



Special Interest Articles:

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President's Message by Jim Byrne



Greetings All,

'Tis the season of gratitude. A time to reflect on those aspects of our life that bring meaning to us and for which we should be ever thankful. My thoughts are focused on the relationships I have formed over the twenty-five years I've been associated with this industry. It's the people who make up this industry that I am most grateful for. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this industry. You are some of the finest people I've ever had the privilege of knowing.

I would like to remind everyone the holiday festivities won't end January 2nd. Just one week into the New Year we will be having our Annual Conference at the Crowne Plaza Mpls West in Plymouth, MN. January 11, 2020. Mark it on the calendar. This conference includes discussions concerning marketing your farm, activities at the State Capitol, and an update from the Board of Animal Health.

Two director positions will be voted on at this meeting. The term for Brian Wagner will be ending with the January board meeting. We thank Brian for his commitment to the association. And I will have to step down from the board, in compliance with the By-Laws. They state that only members owning elk may serve on the board. It's been fantastic serving you. Thank you for your confidence and support. It's been a privilege to be a board member for these last seventeen years.

Now it's time to start thinking of nominations for these openings on the board. It's the willingness of members to participate, support, and commit to the association that makes the MnEBA the finest and strongest association in the country.

May the Lord bless you.
Jim

Make Plans to Attend! **2020 MnEBA Annual Conference** January 10-11, 2020

Crowne Plaza Mpls West Hotel

3131 Campus Drive ~ Plymouth, MN 55441

Room Rates \$99 ~ (763) 599-6600 (Room Block Expires Dec. 20, 2019)

Annual Meeting ~ Informational Seminars ~ Evening Banquet

Meet your lobbyist, BAH and Live CWD test update, EHD and Marketing make for an extremely informative event!! You won't want to miss it!!

*THE REGISTRATION FORM AND SCHEDULE ARE INCLUDED
IN THIS MAILING!*

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

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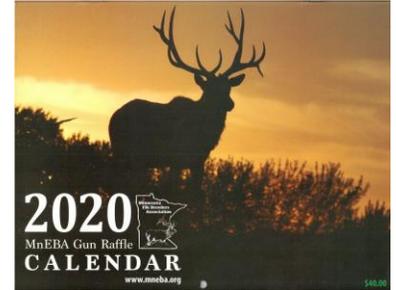
Executive Secretary to the Board

Brenda Hartkopf
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2020 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar Important Deadlines

Return Stubs and Money by December 31st to be Eligible for Special Gun Drawing and a FREE 2020 Membership

It's time to complete calendar sales as **December 31st** is the day members become eligible for great incentives when selling calendars! A free MnEBA membership for selling 30 or more calendars and returning stubs and money before December 31st is being offered once again this year and in addition, for every 10 calendars sold with stubs and money being returned before December 31st, your name goes into a drawing to win a Winchester SXP 12Ga Pump Camo/Cerakote (Limited Edition) shotgun. The more calendars you sell, the more chances to win! **To be eligible, make sure to get your calendar stubs and money turned in before December 31st!**



There are currently 600 calendars in the hands of members to sell, with just 63 stubs returned so far. We have sold out four years in a row and went up to printing 800 calendars this year (50 more than in previous years) hoping to raise additional funds. We will need everyone helping to sell calendars to meet that goal. Even if you don't have very many opportunities to sell calendars, pick one up for yourself or family and friends, they make great Christmas presents!! **Please contact the office to order more calendars if you can sell them.**

The drawing date is **Saturday, January 11th** during the MnEBA Annual Conference at the Crowne Plaza Mpls. West Hotel in Plymouth. All stubs, payments and unused calendars must be turned in by that time.

Thank you to all who are participating! These sales are what allow MnEBA to continue doing great marketing and charitable activities while also protecting the operating capital needed to keep activities going at the State Capitol to help defend the industry from overreaching regulations. Your efforts are sincerely appreciated!

MnEBA

Mission Statement

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



Board Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting Minutes November 8, 2019

The Board of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held a meeting on Friday November 8th at the home of Lance and 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 11:35 a.m.

The June 5th board meeting minutes were reviewed. Wagner moved to accept the minutes as written, Wurst seconded, motion carried. The treasurer's report was tabled until later in the meeting when the budget would be reviewed in detail.

OLD BUSINESS

Hartkopf reviewed financials from sales at the recent State Fair booth. Total sales of all products sold were \$16,334, over \$2,700 more dollars in sales than in 2018. Hartkopf noted donations from Greg & Roxy Lubinski (whole animal for sausage), Paul & Lynn Hueg (\$300 to go towards processing the sausage) and various donors of hard antler to offset cost of dog chews (\$954 collected in total). No new recommendations were made for next year's state fair booth.

