



## Special Interest Articles:

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- Membership Meeting Minutes
- Board Meeting Minutes
- Deer Farm Infected with CWD in 2016 Identifies Additional Cases
- New CWD Positive Deer in Crow Wing County and Southeastern MN Require Additional Disease Monitoring and Management
- CWD Research In The News
- Legislative Update
- Board Blog
- Vet Corner
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- Committee Reports

## President's Message by Jim Byrne



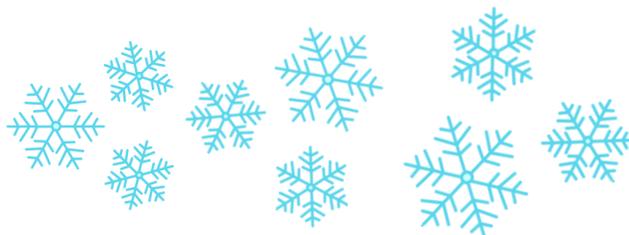
The first two months of this year have been, to say the least, very busy and exciting. We finally are having a good old fashion Minnesota winter. This last snowfall in southern Minnesota left 13.5 inches of snow for us to frolic in. Thank goodness for snow blowers. We've had a record-breaking snowfall for February, and March hasn't even started.

It has been a very busy start to the legislative session for the Board. Trips to legislative hearings and meetings with representatives have just started and will likely continue through May. A full overview of what is going on is covered in the Legislative Report in this newsletter. If you read nothing else, read that report. You are going to need to be informed to be involved.

One of the things to remember is that the association has been consistent in its messages to all that have issues with our industry. We have to continue to fight for our right to be elk farmers, and that means we must stay positive in attitude and fact based in our actions.

Remember: STAY POSITIVE.

Jim



## *Make Plans to Attend!!!* **2019 MnEBA Summer Picnic** **Saturday, July 20, 2019**

*Hosted By*

**River View Elk Ranch – Pat & Rita Prodzinski**  
22054 Government Pointe Road ~ Winona, MN 55987  
507-452-1282 (Home) or 507-312-0327 (Pat's cell)

**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!

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

### Board of Directors

#### President

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#### Vice President

Mark Luedtke  
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#### Secretary/Treasurer

Brian Wagner  
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#### Director

Greg Lubinski  
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(507) 273-6174

#### Executive Secretary to the Board

Brenda Hartkopf  
(320) 543-2686

## MnEBA

### Mission Statement

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

## 2019 MnEBA Annual Conference Recap

### *Fundraising was up 50% over last year!*

The 2019 MnEBA Annual Conference took place January 12, 2019 at the Sheraton Minneapolis West Hotel in Minnetonka, MN. Seventy three people attended this year's event which featured six seminars, a lively auction and lots of good discussion.

ADM Animal Nutrition kicked the weekend off by hosting a complimentary dinner and nutrition seminar on Friday night which once again drew a big crowd!

Saturday began with the membership meeting followed by the University of Minnesota discussing details of a CWD Biosecurity Study of the Farmed Cervid Industry they are working on. This was followed by a MnEBA strategic planning session in which attendees gave a lot of great feedback and ideas. Afternoon seminars offered MnEBA members the chance to hear from our new Board of Animal Health Senior Veterinarian Dr. Mackenzie Reberg. Dr. Reberg updated attendees on current statistics and new changes to the program. NAEBA's Executive Director Travis Lowe outlined the new Elk Business Forecasting tool which is available to anyone new to the industry or those who want to examine their current business plan structure. Perry Olson gave a great presentation on cutting spikers for velvet followed up by a comprehensive panel discussion on feeding and vaccination programs by Tony Beckel, Jim Byrne, Greg Lubinski and Roger Nietfeld.

Board member elections were held for the expiring terms of Mark Luedtke and Kraig Wurst. Both expressed an interest to continue to serve and were re-elected by unanimous ballot.

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

This year's conference featured four vendors including ADM Animal Nutrition, Spring Coulee Elk Farm/Spring Coulee Freeze Drying, Black Velvet Elk Ranch and North American Elk Breeders Association. Thanks to all vendors for taking part in the conference!

Two MnEBA Appreciation Awards were presented. One to Tony Beckel for his generosity with the MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt and the other to Mark Luedtke for great representation on the USAHA committee.

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

- **Morning Break Sponsor:** *Roger & Saichon Nietfeld*
- **Afternoon Break Sponsor:** *Paul & Lynn Hueg, Sunset Elk Ranch*
- **Table Decorations:** *Pat & Rita Prodzinski*
- **Saturday Night Hospitality:** *Brian Wagner & Tena Martin, Bill & Karen Knutson and Lance & Brenda Hartkopf*

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

A final thank you to all who attended, made donations to the live and silent auctions, bid on fundraising items and helped in any way. Over \$7,200 was raised for all fundraising efforts combined. Thank you to all for making this a great conference!



## Membership Meeting Minutes

### Membership Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2019

The membership of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held their 2019 Annual Conference at the Sheraton Minneapolis West hotel in Minnetonka, MN on January 12, 2019. President Jim Byrne called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

President Byrne offered a prayer for Heike Schimmelpfennig as she is currently serving active duty in Kuwait as well as for the families of Frank Chan and Helena Mulder who recently passed away. Byrne then asked for additions or corrections to the July 28, 2018 secretary report. Pat Prodzinski moved to accept the report as written, Mark Luedtke seconded, motion carried.

Brenda Hartkopf reviewed the treasurer's report by noting a few points of interest then adding that there would be an entire seminar dedicated to the budget later that morning. The December 31<sup>st</sup> checkbook balance was \$17,820.53. Perry Olson moved to accept the treasurer's report, Wade Schimmelpfennig seconded, motion carried.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Government Relations:** Byrne reported that the MnEBA board of directors met with the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association board of directors in March of 2018 to discuss how to move forward with the number of amendments and possible bills being proposed that would affect Minnesota's farmed cervid industry. The legislature ultimately adjourned without any changes in 2018. The 2019 session began on January 8<sup>th</sup> and legislators are already holding committee hearings on CWD next week. The House switched to a Democratic majority in November 2018 which means that industry will need to deal with House Democratic committee chairs who are unfavorable to the industry. Having just recently sat down with Representative Becker-Finn, we understand there will be a bill, we just don't know the details as of yet.

Byrne also reported the Farmed Cervidae Task Force has met a number of times in the past year. The primary focus has been on approval of what different types of exclusionary fencing would be acceptable for cervid operations who find themselves in a CWD endemic zone within 10 miles of a CWD positive wild deer.

**Fundraising Raffle:** Hartkopf reported that stubs and money for 588 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendars were turned in by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Seven members became eligible for complimentary 2019 membership including Pat Prodzinski, Paul Hartkopf, Brian Wagner, Dennis Engebretson, Marlin Schmitz, Jerry Campbell and Wade Schimmelpfennig. High sellers to date were Brian Wagner at 161 calendars sold, Pat Prodzinski at 62 sold and Wade Schimmelpfennig at 46 sold. 51 names went into the hat for the incentive gun drawing with John Fredrickson being drawn as the winner. There was much discussion about one person's number being drawn during the raffle drawing four times last year and how many complaints there were about that happening. After much discussion, the consensus was to put a number previously drawn back in the barrel one more time, but not a second time.

**Promotions:** Hartkopf reported its renewal time for Minnesota Grown memberships and it's a good time to join if you haven't already. More information was available at the registration desk. She reported that MnEBA will once again be having a booth at the Outdoor News Deer & Turkey Expo on March 8-10. Greg Lubinski has agreed to organize the worker schedule and members should see him to sign up. MnEBA is also planning to put up a booth at the Minnesota FFA State Convention in late April. Finally, she reported that the promotions committee is working with the state fair committee to update the informational panels in the booth. They expect to complete this project later this spring. MN Grown credits will be used to fund this project.

**State Fair:** Greg Lubinski reported he had the sign-up sheet for the Minnesota State Fair and that people could sign up at the conference. He explained how popular the drone video was that was added to the 2018 display and that new backdrops and other possible improvements are being discussed. This year's State Fair takes place from August 22-September 2.

### NAEBA

Travis Lowe, Executive Director of the North American Elk Breeders Association was in attendance and recognized Bill Knutson who represents the North Central region, was also present. The North Central region is also represented by Rick Ewert.

Lowe reported that 2018 was a great year for NAEBA with both membership numbers and the ending

balance increasing in 2018 with the Southern region being the fastest growing region as of late. While noting there are legislative struggles in several states which NAEBA is assisting with, there is also great regulatory reform taking place specifically to eliminate the Brucellosis testing requirements to ship farmed cervids interstate. This is a state by state effort with states like Colorado and South Dakota recently dropping the Brucellosis testing requirement and others such as Texas, Oklahoma, Indiana and Tennessee in the rule-making process to also drop the Brucellosis testing requirement.

Lowe also reported that the 2019 March Mingle will take place in Edmonton, Alberta on March 8-9, and the NAEBA Annual Convention will take place in Topeka, KS on August 1-3.

The Elk Research Foundation has been very active with a new name change and also a new elk genome study. For this groundbreaking study, 400 DNA hair samples are needed. Lowe asked anyone who would be working animals in the coming weeks to consider sending in hair samples to the NAEBA office to help facilitate the study.

Lastly, Lowe reported that the American Cervid Alliance continues to do great PR campaign work on behalf of the industry with several articles published in Minnesota newspapers. 92% of all cervid associations in the United States participate on this committee.

### OLD BUSINESS

Hartkopf reported the 2018 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt was another great success due to the generosity of the many people who helped everything come together for the event. She thanked Tony Beckel for hosting the hunt and serving as guide, Ron Welle of Midwest Outdoors Unlimited for making arrangements for lodging and food as well as accompanying the hunter on the trip, the Lake Superior SCI Chapter for donating funds to cover trip expenses and processing of the meat, Lance & Brenda Hartkopf for donating funds to purchase the bull and Paul & Lynn Hweg for holding the bull until October and personally hauling the bull to the hunt facility in Baudette. Willy Puckett, a disabled veteran from Monticello, MN was the 2018 recipient and was expected to be present for the evening banquet.

