



Special Interest Articles:

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- Colorado, Utah & Idaho Elk Import Changes
- Seven Deer Test Positive for CWD at Crow Wing County Deer Farm
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- USDA APHIS Publishes Revised CWD Program Standards Document
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President's Message by Jim Byrne



In just a few days, the legislative session will end. Not any too soon in my estimation. This has been a very combative and frustrating session. The initial justification for legislation put forth was to help prevent the spread of CWD in the wild. However, very quickly the farmed cervid industry became the target.

The Democratic House started out with more than a dozen bills from last year being re-introduced to restrict farmed cervids. In the end, they were condensed into one bill. In the Republican Senate, a major bill was introduced which also sought more restrictions on farmed cervidae. Since there was no consensus between the bills, they ended up in conference committee between the two houses.

The end result was that most of the language we opposed was stricken, but not all. Read the legislative update in the newsletter for the final language as was passed by both houses. My only thought is that it could have been much worse without the combined efforts of those in this association.

In particular, I personally want to thank Tony Kwilas, Brenda, Brian, Mark, Greg, and Kraig for the intense effort they invested in dealing with this legislation. Many hours, phone calls and trips to the Capitol where put forth and they deserve your heartfelt thanks in this effort. The association has a fantastic team of passionate people looking out for their industry.

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 15th of the preceding month.

Board of Directors

President

Jim Byrne
(507) 358-6505

Vice President

Mark Luedtke
(320) 630-5419

Secretary/Treasurer

Brian Wagner
(612) 366-5078

Director

Greg Lubinski
(507) 273-0525

Director

Kraig Wurst
(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 Minnesota Legislative Session Wrap Up

CWD was a Hot Topic with Many Bills Introduced

By Tony Kwilas, MnEBA Lobbyist

The 2019 legislative session that began in January was a new beginning on many fronts. The November election brought a new Governor, a change of leadership in the House of Representatives, as well as 39 new members of the body (35 new DFL, 4 new Republicans). Along with the new Governor came new Commissioners at the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture and other state agencies to begin the Tim Walz administration. The main focus of the new Legislature was to craft a new budget for the state of Minnesota.

From the beginning, observers knew this was going to be a struggle because Minnesota had the only split Legislature in the nation (Republican controlled Senate and a DFL led House). The Legislature needed overtime to complete its task but after a marathon 21 hour special session, all of the budget bills passed and Governor Walz has indicated he will sign them all.

At the beginning of the session, there were numerous bills introduced to address Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and further regulate the farmed cervid industry. Some of the proposed legislation included double fencing, transferring regulation of the industry from the Board of Animal Health to the Department of Natural Resources, a moratorium on any new deer farms, a ban on shooting preserves, performance bonds for cervid farms, no interstate movement of animals, and a 72 hour prohibition of movement once CWD was detected in the state.

At the end of session, policy and increased funding for the Department of Natural Resources and the Board of Animal Health were included in the Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Finance bill. The University of Minnesota also received \$1.8 million to further study the possibility of live testing of animals for CWD. A general list of policy changes to farmed cervidae laws are listed on the following page.

Thank You!!!

A huge thank you to all members who stepped up to contact members of both the Environment and Ag Finance Committees who were tasked to combine the CWD language from both bodies. Your voice did make a difference in realizing some more workable timelines with several issues as well as in eliminating some of the more unworkable proposed language.

Ultimately, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to our lobbyist, Tony Kwilas. He goes to bat for us each and every day at every opportunity whether in session or out of session. He communicated with MnEBA almost daily since January on what was going on at the Capitol and guided MnEBA through a very difficult session. We couldn't ask for a more professional, knowledgeable, dedicated and hard-working lobbyist. Thank you Tony for your great work on behalf of the Minnesota elk industry. We are grateful for your support!

Changes to Farmed Cervidae Laws this Legislative Session

The following changes take effect upon the Governor's signature unless otherwise stated.

1. All new fence and repaired areas must be high tensile wire, minimum 96" (originally (2) 10 ft fences)
2. All entrances must be double-gated by December 1, 2019
3. Fence repairs to be made in a reasonable amount of time as determined by BAH not to exceed 45 days (this was originally 48 hours)
4. If a fence fails inspection and needs to be re-inspected, fee is half of the annual fee (ie: \$250 or \$125) (this was originally \$950)
5. If a facility experiences more than one escape incident in any six-month period or fails to correct a fence deficiency, the board may revoke a facility's registration
6. There is language for a contested case hearing if a license is revoked for any reason
7. ID calves by December 31 in the year animal is born (was originally in some language "at birth", but in the end, does not change from current rule for elk). Farmed whitetail required to tag newborns by October 31
8. Annual Fees (one of the following categories):
 - Herd which operates as a business \$500
 - Herd that sells hunts \$500
 - More than one species \$500
 - All others \$250
9. CWD Depopulation
 - Depopulation of positive farm required after indemnification process has been completed
 - Maintain fencing for 5 years
 - Post fence with biohazard signs (in earlier language, they wanted to list CWD as a deed restriction)
10. Banning movement of whole hunter-harvested cervidae into Minnesota from anywhere out of the state would now become law (currently only in rule that expires in August 2019)



Grants & Low Interest Loans May be Available

The State of Minnesota does have a variety of grants and low interest loans which may be available to offset the cost of building redundant gates. See <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/> and click on **Business Dev, Loans, Grants** or check out the following programs:

AGRI Livestock Investment Grant

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/business-dev-loans-grants/agri-livestock-investment-grant>

Livestock Expansion Loan Program

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/livestock-expansion-loan-program>

Farm Opportunity Loan Program

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/business-dev-loans-grants/farm-opportunity-loan-program>



MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

News Release

Chronic Wasting Disease Statistics Study Suggests Minnesota Does Not Sufficiently Test Free-Ranging Deer

For Immediate Release: March 4, 2019

Contact: Brenda Hartkopf – 320-543-2686 or info@mneba.org

Howard Lake, MN- A new study reviewing Chronic Wasting Disease sampling in Minnesota reveals possible gaps in understanding where CWD exists in free-ranging deer in Minnesota. The Elk Research Foundation (also known as the Elk Research Council) reported its findings in a study entitled, “Report on CWD Surveillance and Outcomes in Free-Ranging and Farmed Cervids in Minnesota.” This study analyzed CWD sampling data performed in free-ranging and farmed cervid herds in Minnesota from 2014-2016.

The Minnesota DNR utilized a variety of sampling protocols over that three year period of time using anything from hunter harvested deer, to road kills, reported sick or dead deer, or a combination of the three. The report showed CWD testing of Minnesota’s free-ranging deer to be incomplete at best. In 2014, out of a total of 644,453 estimated free-ranging deer, only 516 or 0.080% were tested in just 17 of Minnesota’s 130 Deer Permit Areas (DPAs). In 2015, out of an estimated total of 695,330 free-ranging deer, only 25 were tested or .004% in 21 DPAs. In 2016, out of an estimated total of 802,443 free-ranging deer, 3,121 were tested or .389% in 30 DPAs; still not at a 1% testing level and still leaving out an additional 100 DPAs. There were three CWD positives found that year.

Minnesota’s farmed cervid herds participate in the federal CWD Herd Certification Program (HCP) which is a cooperative effort between APHIS, the Minnesota Board of Animal Health and farmed/captive deer, elk, or moose owners. Every Minnesota cervid owner has participated in the federal CWD program since 2004, amassing 15 years of data and testing thousands of farmed elk and deer. Farmed cervid farms are located in 75 of Minnesota’s 87 counties providing CWD test results from throughout the entire state of Minnesota on a yearly basis.

In the three years this study examined, Minnesota farmed deer and elk owners tested much higher percentages of animals compared to their wildlife counterparts. In 2014, of a total of 10,361 farmed cervids, 1,729 were tested (16.69%). None of these tests were positive. In 2015, of a total number of 10,262 farmed cervids, 1,323 were tested (12.89%). None of these tests were positive. In 2016, of a total number of 10,383 farmed cervids, 1,593 were tested (15.34%). Of these tests, 5 (0.31%) were positive.

The study concluded that, “Overall, we have a greater than 99.9% confidence in every year that the prevalence of CWD in the farmed cervid populations was 1% or less, based on testing results.” The same could not be said of the free-ranging test data.