Luedtke submitted a detailed report on the recent USAHA convention he attended on behalf of MnEBA. He reported this year's conference revolved primarily around African Swine Fever and Foot and Mouth Disease. There was however one resolution submitted by wildlife affecting cervidae: *The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to evaluate the utility of real-time quaking induced conversion (RT-QulC) as an official test for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). If this CWD test demonstrates acceptable sensitivity and specificity, we urge USDA to approve the assay to be used by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory and National Animal Health Laboratory Network approved veterinary diagnostic labs. We encourage USDA-APHIS to work with the United States Department of the Interior United States Geological Survey to determine an appropriate source of recombinant prion protein for use in RT-QulC assays that will be provided to approved NAHLN labs at a minimum cost.* Wagner moved to accept the report and issue Luedtke reimbursement, Lubinski seconded, motion carried.

Hartkopf reported there are currently 577 calendars in circulation with 31 stubs returned which is typical of this time of year. Three 2019 winners have chosen the Cash Option to date and returned an AR and both pistols. Board decision was to hold the pistols and to place both on the 2021 gun raffle calendar. The AR has already been placed on the 2020 gun raffle calendar.

Hartkopf submitted a press release from the recent November 1st MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt for Board review and approval. This year's hunter, a disabled Vietnam veteran, was nominated by Tony Beckel. Hartkopf recognized the donors for this year's hunt which included Tony Beckel for the facility and guide service, Lance Hartkopf donation of funds to purchase a bull and Paul Hueg for providing the bull and transporting the bull to Baudette. Because the hunter was local to the Lake of the Woods area, funds were not needed for travel, but an evening meal and meat processing was funded by the SCI Lake Superior Chapter.

Byrne and Hartkopf gave an update on the CWD Informational Day hosted by the University of Minnesota on September 14th at the Bell Museum. MnEBA had a booth at this event which was manned by Hartkopf and Byrne. They reported an estimated 60 people in attendance. As MnEBA was also a sponsor of the event, the Association received good exposure both during and after the event.

NEW BUSINESS

Board reviewed the financials at length. It was noted the association is starting to see the cost savings from some of the expenditure cuts made to this year's budget. There was good benefit from the donations of hard antler to help fund the state fair dog chew expense and it was noted there were personal donations of \$500 from Greg Lubinski, \$1,125 from Brian Wagner and \$2,000 from NAEBA to help fund the extra costs of the lobbyist this year. Byrne made the recommendation that MnEBA grant a one year honorary membership to Dr. Paul Anderson. Wagner made that motion which was seconded by Lubinski and carried unanimously. Wagner made the motion to accept the treasurer's report as written, Luedtke seconded, motion carried.

Byrne reported that he, Brenda, Dr. Anderson and Tony Kwilas attended a recent legislative update on CWD and EHD at the State Capitol. The meeting unexpectedly became largely about the Adopt-a-Dumpster program and how the waste management company they had purchase orders with suddenly cancelled the purchase orders because they were concerned about prion contamination. It was reported by Dr. Peter Larson of the University of Minnesota that they have spent a lot of time and effort on public education as well as continuing work on a viable field test for CWD. He also reported the Vet Med lab will now have RT-QuIC testing capabilities by November 19th in an effort to improve that testing method for CWD.

Hartkopf reported that Ag Commissioner Thom Petersen reached out to MnEBA to see how breeders were doing and if there was anything he could do to help. They spoke of now allowing the new legislation some time to work before any new language would be forthcoming, frustration with double gating and also with the increased fees driving out many breeders. He expressed an interest in checking in from time to time. He also mentioned his visit to see MnEBA member Dennis Engebretson's elk farm earlier this summer.

Byrne spoke about Dr. Anderson reaching out to MnEBA about wanting to get more involved with the industry and his desire to help. After board discussion, Byrne to reach out to Dr. Anderson with some ideas.

Hartkopf reported that she has reached out to the Vice President of the Farm Bureau to discuss elk issues and is waiting for a time that will work to get together with their legislative liaison.

Luedtke reported that he is still waiting to hear back from NAEBA/ACA on the question of the legality of forcing a cervid farm to depopulate without indemnity. He will forward more information as it becomes available.

Board discussed a request from the Board of Animal Health to begin an elk mentorship program with breeders who were non-compliant, needed assistance with husbandry or fencing issues or have a newly registered herd in Minnesota. They went through a draft of potential responsibilities. The decision was

made to not seek to be a part of a formal mentorship program, but the Association would act as a resource for information as needed.

