1663, kpekoc@niaid.nih.gov

APRIL 25, 2018 - Chronic wasting disease (CWD) did not cross the species barrier to infect cynomolgus macaque monkeys during a lengthy investigation by National Institutes of Health scientists exploring risks to humans.

CWD is a type of brain-damaging and fatal prion disease found in deer, elk and moose; in humans, prion diseases can take more than a decade to develop. In the study, appearing in the *Journal of Virology*, 14 macaques were cerebrally and orally exposed to brain matter from CWD-infected deer and elk, and then monitored for up to 13 years. Macaques often are used to model human prion diseases because they are genetically similar to humans and are susceptible to several types of prion diseases known to infect people.

Researchers screened tissues for prion disease using several tests, including the highly sensitive RT-QuIC assay, and found "no clinical, pathological or biochemical evidence suggesting that CWD was transmitted" to macaques, according to their paper. RT-QuIC is Real-Time Quaking-Induced Conversion, developed at Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Hamilton, Montana, part of the NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

A key public health concern is whether people who consume meat or products from CWD-infected animals are susceptible to prion disease. CWD was first identified in 1967 in captive deer held in Colorado wildlife facilities. CWD has been gradually spreading in U.S. wildlife and is now found in 25 states as well as in Canada. The disease also has been found in South Korea, Norway and Finland.

Human prion diseases include fatal insomnia; kuru; Gerstmann-Straussler-Scheinker syndrome; and variant, familial and sporadic Creutzfeldt Jakob disease (CJD). Sporadic CJD is the most common human prion disease, affecting about one in one million people annually worldwide. Other prion diseases include scrapie in sheep and bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease, in cattle.

Despite these findings, researchers suggest that people err on the side of caution and not consume meat from game animals that appear ill or thin, or are confirmed carriers of CWD.

ARTICLE: *B Race et al. Lack of Transmission of Chronic Wasting Disease to Cynomolgus Macaques. Journal of Virology DOI: 10.1128/JVI.00550-18 (2018)*

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**Thank you for your support!**

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## In The News - USAHA Updates

### Long-Term Research Shows Domestic Cattle Resist Oral Exposure to Chronic Wasting Disease

Univ. of Wyoming News Release  
May 23, 2018

Cattle fed extremely high oral doses of chronic wasting disease (CWD)-infected brain material or kept in heavily prion-contaminated facilities for 10 years showed no neurological signs of the disease.

The University of Wyoming's Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory (WSVL), the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) collaborated in the

\$1.5 million study. Results will be published in the July issue of the Journal of Wildlife Diseases.

As part of the experiment, 41 calves were randomly distributed to WGFD pens in Sybille Canyon in Wyoming, Colorado Division of Wildlife pens in Fort Collins, the WSVL and 18 to the National Animal Disease Center in Ames, Iowa.

"It was an elegant experiment

in many ways," says Hank Edwards, WGFD wildlife disease specialist. "You were taking cattle and housing them with heavily infected CWD elk and facilities. If CWD was going to jump the species barrier, it was likely you would see something in these cattle that had laid out in the pens for 10 years. That's a big deal."

Full text:  
<http://tinyurl.com/ybslwy5y>

## 2019 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar Four Sponsorships Are Still Available!

**Many thanks** to all MnEBA members who have stepped up to sponsor a month in the 2019 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. This year's sponsors to date include: Ken & Carol Mudek, Kraig & Jenny Wurst, Leo Windschitl, Brian Wagner, Lance & Brenda Hartkopf, Perry & Sandy Olson, Dennis & Jackie Engebretson, Greg & Roxy Lubinski, and Mark & Lisa Luedtke. Four spots are still OPEN! If you would be willing to sponsor a month in the calendar, please contact the MnEBA Office as soon as possible!



**Please supply pictures ASAP!** The deadline for advertisers to submit their calendar picture is June 15<sup>th</sup>! Feel free to submit more than one picture, an extra photo or two is always needed for the front and back covers! Picture quality is very important. Electronic pictures work best, higher pixels are better. Also be paying attention to the background of the pictures to make sure there is a nice backdrop for your featured elk.

**Same great incentives to sell calendars this year!** For each group of ten calendars sold by any one person, the seller's name goes in the hat for a special gun drawing outside of the raffle calendar. Stubs and money for all ten tickets must be turned in by December 31, 2018 to be eligible for the drawing. Sellers can be entered multiple times for each group of 10 calendars sold. The current free membership incentive for 30 calendars sold with stubs and money turned in by December 31<sup>st</sup> will also continue. With 26 guns and six \$100 Bonus Cash days, there are many great chances to win!

**Three years of sell outs!** MnEBA has sold out of gun raffle calendars each of the past three years! Make sure to order your calendars early to ensure you have the quantity you need.

**Calendars will be available** at this year's summer picnic on July 28<sup>th</sup> in Sturgeon Lake. They will also be available at the NAEBA Convention in Fargo the following weekend, but may not be sold to convention attendees during the convention event itself. Calendars can also be sent via the office or by contacting a board member. Let's make the 2019 calendar another sell out! Please contact the MnEBA Office with any questions or comments at 320-543-2686 or [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org).

**August 23 – Labor Day September 3**

# MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

*There are still lots of opportunities to sign up! Call Greg Lubinski today to get your preferred day!*

After last year's record sales year, MnEBA is excited to once again be making plans for the 2018 Minnesota State Fair – it will be here before we know it!

