

NAELK Presents:  
**YOUTH PERSPECTIVE**

**LIFE** on the Elk Farm

By Hannah Luedtke, Luckyland Elk Farm

I'm Hannah Luedtke from Bowlus, Minnesota and I live on the Luckyland Elk Farm. I live on the farm with my dad Mark, my mom Lisa, and my younger sister Hailie. My dad started the farm in 2003 with 11 bred cows and now we have around 190 head!

Just a couple years ago I started to get really interested in doing stuff on

time of year; they can be a little frisky. Usually during the summer when we get done with the outside chores we go inside and look at genetics and other paperwork. I like doing the outside work and also the paperwork inside. I think the outside work is more fun though.

During the summer, one of my favorite parts is going to the NAEBA Convention and Antler Competition. I enjoy talking to other farmers with my dad about the elk. It is also fun to talk to the other kids like me. At NAEBA I also enjoy seeing all of the antler in the competitions, including our own antler.

Another thing I enjoy doing during the summer is being able to work at the Minnesota Elk Breeders booth at the state fair. Usually we do one night shift and one morning shift. I really enjoy talking to people about elk and informing them about the different parts of raising elk.

During the winter I am very busy with school and sports, but on the weekends when I have time I try to do chores with dad. Sometimes the



Hannah with her dad Mark at her first elk event.

days I get to go out during the winter are very cold and snowy.

Sometime soon I am hoping that my dad will maybe give me a calf so that I can start having my own animals. Right now, I am thinking of maybe taking over the farm when I get older, but that might change later on.

Living on the farm is very fun but hard sometimes. It is much different from my friends. They don't really understand what it is like on the farm. I am very happy and lucky though that I get to live on an elk farm. It is very fun to be able to see and hear them from our front yard.



Hannah helping with chores.

the farm. When I was younger I would usually ask to go see the calves during the summer and occasionally I would go with my dad to do chores. During chores I would drive the ranger while dad put grain in the feed bins.

Now during the summer, I help with chores whenever I have the time to. During breeding season, it is also fun to help choose the bulls that we get to use for breeding. Sometimes I also help when we are cutting the velvet antler and hard antler off. The hard antler can get a little scary with the bulls that



Hannah and her sister Hailie experiencing life on the farm.