Hartkopf and Wagner updated the Board on discussion points from the last Cervidae Task Force meeting in which ideas for keeping producers in business who find themselves in a CWD endemic zone were discussed. Board offered opinion on each point which MnEBA's representatives will carry into the discussion at the next meeting.

Board discussed ideas for speakers for the upcoming annual conference. Hartkopf to request MN Grown funding to help cover hotel/honorarium for speakers. Decision was made to purchase two guns for fundraising and discussed other ideas for auction items.

Byrne notified the board that he will soon sell the last of his animals and once that occurs, he is planning to submit his resignation in writing because MnEBA By-Laws do not allow someone who doesn't own elk to hold an office. This would take effect after Old Business of the next scheduled board meeting after the 2020 MnEBA Conference. There is one year left on his term to fill which would then be up for election at the upcoming conference. The term for Brian Wagner also ends in 2020.

Hartkopf discussed a suggestion from the Elk Marketing Council to have the Association sell elk bones at the 2020 State Fair. The suggestion was appreciated, but after discussion, was declined.

Hartkopf reported five new members in the past few months. Will delay their membership until January 1, 2020 to allow them a full year of membership before renewing dues.

The next board meeting was tentatively scheduled as a conference call for 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 17th.

Wurst moved to adjourn, Wagner seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary



NEWS RELEASE: Wednesday November 7, 2019

Contact: Brenda Hartkopf, Minnesota Elk Breeders Association, 320-543-2686

Minnesota Vietnam Veteran Harvests Bull Elk

Minnesota Elk Breeders Association (MnEBA), November 7, 2019 – On November 1, 2019, the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association (MnEBA) was able to provide a special experience for a Vietnam veteran, something that he had never done before – hunting a majestic bull elk. SP.5 Darryl Vacura of Lake of the Woods was the 2019 recipient of the 13th Annual MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt which took place at Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch near Baudette, MN.

A Minneapolis native, SP.5 Vacura entered the United States Army in March of 1968. He was trained as an Army medic then went on to serve in Vietnam from May 1969 through April 1970 as a combat medic in the 23rd Infantry Division working off Hawk Hill. SP.5 Vacura served longer than the usual six months in the field, serving nine months in total. He became a decorated serviceman receiving numerous decorations and badges including a Silver Star Combat Medic Badge. His unit also received the Presidential Unit Citation Award. SP.5 Vacura was honorably discharged in March of 1971.

Vacura continued in the medical field working with kidney patients for eight years. As time had gone on, his years in service caught up with him as he was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Upon working through his PTSD issues at the VA hospital, he began also working there, helping other veterans with their health needs. After eight years of working in the VA system, he decided to seek woods and water and moved up to Lake of the Woods where he worked as a Charter Captain for 40 years, retiring only recently.

Being newly retired, when the opportunity to hunt a bull elk was presented to him, he took the chance and made plans to be a part of the upcoming hunt. In the meantime, tragedy struck as his grandson passed away suddenly. Vacura taught his grandson how to hunt and they hunted together often. He didn't know how he could go through with the hunt being so deep in grief, however, with the help of good friends, he was able to make the decision to move forward with the remarkable opportunity in front of him. After the hunt, he felt relief and was glad he did it. "It was very good, I sure appreciate it," said Vacura. He is now looking forward to filling his freezer with elk meat which should be back from the processor later this week.

MnEBA would like to thank everyone who generously supported this year's hunt including Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch, Lake Superior Chapter of Safari Club International (SCI), Splendor Ridge Elk Farm and Sunset Elk Ranch.

MnEBA offers our heartfelt thanks, support and gratitude to SP.5 Vacura and to all United States military men and women for their dedication and service to our country.



SP.5 Darryl Vacura



REMINDERS

Redundant Gating

An additional fencing requirement for gates was passed in the 2019 legislative session and is now law. All entry areas for farmed cervid enclosures must have two redundant gates by **December 1, 2019**. The Board's criteria for a redundant gate is an entry area to farmed cervid enclosures used to regularly feed, manage or handle farmed cervids. The outside gate must always remain secured when not in use. Redundant gates applied to the outside of the enclosure must also meet the requirements of a perimeter fence (at least 96" in height). Redundant gates will be inspected annually after December 1, 2019.

Fencing

Farmed cervidae must be confined in a manner designed to prevent escape. Perimeter fences must be at least 96" in height and be constructed and maintained in a way that prevents escape of farmed cervidae or entry by wild cervidae. Additional fencing requirements passed in the 2019 legislative session are now law. They include: 1) only high tensile wire can be used for perimeter fence construction or repairing existing perimeter fences, 2) fence deficiencies found on inspection must be repaired within 45 days, 3) the deficiency must be re-inspected within 3 months and the owner must pay a re-inspection fee of 1/2 the annual inspection fee for each re-inspection.