There was no testing done in most of Minnesota’s DPAs during 2014-2016. “Most DPAs are not included in these tables, as there were no deer sampled in the majority of the DPAs.” In many cases, of the DPAs which reported testing in any given year, there was only one test done in the entire DPA. For example, in 2016, of the 30 DPAs which reported CWD results, 15 or 50% of them reported only one test. One such illustration was DPA 214; of the estimated 16,066 wild deer reported that year, only one was tested.

This study concluded, “For farmed cervids, we can be highly confident that there are very low rates of CWD in the population. That is not the case for free-ranging deer, where we are relying on much less information. Estimates at the state level are dubious, as it is unlikely that there is one constant rate of CWD across all DPAs. Many DPAs remain unsampled, and with the exception of a few more heavily-sampled DPA’s, we have scant information and cannot make any precise conclusions about CWD rates in free-ranging deer.”

To read the report in its entirety, go to [http://www.elkresearchfoundation.org/pdf/ERF-Project-1604-Appendix-II-\(MN\).pdf](http://www.elkresearchfoundation.org/pdf/ERF-Project-1604-Appendix-II-(MN).pdf).



MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Position Statement on Chronic Wasting Disease

Cervid Farming Regulations

Minnesota farmed cervid producers, including cervid harvest preserves, are heavily regulated, more than any other livestock industry in Minnesota.

- Mandatory registration of all animals on farm
- Report all interstate and intrastate movement of animals (including slaughter and on-farm deaths) within 14 days to BAH
- Annual inspection of fence, facilities and animals
- Two ID's required (large dangle tag and official federal tag)
- Importation of animals only from farms/ranches in Level 6 CWD status (more than 5 years CWD surveillance) which are not located in or near a known CWD endemic area; must also be from a TB accredited herd or herd test TB negative within last 365 days
- In the event of escape, if the animal is not recaptured within 24 hours, the DNR must be notified
- EVERY cervid death is required to be tested for CWD. This has been happening for **over 15 years**
- **Minnesota elk and deer farmers CWD test an average 13% of the total farmed cervid inventory every year.**
- BAH has already enacted most recommendations from the OLA report presented in April 2018

Cervid Farms Are NOT the CWD Risk Vector

- Epidemiology reports from the most recent CWD cases in Winona and Crow Wing counties identify **taxidermy** as the most likely vector of CWD to the Winona county infected farm. In the Crow Wing case, a **rubbish dump site where bones were commonly observed** which was fenced in two years before CWD positive does were identified in that pen is a possible vector. The federal CWD program is working.
- A 2018 study by the Quality Deer Management Association showed that in the 2016-2017 hunting season, more than 32,000 whitetails were killed by hunters in the four Wisconsin counties with the highest incidence of CWD in the state. These deer were harvested by hunters from 49 states. The Wisconsin DNR reported that only 2,291 of those deer were tested for CWD before they left the state. Of those 2,291 deer alone, 17 percent were CWD positive. This demonstrates the extremely high likelihood of carcass movements spreading CWD
- Existing hunter harvested carcass movement restrictions are not easily enforced or monitored
- Taxidermy waste stream, which is currently not monitored, is a vitally important risk factor
- Statistical results from the Elk Research Foundation studying Minnesota CWD testing of farmed and wild cervids concluded that for the farmed cervid population, there was a greater than 99.9% confidence the prevalence of CWD was 1% or less based on testing results. In the wild deer population, *"Many DPAs remain unsampled, and with the exception of a few more heavily-sampled DPA's, we have scant information and cannot make any precise conclusions about CWD rates in free-ranging deer."*

Cervid Farms Are the Key to Finding a Cure

- Genome research to identify genetically CWD resistant animals
- Studies on soil resistance to CWD prions
- Live animal testing
- CWD research is ongoing throughout all of North America from Alberta to Saskatchewan to Colorado, Wyoming, Texas, Arizona, Minnesota and many other areas to develop answers to controlling the spread of CWD. Cervid farms provide the optimal testing medium to accomplish these research initiatives

We Support

- Additional funding of the BAH to continue their great work
- Funding of \$1,800,000 for the University of Minnesota to develop a live CWD test
- Depopulation of a CWD positive facility, only with indemnity
The average Minnesota elk herd size is 38 animals. Taking animals without indemnity would take assets valuing over \$100,000 from the average elk farmer plus make the producer pay for the taking and disposal by the state which would be substantial cost to a small farmer, this after most assets have been taken away.
- Further examining hunter carcass movement and taxidermy waste stream as vectors for CWD transmission and developing new laws to mitigate these risk factors
- Increased hunter education about properly transporting and disposing of hunter harvested carcasses

Board Meeting Minutes

The board began holding regularly scheduled conference calls with lobbyist Tony Kwilas on Fridays which began on Friday March 15th.

Monday, March 4, 2019 - Noon

Those present: Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf. NAEBA's Executive Director Travis Lowe was present as a guest.

Much of the discussion at this meeting was on SF1995. Board discussed various aspects of what was going on at the legislature with Lowe. Action items included:

1. Jim and Brenda to travel to State Capitol, try to speak to legislators.
2. Keep moving forward with hunter-harvested carcass movement language
3. Create list of issues we have with current bills
4. Develop spreadsheet which includes each MnEBA member and who their Senator and Representative is
5. Work with Lowe to get link placed on the Elk Research Foundation web site with their Project 1604 Statistics project. Place link to full study on ERF web site and reference this link on the MnEBA Stats Study press release.

Friday, March 15, 2019 - Noon

Those present: Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf. Guest present: Tony Kwilas

Brief general update of proposed legislation regarding farmed cervidae from Kwilas. Action item included creating a MnEBA Position Paper on CWD.

Friday March 22, 2019 - Noon

Those present: Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf. Guest present: Tony Kwilas

Brief general update of proposed legislation regarding farmed cervidae from Kwilas. Went through SF1995 line by line concerns. There is talk about a CWD information hearing in early April. Action items included:

1. Reviewed and discussed draft MnEBA Position Paper on CWD. Hartkopf to edit and resend for final approval.
2. Request epidemiology reports on the Winona and Crow Wing CWD cases from Board of Animal Health.
3. Continue to pursue carcass restriction language.
4. Work to put more information about MnEBA's position on CWD on the web site and Facebook. Work with webmaster to maximize exposure to Google searches.
5. Collect scientific data on CWD research topics cited in MnEBA Position Paper on CWD.

Friday, March 29, 2019 - Noon

Those present: Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf. Guest present: Tony Kwilas

Reviewed House testimony regarding HF2200 DE Amendment which was heard yesterday and where bills may be going from here. Most of board planned to attend hearings regarding farmed cervidae and CWD in the House and Senate coming up on April 2nd.

Monday, April 1, 2019 – 8:45pm

Those present: Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf. Guest present: Tony Kwilas

Discussed bills and testimony regarding farmed cervidae and CWD being heard in both the House and Senate tomorrow April 2nd. Lubinski will be testifying tomorrow in the Senate committee hearing at the request of Senator Goggin.

Friday, April 5, 2019 - Noon

Those present: Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf. Guest present: Tony Kwilas

Discussed all bills that have now moved out of finance committees to meet the next deadline. Discussed possible paths where language may move.

Next hearing regarding farmed cervidae and CWD will be April 9-10 in the Senate.

Action items:

1. Board approved packet of information to give to legislators. Those Board members attending next week's hearings will work to personally distribute packets. Will plan to hand out packets to all members of the Senate and House Agriculture and Environment Committees.
2. Continuing to work with ACA lawyer on drafting a letter to Dr. Michael Osterholm regarding inflammatory comments made against the farmed cervid industry.
3. Discussed ways to add new content to the MnEBA site regarding animal health and CWD.

Friday, April 12, 2019 - Noon

Those present: Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf. Guest present: Tony Kwilas

Kwilas reported the MnEBA information packets have been distributed. He gave an update on bills containing new farmed cervidae language and where he expected they would be heard next. Once again reviewed the language for sections we don't like. Kwilas reported that language pertaining to farmed cervidae will likely be discussed in smaller subcommittees dealing with environment and agricultural finance bills. These committees have not yet been announced. He said to prepare for a big push with the membership to contact members of these subcommittees once they have been announced. Kwilas outlined the upcoming committee deadlines. The bills we are following most closely are HF1733, Article 2 of HF2200 and SF2314.

Action item included:

1. Send out an e-blast to the membership asking them to be ready to contact members of the agriculture and environment subcommittees as well as their own elected officials. Include language of the above files as they stand today and ask members to be ready to make these connections in 2-3 weeks as soon as committee members are chosen. Board to review and approve e-blast before it is sent out.