Mark Luedtke reported that 2018 was his fourth year

attending the USAHA Convention representing the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association and that as time has gone by, he has gained increasing recognition from fellow attendees. The 2018 conference was a great conference for the industry with committee approval of all the items industry was seeking positive change on. These items included 1) seeking further study on diversity of different CWD strains; 2) funding additional research on CWD susceptibility on different genotypes; and 3) to allow the TB blood test to be used as an individual test for interstate commerce.

### NEW BUSINESS

The board of director terms for both Mark Luedtke and Kraig Wurst have expired. Both agreed to run for a new three year term. Byrne opened up the floor to additional nominations. Wade Schimmelpfennig moved to close nominations and accept Mark Luedtke and Kraig Wurst by unanimous ballot, Pat Prodzinski seconded, motion carried.

Byrne reported that Pat & Rita Prodzinski had offered to host the MnEBA Summer Picnic for 2019. The date of Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup> was chosen to be the day of the event.

Byrne thanked all sponsors and announced details for the rest of the day's events.

Being no further business, Mark Lucas moved to adjourn, Kraig Wurst seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary



*Kraig & Brian holding up a beautiful quilt handmade by Yvonne Schimmelpfennig for the auction.*

## Annual Conference Fundraisers a Success!

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

Many thanks to everyone who donated and bid on items for this year's live and silent auctions! Over \$7,200 was raised through the auctions and fundraising games for MnEBA! Thanks to Brian Wagner for his assistance in finding special items for the auction. Thanks also to Mark Lucas for serving as auctioneer and to Kraig Wurst and Brian Wagner for their assistance in taking bids.

Item	Donor	Buyer
(10) Bags ADM 18% Complete Supplement x 2	Leo Windschitl/ADM Animal Nutrition	Wade Schimmelpfennig
"Elkcome" Metal Art	MnEBA	Greg Lubinski
"Home" Wooden Sign	Kraig & Jenny Wurst	Michelle Lucas
Vacation at Casa Madera Condo (6 days)	Don & Joyce Kaplan	Pat Prodzinski/ Jim Byrne
"Our Farmhouse" Wooden Sign	Kraig & Jenny Wurst	Brenda Hartkopf
(1) Night Stay Sheraton Mpls West	Sheraton Mpls West	Greg Lubinski
(2) Straws Buyers Choice King Jr, Udenya Bull or 709	Brian Wagner & Tena Martin	Bill Knutson
(2) Straws Buyer's Choice of LLE Rebel, LLE Tealk or LLE Stinger	Mark & Lisa Luedtke	Lance Hartkopf
(2) Straws Splendor's Ray	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Jon Aase
WCDEFA Membership #1	WCDEFA	Brian Wagner
WCDEFA Membership #2	WCDEFA	Loren Heusel
18X Telephoto Lens for Mobile Phone	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Wade Schimmelpfennig
24 pack MN Elk Boxes	MnEBA	Jim Byrne
25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Centerpiece #1	MnEBA	Paul Hueg
25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Centerpiece #2	MnEBA	Mindy Nelson
25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Centerpiece #3	MnEBA	Paul Hueg
2-Piece Baking Sheet Set	Leo & Cyndi Windschitl	Karen Knutson
30 ct. Hickory Sticks	MnEBA	Greg Lubinski
30 ct. Peppi Sticks #1	MnEBA	Holly Harguth
30 ct. Peppi Sticks #2	MnEBA	Bill Knutson
30 ct. Peppi Sticks #3	MnEBA	Linda Campbell
5 LED Cap Light	MnEBA	Bill Knutson
5 ltr Box Normectin	Brian Wagner & Tena Martin	Darrell Turek
5" Folding Fish Fillet Knife	Leo & Cyndi Windschitl	Linda Campbell
8-Place Setting Elk Stoneware	Mark & Michelle Lucas	Brian Burke
Antler Flint Starter	Paul Metz	Melissa Uchytel
Antler Handle Bottle Opener	Brian Wagner/Tena Martin	Brenda Hartkopf
Antler Handle Letter Opener	Greg & Roxy Lubinski	Brenda Hartkopf
Antler Key Ring #1	Paul Metz	Mindy Nelson
Antler Key Ring #2	Paul Metz	Brenda Hartkopf
Barnwood Star	MnEBA	Brenda Hartkopf
BBQ Fork Set	MnEBA	Patty Beckel
Blue Fleece Elk Blanket	Darrell Turek & Sheila Krukowski	Klint Wylie
Ceramic Elk	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Holly Harguth
Chocolate Chip Cookie Basket	Jim & Eileen Byrne	Georgiana Wylie
Collapsible 3D LED Lantern	MnEBA	Perry Olson
Deer Antler Lamp	Brian Wagner & Tena Martin	Tony Beckel
Dog Pillow w/5 Rawhide Bones	Paul & Lynn Hueg	Loren Heusel
Duffel Bag	Leo & Cyndi Windschitl	Holly Harguth
Elk Candle	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Linda Campbell
Elk Christmas Cards	MnEBA	Shirley Fredrickson
Elk Flag	Jim & Eileen Byrne	Rita Prodzinski
Elk Flask	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Paul Hartkopf

Item	Donor	Buyer
Elk Jerky #1	Dan Parsons	Klint Nelson
Elk Jerky #2	Dan Parsons	Holly Harguth
Elk Metal Art Business Card Holder	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Linda Campbell
Elk Metal Sign	Jim & Eileen Byrne	John Fredrickson
Elk Mug w/Coffee	Greg & Roxi Lubinski	Holly Harguth
Elk Sculpture	Larry & Sherry Winter	Darrell Turek
Elk Wind Chimes	MnEBA	Brenda Hartkopf
Elk Wind Spinner	Jim & Eileen Byrne	Gary Smith
Elk Wood Carving Wall Hanging	MnEBA	Paul Hueg
Featherweight Bissell Cleaner	Leo & Cyndi Windschittl	Linda Campbell
Fishing Theme Thermometer	Leo & Cyndi Windschittl	Patty Beckel
Fourth of July Basket	Pat & Rita Prodzinski	Melissa Uchytill
Framed 3-D Golden Elk	Darrell Turek & Sheila Krukowski	Brian Harguth
Handmade Full Size Elk Quilt	Wade & Heike Schimmelpfennig	Paul Hueg
Gerber Multi-Plier	Ken & Carol Mudek	Jerry Campbell
Gerber Outdoor Exchange-A-Blade Saw	MnEBA	Tony Beckel
Green Fleece Elk Blanket	Darrell & Sheila Krukowski	Klint Wylie
Homemade Jams, Creamed Honey & Elk Candle Basket	John & Shirley Fredrickson	Melissa Uchytill
Insulated Elk Mug	Darrell Turek & Sheila Krukowski	Shirley Fredrickson
Lincoln Power Luber 12-Volt Cordless Grease Gun	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Steve Uchytill
Loose-Fit Long Sleeve Undershirt XL	MnEBA	Brian Harguth
MN Grown Sweatshirt XXL	Minnesota Grown	Paul Hueg
Neofleece Combo Scarf	MnEBA	Loren Heusel
Oriole Feeder	John & Shirley Fredrickson	Linda Campbell
Outdoor Fryer	MnEBA	Mark Luedtke
Pine Slab Elk Scene	Tony & Patty Beckel	Paul Hueg
Pro-4 Flashlight	MnEBA	Dee Parker
Pro-4 Lantern	MnEBA	Ken Mudek
Reactive Ground Bouncing Target	MnEBA	Paul Hartkopf
Red Fleece Elk Blanket	Darrell Turek & Sheila Krukowski	Clint Nelson
Rustic Wall Clock	Greg & Roxy Lubinski	Perry Olson
Set of 5 Rawhide Bones #1	Paul & Lynn Hueg	Wade Schimmelpfennig
Set of 5 Rawhide Bones #2	Paul & Lynn Hueg	Jim Byrne
Set of 5 Rawhide Bones #3	Paul & Lynn Hueg	Mark Lucas
Set of 5 Rawhide Bones #4	Paul & Lynn Hueg	Loren Heusel
Shoe Scrubber	MnEBA	Paul Hartkopf
Spincaster Fishing Rod	Leo & Cyndi Windschittl	Klint Wylie
Spinning Fishing Rod	Leo & Cyndi Windschittl	Klint Wylie
'Suzie Saves the Day' Children's Book	Bill & Karen Knutson	Martin Zacharias
Valentine Basket	Amanda Turek	Georgianna Wylie
Wild Wings Elk Nightlight	MnEBA	Linda Campbell
Wildlife Tapestry	Ray Smothers	Paul Hueg
Worksharp Knife & Tool Sharpener	Ken & Carol Mudek	Bill Knutson
Elk Hand Towel Set	Pat & Rita Prodzinski	Linda Campbell



## Board Meeting Minutes

### Board Meeting Minutes December 17, 2018

The Board of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association met on Monday December 17, 2018 at the home of Lance & Brenda Hartkopf. Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski and Brenda Hartkopf were in attendance. Kraig Wurst joined the meeting at a later time. Byrne called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Board reviewed the October 3<sup>rd</sup> Secretary Report. Wagner moved to approve the report as written, Lubinski seconded, motion carried. Board then reviewed the Treasurer's report. The decision was made to use any leftover funds provided by the Lake Superior SCI Chapter for the MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt which did not get used for the 2018 hunt, for the 2019 hunt. Luedtke moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented, Wagner seconded, motion carried.

Hartkopf reported that all 750 gun raffle calendars have been dispersed which is ahead of this time last year. Members are a little behind in returning their stubs and money compared to last year, but typically get most of them back by the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline to qualify for the selling incentives.

Kraig Wurst then joined the meeting. Board reviewed the Assessment of Chronic Wasting Disease Management in Minnesota questionnaire draft and made several suggestions for changes.

Board made some minor adjustments to the annual conference schedule to accommodate a short presentation by University of Minnesota CWD Biosecurity Study coordinators. Board also discussed topics for the Strategic Planning seminar. Hartkopf to draft a PowerPoint presentation for board review and discussion. Appreciation awards were decided upon and fundraising details were discussed as well as board nominations and discussing which legislators to invite to the meeting. Hartkopf to send out an e-blast reminder later today about the conference guest room block expiring today.

Hartkopf updated the board on the progress of obtaining the USDA epidemiologic reports from the Crow Wing and Winona county CWD investigations. A big push will be made to get them before the upcoming legislative session.

Hartkopf reported that the recent MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt went well and that the recipient had a great experience. He is planning to attend the upcoming conference in January.