Calf Inventory

If all newborns from the year were not included on your annual inventory, then a separate calf inventory must be submitted by **January 31st** for all animals born the previous year (farmed cervid owners should have recently received this). A newborn animal must be officially identified before **December 31st** of the year in which the animal is born, or before movement from the premises, whichever occurs first.

Payment for CWD Testing of Farmed Cervids

Starting January 1, 2020, the Board of Animal Health will only pay for testing of farmed cervids by sample collectors that are authorized by the Board or are working toward authorization. The Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory will have a list of authorized CWD sample collectors from the Board. If you are not on the list of authorized collectors, the lab will require you to pay for the samples before they are processed.

The Board believes improved CWD surveillance is critical for the farmed cervid program, and will continue to support only those sample collectors that have invested the additional effort and time to become authorized and agree to follow the requirements for authorization. In 2019, the Board implemented the CWD Sample Collector authorization program to improve CWD surveillance in Minnesota farmed cervids and respond to a recommendation from a farmed cervid program audit by the legislature to 'develop an approval program for producers that wish to collect their own CWD test samples.'

CWD sample collector training

If you still need classroom training to become authorized by the Board, another classroom training is set for December 14 at 9 a.m. at the Hutchinson Event Center in Hutchinson, Minnesota. Please RSVP to the Farmed Cervid group at 651-201-6804 so we can get a head count. The Board is also considering scheduling another classroom training in early 2020.

***** Annual Inspection Fees are Due January 1, 2020 *****

EHD in Minnesota

Over the early fall months, there were various reports of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) reported in both farmed and wild deer. This DNR press release gives a good wrap up of where EHD was found in Minnesota this year. The good news is that with the first frost, the midges that pass EHD along were no longer active so the threat of infection is gone for 2019.

MnEBA is having a seminar on EHD from an expert at Florida State University at the upcoming MnEBA Annual Conference. Make plans to attend to learn more about this disease we all need to be aware of.



DNR Finds Wild Deer Infected with EHD in Southeastern Minnesota

September 23, 2019

Tests initiated by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources have confirmed that a wild deer near Caledonia in southeastern Minnesota's Houston County died from epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD), a viral infection to which members of the deer family are susceptible.

Although not confirmed, EHD is suspected in the death of other nearby deer.

Houston County is the second county where wild deer have contracted EHD. Earlier this month, the disease was confirmed in four wild deer in the St. Stephens area of Stearns County. Additional deer in a three-square mile area in that county are suspected to have died from the virus.

"The DNR will continue to monitor the situation in these counties, sampling suspect deer as opportunities arise," said Michelle Carstensen, DNR wildlife health program group leader. "Sampling of multiple deer deaths may become necessary if the disease appears to be in more areas."

Previously, the Board of Animal Health (BAH) confirmed that two farmed deer near Rushford in Houston County died from EHD.

People who find multiple dead deer should report them to the nearest DNR area wildlife office. Cervid farmers should contact their veterinarian if they're concerned about EHD and their herd.

EHD can dramatically reduce a local deer population in the short-term but has a relatively small impact on the overall deer population.

Even though Minnesota has avoided the disease in wild deer until this year, EHD is common in the

Midwest. Wisconsin, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan and Ohio report EHD mortalities almost every year.

"EHD has circulated in the southern United States for decades and outbreaks in deer there are typically mild," Carstensen said. "Movement of the EHD virus to the northern United States, where there is little history of previous exposure, can result in severe outbreaks with high localized mortality."

There is no intervention available to combat the disease.

The first known instance of EHD-infected deer in Minnesota occurred in October 2018, when BAH testing confirmed it in six captive deer in Goodhue County.

EHD is a viral disease, which is spread by a biting insect called a midge. The disease is not a threat to humans or animals outside the deer family. Even so, people should not consume deer that appear to be sick or in poor health.

The disease is seasonal and most often occurs during drought-like conditions during the late summer and early fall. Frost will kill the virus and midge that carries it, ending the potential infection period.

A female midge, commonly called a no-seeum, picks up the virus when it bites an infected host and transmits the virus by biting another host. The disease cannot be transmitted deer-to-deer and does not remain on the landscape.

More information about EHD in wild deer is available on the DNR website at www.dnr.state.mn.us.



DNR Targets CWD by Expanding Hunting, Limiting Deer-to-Deer Contact

2019 season regulations designed to control disease for long-term health of Minnesota's wild deer

September 27, 2019 - Minnesota is taking a three-pronged approach to limit the spread of chronic wasting disease and keep Minnesota's wild deer population healthy.