Friday, April 26, 2019 - Noon

Those present: Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke and Brenda Hartkopf. Brian Wagner joined the call late. Kraig Wurst and Greg Lubinski were absent. Guest present: Tony Kwilas

Kwilas reported the agriculture and environment conference committees will likely be set by next Tuesday, April 30th. They will be tasked with solving the differences between the agriculture finance and environment finance bills, of which there are vast differences. Language pertaining to farmed cervidae is just a very small section in these large bills. Because there is farmed cervidae language in both an environment and agriculture bill, another small subcommittee will be determined to decide final language that matches up in both the House and Senate. Kwilas will ask for a side by side version of language in both bodies to assist in fully understanding what is being proposed on each side. Will plan to send the side by side version to members when e-blast goes out asking everyone to contact legislators. Kwilas then left the call.

Wagner then joined the call. Hartkopf updated the board on creating new State Fair elk information panels, proposed MnEBA Annual Conference venues and updating the web site with more information on CWD, animal health and/or position statements by the association. She also gave an update on the elk presentation given to the Board of Animal Health on April 24th which was positively received by all.

Friday, May 3, 2019 - 12:30pm

Those present: Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf. Guest present: Tony Kwilas

Kwilas reported the Environment and Ag committees have been appointed and that they will be going through the two bills containing the bulk of the farmed-cervidae related language side by side. They will likely adopt all similar language then negotiate on what is different. Kwilas reported that now is the time to contact MnEBA members and ask them to reach out to the members of both subcommittees as well as their own elected officials with their concerns. Board discussed which talking points should be included in the member alert. Hartkopf to draft e-blast for board review and approval prior to sending out.

Kwilas will try to get more information on when CWD language will be heard in committee. He also laid out

potential timelines for deadlines leading to the end of session. Tony then left the call.

In other business, Hartkopf updated the board on information from the webmaster of our best ways to add content pertaining to animal health and position statements on the MnEBA web site. Board determined we will add another tab called Animal Health. Will work to relocate most currently unused tab to make room for the new tab.

Discussed two potential locations for the 2020 MnEBA Annual Conference. Hartkopf was asked to seek more information and additional bids.

Friday, May 10, 2019 - Noon

Those present: Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf. Guest present: Tony Kwilas

Kwilas reported that legislators are hearing from MnEBA members. The farmed cervidae language is still sitting in conference committee and it looks like the focus of discussion will occur in the Environment Finance sub-committee. There was public testimony taken on Wednesday with Kwilas speaking on funding to support DNR, BAH and U of M along with concerns about regulations. There has been no CWD discussion since then. They are waiting for the budget targets to be released. At this point, his advice was to sit back and let the process play out. Kwilas then left the call.

Board reviewed updated 2020 Annual Conference bid sheet and chose the Crowne Plaza location in Plymouth for the 2020 convention.

The State Fair committee submitted State Fair panel designs to the board for their review and approval prior to the meeting. Board approved designs and asked the committee to move forward with the project.

Board considered an alternate design for the 2020 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar which would be a more efficient way for the printer to produce the calendars. Board was concerned that the submitted calendar example did not have the calendar number on it after the insert containing the stub was removed. All agreed that they wished to stay with the same design we have been using. Also discussed a calendar winner's complaint about not getting through

the gun transfer process because of extra safeguards the gun dealer uses when registering firearms. Board was appreciative of receiving the information but took no action at this time.

Friday, May 17, 2019 - Noon

Those present: Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf. Brian Wagner was absent. Guest present: Tony Kwilas

Kwilas reported that its looking like the legislature will be going into special session. Budget targets have still not been released. There has been discussion in a smaller subcommittee along with commissioners of BAH, DNR and Ag on the CWD language with no agreement reached as of yet. The commissioners are meeting with Governor's staff again later today in the Governor's Office to further negotiate farmed cervidae language. Hartkopf and Kwilas have had conversations in recent days with commissioners from BAH and Ag. Board gave direction to Kwilas on negotiating issues. Kwilas will continue to provide updates as they become available over the weekend. The regular session is scheduled to end on Monday May 22nd. Kwilas then left the call.

Board reviewed a draft shared by Dr. Wells of a University of Minnesota report about CWD Transmission to MN and WI Cervid Farms. Board outlined questions and comments to send back to study coordinators. There was also discussion about forwarding CWD research done by the Elk Research Foundation and other sources as they are published to Dr. Wells. Hartkopf to include ERF information in the comments sent back in response to the draft.

Friday May 24, 2019 - Noon

Those present: Jim Byrne, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf. Mark Luedtke and Brian Wagner were absent. Guest present: Tony Kwilas

Kwilas reported the Special Session has begun and that the Environment Finance bill containing the current farmed cervidae language is pending passage in the House and Senate. He expected that to take place shortly. He also confirmed with Dr. Thompson that in the current language, depopulation of a herd does not occur until the breeder is reimbursed by USDA. Upon passage in both bodies, the Governor is expected to sign the bill next week.

IMPORTANT UPDATE!!!

If you are planning to sell trophy bulls or any other elk to the states of Colorado, Utah or Idaho in the coming months, make sure you are aware of the following changes to import protocol to those states as it relates to purity!

Notice from the North American Elk Breeders Association, May 20, 2019

Colorado, Utah & Idaho Elk Import Changes

Elk owners exporting stock into Colorado, Idaho and Utah must adhere to new changes in protocol that are now in effect.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture, Idaho State Department of Agriculture and Utah Department of Agriculture and Food has informed the elk industry that elk entering their respective states must be purity tested or may still be accepted with NAEBA registration under certain conditions.

Colorado, Idaho and Utah only allow for the importation of farmed elk that are pure. Elk-red deer hybrids are not allowed into the state. Traditionally, elk gained admission if they had been tested for purity, were NAEBA Gold registered, NAEBA Silver registered or came from a herd enrolled in a state or provincial purity status program. Recently, Colorado, Idaho and Utah have reconsidered state or provincial purity status program status.

The following changes have been verified by the three state governments as of May 20, 2019.

According to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, elk will be admitted if each animal has a purity test or is NAEBA Gold registered. Idaho will accept an animal that is NAEBA Silver registered if there is a purity test on file with the registration (purity test is one of the two paths for Silver registration).

According to the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, elk will be admitted if each animal has a purity test or is NAEBA Gold registered. Utah will accept an animal that is NAEBA Silver registered if there is a purity test on file with the registration. Utah will accept state pure herd status for Montana but not Alberta or Colorado.

According to the Colorado Department of Agriculture, elk will no longer be admitted with just Alberta pure herd status. The remaining existing protocol is still in effect.

NAEBA urges its members planning to export into Colorado, Idaho or Utah to start the purity testing now. Purity testing is a four-week process after the paperwork has been properly submitted. In the event a member needs expedited work faster than the published expected response times, NAEBA can request expedited work of vendors without guarantee of a completion date, for an additional fee of \$25 per animal in the order.

NAEBA also urges its members that may ship animals to these states to please review the importation regulations for that state for any additional changes. NAEBA is not responsible for importation changes from any state but try to keep our members aware of any changes as soon as we are aware and know how the changes may affect our members. Thank you.

“NAEBA also urges its members that may ship animals to these states to please review the importation regulations for that state for any additional changes.”



News Release

For Immediate Release: May 8, 2019

Contact: Michael Crusan, 651-201-6815 or michael.crusan@state.mn.us

Seven Deer Test Positive for CWD at Crow Wing County Deer Farm

St. Paul, MN - The Minnesota Board of Animal Health received Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) test results from the depopulation of a Crow Wing County deer farm on April 16. A total of 102 deer were removed from the farm and all viable samples were sent to the USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratory for CWD testing. The results are as follows:

- 7 CWD positive
- 82 CWD not detected
- 13 too decomposed/unsuccessful test

"We appreciate the cooperation of the herd owner and the collaboration of the other state and federal partners we've worked with to depopulate this farm and get these CWD test results," said Board Assistant Director Dr. Linda Glaser. "The results give us a clearer picture of the disease prevalence on the farm as we continue our efforts to contain and eliminate any remaining infectious CWD prions in the enclosed property."

CWD is a difficult disease because it is transmitted by abnormally shaped proteins called prions, which are very resistant to traditional disinfection treatments like heat and chemicals. Depopulation is currently the best available management option to control CWD in cervid herds. After a herd is depopulated there is still a risk of environmental contamination. The land will remain fenced and no farmed cervids may be housed on the site for a period of at least five years to reduce the risk of the disease being spread off the site.