There was more board discussion about increasing income or decreasing expenses to help the association balance the budget in light of anticipated continued higher yearly expenditures for lobbying efforts at the state capitol. One idea was to print more raffle calendars and another to raise the cost of raffle calendars to \$50 each. These ideas and others will be presented at the conference in January.

Luedtke reported on recent USDA/APHIS and industry discussions on TB, Brucellosis and CWD. He also provided a handout with thoughts and ideas about creating a proactive communication campaign regarding CWD. Board offered feedback on the proposal. Luedtke to follow up with the Elk Research Foundation to see if there would be an opportunity for funding.

MnEBA's lobbyist gave the board a couple options for meeting with Rep. Becker-Finn and other legislators. Board selected the January 4<sup>th</sup> date. Further discussion was had about topics to bring up at that meeting.

Hartkopf reported that dog chews will be available from Wapiti Labs Inc for State Fair sales. Hartkopf and Lubinski talked about updating the background information panels for the Minnesota State Fair booth. Paul Hueg has some ideas on what type of material would be good to use. Board gave the go-ahead for Hartkopf to work with Lubinski, Hueg and Minnesota Grown on artwork for the panels. The entire project would be funded through Minnesota Grown funding.

Wurst moved and Lubinski seconded to approve Mark Luedtke's USAHA report and conference expenditures for reimbursement.

Being there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

### Board Meeting Minutes January 23, 2019

The Board of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association met on Wednesday January 23, 2019 at the home of Lance & Brenda Hartkopf. Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf were in attendance. Byrne called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Board reviewed the December 17<sup>th</sup> Secretary Report. Luedtke moved to approve the minutes as written, Wagner seconded, motion carried. Board then reviewed the Treasurer's report. While 2018 showed a loss of \$3,087, the start of 2019 was looking stronger with more calendars sold after the first of the year, conference fundraising up more than \$2,000 over 2018 and dues coming in more quickly than last year. The checkbook balance on January 22, 2019 was \$41,566.54. Wagner approved the report as presented with the understanding that the board would be going through each line item for the budget discussion later in the meeting, Luedtke seconded, motion carried.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Hartkopf reported that the 2019 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar sold out except for three lost calendars. Seven free memberships were given out for members who sold a

minimum of 30 calendars and returned the stubs and money by December 31. These members included Brian Wagner, Pat Prodzinski, Paul Hartkopf, Dennis Engebretson, Marlen Schmitz, Jerry Campbell and Wade Schimmelpfennig. High sellers were Brian Wagner at 165 sold, Pat Prodzinski at 62, Greg Lubinski at 50, Wade Schimmelpfennig at 47 and Dennis Engebretson and Paul Hartkopf each selling 35 calendars. There were 51 names that went into the 10-calendar incentive drawing with John Fredrickson being the winner.

Hartkopf reported 73 people attended the recent 2019 MnEBA Annual Conference. Fundraisers brought in \$2,375 more than last year, much due to the semen lots which were sold and also the quilt donated by Wade & Heike Schimmelpfennig. The financials were not yet complete for the event but will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Byrne reported that he and Hartkopf attended "CWD Overview" meetings at the State Capitol in both the House and Senate. MnEBA had prepared remarks but there was not enough time available during the meetings to testify so our lobbyist hand delivered the testimony in writing to legislators after the meeting. Byrne reported that H.F. No. 229 was introduced in the House on January 22<sup>nd</sup> which called for 10' double fencing of all farmed cervid facilities. Board reviewed the Double Fencing Fact Sheet which will be used for legislative purposes and offered suggested changes. Hartkopf to update the fact sheet and send to Tony ASAP. It was also reported that the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Lab was testifying at a hearing today. Tony called in to the meeting later and reported they were asking for funding to create a more rapid CWD detection test. Tony cautioned that more bills which would affect farmed cervidae will likely be forthcoming out of the House.

Board discussed concern with the University of Minnesota CWD Biosecurity Study which is commencing this month, specifically with how information coming out of the study could be used against the industry by those with an anti-cervid farming agenda.

Hartkopf reported on progress in creating the new State Fair outdoor promotional panels. MnEBA will be working to seek quotes for the project and MN Grown plans to work on the design of the panels in March. There was further discussion of some of the State Fair improvement ideas which were shared at the membership meeting. Board felt opening up the booth to allow people to come inside would be too difficult to manage with the limited help we have in the booth. Secondly, the board would consider the logistics of having a larger screen for the drone footage. Also discussed further ideas on making better margins on dog chew sales. Hartkopf to follow up with Wapiti Labs. Hartkopf was also asked to follow up on other cost-savings measures on meat sticks and jerky with the Elk Marketing Council.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Election of officers was held. Wurst moved to keep the

same slate of officers as in 2018, Wagner seconded, motion carried.

Discussed changes to the 2020 MnEBA Gun Raffle calendar. Board made the decision to formally move to printing 800 calendars, to adjust the cost of each sponsorship help pay for the increased number of calendars printed, to require 35 calendars be sold in order to receive a complimentary MnEBA membership and to change the rules to reflect that numbers drawn are "not to exceed two selections for the same number". Therefore, numbers will only be put back in the barrel one time. If they are drawn a second time, they will not be put back in for that particular drawing. Selling price is to remain the same at \$40 per calendar.

Board discussed the schedule for the upcoming Outdoor News Deer & Turkey Show. Lubinski to work on soliciting workers for the show. Hartkopf to deliver show supplies to Lubinski the weekend of February 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was noted the State FFA Convention will be held April 28-30<sup>th</sup> and that MnEBA would plan to have a display in the FFA Career Connection tent on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

It was verified that the 2019 MnEBA Summer Picnic will take place at River View Elk Ranch (Pat & Rita Prodzinski) in Winona, MN on Saturday July 20, 2019.

Discussed the 2020 MnEBA Annual Conference. Board liked the 2019 location and would like to first see if that space is available for the same cost in 2020. If not, will reevaluate and consider other locations for next year. Hartkopf reported there is a chance that NAEBA might request to hold their winter event in Minnesota in 2020. Hartkopf to ask NAEBA to make that decision within 30 days so MnEBA could include them in the contract if needed.

Board went through the 2018 budget line by line and made a draft 2019 budget. Notable cuts included moving to four newsletters per year instead of six, not printing a 2019 MnEBA Directory, moving to just one \$350 scholarship instead of two and discontinuing the Outdoor News Deer & Turkey Classic booth beginning in 2020. Hartkopf to place the budget numbers into Quickbooks and send out a revised 2019 budget draft for further consideration. Lubinski moved to adjourn the meeting, Wagner seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

#### Board Meeting Minutes February 8, 2019

The Board of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held a phone conference on Friday February 8 at 12 Noon. Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf were in attendance. Tony Kwilas was a guest. Byrne called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Tony reviewed details of three bills submitted so far in the House which deal with a deer buyout, double fencing and transferring authority of the farmed cervid industry from the Board of Animal Health to the DNR. He reported that there was less interest in these types of bills in the Senate, however the Senate recently submitted a companion double fencing bill. They promptly lost interest in that idea when the University of Minnesota told them double fencing would do no good.

Tony's message to legislators has been that MnEBA is willing to talk, but oversight transfer to the DNR and double fencing are non-starters.

Tony also reported there is interest in both the House and Senate to promote the \$1.5 million in extra funding to the DNR for enhanced CWD monitoring and enforcement activities and also for \$1.8 million to the University of Minnesota to develop a live animal test per their proposal to legislators.

There was much concern voiced by everyone over Dr. Osterholm's testimony in the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Division meeting on February 7. Conversely, Dr. Peter Larson's testimony indicated farms could be part of the solution in coming up with ways to deal with CWD.

Board asked Tony if it would be beneficial for the industry to bring in a national CWD expert at some point and he said that yes, it would be.

There was also much discussion about drafting our own bill regarding making it a law to restrict hunter-harvested whole carcasses across state lines to increase awareness of this issue. Tony will forward the current rule language and take steps needed to draft language for a bill. Tony was also asked to put together a meeting between MnEBA and House and Senate Environment Chairs. Tony then left the call.

Board then discussed further action steps. These include:

1. Dr. Peter Larson – ask him how we can help, invite him to Howard Lake to tour Wagner and Hartkopf elk farms. Brenda to follow up.
2. Dr. Ken Waldrup – check with him to see what his availability would be to testify to Minnesota legislators and establish a platform and see what he could do to make a positive case. Mark will follow up.
3. American Cervid Alliance – work with the ACA to have their lawyer draft a letter to the University of Minnesota cautioning their representatives against casting dispersions on the farmed cervid industry. Mark will follow up.
4. Follow up with Tony on setting up meetings at the State Capitol with House and Senate Environment chairs.
5. Follow up with Tony on creating a bill dealing with restricting hunter-harvested whole carcasses from entering Minnesota.
6. ERF CWD Statistical Study – follow up with Travis on releasing the Minnesota portion of the ERF CWD Statistical Study and use it in a way to help the industry. Mark will follow up.
7. Handouts for Outdoor News Deer & Turkey Show – Brenda to send to Greg copies of the QDMA article citing numbers of hunter-harvested carcasses leaving the four most highly CWD infected areas of Wisconsin and also the Double-Fencing facts paper MnEBA has developed to use as needed.

Mark mentioned an article in the magazine Outdoor Life pertaining to recent Minnesota CWD issues that everyone should check out.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary



President Byrne with 2018 Appreciation Award winner Mark Luedtke



President Byrne with 2018 Appreciation Award winner Tony Beckel



## News Release

For Immediate Release: November 9, 2018

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

### Deer Farm Infected with CWD in 2016 Identifies Additional Cases

**St. Paul, Minn.** - Chronic wasting disease was detected in four harvested samples from farmed deer at a quarantined farm in Crow Wing County. The farm has been under movement restrictions and monitored by the Board since December 2016 when two white-tailed deer tested positive for the disease. The Minnesota Board of Animal Health confirms recent samples were CWD positive in four deer.

- 9-year-old female mule deer.
- 1.5-year-old female white-tailed deer.
- 2-year-old male white-tailed deer.
- 2-year-old female mule deer.

“We’ve been working with the herd owner for the past two years to monitor the deer and look for any new detections of the disease,” said Assistant Director Dr. Linda Glaser. “The biggest change following this new detection will be to extend our deadline to monitor the herd.”