"Whether you're someone who just likes seeing white-tailed deer or a hunter who looks forward to enjoying venison for dinner, many Minnesotans share the desire for a healthy deer population," said Lou Cornicelli, wildlife research manager for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "The management actions we've built into this fall's deer hunting regulations are critical for protecting deer now and preserving this resource for future generations."

First, the DNR is expanding hunting opportunities and bag limits in areas where CWD has been found in wild deer. Harvesting more deer will reduce the possibility of additional disease spread because there will be fewer deer in lower densities.

The second prong is a deer feeding and attractant ban that affects 18 counties in southeastern and north central Minnesota and a continued feeding ban in six central Minnesota counties. These restrictions will reduce the potential for close contact between deer. Shared food allows direct deer-to-deer contact. Diseased deer also can contaminate the food even if they are not present when healthy deer come to eat.

Limiting movement of deer carcasses is the third aspect of the DNR's approach to managing CWD. These measures restrict movement of deer harvested near locations where other hunters have harvested CWD-positive deer. Hunters in southeast and north central Minnesota should be aware of carcass movement restrictions. Details of these restrictions are available online at mndnr.gov/deerimports. The restrictions also do not allow whole carcasses of any deer, elk, moose or caribou harvested outside Minnesota to be brought into Minnesota.

"Our deer hunters are integral to our disease management efforts," said Barbara Keller, DNR's big game program leader. "We recognize that these new regulations add another level of planning to deer camp preparation, and we are working to give hunters the information and other resources needed to comply with restrictions. CWD is still a relatively rare disease in our state, and we aim to keep it that way."

Details about how the DNR manages CWD can be found in its CWD response plan available on the DNR web site at www.mndnr.gov.

More information

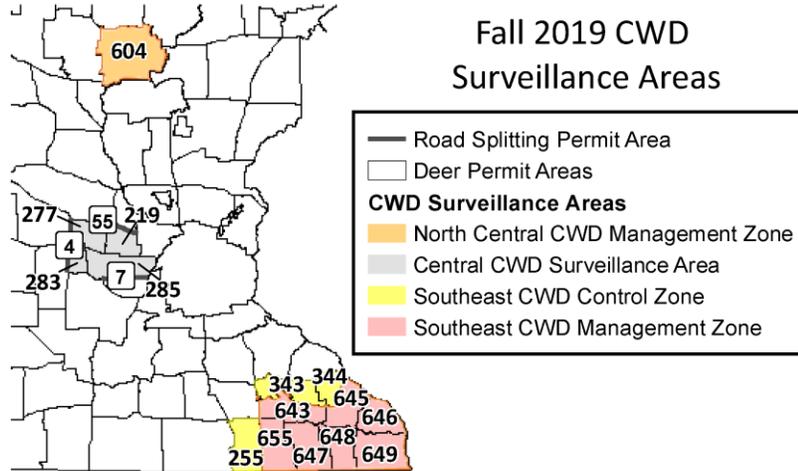
For more information on chronic wasting disease, the DNR's continued efforts to manage the disease and how you can help, visit mndnr.gov/cwd. Hunters should refer to 2019 Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations, available online at mndnr.gov/regulations/hunting and wherever licenses are sold.

Fall 2019 CWD Surveillance Areas

The DNR has designated the North Central and Southeast Management Zones, and the Central Surveillance Area as locations where CWD sampling is mandatory during the 2019 hunting season. See specific locations below.

Monitoring Test Results

Monitor results from the 2019 testing areas as they become available by going to www.mndnr.gov/cwdcheck.



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Board Blog by Kraig Wurst, MnEBA Director



Hello, and Merry Christmas to everybody! I hope you have had a great fall, and winter is treating you well. Everything has been going great here. Unlike many areas, harvest went very smooth, and the yields were good. Jenny and I celebrated our 10 year wedding anniversary. The greatest ten years of her life! Well, I assume that because when I brought it up, she rolled her eyes like she always does when she agrees with me. The kids are doing well. The two oldest are in school now and the littlest (3 years old) manages to talk her way into helping with chores more times than not. We are also expecting a new baby boy around the first of the year!

The convention is coming up fast. I hope all of you will be able to attend. We went over the list of speakers at the last board meeting and I think this will be one of the most informative and interesting conventions we have had! One of the highlights will be hearing from current NAEBA President Bill Mayes. His outlook on the elk industry will be refreshing, and I look forward to meeting him.