CWD testing is part of many mandatory measures placed upon Minnesota's farmed cervid herds to monitor and control this disease. Current testing procedures require samples taken from the brain and lymph nodes of the animal, and there are no live-animal sampling procedures at this time.

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

CWD Endemic Areas

Minnesota Board of Animal Health expands CWD endemic area to 15 miles from known CWD positive wild deer

April 4, 2019 - St. Paul, MN - The Minnesota Board of Animal Health is expanding the Board's CWD endemic area for farmed cervid herds after additional chronic wasting disease (CWD) positive wild deer were found during the early 2019 winter special hunts and sharpshooting efforts by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Board has also considered information gained from the DNR's southeast deer movement study that shows the average movement of deer was greater than previously understood. This information prompted the DNR to set their CWD Management Zones to include a minimum of 15 miles from any known CWD positive wild deer.

The Board will now set its CWD endemic area boundaries to include all locations within 15 miles of a confirmed case of CWD in wild cervids and will include all of Houston County in the CWD endemic area. The decision to include all of Houston County was made when the Board was notified of a CWD positive wild deer found within a mile of the Mississippi River in Vernon County, Wisconsin, across the river from Houston County. A 15 mile area around that animal would encompass southeastern Houston County.

The requirement for the Board to set these boundaries is outlined in MN Rule 1721.0420. Subp.3. Please contact the Board's farmed cervid program if you have any questions about this information at 651-201-6804 or farmed.cervidae@state.mn.us

Chronic Wasting Disease Sampling

New requirements for training, demonstration of successful CWD sampling

March 4, 2019 - St. Paul, MN - This year, the Board of Animal Health is requiring all individuals that collect tissue samples from farmed cervids to test for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) become authorized by the Board. There are three components to this authorization:

- Attend one classroom training. Classes will be held over the next two months in several locations around the state. Everyone that would like to be authorized to collect samples from farmed cervids for CWD testing must attend one of these training sessions. The classroom training will be approximately three hours long. Veterinarians and veterinary technicians can earn three continuing education credits for attending this training. By June 1, all sample collectors must have attended this training or will no longer be authorized to collect samples from farmed cervids for CWD testing.
- After attending the classroom training, those participants that have not previously collected a sufficient number of tissue samples from farmed cervids that were successfully tested by the Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL) must meet with a Board representative for a farmed cervid field sample collection demonstration.
- All participants must collect and submit tissue samples from two farmed cervids to the MVDL and get successful test results reported from these submissions by the end of calendar year 2019.



Minnesota DNR News Updates

From the DNR web site at www.dnr.state.mn.us

Special CWD hunt concluded

The special hunt to help limit the spread of chronic wasting disease in wild deer has concluded. See map to the right for the status of CWD in southeastern Minnesota as of April 10, 2019.

Southeast Minnesota deer movement study

In 2016, chronic wasting disease was discovered in wild white-tailed deer in southeastern Minnesota's Fillmore County. As of March 20, 2019, 47 wild deer have tested positive for CWD as part of surveillance efforts in and adjacent to permit area 603, the CWD management zone. The

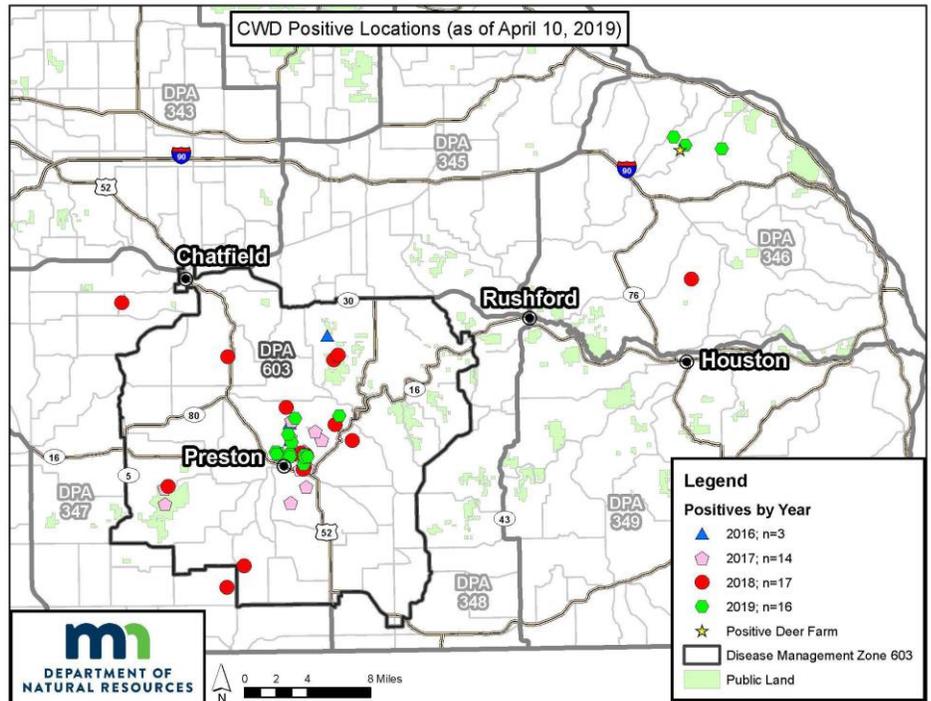
detection of the disease offers an opportunity to understand the ways CWD may spread across the rolling terrain of this geographically unique corner of the state by studying the natural movements of deer in this area.

While CWD is introduced to an area by infectious deer or infectious materials (carcass remains, feces, urine, saliva, blood, and antler velvet), the DNR designed this study to look at natural deer movement in wild populations in order to get insight on these potential pathways of CWD spread. The study area includes the CWD management zone (also known as deer permit area 603) and a 20-mile buffer around the zone. Deer are captured and fitted with GPS collars to show how they move on the landscape, including what corridors they use and how far they travel. Movement data will be used to help predict pathways of potential CWD spread and inform future disease management decisions.

During the first year of the study in 2018, a total of 109 deer were outfitted with GPS collars. In 2019, 64 deer were added to the study. We classify deer ages as: fawns (less than 1 year of age), yearlings (between 1 and 2 years of age), and adults (greater than 2 years of age). To date, none of the collared deer in this study have tested positive for CWD.

Study updates as of March 2019

From September through December 2018, most of the fawns collared that year were expected to have set up an adult home range. Using data from the available deer in the study, we found that 36 percent of does (n=4/11) and 15 percent (n=4/26) of bucks underwent excursions (linear movements greater than 2.5 miles) from their adult home range. On average, does traveled 3.7 miles and bucks traveled about 12 miles. So, although does had a higher likelihood of making excursions from their home range, they traveled a shorter distance on average compared with bucks.



From Feb. 18-21, 2019, we captured and outfitted 64 additional deer with GPS collars: 39 doe fawns and 25 buck fawns.

September 2018

During the first year of this study, the DNR captured deer in March 2018 by launching nets from a helicopter and collaring 83 fawns (49 bucks and 34 does), 25 adult bucks and one adult doe.

Based on preliminary analysis of the data from March through April 2018, the average home range size was 0.60 mi² for doe fawns, 0.88 mi² for buck fawns, and 1.14 mi² for adult bucks. These home range estimates align with our expectations of deer activity at this time of year.

During the spring dispersal period from mid-April through mid-July 2018, 32 percent (n=10/31) of buck fawns and 45 percent (n=9/20) of doe fawns dispersed from their birth range. The longest movement measured so far is that of a doe fawn that traveled approximately 77 linear miles (June 2018) from where she was collared. The average dispersal distance traveled for doe fawns was 17.4 miles (n=9) and 10 miles (n=10) for buck fawns.

When we remove two outliers (does that traveled a linear distance of 40 miles and 77 miles, respectively), the average dispersal distance for does declines to about 5.6 miles. During spring 2018, only 17 percent (n=2/12) of collared adult bucks moved greater than three miles from their winter range.

Current collar statistics [Updated 3/18/2019]

Age & gender	Number being tracked
Buck fawns	24
Doe fawns	38
Adult bucks	13
Adult does	10
Total	85



As of March 18, 2019:

- * 17 deer have slipped free of their collars.
- * 42 collars have been deactivated due to hardware issues. Some of these deactivated collars remain on deer.
- * 32 collared deer have died. Hunters legally harvested 14 of those deer, three were harvested by USDA targeted agency culling, and three were likely killed by vehicles.