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is currently in the second year of sampling wild deer for CWD in Crow Wing County as a result of the farm’s earlier infection.

This past Saturday and Sunday, the opening weekend of the firearms deer-hunting season, the DNR sampled hunter-killed deer in Crow Wing County and results are not yet available. No CWD has been found in wild deer since the DNR began its surveillance in Crow Wing County in 2017.

The DNR typically conducts three years of surveillance of wild deer in a specific area where CWD is found in a farmed deer. This newest discovery in farmed deer didn’t change how DNR conducted its recent sampling during opening weekend in Crow Wing County, said Lou Cornicelli, the DNR’s wildlife research manager.

However, DNR staff will meet with Board of Animal Health staff to assess the risk factors associated with this latest discovery at the farm and determine whether a fourth year of surveillance of wild deer is necessary, Cornicelli said.

“We appreciate all the cooperation hunters provided us during this past opening weekend with surveillance in Crow Wing County,” Cornicelli said.

CWD is a disease affecting members of the deer and elk family caused by an abnormally shaped protein, a prion, which can cause damage to brain and nerve tissue. There is no danger to other animal species. The disease is most likely transmitted when infected deer and elk shed prions in saliva, feces, urine and other fluids or tissues. The disease is always fatal, and there are no known treatments or vaccines. The Board advises testing all Cervidae for the disease. Consuming infected meat is not advised.



## News Release

### New CWD Positive Deer in Crow Wing County and Southeastern Minnesota Require Additional Disease Monitoring and Management

*Gov. Walz proposes new funding to combat CWD; DNR plans disease response efforts*

February 15, 2019 - The Department of Natural Resources has confirmed chronic wasting disease (CWD) in a wild deer in Crow Wing County. This test result marks the first time in Minnesota the fatal neurological disease has been found in a wild deer outside of the southeastern part of the state.

Previous discoveries of the disease in wild deer have been concentrated predominantly in Fillmore County, with additional discoveries in Houston and Winona counties in the past two months.

As a result of these discoveries, the DNR is planning additional disease response actions, and Gov. Tim Walz is proposing new funding of \$4.57 million over the next two fiscal years, and \$1.1 million annually thereafter to combat the disease, including surveillance and response, enforcement, and outreach to landowners.

“We take every discovery of CWD very seriously,” said DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen. “It is our hope that we discovered the Crow Wing County infection early and can respond quickly with actions to eliminate the disease in this area. With this critical new funding, we will continue to work with private landowners, hunters and others to achieve our goal of maintaining a healthy deer herd and Minnesota’s treasured deer hunting experience.”

The Crow Wing County deer, an adult female, was found in Merrifield, north of Brainerd, on Jan. 23. A conservation officer responded to a report of a deceased deer. The DNR tests suspect deer when possible, especially in areas of high risk. Test results confirmed the deer as positive for CWD on Feb. 14.

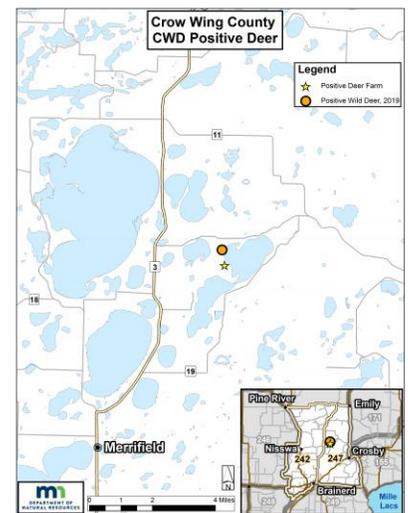
The DNR began surveillance around a CWD-positive captive cervid facility near Merrifield starting in the 2017 hunting season. Over the last two years, the DNR has sampled more than 8,600 deer in this north-central surveillance zone, with no previous detections of CWD-positive deer.

“Thanks to our deer hunters, we have done a lot of surveillance in this area over the past two years, and it’s our hope the disease is isolated within this area,” said Lou Cornicelli, DNR wildlife research manager.

As next steps, the DNR will determine where deer are located in the area by working with conservation officers and wildlife staff, and conducting an aerial survey. In addition, the DNR will explore the possibility of late-season deer removals.

DNR will also work closely with the Board of Animal Health, which regulates Minnesota’s captive deer and elk. Strommen emphasized that “I will take all steps within my authority to ensure the facility with CWD-positive deer has adequate safeguards in place to protect Minnesota’s wild deer.”

Board Senior Veterinarian Dr. Mackenzie Reberg affirmed, “The Board’s role is to protect the health of livestock in the state, and we are concerned about any detection of CWD in Minnesota. We believe in fighting this disease from all fronts and using science, surveillance and teamwork to stop CWD.”



### Southeastern Minnesota CWD management efforts

In the southeast, the DNR has also intensified its management efforts, adding several special hunts in late 2018 and early 2019 to identify areas of CWD-infected wild deer. During the January/February special hunts in deer permit area 346, a hunter harvested a wild deer in Winona County that tested positive for CWD.

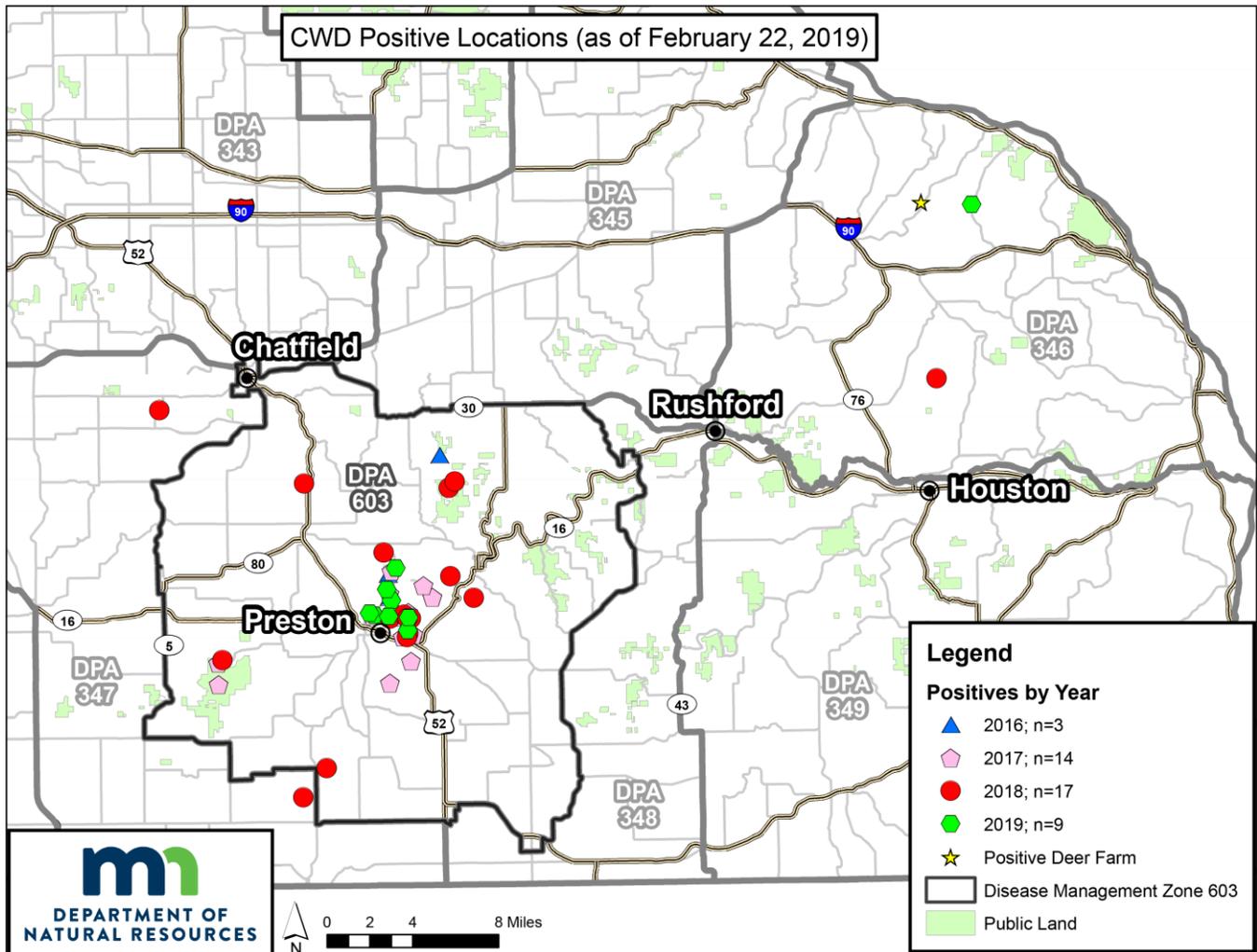
The positive deer was a 1 ½-year-old buck harvested 2.5 miles east of a Winona County deer farm that tested positive for CWD in 2017 and 8 miles from the wild CWD-positive deer in Houston County found this fall. It was the first detection of CWD in wild deer in Winona County since testing began in Minnesota in 2002.

Within the disease management zone in deer permit area 603, targeted culling through the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services has removed 154 deer, as of Feb. 12. Of them, four were CWD-positive and results are pending for 35 deer.

In response to these detections, DNR will activate additional response steps that include conducting an aerial survey to determine deer distributions in the area and working with landowners on deer removal options.

### Additional CWD information

CWD affects the cervid family, which includes deer, elk and moose. It is spread through direct contact with an infected deer’s saliva, urine, blood, feces, antler velvet or carcass. There is no vaccine or treatment for this disease. For more information on CWD, visit [mndnr.gov/cwd](http://mndnr.gov/cwd).



## CWD Research In the News

### Minnesota Scientists Aim to Curb Chronic Wasting Disease with 'Moonshot' Tool

By Dana Ferguson - Forum News Service

January 28, 2019 - ST. PAUL, MN  
Minnesota scientists say they could have a tool to detect a fatal neurodegenerative disease in deer within two years. But it will come at a cost.

As the state fights to protect wild and captive deer from catching chronic wasting disease, veterinary scientists at the University of Minnesota told Forum News Service on Monday, Jan. 28, that they expect to have a breakthrough prototype tool to detect the disease in 2021. And they asked lawmakers last week for \$1.8 million to make that a reality.