As I am writing, deer hunting is in full swing in my area. With the Preston endemic area a short drive from here, I have been thinking of what I will do if a CWD positive shows up near my farm. I think it is something everybody should put a little thought into because we just don't know where the next case will show up in the wild. We have all talked about the options in general in our newsletter and at our conferences but I know I have just thought about it on my own farm in passing. When a case is found, the farmers in the endemic area have 180 days to come up with a solution whether it be double/exclusive fencing, riding out the movement restrictions, or selling out. I have an idea in my head of what I will do if I end up in that situation, and I hope to have a plan on paper by the time this comes out with a few more details on fencing, supplies and cost so I know what steps to take when the 180 days start counting down.

As has been stated earlier in this newsletter, we are losing our President. No, he is not dying. It's worse! He is getting rid of his elk! On the bright side he will have more time to come over and help me with my elk. Jim has been on the board longer than my fingers can count. He has been president the whole time I have been on the board and has done an excellent job. I have not met a person more dedicated to MnEBA. The hours Jim has put into this association and elk farming in general are amazing, but Jim has never been the type to count hours. Every time something has come up at the Capitol or a booth has needed workers, Jim has been there without complaint. I am glad to hear he will still remain part of our association. His knowledge and experience are great assets and more importantly his company is always a pleasure. I consider myself lucky to call Jim a friend. Thank you for everything you have done!

I hope to see everybody at the convention. May you find your waterers open and your cows not.

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Bill & Karen Knutson
Home of Spring Coulee Elk

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Thank you for your support!

MnEBA Kitchen

Here's a deliciously easy homemade soup that you can make from start to finish in 45 minutes or put in the crockpot on high for 3-4 hours for a more blended flavor.



Simple Taco Soup

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2 lbs. ground elk | 1 can (15 oz.) pinto beans, rinsed and drained |
| 1 envelope taco seasoning | 1 can (28 oz.) stewed tomatoes |
| 1 1/2 cups water | 1 can (4 oz.) green chilies, optional |
| 1 can (16 oz.) mild chili beans, undrained | 1 envelope ranch salad dressing mix |
| 1 can 15-1/4 oz.) whole kernel corn, drained | |

DIRECTIONS

In a soup pot, cook ground elk over medium heat until no longer pink. Add taco seasoning and mix well. Stir in the remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer uncovered for 15 minutes or until heated through, stirring occasionally.

Do you have a favorite elk recipe? Please send a copy of the recipe to the MnEBA office so we can share it with others! Thanks!!

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www.ADMAnimalNutrition.com/wildlife

Vet Corner by Glen Zearth, DVM

USAHA Update

By Laurie Seale, *Whitetails of Wisconsin*

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) annual conference continues to be the most important meeting to attend. This is where the rules and regulations governing agricultural industries are formulated through resolutions approved by the membership of USAHA. The committee meetings held during the conference are informative and extremely important, but it's what happens outside the formal committee meetings after hours where we have the best opportunity to influence the people who regulate our industry.

I have been attending USAHA since 2004 and this is the first year I can remember that our industry did not put forth any resolutions. TB and Brucellosis issues are on hold until APHIS puts forth the new rules for those two diseases (*see TB and Brucellosis update on the next page for more information*). Chronic Wasting Disease continues to be a major topic of discussion at USAHA, but we have put forth numerous resolutions in past years that have covered all of our issues.

The Farmed Cervid Committee had some very good speakers and topics this year. Dr. Samantha Wisely, University of Florida, updated us on the work they are doing in Florida regarding EHD. The Florida legislature has allocated over \$2 million per year for EHD research. Hats off to the Florida legislature for seeing the need for this very valuable research and for being proactive on a disease that kills so many deer every year. Dr. Wisely and her team are challenging the different EHD vaccines at several Florida farms and the vaccine developed by Medgene Labs is currently showing the most promise for resistance.

Dr. Tracy Nichols, USDA/APHIS, gave an update on cervid health regarding CWD, TB and Brucellosis and Dr. Justin Greenlee, ARS, presented research regarding the different CWD strains. So much more research is needed in this area. Dr. Scott Wells, University of Minnesota, has been working with the Minnesota Board of Animal Health to develop a survey to assess the CWD biosecurity protocols on our farms. The ultimate goal is to help determine how CWD is getting into our farms, especially those that are double fenced and have closed herds. More information is definitely needed in this area.

Dr. Nicholas Haley finished off the Farmed Cervid Committee meeting with his research on CWD resistance. He discussed the pen study he designed to challenge the CWD resistant genes. Resistance could be the ultimate solution to CWD that we desperately need to get the monkey off the deer industry's back. We were so hoping to start this research here in Wisconsin this fall, but were unable to get the funding that was needed due to Wisconsin's Democrat Governor, Tony Evans, who vetoed the \$100,000 that the Republican legislators allocated for the project (Democrat legislators voted against the funding). This statement is not intended to drag politics into the picture, but it's important for people to know the correct facts. This disease is more about politics than it is about deer dying of CWD! I personally am so tired of the wildlife agencies and hunting groups using CWD as an excuse to get rid of our industry. They have ramped up their efforts now that they know we may have a possible solution. As my husband has always said, "Once they get rid of our industry, you will never hear another word about CWD."