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Bill & Karen Knutson
Home of Spring Coulee Elk

Board Blog by Brian Wagner, MnEBA Secretary/Treasurer



Here we are. Another new year is upon us with green grass, new antler growth and new calves. It's hard to believe, but the older we get the faster time goes by so enjoy every minute that you can. Hopefully everyone has a successful calving season and gets great antler growth.

As you all know, it was a long, bitter, cold rear end, deep in the snow kind of winter and our legislative session was just as brutal. Your board of directors has been meeting once to twice a week just to stay on top of this. I'd just like to thank everyone that has given their input, advice, discussion, support, made calls to senators, traveled to the capitol, your prayers or whatever part you've had in this war and thank God that it is over. Change is not always welcome but we will live with what we get and I have to keep telling myself it could always be worse. Sorry I was going to keep this all positive but politics always seem to take a conversation south!!!

There have been several CWD classes throughout the state. I attended the class in St. Cloud and saw many of you putting your time in to satisfy the board of animal health's requirements. After submitting 500-700 samples myself, I feel much better to know that I am now certified.

We have several producers that have been caught in the endemic zone. Please remember to give them support as they make plans for how to move forward with their business in the next years to come. We all never know who will be caught up in this next.

Remember to make plans to attend the summer picnic coming up in July and the NAEBA convention the first week in August.

God bless you all,
Brian

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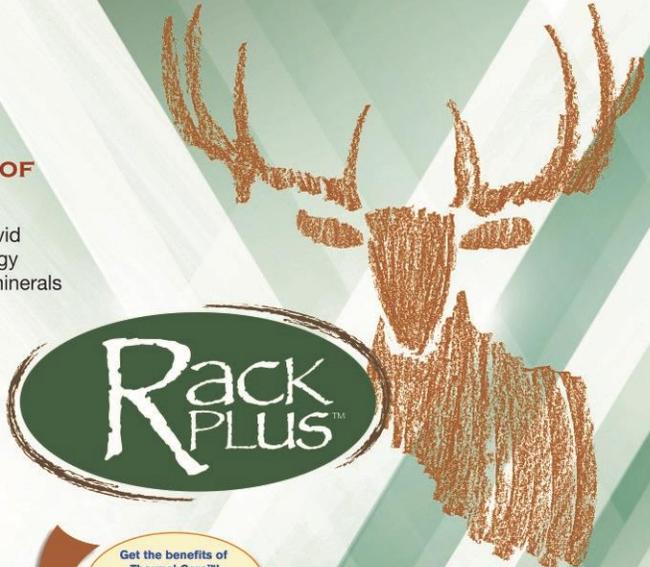
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The following commentary appeared in the Timberjay newspaper out of northern St. Louis county in northeastern Minnesota.

Elk Reintroduction Plan Shows CWD Hypocrisy

By Travis Lowe, Executive Director, North American Elk Breeders Association

April 5, 2019 - A recent *Timberjay* article asked a compelling question: Will elk reintroduction in Minnesota be undermined by fears about Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)? As scientists are concerned about the accidental spread of CWD, the situation exposes double standards in wildlife politics.

CWD has unfortunately become a political issue as the disease has been detected more frequently in the past few years in Minnesota. Recent bills in the state legislature have sought to bring the hammer down on the many deer and elk ranches in Minnesota that produce meat and velvet or supply private game ranches.

Supporters claim that deer and elk ranches are a threat for the accidental spread of CWD since they move animals between Minnesota and other states.

This then begs the question: Doesn't elk reintroduction run the same risk? It actually may be worse.

Deer and elk ranches already have federal regulations governing the interstate movement of animals. In order to move elk, they must have tested their herd for CWD for a minimum of 5 years with zero positive results. Many ranches have been testing for 15 years or more with no issues. In the rare instance CWD is detected, a ranch can be quarantined and depopulated.

In contrast, elk reintroduction programs do not have to abide by the same precautions. Elk reintroduction programs in other states have used animals that can be traced back to CWD-positive states such as Utah and Kansas. Since the only reliable CWD tests are post-mortem, there's a risk of moving the disease to a new area.

Unlike in a closed facility like a ranch, elk reintroduced on public lands can spread disease more freely. There's no putting the genie back in the bottle.

Our organization, which represents elk ranchers, does not oppose elk reintroduction if it's done responsibly to minimize the risk of CWD spreading. After all, our members' livelihoods are based around these majestic animals.

But we also think that the playing field should be fair. If the state is going to import elk, it should go through the same precautions that elk ranchers have to go through.

Consider this: If a private ranch imported an elk without going through the proper CWD (and TB and Brucellosis) protocols, it would be a federal crime. But state wildlife agencies got themselves an exemption from these same rules.

A spokesman for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources rightly notes that the agency can't tell the public not to move deer and elk on one hand while doing the same thing itself on the other hand. But the leadership of the agency has at the same time been singling out deer and elk ranches in Minnesota for oppressive regulations.

This needs to end. Passing laws or proposing regulations to prohibit ranches from doing business won't accomplish anything when they must already abide by strict federal protocols.

If the DNR and state lawmakers are truly concerned about limiting CWD, then they need to focus on ensuring safeguards are in place for elk reintroduction.

Travis Lowe is Executive Director of the North American Elk Breeders Association

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
48 30	51 39	51 33	44 26	43 25

COMMENTARY
Elk reintroduction plan shows CWD hypocrisy

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This needs to end. Passing laws or proposing regulations to prohibit ranches from doing business won't accomplish anything when they must already abide by strict federal protocols.

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USDA APHIS Publishes Revised CWD Program Standards Document *American Cervid Alliance Provides Initial Review of Changes*

May 21, 2019 - USDA APHIS announced the revised CWD Program Standards Document has been published and is now in effect. The document is the product of a three and a half year review process that started with a United States Animal Health Association resolution in 2015 offered by the American Cervid Alliance. The Working Group met several times over the course of 2016, which included three industry representatives- Charly Seale of the Exotic Wildlife Association, Travis Lowe of the North American Elk Breeders Association and Skip West of the North American Deer Farmers Association. A public comment period ensued that generated hundreds of comments. The industry was cautiously optimistic for several changes to take place in the new document.

After the initial review of the new document, the American Cervid Alliance compared the new version with the comments submitted to USDA APHIS during the public comment period. The ACA comments, which noted both positive and harmful points of the proposed document, was vetted and approved by roll call vote of the ACA member association in April 2018.

Several positive changes were made in the new version. For example, the new version removed references to ten-foot fencing that was always in excess of the Federal Rule. The new version also adds clarifying language to help avoid "spider web trace-outs." The new version also adds protocol to use live testing as a tool for trace herds for whitetail deer. These changes are welcomed by the industry and the ACA is grateful.

However, many of the concerns voiced by the industry noting harmful and ambiguous language remain in the document. In fact, of the ACA member association comments submitted during the public comment period, 13 of the 17 submitted requests remain in the new document. Notable language in the harmful document includes the following:

Mention of Double Fencing: The USDA APHIS Chronic Wasting Disease Federal Rule does not mention double fencing at all. However, in the new Program Standards document, a reminder is made for states that they can use double fencing requirements. Deer and elk operations do not support an unfunded mandate that would require the double fencing of their ranch when science has shown it will not stop CWD from entering our facilities. State wildlife agencies and other opponents of the cervid industry use these USDA approved suggestions against the industry in propaganda and the ruling making processes. Part A, Section 4 (page 25)

Definition of CWD-Susceptible Cervid Species Authorizes APHIS to Regulate, not only by Natural Infection, but also by Experimental Inoculation. The proposed Program Standards add a new definition for CWD-Susceptible Cervid Species. The USDA APHIS Chronic Wasting Disease Federal Rule only applies to cervid species known to naturally contract the disease. The new document adds cervid species that can be experientially inoculated with CWD and adds them to CWD protocol. There is not a known "lethal dose" for Chronic Wasting Disease. Experimental inoculation is supernatural, not natural. This may be the most egregious addition to the Program Standards document. In fact, this unprecedented change directly contradicts the Federal Rule. USDA APHIS Chronic Wasting Disease Federal Rule lists only three genera: *Odocoileus* (Whitetail Deer, Mule Deer, Blacktail Deer), *Cervus* (Elk, Red Deer, Sika Deer) and *Alces* (Moose). Numerous attempts have been made by regulators to arbitrarily add additional cervid species. The USDA APHIS Chronic Wasting Disease Federal Rule implemented in 2012 states in its background notes that APHIS "have not expanded coverage to genera in which no

species has demonstrated susceptibility via natural routes of transmission. To do so would extend the requirements of this rule without a sound basis, unnecessarily increasing the burden on regulated parties, especially zoos with large and varied animal collections. We are prepared to extend the definition in the future if new research demonstrates additional species in other genera are susceptible to CWD by natural routes of transmission.