There's no test that can detect the disease in live deer at this point. And there's no vaccine or antidote to get rid of it.

And as wildlife officials report increasing numbers of deer infected with the disease, some warned that Minnesota's deer population — and possibly others — could face a serious threat if CWD can't be managed.

Chronic wasting disease has been confirmed in other species, but not in humans. But scientists worry that the disease, which is like mad cow disease, could become a danger to humans if not kept in check.

"There's an affliction now and it's attacking this tradition and it's causing fear and we owe it to history like this to try and to go for the moonshot," Peter Larsen, a professor of veterinary and biomedical sciences, said, pointing to Theodore Roosevelt's book "The

Deer Family."

The disease stems from a mutation in proteins called prions and it was first detected in captive deer in 1967. And it is highly contagious. It can be spread through an animal's waste, saliva and bodily fluids.

And from those bodily materials, it can pass to other animals that eat an infected deer's remains or interact with soil or plants which soak up the animal matter. Scientists say they don't yet know how long the mutated prions can live on.

In Minnesota, more than 30 wild deer have been confirmed to have CWD. Wisconsin, by comparison, has reported thousands of cases. Minnesota Natural Resource officials have scheduled special sharpshooter hunts to help expose the scale of the problem and state lawmakers have said they'd explore possible legislative solutions.

Minnesota legislators last week heard the pitch from U of M scientists and said they'd seriously consider that as they weigh how to write a nearly \$50 billion state budget.

#### Building a better test

To test a deer or other cervid for CWD now, the animal needs to be killed and samples of its brain stem undergo examination. That process takes more than two weeks and can run \$30-80 per test.

"It's slow and it's expensive and it's invasive and it's on dead animals," Jeremy Schefers, a diagnostician in the Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, said. "This

particular test although it's good, it doesn't serve our needs." Schefers said his lab would struggle to process tests for the hundreds of thousands of deer killed during hunting season each year. And hunters would have to wait weeks to see test results before breaking butchered deer meat out of the freezer for cooking.

Schefers and Larsen said they'd like to see a test that was closer to a take-home pregnancy test: something hunters could take into the field and scientists could use to detect CWD in the animals or their waste within minutes. That way people would know earlier, and possibly while an animal is alive if the deer is infected and its disease could spread.

#### Asking for \$1.8 million

The scientists working on the project said they were hopeful that lawmakers would accept their pitch, despite the \$1.8 million price tag.

"The ask seems like a lot, just under \$2 million, but research is really expensive," said Pam Skinner, a professor of veterinary and biomedical sciences. "It takes millions of dollars for new treatments."

Scientists and hunting enthusiasts have said the state brings in more than \$1 billion each year from the Minnesota hunting economy and further spread of CWD could erode that.

Minnesota lawmakers are set to present their budget priorities later this year.

## New Breakthrough Means What We Know About CWD May Have Already Changed

*Mississippi Clarion Ledger - By Brian Broom*

February 20, 2019 - A video circulating on social media about a possible cure for chronic wasting disease has gone viral.

"We now are set on a path to end this disease and pending nightmare in Pennsylvania, across America and throughout the world," Unified Sportsman of Pennsylvania ecologist John Eveland said in the video.

The statement was based on the work of neuropathologist Dr. Frank Bastian with the Louisiana State University College of Agriculture. His research breaks from the more traditional theory of the cause of CWD.

Wildlife biologists have generally accepted that prions, or misfolded proteins, were the cause of the disease, which is a type of transmissible spongiform encephalopathy much like scrapie in sheep and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans. The CWD prions are thought to be shared between white-tailed deer and other members of the cervidae family such as moose and elk directly and indirectly through saliva, urine and feces.

Once the prions enter a deer, the cause healthy prions in a deer's brain and central nervous system to become misfolded. These

rogue proteins effectively eat holes in the animals' brains over an extended period of time and the animals die. It is said to be 100 percent fatal.

Bastian's research indicates that the cause is a bacteria known as Spiroplasma. In his research, he has been able to isolate and grow the bacteria. According to Bastian, when sheep, goats and deer were injected with Spiroplasma they developed clinical signs of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE). Chronic wasting disease is a type of TSE. Bastian's research indicates Spiroplasma is also at the root of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and mad cow disease.

According to an LSU AgCenter press release, the findings make it possible for the development of tests and vaccines for the bacteria. In the video, Eveland said he expects field testing for CWD could come within 1-2 years and vaccines for both free-range and captive animals in following years.

"I would like to give hunters a test kit that they can carry in the woods so they can test their kill for presence of the bacteria while they are in the field," Bastian said

in a December 2017 press release. "Hunters need to know whether their kill is infected before they consume the meat."

"The problem that hunters face in eating potentially infected meat is that heat does not kill this bacteria. Eighty-five degrees centigrade (185 degrees Fahrenheit) does not affect it and the bacteria survive up to boiling (100 degrees centigrade or 212 degrees Fahrenheit). This is significant because E.coli is dead at 80 (176 degrees Fahrenheit)."

While this information is spreading through social media and is the latest buzz among hunters, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Wildlife Bureau executive director Russ Walsh said Bastian's work needs to be vetted and replicated before it is taken as fact.

"There's a lot of questions if it is indeed credible science," Walsh said. "We're not discounting it, but we want to know more."

"Certainly, it could be plausible. There's still a lot of questions about prions and the prion theory. The scientific community will know more through research. This could be a large paradigm shift in the scientific community."

## Email Version of MnEBA News

Currently, all MnEBA members with an e-mail address on file with the association receive an electronic version of the MnEBA newsletter. If you also receive a print version but would be willing to forgo the print version as you already receive the electronic version, please contact the MnEBA Office at 320-543-2686 or [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org) to have that change made. This will help the association save on printing and postage costs. Thank you for your consideration!



## The Truth About Zombie Deer & A CWD Cure

*North American Whitetail - By Lynn Burkhead*

February 22, 2019 - Unless you've been out of the country or sleeping under a rock over the last few days, you've probably seen the headlines.

"Zombie deer" — a term that some sensational headline writers have created for the deadly deer malady known as Chronic Wasting Disease, or CWD.

With all the national talk suddenly making the news cycle rounds — for a disease that has actually been around for a few decades now — there's certainly no shortage of opinions about the disease, its risk to hunters and what to do about it.

In fact, there seems to be little middle ground with the various camps out there being deeply divided over the disease itself and what the future of deer hunting is.

What should hunters make about all this sudden talk concerning zombie deer? We turned to Dr. Deer — NAW's Dr. James C. Kroll — for his take.

### North American Whitetail

**(NAW):** What is your take on the "zombie deer" stories that are suddenly being found all over in news headlines?

**Dr. James Kroll (DJK):** It is no more proper to refer to CWD as "zombie deer disease," than it was to call it "mad deer disease" back in 2002! As far as I am concerned, the term is sensationalism at its worst, probably for headlines. The term "zombie" is defined as "a corpse said to be revived by witchcraft, especially in certain African and Caribbean religions." This hardly fits the symptoms of deer in the clinical stages of the disease.

**NAW:** It's been reported in recent days that LSU researcher Dr. Frank Bastian indicates that CWD may not be about prions, but instead a bacterium. And news reports also indicate that he may have found a cure for CWD. What's your opinion on all of this?

**DJK:** Bastian has been promoting this theory for 20 years! As my friend Dr. Don Davis points out, prion researchers worldwide for the same 20 years have unanimously rejected his theories. However, IF he is correct, and as it was reported that a vaccine and cure could be in reach in the next two years, it is grossly naïve to make such a claim. In order to register a vaccine and put it into use, the following has to happen:

1. Experimental data on vaccine safety and immunology efficacy has to be completed. (That takes years.)
2. Complete an application for a Conditional License.
3. Protection efficacy experiments have to be completed, taking several more years.
4. Submitted for a Complete License, which applies to just that one host species.

The fact they assert that this would be a cure, again is naïve, in that vaccines do not cure anything and never have! First of all, CWD erodes holes in the brainstem, and brain tissue cannot regenerate itself!

They imply that it will be a protective vaccine, again very naïve! There never has been a vaccine that protects 100 percent of individuals in the population. If it were developed, it would be useful to the deer farming industry, but would not be feasible for wild deer. As we have vividly learned for other wildlife vaccines, delivery is the major problem. It has to be species specific and have no effect on other species; and, be picked up by all individuals in the population. Even the much-touted oral rabies vaccines are

not 100 percent effective. As much as I would love for it to be true, it is never going to happen! The major impact of all this is, it gives false hopes to the entire deer and hunting industry.

**NAW:** In your estimation, where do we stand with CWD right now?

**DJK:** We still do not even know by what mechanism prions are distorted and the exact causal factors or agents producing the disease. Agencies have locked themselves into a perpetual testing loop that has no impact on the spread or control of the disease. There is no mechanism developed to date that has been proven to control the spread of the disease. Research has been obsessively focused on “Frankenstein” experiments, in which infected material is injected into animals in a manner that does not occur in nature. The bottom line is that CWD appears to be spreading, but we cannot say that in true honesty, since testing is spreading; no one or agency has come up with a way to prevent the spread or eliminate the disease; and,

massive killing of deer has no effect, since it is a frequency (not density) dependent disease. There are two basic questions that, if answered affirmatively, would cause genuine concern.

First. Does CWD have the potential to decimate deer populations? Second, can humans contract CWD? The answer to date is negative to both. Yes, there have been two studies in Wyoming that seem to show a population effect, but both are troubled by confounding factors such as high mortality to EHD, mountain lion predation, competition with elk, and habitat changes due to grazing practices. In regard to human susceptibility, there are several peer-reviewed, published papers showing this is highly unlikely. Some folks point to a study in Canada on macaque monkeys, but it was never published nor substantiated by duplicate science.”

**NAW:** Anything else that you’d like to add?

**DJK:** Yes, it has been asserted many times that CWD has the potential to destroy deer

populations and deer hunting as we have known it! The sensationalist reaction by professional biologists and the media has managed to accomplish the latter! When CWD showed up in Wisconsin, three tabloids published articles saying that three men had died from eating venison tainted with CWD. That proved to not only be untrue, but patently false! That alone caused a 12 percent decline in deer hunters in Wisconsin, and they have never returned. It now is affecting deer hunting and harvest, with a decline of as much as 15 percent – all because of panic by agencies and biologists. If I wanted to destroy hunting in America, of which about 80 percent is deer hunting, I would convince hunters and the general public that one of the most healthy food items produced naturally in the deer woods was unwholesome and deadly! THAT would mean the end to deer hunting as we have known it; and it is my deep opinion that the whitetail deer will still be with us! And, the wholesale destruction of habitat caused by over-population would indeed lead to declines in deer numbers.