Left to right: Sam Holley, NADeFA; Terry Klick, Whitetail Deer Farmers of Ohio; Shawn Schafer, NADeFA; Dick Winters, Second Ark Foundation; Charly Seale, EWA; Laurie Seale, WOW; Tim Condict, DBC; Darryl Simon, Reindeer Breeders Association; Patrick Tarlton, TDA; Mark Luedtke, Minnesota Elk Breeders; Travis Lowe, NAEBA

The Committee on Wildlife and Captive Wildlife included a few speakers on CWD. Bob Ditmar gave an update on the CWD ante mortem testing Texas has been doing. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) gave a report again this year depicting additional Best Management Practices (BMP). Last year, they unveiled their BMP which includes no movement of live cervids. Their BMP is designed to put the cervid industry out of business.

The most interesting topic in the Wildlife Committee was an update on the CWD ecology changes in the elk at the Rocky Mountain National Park. They have been studying the elk herd for many, many years. Their research includes genotyping all the elk when they handle them and have found that the LL elk, which are the most CWD resistant, are on the rise. The CWD infection rate has also dropped from 13% to 7%. That's nearly a 50% decrease in the infection rate and despite these facts, the speaker said they did not see a correlation! Dickie Winters (gotta love Dickie) challenged her on those statements and ended the conversation by saying, "Looks like Mother Nature is doing her job!"

Please take the time to thank the individuals who continue to attend this very important meeting year after year to insure that our interests are represented and that our industry is protected against over regulation.

TB and Brucellosis Update

By Laurie Seale, Whitetails of Wisconsin

Shawn Schafer, Travis Lowe and I have been involved in the new TB and Brucellosis rule making process. Due to the fact that the cervid industry has not experienced Brucellosis in our herds, USDA APHIS does not intend to include the cervid industry in the new Brucellosis rule at this time. Without a federal rule for cervids, this means it will be up to each state to regulate or deregulate their Brucellosis importation rules.

Two years ago, the American Cervid Alliance presented a resolution at the United States Animal Health Association meeting (USAHA) to eliminate all Brucellosis testing. The resolution was unanimously passed, but unfortunately it has been a slow process to get the job done. I think many state vets were waiting to see what USDA APHIS was going to do with the cervid industry in the new rule.

Travis Lowe has been diligently working on this project since that resolution was passed and has already convinced six states to drop their importation requirements. Those states include Indiana, Texas, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Colorado, and Minnesota (MN did not previously require Brucellosis testing). Kansas, Idaho, and Iowa are currently in the process of changing their rules. Travis and I spoke to several more state vets at this year's USAHA conference about eliminating their importation requirements including Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Ohio, North Dakota and Illinois (IL currently does not require Brucellosis for whitetail deer, only elk). All stated they would take the message back to their team and consider changing their importation rules, but some of them expressed their concerns of not having any surveillance in place. Something we may have to

consider is testing a small percentage of our herds when we conduct our whole herd TB testing. Wouldn't it be great if we no longer had to conduct whole herd testing for Brucellosis? Stay tuned for more states to join in the elimination of their Brucellosis rules!

As for TB, USDA APHIS is considering listing cervids as TB free, but that doesn't mean we will be able to eliminate TB testing of our animals for interstate movement. Dr. Alecia Nagel has stated we will still need to provide some surveillance due to not having enough surveillance at slaughter. We have proposed a couple of different options. One is to increase our testing intervals for TB reaccreditation from every three years to every five or six years. USDA APHIS has been very supportive of this proposal. We continue to state that we do not have TB in our herds and therefore, we need to have some form of testing relief. I personally think we are going to see this change in the new rule.

The second option for testing relief would be if the new rule would eliminate the whole herd testing requirement and only require individual testing of the animals moving interstate. Last year's resolution requested USDA APHIS to evaluate the TB blood test for individual animal testing. The resolution was brought up again for discussion at this year's meeting. The TB subcommittee openly stated they will be considering this during the new rule making process. If individual testing were to be approved, it would give us the testing relief we so desperately need. The two rules are not expected to be released until 2020 and as always, we will keep you posted on their progress.