Requirement to Test Cervids Harvested at Hunting Ranches for CWD. The revised CWD Program Standards requires herds enrolled in the HCP to submit samples of “all animals under their ownership sent to hunting ranches.” This also becomes problematic for owners of both trophy ranches and breeding facilities that are owned by the same person, whether they are different premises or not. Part A, Section 5.2 Mortality Reporting and Routine Surveillance. (Page 27).

Requirement to Test Slaughter Animals for CWD. The revised CWD Program Standards requires herds enrolled in the HCP to submit samples on “all animals under their ownership sent to hunting ranches and/or slaughter.” Part A, Section 5.2 Mortality Reporting and Routine Surveillance. (Page 27).

Elk Industry Overlooked for Ante-Mortem Testing of Herds that Contain or Contained CWD-Exposed Animals. It is a historic change for the Program Standards to use ante-mortem testing as a management tool. However, the proposed document only applies to whitetail deer. The door is not open to elk, or other species, as science becomes available. This means a new re-write of the Program Standards would have to take place including a clearing process and comment period before elk or other species can be added. This is a minimum two year process from start to finish. (For reference, the current revision process has already exceeded 43 months as of May 2019).

Invitation for Draconian Polices. There is no reason to remind states they can add more strict requirements. Some states, like North Carolina, have used this as precedent for draconian polices. Introduction (page 4).

Definition on “Annual Removal” Needs to be Clarified so Herd Owners are Not Responsible for Testing All Animals that Leave Herd Inventories. New language regarding missing samples has created a definition of “annual removals” that includes ANY animal removed from inventory. This definition needs additional clarity to ensure this excludes animals moved by change of ownership. **Definitions** (page 5). “*Annual Removals: All adults (12 months or older) removed or lost from inventory for any reason since the previous annual inventory.*”

APHIS Uses Genotypes Against Herds in Trace outs: As the industry breeds towards CWD resistant animals, there will be negative consequences for resistant herds when linked to a CWD positive animal/herd. Given the success of the sheep industry’s use of Scrapie resistant animals, USDA APHIS should not punish the cervid industry for moving in this direction. Appendix II: Guidelines for Use of Whole Herd Ante-Mortem Testing (Page 50). “*C. Herds with fewer than 50 percent GG animals will not be permitted to use ante-mortem RAMALT testing.*”

The American Cervid Alliance member associations will be meeting in June to discuss the document.

Minnesota FFA Member Thank You’s



Last October, MnEBA members Greg & Roxy Lubinski of Lubinski Elk Acres contributed funding in MnEBA’s name for a sixth year in a row to the Minnesota FFA Foundation’s “Blue Jackets – Brighter Futures” campaign. Two jackets were awarded to the Minnesota FFA members below who sent thank you’s back to MnEBA as follows.

Minnesota Elk Breeders Association,

Thank you. It means so much to me to be able to receive this FFA jacket, and to be able to represent my chapter and my state when wearing it. Thank you once again.

Bella Philips

Minnesota Elk Breeders Association,

Thank you for allowing me to become a member of Howard Lake Waverly Winsted FFA!

Katy Merrill

MnEBA Kitchen

Get your grill and those skewers ready for a delicious elk kabob recipe. Make sure to soak your skewers in water for at least one hour prior to beginning the recipe.

Elk Kabobs

2 lbs. elk steak	4 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
½ cup olive oil	1 tsp. parsley flakes
¼ cup soy sauce	1 tsp. garlic powder
2 tsp. dry mustard	1 large onion
¾ tsp. salt	1 green pepper
½ tsp. pepper	1 orange pepper
2 tsp. wine vinegar	1 red pepper
2 tsp. lemon juice	1 lb. mushrooms



Mix olive oil, soy sauce, dry mustard, salt, pepper, wine vinegar, lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce, parsley flakes and garlic powder in a bowl. Dice up the elk steaks into medallion sized pieces, and place into your marinade. Let sit for a minimum of 3 hours. Cut onion, peppers and mushrooms into bit sized pieces. Once meat is marinated, place meat and cut up vegetables on a soaked skewer and grill on medium heat about 15 minutes or until cooked to your desired level of doneness.

Deer Industry New Zealand Velvet Market Update

Deer Industry News – April/May 2019

The New Zealand velvet industry continues to grow to meet increasing demand and production in this country and is now at levels many wouldn't have thought possible a few years ago.

Reportedly prices have firmed slightly over last season, continuing the relative stability achieved over the past eight years. With production at about 725 tonnes and an average farm gate price of \$125–135/kg, New Zealand velvet is closing in on becoming a hundred-million-dollar industry.

What makes the above figures even more significant is that the products containing New Zealand velvet in the retail markets of South Korea (and China) are fast heading towards a billion-dollar industry status. With the increasing volumes, New Zealand exporters worked hard to ensure they found a home for their product and importantly, to keep prices at similar levels to what was achieved in the early part of the season.

And there is some great work going on in Korea,

especially in the health food sector. The hero brands (particularly KGC's Cheon Nok) continue to grow and the boundaries of how velvet is consumed are constantly challenged.

Innovation is infectious

The transition of New Zealand velvet from traditional medicine ingredient to celebrated ingredient in sophisticated health food products has been amazing. And the methods of consuming New Zealand velvet haven't stopped there. You can now go into one of the most sophisticated cafes in Seoul, order your organic eggs and free-range bacon and complement it with a refreshing iced velvet tea!

Or perhaps you are going to a high-end cosmetics shop in Taipei or Shanghai. There is a chance that among famous brands such as, Chanel, L'Oréal, Estée Lauder, or Givenchy, you will find a well-respected Korean company prominently displayed. The interesting thing about this cosmetic brand (parent company is LG) is its purported use of New Zealand velvet in its luxury products.

Market and Velvet Update

By Scott Salonek, Elk Marketing Council

I hope this will help make the best profitability for your farm in today's markets. As many of you know, I have been very active in the meat and velvet markets for our industry for over 10 years. I believe that each producer needs to do what makes the best revenue possible for them.

Meat

Recently rail prices have come down for two reasons; NZ has increased the trim price and lowered the primal price. This has made it difficult to compete with primal sales for our products unless we match that pricing. Also the recent desire to put so many animals on the market has caused an over-supply issue. The first is the main reason.

Hard Antler

Though this market is a true market, we have a better revenue market in velvet antler. I will say that no freezer needs are required with hard antler. I will also add the loss of a bull before getting this cut and the fact that the revenue income is 40-50% less than velvet makes this market in my opinion, less attractive.

Hard Antler Bulls

This market has been very good as of late, though we need to be careful not to over produce here as this will make us compete with each other on these sales and drive prices down. I believe we are better off having a shorter supply of hard antler bulls, thus holding the pricing up. I don't see a big change here on bulls under the 400 inch mark.

Velvet

First I do not have firm pricing, but have spoken with my buyer. We will be buying antler and Lee would prefer to buy 40,000-50,000 pounds versus 30,000 pounds. This keeps our buyer interested and keeps the hard antler bull market higher.

I want to add a comment about overgrown and competition antler overgrown. If calcification score is judged as overgrown, it should be graded as such. Pointed hard third tines with a 3-4 Y at the top will be graded.

Lee has not committed on price yet and our trade wars are creating issues with Chinese money value compared to U.S. money. Because of this, you should expect the same or AT WORST, 5-10% lower pricing. I am saying this to help you make financial choices. But even with a \$1-\$3 hit, it is better than \$15 hard antler or losing a bull before getting him cut. I spoke with my buyer as of 5 pm Memorial Day.

A Message from Brian Wagner:

Its velvet time again. As always we look forward to your business.

When it comes to velvet, do what you have done the past few years. No big changes will be good, also do what works best for your farm.

I'm still cutting my 2, 3 and 4 year olds. I just cut the first bulls on Tuesday. Also keep cutting quality antler as you've done in the past. Thanks.