## MnEBA News Moves to a Quarterly Publication

After much discussion at the general membership meeting at the MnEBA Annual Conference last January, the board made the decision to make the MnEBA Newsletter a quarterly publication instead of bi-monthly. This move will be on a trial basis for one year and will be re-evaluated at the 2020 Annual Conference.

The new publishing schedule will be: **March 1, 2019, June 1, 2019, September 1, 2019** and **December 1, 2019**. Newsletter articles, advertising and classified ads are due the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication.

## Legislative Update

### Every Day is a New Day!

The State of Minnesota 2019 Legislative Session only began seven short weeks ago and the amount of discussion over CWD has been stifling. It's safe to say, there will be legislation that will cause change. The question is, will it be a positive or negative change for the industry?

Currently as of February 27, there are 16 bills which have been introduced in the House and Senate. These include:

**H.F. No. 229** – *A bill for an act requiring farmed cervidae must be confined by two or more perimeter fences, with each perimeter fence at least 120 inches in height.*

**S.F. No. 1015** – *A bill for an act requiring farmed cervidae must be confined by two or more perimeter fences, with each perimeter fence at least 120 inches in height.*

**S.F. No. 444** – *A bill for an act appropriating \$1,500,000 in fiscal year 2019 from the general fund to the DNR. Of this, \$208,000 is for enforcement response to escaped animals from cervidae farms.*

**S.F. No. 874** – *A bill for an act not allowing new registrations for people possessing white-tailed deer, not allowing a person to move farmed raised white-tailed deer from any premises to another location and offering a herd buyout payment to the owner of each white-tailed deer herd (no buyout number given).*

**H.F. No. 305** – *A bill for an act not allowing new registrations for people possessing white-tailed deer, not allowing a person to move farmed raised white-tailed deer from any premises to another location and offering a herd buyout payment to the owner of each white-tailed deer herd (no buyout number given).*

**H.F. No. 1362** – *A bill for an act to require a herd which tests positive for Chronic Wasting Disease to be euthanized and disposed of at the owner's expense, unless state and federal funds are available for this purpose.*

**S.F. No. 1837** – *A bill for an act to require a herd which tests positive for Chronic Wasting Disease to be euthanized and disposed of at the owner's expense, unless state and federal funds are available for this purpose.*

**H.F. No. 553** – *A bill for an act transferring authority of the farmed cervidae program from the Minnesota Board of Animal Health to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.*

**S.F. No. 1359** – *A bill for an act transferring authority of the farmed cervidae program from the Minnesota Board of Animal Health to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.*

**H.F. No. 850** – *A bill for an act appropriating \$1,560,000 in fiscal year 2020 from the general fund to the DNR. Of this, \$208,000 is for enforcement response to escaped animals from cervidae farms. Also in fiscal year 2020 is appropriated from the general fund to the DNR to provide payments to private landowners for one-year-access contracts with the state to provide access for whitetail deer management in chronic wasting disease zones and to contract with sharpshooters.*

**S.F. No. 1729** – *A bill for an act appropriating \$1,560,000 in fiscal year 2020 from the general fund to the DNR. Of this, \$208,000 is for enforcement response to escaped animals from cervidae farms. Also in fiscal year 2020 is appropriated from the general fund to the DNR to provide payments to private landowners for one-year-access contracts with the state to provide access for whitetail deer management in chronic wasting disease zones and to contract with sharpshooters.*

**S.F. No. 1258** – *A bill for an act appropriating \$1,804,000 in fiscal year 2020 from the general fund to the Board of Regents University of Minnesota to develop a diagnostic test for CWD that uses samples from living deer.*

**H.F. No. 966** – A bill for an act appropriating \$1,804,000 in fiscal year 2020 from the general fund to the Board of Regents University of Minnesota to develop a diagnostic test for CWD that uses samples from living deer.

**S.F. No. 1292** – A bill for an act creating a CWD Task consisting of 22 members.

**H.F. No. 1450** – A bill for an act appropriating \$3,804,000 in fiscal year 2020 to fund the Board of Regents University of Minnesota to establish a CWD Research Center to develop solutions to control the spread of CWD and study the impacts of the disease on wildlife health, human health, and farmed cervidae, including equipment and facility development. Of this amount, \$1,804,000 is to develop a diagnostic test for CWD that uses samples from live deer.

**H.F. No. 1720**- A bill for an act funding the DNR to establish a CWD Adopt-A-Dumpster Program to provide dumpsters dedicated to disposing of deer carcasses in areas where CWD has been detected.

**To look up these bills up in their entirety and to follow any future progress of each bill, please go to <https://www.leg.state.mn.us/>.**

The House and Senate files that are listed in *italics* indicate bills that have companion bills in both houses. In order for a bill to pass, it must contain the same language and pass on both the House and Senate floors and be signed by the Governor. All bills as they stand now, have only been introduced and have had very little committee discussion to date. There are many committees to go through before these are finalized on either floor. But this list shows what topics are being discussed. Many of these bills may not even be heard in committee and/or may be part of future combination bill or an amendment to a larger Omnibus bill.

Our lobbyist, Tony Kwilas, has been doing a phenomenal job communicating our position on these bills, and talking on a regular basis to key legislators who are involved with these discussions. MnEBA is working with Tony to provide all the data, talking points, etc. to relay our messages. MnEBA is also working on identifying experts to testify in the event that any of these bills advance.

## GOVERNOR'S BUDGET

The Governor's budget which came out on February 19, offers a significant amount of increased proposed funding to help fight CWD for both the Board of Animal Health and the DNR as follows:

### Board of Animal Health Increased Funding

This proposal would appropriate \$737,000 in FY20 -21 to the BAH in order to provide proper management and regulation of deer and elk farms as recommended by the OLA report. Funding would go towards implementation of five OLA recommendations as well as enhance current operations as related to the proper regulation of deer and elk farms. The development and implementation of the protocol and practices to meet these recommendations takes significant staff time and other program expenses.

### DNR Increased Funding

The Governor recommends \$2.637 million in FY20 and \$2.387 million in FY21 (\$1.327 million thereafter) to benefit deer health and deer management in Minnesota by addressing 1) funding needs related to chronic wasting disease (CWD) surveillance and response and 2) recommendations made by the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) in a recent evaluation of the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) deer management program. This proposal provides \$2.41 million in FY20, \$2.16 million in FY21, and \$1.1 million annually thereafter from the General Fund for an urgent disease response. Additionally, it invests \$908,000 annually from the Game and Fish Fund for new deer research, which generates a 75 percent federal match of \$681,000 each year. This request is equivalent to a 3.8 percent increase to the FY2020 Fish and Wildlife budget, reduced to 3.4 percent increase in FY2021.

## WHERE DO MNEBA MEMBERS COME IN???

Because these bills have mostly just been introduced and referred to committee, with little further action to date, there has been no member "call to action" as we don't know which bills will actually move forward. If any bills do

move forward, MnEBA members in districts with these committee members may be notified to contact their legislators to discuss your concerns. This will be especially true as we continue to move to more floor action where amendments to larger bills can be added and where a targeted message can be identified based upon what the amendment is dealing with. For instance, if you call your legislator today to fight double fencing, but the topic on the floor is creating a task force, your legislator won't know what your position is on the task force. It is more helpful for you to know specifically what to discuss so your legislator is well prepared for the topic at hand. However, this notification will likely come with little notice so you need to be prepared to contact them right away when asked to do so.



Photo courtesy of the House of Representatives Public Information Services.

In the meantime, it is good for everyone to stay in contact with their legislator and ask for their general support, especially if you see them when you are out and about in the community. MnEBA has long asked for its members to develop a relationship with your elected officials, invite them to your farms, etc. for times just like these. The power of constituents in any legislator's district is very powerful and is difficult to replicate.

If you are unfamiliar with your elected official, now is the time to look up their information and be ready to contact them when needed. See enclosed list of House and Senate Members or go to <https://www.leg.state.mn.us/> and search "Who Represents Me". You can also contact the MnEBA Office at 320-543-2686 or [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org) for assistance in obtaining this information.

Please know that MnEBA's lobbyist and Board of Directors are working DAILY on behalf of the farmed cervid industry during this session. Everyone is engaged and constantly working towards the best way to move forward given what feels like an almost daily turn of events. Together, we can make positive change for the industry and the state of Minnesota.

## RACK PLUS™ FOR OUTSTANDING RESULTS

### OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IS THE HALLMARK OF ADM'S DEER AND ELK FEEDING PROGRAM.

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

### DEER & ELK 18-4 (81686AAA) AND DEER & ELK 18-5 BREEDER (81692AAA)

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

CitiStim®, an ADM proprietary feed ingredient, is a proven, truly unique, whole-cell, inactivated yeast product that may help the animal strengthen its defense against health challenges by supporting and optimizing gut function, gut integrity, and body defense responses.

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

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[AN\\_DeerHelp@adm.com](mailto:AN_DeerHelp@adm.com)  
[www.ADMAnimalNutrition.com/wildlife](http://www.ADMAnimalNutrition.com/wildlife)

## Board Blog by Greg Lubinski, MnEBA Director



Hello everyone,

Are we all over the snow and cold weather yet? With March rolling in, we may see a light at the end of the (snow) tunnel!

I would like to introduce the newest member of the Lubinski family! Wesley Lubinski was born Dec. 7th, 2018 to my youngest son and his wife, Cole and Anna. He weighed in at a whopping 5lbs 9oz. He is now 10lbs and growing like a weed. My first grandson Bentley belonging to Bryce and Megan, is looking forward to his cousin to be up and walking so they can play! It is fun being grandparents, you can spoil them all you want and give them back when we are wore out.

Please wish Ray Smothers a get well soon. Ray slipped on the ice and broke his thumb. I guess that means no shoveling for him! Heal fast! I hope everyone else is healthy and looking forward to spring. Stay warm and shovel on!