There are still many openings for members to sign up. This is a great event in which the entire family can enjoy the day, there is literally something for everyone! Bring the family and take turns in the booth, or meet up later after your shift to enjoy some family time together!

If you've never worked the booth or don't know what's involved, Greg Lubinski will be there every day and will be happy to train you in. You are also encouraged to bring friends or other relatives to help out. Some members have had friends/relatives who have helped in the booth for many years!



MnEBA will be once again be selling elk snack sticks, sausage and jerky along with elk antler dog chews. Selling elk snacks and dog chews always generates good discussion and keeps things interesting!

Please contact Greg Lubinski at (507) 273-0525 to sign up for any of the open shifts below. Contact Paul Hueg at (612) 791-0443 with any comments or suggestions for this year's booth display. You never know what kinds of ideas Paul will come up with, your idea may just spark the next great thing!

Date	Time	Workers	Date	Time	Workers
Pre-Fair		Set Up – Paul Hueg, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst	8/29	8 – 2	OPEN
8/23	8 - 2	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf		2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	OPEN	8/30	8 – 2	Jim Byrne
8/24	8 – 2	Aase Family		2 – 9	Jim Byrne
	2 – 9	OPEN	8/31	8 – 2	Jim Byrne
8/25	8 – 2	OPEN		2 – 9	Jim Byrne
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/1	8 – 2	OPEN
8/26	8 – 2	OPEN		2 – 9	Turek Family
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/2	8 – 2	OPEN
8/27	8 – 2	Jim Byrne		2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	Ken & Carol Mudek	9/3	8 – 2	Greg & Roxy Lubinski
8/28	8 – 2	Melquist Family		2 – 9	Paul & Lynn Hueg
	2 – 9	OPEN			

## Committee Reports

### Government Relations Committee Report

*By Jim Byrne, Government Relations Committee Chair*

The 2018 Legislative session has come to a thankful end. With Governor Dayton's veto of the Supplemental Tax Bill, which contained the only amendment concerning the cervid industry, the initiative was defeated. At this point there is no new legislation that affects us as producers.

The expected audit of the Board of Animal Health was released late in the session. The audit did have a number of recommendations concerning record keeping and tracking of CWD associated sample testing. To see the entire findings of the audit go to: [www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us).

The Farmed Cervidae Task Force had its first meeting in May. Mark Luedtke and Brenda Hartkopf represented the association at the meeting in Buffalo, MN. The Task Force is a newer version of the Cervidae Advisory Committee, which no longer conformed to state requirements for committees. The main topics for discussion are fencing requirements including exclusionary fencing and farmed cervid business viability. The plan is to meet at least quarterly with the next meeting June 13<sup>th</sup>.

Comments have been sent concerning the Federal CWD Standards and the MN DNR Deer Management Plan. Brenda also wrote a Letter to the Editor in the Outdoor News on May 11 dealing with the carcass movement and imports. Please read all of these in full in this newsletter.

Thank you to Tony Kwilas, Brenda and the entire Board for all their efforts throughout this Legislative session. Many hours of effort and strain went into getting through the session without more restrictions on how we conduct business. Give them thanks, they really stood up for the industry.

### Lobbyist Update

*By Tony Kwilas, MnEBA Lobbyist*

The 2018 legislative session has now ended. Every legislative session is unique and different and this one was more so than other ones!!

The Legislature did not convene until February 20 due to the Super Bowl being held in Minnesota. Easter was also early this year, April 1, so there was a compressed timeline for the legislature to act on their priorities. Easter is usually the time when the committee's set their deadlines for bills to be completed in policy committees.

The big three priorities going into the legislative session were federal tax conformity, a budget bill and a bonding bill. The second tier of priorities involved providing some funding for the MNLARS system, elder abuse penalties and increased funding for school safety. In the end, the 998 page budget bill contained funding for MNLARS, increased penalties for elder abuse and increased funding for school safety. Governor Dayton on May 23<sup>rd</sup> vetoed the entire Omnibus Supplemental Budget Bill. He also vetoed the Tax Bill that contained the federal conformity language. He has yet to act on the Bonding Bill.

The issues of concern to the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association and the cervid industry centered on increased restrictions, rules and regulations and

increased penalties for violations. Increased funding for enforcement was proposed by the Governor and passed by the legislature, but ultimately vetoed as it was part of the Omnibus Supplemental Budget Bill. The funding was 1.3 million to the Department of Natural Resources for wildlife disease monitoring, emergency response and inspection of facilities and records. The Omnibus Supplemental Bill also contained the establishment of two task forces. The first task force was to examine how CWD related recommendations of the legislative auditor should be implemented, methods to improve coordination and effectiveness of CWD prevention and response, including importation of carcasses and whether it is possible to develop new methods for CWD detection. The second task force was to examine the Board of Animal Health effectiveness, whether the structure and membership of the Board is optimally designed, and related issues.

With the legislative session now adjourned, the election season has begun. Pundits are predicting competitive elections on the federal level for one of our U.S. Senate seats and 4 of our 8 congressional seats. Additionally, there is an open gubernatorial race and all 134 members of the House of Representatives are up for election. There will be record amounts of financial resources in these elections so get ready for plenty of TV and radio ads!!



## Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

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

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

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

**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).

## MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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