Velvet Buyer Contact Information:

Scott Salonek (612) 850-8684

Scott Groen (320) 979-0911

Brian Wagner (612) 366-5078

In Memory

Many longtime MnEBA members will remember Lucille Michel and the passion she and her husband Dale, had for the elk industry. Lucille passed away this past April. Blessed be her memory.

Lucille Ann Michel

August 15, 1933 – April 26, 2019



The funeral service for Lucille Michel was at 11:00 on Wednesday May 1, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 222 6th Avenue SW, Rochester with Pastor Nathaniel Schwartz officiating. Burial was in Dale Pleasant Prairie Cemetery in rural Zumbro Falls.

Lucille Ann Michel, 85, of rural Rochester, passed away early Friday morning, April 26, 2019 at Green Prairie Rehabilitation Center in Plainview. She was born August 15, 1933 in Rochester to Merle and Evelyn (Fick) Atkinson. She attended rural Wabasha County Schools, and graduated from Rochester High School in 1951. While attending school she served as a nanny in Rochester. On March 6, 1954, she married Dale Michel at Trinity Lutheran Church in Rochester.

Lucille worked as a bookkeeper for Singer Sewing Company, and at First National Bank in Rochester. She also loved to bake and made many wedding cakes, and cakes for all occasions. She also was known for the best Lemon Bars, Pies, Cinnamon Rolls and Breads, and delicious Red Raspberry Jam. Lucille also helped her husband Dale farm for many years in rural Rochester, where they also raised Elk. They were founding members of the North American Elk Breeders Association (NAEBA). Lucille was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Rochester.

Lucille is survived by her loving husband of 65 years, Dale Michel of Rochester; son, Dean (Alicia) Michel of Zumbro Falls; daughters, Laurie (Dan) Christopherson of Oronoco, Lynne (Mike) Thompson and Lisa Michel (Mark Weimer) both of Rochester; daughter-in-law, Kaye Michel of Rochester; 8 grandchildren, Sumer (Dustin), Cody (fiancée Katie), Brett (friend Kaitlin), Austen, Alex, Dominic, Ben, and Madeline, 3 step-grandchildren, and a great-grandson, and a step-great-granddaughter; sisters, Janice (George) Gilbert of St. Charles, Shirley Nibbe of Lake City, and Connie Atkinson of Rochester; brothers, Colin (Alice) Atkinson of Lake City, and Curtis (Deb) Atkinson of Zumbro Falls. She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother Glenn, a son Dana, and a sister Sharon.

Memorials are preferred to Trinity Lutheran Church in Rochester.

Elk Bull Needed for 2019 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt

MnEBA is seeking an elk bull for the 2019 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt to be held at Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch in Baudette, MN likely in October. Looking for someone to donate a bull, or to provide funding in any amount to help purchase a bull.

Looking for a minimum 6x6 bull measuring 300"-350".

This elk hunt will be awarded to a disabled Minnesota veteran of the United States armed forces. This will mark the 13th anniversary of this annual MnEBA sponsored hunt!

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

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

Please contact the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 or info@mneba.org to request an application or to help in any way!

2020 MnEBA Gun Calendar Raffle

Six Sponsorships Are Still Available!

Many thanks to all MnEBA members who have stepped up to sponsor a month in the 2020 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. This year's sponsors to date include: Paul & Lynn Hueg, Brian Wagner, Lance & Brenda Hartkopf, Perry & Sandy Olson, Kraig & Jenny Wurst and Mark & Lisa Luedtke. SIX spots are still OPEN! If you would be willing to sponsor a month in the calendar, please contact the MnEBA Office as soon as possible!



Same great incentives to sell calendars this year! For each group of ten calendars sold by any one person, the seller's name goes in the hat for a special gun drawing outside of the raffle calendar. Stubs and money for all ten tickets must be turned in by December 31, 2019 to be eligible for the drawing. Sellers can be entered multiple times for each group of 10 calendars sold. The free membership incentive for 30 calendars sold with stubs and money turned in by December 31st will also continue. With 26 guns and six \$100 Bonus Cash days, there are many great chances to win!

Four years of sell outs! MnEBA has sold out of gun raffle calendars each of the past four years! We have moved from printing 750 to 800 calendars this year so we will need everyone take part to continue the sell-out tradition!

Calendars will be available at this year's summer picnic on July 20th in Winona. They will also be available at the NAEBA Convention in Topeka, KS. Calendars can also be sent via the office or by contacting a board member. Let's make the 2020 calendar another sell out! Please contact the MnEBA Office with any questions or comments at 320-543-2686 or info@mneba.org.





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August 22 – Labor Day September 2

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

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

Last year broke an all-time record for state fair attendance and the MnEBA booth sold more dog chews than ever before, along with strong meat sales. MnEBA is excited to one again have the opportunity to introduce fairgoers to the world of farming elk and showcase the great products we produce!!

MnEBA is already gearing up for the 2019 Minnesota State Fair by updating the information panels to a more modern look with lots of great pictures of Minnesota elk!

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

If you've never worked the booth or don't know what's involved, arrangements can be made to pair you up with other volunteers. Feel free to bring friends or other relatives to help out. Some members have had friends/relatives who have helped in the booth for many years!

Please contact Greg Lubinski at (507) 273-0525 to sign up for any of the open shifts below. Contact Paul Hueg at (612) 791-0443 with any comments or suggestions for this year's booth display and let's make it another great year at the State Fair!



Date	Time	Workers	Date	Time	Workers
Pre-Fair		Set Up – Paul Hueg, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst	8/28	8 – 2	Luedtke Family
8/22	8 - 2	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf		2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	OPEN	8/29	8 – 2	OPEN
8/23	8 – 2	Aase Family		2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	OPEN	8/30	8 – 2	OPEN
8/24	8 – 2	Perry Olson		2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	OPEN	8/31	8 – 2	OPEN
8/25	8 – 2	OPEN		2 – 9	Turek Family
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/1	8 – 2	OPEN
8/26	8 – 2	OPEN		2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	Ken & Carol Mudek, Greg Lubinski	9/2	8 – 2	Greg & Roxy Lubinski
8/27	8 – 2	Damon & Duane Melquist		2 – 9	Paul & Lynn Hueg
	2 – 9	Luedtke Family			

Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

While all the discussion about CWD these days can be discouraging, there is actually quite a lot of CWD research taking place. More and more research groups are studying various aspects of CWD and we hope to learn a lot more about the disease in the not-to-distant future. There is some work being done on determining if there are different strains of CWD which could be very interesting. We are also hopeful of the work being done at the University of Minnesota which could advance the progress of a CWD live animal test.

In the meantime, the Elk Research Foundation also has a number of projects being worked on. A couple of the more recent projects include:

PROJECT 1901 – Elk Scientific Literature Database

The Elk Research Foundation (ERF) has announced plans for the creation of a comprehensive online database of scientific literature relating to elk health studies.

The database, which aims to collect hundreds of articles to be sorted by subject, is modeled off the successful work completed by the National Bison Foundation, which completed a catalog of bison literature.

The ERF is working with Dr. Murray Woodbury at the University of Saskatchewan to help guide the project, which is projected to be completed in Spring 2019. Dr. Woodbury is a DVM and currently serves as the Associate Professor and Research Chair for the Specialized Livestock Research and Production Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan.

"The Elk Research Foundation is proudly a one-stop shop for scientific information about elk. Information is power and it best serves our industry to have it in a place where interested stakeholders can find it," ERF Executive Director Travis Lowe said.

At a recent ERF Board meeting, Dr. Woodbury informed the foundation about the extensive collection of literature on elk and elk farming on the way that will be available to them using free software downloaded from the web. The project should be finished by the middle of April.



PROJECT 1903 – Elk DNA Genomic Sequencing Collection Analysis

The Elk Research Foundation is starting Phase Two in the quest of learning more about elk sequencing technologies. The ERF is working with Dr. Chris Seabury of Texas A&M University, who has developed DNA technologies on white-tailed and mule deer already.

In early 2019, the ERF finished Project 1902, which began work with Dr. Seabury on how DNA sequencing can provide a pathway to the development of a reference genome and/or DNA technologies similar to those developed for other deer and livestock species. There are several steps to take place in the process, but collecting elk DNA samples was the first targeted goal. By March, over 400 hair samples were collected on farmed elk from different regions across the continent. Hair samples are normally utilized for parentage, but in this case, will be used for DNA sequencing, with the primary objective being the development of DNA technologies for elk.