Greg and his new grandson, Wesley

## MnEBA Kitchen

*It looks like winter will be extra long this year! Here's a dish that will warm everyone up after a long day working outside.*

### Quick and Easy Elk Stroganoff

1 lb. elk round steak	1 Tbsp fresh thyme, chopped fine, divided
½ tsp salt	1 Tbsp fresh dill, chopped fine, divided
¼ tsp pepper	1 Tbsp flour
2 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce	1/3 cup red wine
2 Tbsp olive oil, divided	1 cup beef broth
1 Tbsp butter	8 oz. sour cream
1 onion	Worcestershire sauce
3 cloves garlic, minced	Salt & pepper
12 oz. button mushrooms, quartered	Egg noodles, cooked per package directions

Slice elk steak into thin strips about two inches long and place in a bowl. Add salt, pepper, Worcestershire sauce and 1 Tbsp of the olive oil. Stir to combine. Set aside to marinate at room temperature for 20-30 minutes.

Melt butter in large skillet over medium-high heat; add remaining olive oil. Add elk and cook for approximately 2-3 minutes, turning to sear all sides. Remove elk from heat and set aside. (Elk will not be cooked through.)

Add onion to skillet and cook until soft, 3-4 minutes. Add garlic and cook for 1 minute. Add mushrooms, half of the thyme and half of the dill. Cook for 5-6 minutes, or until onions are very soft and mushrooms are cooked through.

Sprinkle the flour over the onions and mushrooms and cook for about 1 minute, stirring frequently. Add the wine and scrape the brown bits from the bottom of the pan. Stir in the beef stock and cook for 2-3 minutes. Reduce the heat to medium low and stir in the sour cream until well-blended. Stir in the remaining thyme and dill.

Add the elk back to the skillet and cook until the meat is cooked to medium doneness, about 3-4 minutes. Serve over hot buttered noodles and top with remaining sour cream at the table.

**Tip:** Add a few dashes of additional Worcestershire Sauce, black pepper or salt as needed.

## Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

### New Skin Test Detects Prion Infection Before Symptoms Appear Proof-of-concept study demonstrates test's preclinical utility

Source: *ScienceDaily and Case Western Reserve University*  
January 22, 2019

Prions can infect both humans and animals, causing Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) in humans, mad cow disease in cattle, and chronic wasting disease in elk and deer. The infectious, misfolded protein particles often go undetected as they destroy brain tissue, causing memory loss, mobility issues, and ultimately death. Preclinical detection of prions has proven difficult, but new research suggests skin samples hold early signs of prion disease that precede neurologic symptoms.

"Currently a definitive diagnosis of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is dependent on the examination of diseased brain tissue obtained at biopsy or autopsy. It has been impossible to detect at the early preclinical stage," said Wenquan Zou, MD, PhD, associate professor of pathology at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

In a ground-breaking study published in *Nature Communications*, Zou and an international team of researchers successfully used two methods to detect prions in skin samples collected from inoculated rodents. The study provides the first proof-of-concept evidence that readily accessible skin samples could be used to detect prion disease early -- before clinical symptoms appear.

In the new study, Zou and colleagues successfully detected prions in rodent skin samples as

early as two weeks post-infection. They also detected prions in the skin of uninoculated rodents that were housed alongside inoculated cage mates, demonstrating that prion transmission can occur between cohabitating rodents.

Prions were detected in skin samples from the inoculated rodents before they showed any clinical signs of prion disease. The researchers first inoculated the brains of hamsters and humanized transgenic mice with rodent or human prion samples, respectively. Then, they collected skin and brain samples at different time points, and used two different methods to detect disease-associated prion proteins in the tissues. In both hamsters and mice, the researchers detected prions in skin before they could be detected in brain tissue. The researchers concluded that skin prions could serve as a useful biomarker for preclinical diagnosis of prion diseases.

The study compared two highly-sensitive prion detection methods: RT-QuIC (real-time quaking-induced conversion) and sPMCA (serial protein misfolding cyclic amplification). "Both assays were able to efficiently amplify trace amounts of disease-associated prion protein found in the skin tissues of infected animals," said the study's first author Zerui Wang, MD, a PhD student from the First Hospital of Jilin University, China,

working in the Zou laboratory. The tests use prions in tissue samples as a template and either normal brain tissue or synthetic prion protein as "building blocks" to dramatically amplify minute amounts of prions to detectable levels.

One of the methods, RT-QuIC, has been used to detect prion particles in symptomatic CJD patients. However, it normally requires invasive cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) sampling that may be contraindicated for certain patients. Additionally, "The CSF-based prion test results could be uncertain in some cases and not all CSF specimens from patients with prion disease are RT-QuIC positive," said Qingzhong Kong, PhD, associate professor of pathology at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and co-corresponding author on the study. "Although skin samples may not replace CSF in routine RT-QuIC-based prion disease diagnosis, they may be helpful when prion disease is suspected but CSF is either unavailable or RT-QuIC-negative."

The study results build upon previous work by Zou and colleagues showing that autopsy skin samples from human prion disease patients exhibit prion seeding and infectivity. The next step will be to develop and validate the skin prion tests for clinical use.

Said Zou, "Since the skin is readily accessible and skin biopsy is minimally invasive, detection of skin prions will be very useful for monitoring disease progression and assessing therapeutic efficacy during clinical trials or treatments when prion therapy becomes available in the future."

Zou and Kong were recently awarded a \$2.9 million grant from the National Institutes of Health

to validate the test methods using human skin samples. They will determine if skin prions could serve as a diagnostic biomarker for CJD or a source of prion transmission.

The researchers believe the methods may also be adapted for diagnosis of other diseases involving misfolded proteins. "Sensitive, minimally invasive detection of various misfolded

proteins in skin, such as tau in Alzheimer's disease and alpha-synuclein in Parkinson's disease, could be highly valuable for disease diagnosis and monitoring of disease progression and efficacy of treatments," Zou said. "It's possible that the skin will ultimately serve as a mirror for us to monitor these misfolded proteins that accumulate and damage the brain in patients with these conditions."

## Other Ongoing CWD Research Includes:

### Soil Compounds Fights Chronic Wasting Disease

Source: PLOS

*Summary: A major compound in soil organic matter degrades Chronic Wasting Disease prions and decreases infectivity in mice, according to a new study published November 29 in an open-access journal PLOS Pathogens by Judd Aiken of the University of Alberta, and colleagues.*

Chronic wasting disease is an environmentally transmissible, fatal prion disease affecting free-ranging deer, moose, elk and reindeer. It is endemic in North America, present in South Korea and has recently been confirmed in northern Europe.

Environmental prion contamination plays a major role in the increasing incidence of chronic wasting disease, with infectivity being released into the environment by decaying carcasses, or through shedding of biological fluids including urine, feces, and saliva. The transmission of chronic wasting disease involves soils as an environmental reservoir of infectivity. Different soil

compounds can differentially bind prions and change their infective properties.

Aiken and colleagues tested the role of a major soil organic matter compound, humic acid, for its ability to bind chronic wasting disease prions and impact infectivity. The researchers examined a wide range of humic acid concentrations, representing the extensive spectrum of humic acid levels present in native soils.

The findings suggest that soil organic material degrades chronic wasting disease prions. Incubation of chronic wasting disease prions with high concentrations of humic acids decreased both the chronic

wasting disease prion signal and infectivity in mice, whereas lower levels of humic acids did not significantly impact protein stability or infectivity. According to the authors, the study provides new insights into soil-prion interactions, the persistence of prions in soil, and their bioavailability to grazing animals.

Aiken adds, "CWD is a significant emerging and fatal disease of deer, elk and moose. Given it is shed from infected animals into the environment where it can serve as a source of infection, it is essential that we understand the impact of soil and soil components on this unusual infectious agent."

*"You only fail when you stop trying."*

*Albert Einstein*

## University of Minnesota Conducts CWD Biosecurity Survey

### Your Participation is Needed

You should have recently received a survey from the University of Minnesota. This message is sent to encourage you to complete the survey, to make sure your farm and your animals are represented in the data collected. The purpose of this survey, a project funded by the Minnesota Board of Animal Health, is to assess the potential risks of CWD introduction to Minnesota cervid farms based on current use of farm management and biosecurity practices. This information will be used to create practical educational tools, through collaboration with the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association and the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association, to help protect elk and deer farms from disease entry. Information will be reported in summary form only, without identifying information from individual respondents.

CWD continues to spread across the U.S. and Canada and poses a major health risk to elk and deer farms. From Jim Byrne of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association, "Biosafety is one of the front

line defenses against the inadvertent introduction of infectious agents into a herd. This survey will help define areas where we can make changes in our daily herd management to decrease the likelihood of a CWD infection from environmental contamination." Gary Olson of the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association adds, "Information from this survey will be helpful to provide scientifically valid information to help support our industry in the upcoming Minnesota legislative session."

To complete the CWD Biosecurity Survey, just respond to the questions on the form provided and drop it in the mail using the stamped and addressed envelope provided. Or, if you would prefer, you can respond through an online version at [z.umn.edu/cwdsurvey2019](http://z.umn.edu/cwdsurvey2019). Questions regarding the survey can be directed to the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine project investigators Dr. Scott Wells ([wells023@umn.edu](mailto:wells023@umn.edu)) or Dr. Jim Kincheloe ([kinch010@umn.edu](mailto:kinch010@umn.edu)).

## 2019 MnEBA Scholarship Application Is Now Available

If you have a college age young adult in your family, make sure to check out the MnEBA Scholarship. One \$350 scholarship will be given out this year. The scholarship is 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 2019. An agriculture-related field of study is preferred, but not limited to.



Please contact the MnEBA Office for an application for this scholarship at 320-543-2686 or [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org). The deadline to apply is **May 15<sup>th</sup>**. There will be no extension of this deadline.

## 2018 MnEBA Scholarship Thank You's

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association was able to award two \$350 scholarships in 2018. One scholarship was given to a granddaughter of Pat & Rita Prodzinski and the other to the granddaughter of Ken & Carol Mudek.

*Minnesota Elk Breeders Association,*

*I want to thank you for the scholarship. It relieves some financial stress as I move forward in my education. I truly appreciate it.*

*Sincerely,  
Janessa Prodzinski*

*Minnesota Elk Breeders Association,*

*Thank you so much for the scholarship. It was greatly appreciated and much needed. Also, thank you for helping me continue my college journey through your scholarship.*

*Best Regard,  
Raya Erickson*

## In Memory

*MnEBA recently lost two founding members, one in December and one in January. We remember them fondly and are thankful for the opportunities we had to grow in this great industry together. Blessed be their memory.*

### Frank Joseph Valentine Chan

February 14, 1933 - December 28, 2018



Frank was born February 14, 1933, in Reno Township - Pope County, the son of Henry and Antonia (Kuchynka) Chan. He attended Lowry School through 8th grade. As a child, teen and adult, Frank was known for pulling pranks and antics, inventions and being able to build anything. His favorite invention stories included trying to fly out of the haymow by attaching wooden wings to his arms or when he made skis for his bicycle.

On June 1, 1953, Frank was united in marriage to Alice Leona Eblen. To this union three children were born: Kathryn, Judith and Todd.

In 1974, Frank and Alice purchased a small hobby farm in Forada. Together, they raised cattle, hogs and small grain. In 1985, they converted to exotic animals. This started the adventure of Chan's Maple Lake Game Farm where many visitors over the years could see black bear, coyote, raccoon, whitetail and mule deer, many varieties of fox, llama, donkeys, rheas, turkey, geese and exotic chicken and pheasant breeds. They transitioned to elk farming in 1987 being the sixth farm in Minnesota to raise elk. At times, up to 60 head could be seen peacefully roaming their pastures.

Frank worked many jobs over the years. He worked as a gunsmith having a tremendous passion for building, repairing and learning about various types of guns. He worked as a police chief in Circle, MT and for the Alexandria Police Department. While working for the local PD, Frank worked for Engstrom/Maetzold Furniture/Funeral Home. He also worked for Vern Bison Mobile Homes Sales and Service and finally as a purchasing agent at Douglas Machine for over 30 years.

Frank was a skilled woodworker. He enjoyed working in his shop building furniture, quilt racks, and shelves for family and friends. The homes of his children and grandchildren are adorned with items Frank lovingly built. Frank and Alice also built their home on Maple Lake in 1985.

Frank was an active member of the National Wild Turkey Federation and Vintage Car Club. He enjoyed working on sponsorships for various events and could always be seen with a book of raffle tickets in his pocket. Always a salesman.

Frank was preceded in death by his wife, Alice; infant daughter, Kathryn; parents, Henry and Antonia; siblings, Richard, Ruby, and Robert; and, granddaughter, Brittany.

Frank is survived by his children, Judith (James) Chlian and Todd Chan; granddaughters, Tonya (Keith) Franks and Tara (Troy) Ellis; step-grandson, Mike Chlian; great-grandsons, Bryce Prouty and Brock Franks; and brother, Henry Chan. Frank is survived by many loving Chan and Eblen family members.

A Memorial Service was held on Friday, January 4, 2019, 1:00 PM at the Anderson Funeral Home. Burial was at the Independent Bohemian Cemetery.

### Helena M. Mulder

April 28, 1932 – January 6, 2019



Helena M. Mulder was born to Tom and Grace (Tinklenberg) Vanden Bosch on April 28, 1932 at their home in Battle Plain Township of Rock County, Minnesota. She was raised there and attended the Edgerton Christian School through the tenth grade. Helena spent her last two years of high school at Western Christian High School in Hull, Iowa, graduating in 1950. For the next two summers, Helena attended a teaching certificate program at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan and moved to Prinsburg, Minnesota for her first teaching job. It was there that she met the man she would later marry, Clifford Mulder. Helena continued to teach in Prinsburg for two years before continuing her career in Edgerton, Minnesota for another two years. Helena and Cliff were united in marriage on June 1, 1954 at the First Christian Reformed Church in Edgerton. The two made their first home in Colorado Springs, Colorado where Cliff was stationed in the military.

Two years later, they relocated to Willmar, Minnesota and Helena and Cliff continued to raise their growing family. Cliff was later stationed as a state trooper in Austin, Minnesota, so the family relocated to Austin. In 1962, they made their final move to Pipestone, Minnesota and lived in town for several years before building their log home on an acreage five miles outside of Pipestone. The couple shared their home there until Sunday, January 6, 2019 when Helena passed away at the age of 86 years, eight months, and nine days at the Pipestone County Hospice House.

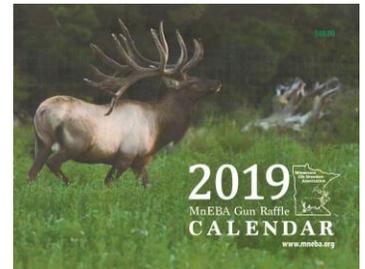
Helena was an active member of the Christian Reformed Church in Pipestone and served as a leader of the Calvinette Club, Coffee Break Bible study and Willing Workers service group. She loved singing hymns and songs of praise & worship in church. Helena was a talented gardener and had a green thumb. She also enjoyed knitting, crocheting, sewing and reading. Helena and Cliff spent many winters in Arizona and to pass the time, Helena took up quilting. Her family will treasure the white, crocheted baby blankets that she made for her grandchildren. As a loving wife Helena took interest in Cliff's activities and hobbies. She always made sure the family was prepared for their camping trips by making games for the children during car rides and even setting out song options to sing around the campfire. Helena was happy to participate in fishing trips as well. She was a very loving wife, mother, and grandmother. Her faith was a driving force throughout her life and she took advantage of opportunities to pass it along to others as well.

Helena will be remembered by her husband, Cliff of Pipestone; children, Jacque (Doug) Halbersma of Pipestone, Lorelei (Arvin) Schelhaas of Pipestone, Melody Tolliver of Phoenix, Arizona, and Narla (Ron) Hulstein of Edgerton; 11 grandchildren, Jeremy (Rebecca) Schelhaas, Kayla (Eric) Reuer, Travis (Rachel) Schelhaas, Jason (Brittney) Prinsen, Thomas (Krystal) Prinsen, Steven Prinsen, Nicole (Patrick) Bietz, Connie (Todd) Nordell, Vance Hulstein, Matthew Tolliver, and Chloé Tolliver; and 19 great-grandchildren, along with her three sisters and two brothers. She was preceded in death by her parents, Tom and Grace Vanden Bosch; daughter, Kolleen Mulder; sons-in-law, Joseph Tolliver Jr. and Art Prinsen; granddaughter, Michelle Schelhaas; great-grandson, Isaiah Reuer; and sister, Florence Hibma.

## 2019 MnEBA Gun Calendar Raffle Sells Out

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

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



#### Top Sellers

Brian Wagner was this year's top seller breaking his own sales record with 165 calendars sold! Pat Prodzinski sold a fantastic 62 calendars followed by Greg Lubinski at 50, Wade Schimmelpfennig at 37 and Dennis Engebretson and Paul Hartkopf at 37 each. A total of 588 stubs and money were returned by December 31<sup>st</sup>, with 51 names put into the hat for the special gun incentive drawing for every 10 calendars sold. John Fredrickson was drawn out of the hat as the lucky winner of the Henry Golden Large Loop Blued Rifle.

#### Seven Producers Qualified for a FREE 2019 MnEBA Membership!

A total of seven producers qualified for a free 2019 MnEBA membership after selling 30 or more calendars and returning stubs and money before December 31, 2018. That list included Brian Wagner, Pat Prodzinski, Wade Schimmelpfennig, Dennis Engebretson, Paul Hartkopf, Jerry Campbell and Marlen Schmitz. Every sale was important, no matter how many any one individual or couple sold. The group effort was once again amazing with tickets sold by 30 different members. THANK YOU to all!!!

#### When Winners are Posted

Monthly winners will be posted every other Wednesday on the MnEBA web site at [www.mneba.org](http://www.mneba.org).

#### What will the 2020 calendar bring...

Feedback from the membership at the annual conference recommended moving to printing 800 calendars and to keep to the same type and number of prize winning days. Also recommended was to allow a winning number to go back in the barrel one time only, no additional times. If you have any additional suggestions, please contact a board member or the office.

## Committee Reports

### Outdoor News Deer & Turkey Classic

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

Greg Lubinski is putting together the schedule for this year's show. If you have an interest in helping out, please call Greg at 507-273-0525 to let him know when you can be there.

**Show Hours:**

Friday March 9 – 1:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
 Saturday March 10 – 9:00 am - 7:00 pm  
 Sunday March 11 – 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

### Minnesota State Fair Booth Update

The State Fair committee is currently working on a project with Minnesota Grown funds to update the informational panels inside the MnEBA booth which we set up for the State Fair. If you would like to be a part of the review committee, please contact the MnEBA office. This project will be most active in the months of March and April. Thank you for your consideration!

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

### 2020 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar Sponsorships Now Available!

With each passing year, more and more people are asking MnEBA members for calendars before we ask them! We have now sold out four 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 2020 calendars will be conducted beginning this coming July and will conclude at the MnEBA Annual Conference 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 15<sup>th</sup>**.

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*Bill & Karen Knutson*  
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miniman41@centurytel.net

## Advertiser Index

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**Thank you for your support!**

## Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

9086 Keats Avenue SW  
Howard Lake, MN 55349

PHONE:  
320-543-2686

FAX:  
320-543-2983

E-MAIL:  
[info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org)

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

## Calendar of Events

**July 20, 2019** – MnEBA Summer Picnic, River View Elk Ranch, Winona, MN

**August 1-3, 2019** – NAEBA Annual Convention & International Antler Competition, Capitol Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, Topeka, KS

## Classified Ads

**For Sale:** (15) 2016 bred heifers in December. Wide typical frame breeding, top genetics without the high price. Just \$1,300 each, almost meat price. Call Roger Nietfeld, Melrose, MN, 320-247-0256.

**For Sale:** (6) 2018 heifer calves out of 470" genetics. TB accredited and Brucellosis certified. \$500 each. Ted Mehrkens, Mazeppa, MN, 507-843-5636.

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

**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.

**Wanted:** Grande Natural buys Elk or Whitetail meat animals delivered to Crescent Meats, Cadott, WI or Eickman's, Steward, IL. We will meet or beat the competition on the rail price. Looking for fleshy critters generally 3 years and older on cows, 2 years and older on bulls. Call 719-657-0942 or email [Rich@ElkUSA.com](mailto:Rich@ElkUSA.com).

**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

9086 Keats Avenue SW  
Howard Lake, MN 55349