At the recent ERF Board of Trustees meeting, Dr. Chris Seabury discussed next steps. "We have enough samples collected, so we can begin work on fragmenting and sequencing the DNA," Seabury told the Board. "Once that is accomplished, we can move on from there."

The elk samples are being released to Dr. Seabury. He is anxious to begin his analysis.

**29th Annual North American Elk Breeder's Association
ANNUAL CONVENTION & INTERNATIONAL ANTLER COMPETITION**

August 1-3, 2019 ~ Capitol Plaza Hotel ~ 1717 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, KS 66612

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

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

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

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

Sign up by **June 1st** to be included in the convention program.

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

Contact Person _____ Ph# _____ E-mail _____
 Badge Name(s) _____
 Description of Products/Services _____

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

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

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

Convention Sponsorships - NAEBA is implementing a new sponsorship structure this year. Please see details below. All sponsorships generate revenue which allows NAEBA to operate throughout the coming year. Please consider becoming a valued NAEBA sponsor or donor.

Non-Monetary Donations for Live or Silent Auction – Item/Description: _____

Yes, I want to support NAEBA as a convention sponsor! Please sign me up for the _____ level sponsorship package!

- Diamond Sponsorship** \$3,500 Notation at event & publication, listed on E-blasts for half year, complimentary Monarch booth, & 4 event passes.
- Platinum Sponsorship** \$2,500 Notation at event & publication, listed on E-blasts for half year, complimentary Monarch booth, & 2 event passes.
- Gold Sponsorship** \$1,000 Notation at event & publication, listed on E-blasts for half year, choice complimentary Monarch booth or 1 event pass.
- Silver Sponsorship** \$500 Notation at event & publication, listed on E-blasts for half year.
- Bronze Sponsorship** \$250 Notation at event & publication.
- Patron Sponsorship** \$100 Notation at event & publication.

Hotel Information – Capitol Plaza Hotel (785) 431-7200. Identify yourself as part of the North American Elk Breeders Annual Conference to receive the group rate of \$91/night ~ Thursday/Friday/Saturday ~ Room block deadline – **Wednesday, July 17, 2019**

Payment – US Funds

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

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

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

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



NAEBA's 29th Annual Conference & International Antler Competition

August 1-3, 2019 ~ Capitol Plaza Hotel ~ Topeka, Kansas
 1717 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, KS 66612; Reservations (785) 431-7200

Tentative Schedule

Thursday, August 1

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

4:15 – 5:00 pm

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

PANEL SEMNAR: Lowe Stress Elk Handling - *Brian Wagner, Eric Mohlman & Bill Mayes*
 Cash Bar Opens
 Evening Banquet
 NAEBA's Fun Auction
 Hospitality Suite

Friday, August 2

8:00 am – 6:00 pm Antler Judging
 Tradeshow
 Silent Auction
 Elk Meat Products Entry
 Photo Contest Entry & Voting
 Board Election Ballots Due
 8:15 am Continental Breakfast
 8:15 – 9:15 am Welcome to Kansas – *KEDA President Jesse Seltmann*
 9:00 – 9:10 am General Membership Meeting
 9:10 – 10:00 am Morning Break
 10:00 – 10:30 am Regional Meetings:
 10:30 – 11:30 am Central, North Central, Northeast, Northern, Southern, Western
 Provided Lunch
 11:45 am – 1:00 pm LUNCH KEY NOTE: Elk Research Foundation Project Updates - *Travis Lowe, ERF Director*
 12:30 – 1:00 pm SEMINAR: Purity Testing Elk – *Travis Lowe, NAEBA Executive Director*
 1:00 – 1:30 pm SEMINAR: Parasite Prevention – *Ken Waldrup, DVM, PhD*
 1:30 – 2:15 pm SEMINAR: Getting to Know your Pasture and Soil - *Walter Fick, PhD, Kansas State University*
 2:15 – 2:45 pm Afternoon Break
 2:45 – 3:30 pm SEMINAR: The Use of Anthelmintics in Elk & Other Cervids – *Ken Waldrup, DVM, PhD*
 3:30 – 4:15 pm

9:45 – 10:30 am
 10:30 – 11:00 am
 10:30 am – 3:00 pm
 11:00 – 11:45 am
 11:45 am – 1:15 pm
 1:15 – 3:00 pm
 3:00 – 3:45 pm
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 9:15 pm

NAEBA Board of Directors Meeting
 Tradeshow
 Photo Contest Continues
 Silent Auction Continues
 Continental Breakfast
 SEMINAR: Elk Operation Business Forecasting - *Ian Thorleifson, Hot Sun Elk Ranch*
 SEMINAR: NAEBA Registration and DNA 101– *Travis Lowe, NAEBA Executive Director*
 Morning Break
 Animal Registration Answer Booth – *Tena Martin, NAEBA Staff*
 Hard Antler Competition Viewing & People's Choice Awards Voting
 Provided Lunch
 Velvet Antler Competition Viewing & People's Choice Awards Voting; Photos of Velvet Winners
 Afternoon Break
 Elk Meat Contest, Photo Contest & Silent Auction Ends
 SEMINAR: Getting Started in Elk Ranching - *Mark Luedtke, Luckyland Elk*
 Photos of Hard Antler Winners
 Cash Bar Opens
 Evening Banquet
 Announce Winners of Photo & Meat Contests, NAEBA Awards & Premier Breeder Awards
 NAEBA Benefit Semen Auction
 NAEBA Elk Marketplace Sale
 Closing Remarks
 Competition Antler Check-Out & Exhibitor Tear Down
 Hospitality Suite

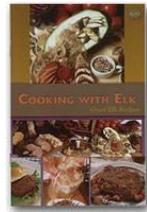
MnEBA Promotional Materials

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

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

MEAT PROMOTIONS

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



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

3rd Edition "Cooking With Elk" Cookbook

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

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

VELVET PROMOTIONS



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

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

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

GENERAL INFORMATION



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

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

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

HOME DÉCOR

Price includes shipping & handling.



Elk Rug (Small) \$27.50 each

Elk Rug (Large) \$40 each

MNELK / MINNESOTA GROWN BOX

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

Designed to hold 30 lbs.

\$1 each



Committee Reports

Outdoor News Deer & Turkey Classic

Thank you to all who took the time to help out at the Outdoor News Deer & Turkey Classic this past March! The weather wasn't the greatest, but interest at the booth was still good from those who stopped by. Even with all the CWD and farmed cervidae discussions at the State Capitol and in the media, the MnEBA booth generated a lot of positive discussion and support for the industry. It was a great opportunity to share our story.

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

2019 MnEBA Scholarship Update



It was announced in the March newsletter that the 2019 MnEBA Scholarship Application was now available with a deadline to apply of May 15th.

No one requested an application form so there will not be a scholarship given this year.

2020 MnEBA Annual Conference

The 2020 MnEBA Annual Conference will be held in a new metro location next year! Mark your calendars for the weekend of January 10-11, 2020 at the Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West in Plymouth, Minnesota. The location is just up the road from this year's conference, about 5 miles farther north just off I-494.

New this year! With this location, the hotel is offering a free hot breakfast buffet for two each morning for anyone staying at the hotel the previous night. This breakfast buffet is amazing!!

There is sure to be a lot of discussion about the changes to the farmed cervidae program as a result of the recent legislative session as well as other timely topics for discussion. You will want to make plans to attend!!



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	Eileen Byrne (507) 358-3063 Rita Prodzinski (507) 452-1282
State Fair	Greg & Roxy Lubinski (507) 534-3247 Paul Hueg (612) 791-0443

Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

9086 Keats Avenue SW
Howard Lake, MN 55349

PHONE:
320-543-2686

FAX:
320-543-2983

E-MAIL:
info@mneba.org

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

Calendar of Events

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

August 22 – September 2, 2019 – Minnesota State Fair, St. Paul, MN

January 10-11, 2020 - MnEBA Annual Conference, Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West, Plymouth, MN

Classified Ads

Wanted: Any and all meat animals. Offering competitive prices. Contact Chad Lawler, Hidden Island Elk Ranch at 701-595-1644 or lawler.chad@gmail.com.

For Sale: High-quality King semen, limited quantities available. Contact Chad Lawler, Hidden Island Elk Ranch at 701-595-1644 or lawler.chad@gmail.com.

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

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

MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

9086 Keats Avenue SW
Howard Lake, MN 55349