Chronic Wasting Disease Transmission to Minnesota and Wisconsin Cervid Farms

Chronic Wasting Disease Transmission to Minnesota and Wisconsin Cervid Farms (June 18, 2019)
By Scott Wells and James Kincheloe, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota

1. Characterizing Risk of Chronic Wasting Disease Transmission Exposures

University of Minnesota researchers conducted a study funded by the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) to evaluate means by which cervid (deer, elk, and other deer family species) farms are exposed to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and identify ways to reduce transmission risks. CWD, the transmissible spongiform encephalopathy of cervids, is thought to be caused by a malformed prion protein that causes brain cells to die. The disease threatens the health of both wild and farmed cervids. There is no treatment or vaccine for CWD; all animals on farms found to be infected are either destroyed or placed in long-term quarantine with on-going surveillance, resulting in severe economic losses to herd owners. More CWD information can be found at:

- USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS):
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information>
- Minnesota BAH: <https://www.bah.state.mn.us/deer-elk/>
- Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP):
https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/AnimalDiseases.aspx

The researchers first identified potential exposures of CWD to farmed cervids, based on review of published scientific literature. These included **direct contact with infected live animals**, including farmed or wild cervids, and **indirect contact with infected animals** through cervid parts (brought to farms from hunting or taxidermy practices), shared equipment, feed and water, or contaminated feces from animal scavengers. The next step was to classify potential exposures for CWD transmission into categories of higher known risk, lower (or unknown) risk, or negligible risk (Table 1), based on current state of understanding of these risks.

Table 1: Risk of CWD transmission exposures to cervid farms

Potential exposures	Higher Known Risk	Lower (or Unknown) Risk	Negligible Risk
1. Direct contacts with infected cervids			
• Introduction of farmed cervids	<i>From farm later found to be CWD-positive</i>	<i>From farms with no CWD-positive animals in the 5 years before detection</i>	<i>No introductions in the 5 years before detection</i>
• Contact with wild cervids from farm location <50 miles from CWD-positive wild cervid	<i>Farm cervid escapes/re-entry or wild cervid entry</i>	<i>Single perimeter fencing</i>	<i>Double perimeter fencing or not <50 miles from positive cervid</i>
2. Indirect contacts with infected cervids			
• Introduction of cervid parts (hunting, taxidermy)	<i>From <50 miles from CWD-pos wild cervids</i>	<i>From other areas</i>	<i>No introductions</i>
• Sharing equipment, contaminated feed or water, scavengers	<i>With CWD-positive farms</i>	<i>From location >50 miles from CWD-positive wild cervids</i>	<i>No indirect contacts</i>

Chronic Wasting Disease Transmission to Minnesota and Wisconsin Cervid Farms (October 21, 2019)
James Kincheloe and Scott Wells, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota

2. CWD in Minnesota and Wisconsin Cervid Farms

Through collaboration with the Minnesota BAH and the Wisconsin DATCP, the research team next reviewed records from the 34 CWD-positive cervid farms in Minnesota and Wisconsin detected from 2002 to January 2019 to evaluate their potential exposures to CWD. While the total number of cervid farms in each state is similar, there are several differences between the states, including a larger region in Wisconsin with detected CWD-positive wild cervids as well as differences in CWD regulatory programs between the states.

Key findings from the review of the CWD-positive farms in Minnesota and Wisconsin:

- Of the 34 CWD-positive farms, 26 farms were located in Wisconsin, compared to 8 in Minnesota.
- 21 (62%) of the 34 CWD-positive farms tested positive since 2012, representing an increase in the rate of detection of new positive farms from previous years.
- Most of the recently detected farms (since 2012) were located in Wisconsin (17 farms). 15 of these recently detected farms had exclusively white-tailed deer, 2 had exclusively elk (both in Wisconsin), and 4 had mixed inventories or other species.
- **Most CWD-positive cervid farms since 2019 were located within 50 miles of known CWD-positive wild deer.** CWD has been detected in wild deer in or within 10 miles of 42 of 72 Wisconsin counties (<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/regulations.html>), compared to only a few counties in Minnesota to date (<https://www.bah.state.mn.us/deer-elk>).

3. Risk of CWD Transmission Exposures to Minnesota and Wisconsin Cervid Farms

Key findings from the review of the CWD-positive farms in Minnesota and Wisconsin:

Results from the record review are summarized on the next page (Figure 2) based on the categorization in Table 1. These data show:

- **56% of CWD-positive farms (n=19) experienced one or more known higher risk CWD exposures** (described in Table 1). Of these 19 farms, 63% (12) introduced cervids from another farm later detected with CWD, 42% (8) reported wild deer entered farm pens or farmed cervids escaped and re-entered in areas with CWD in wild deer, and 11% (2) reported exposure of the farm to cervid parts from areas with CWD in wild deer through hunting or taxidermy practices. Some farms reported multiple exposure pathways.
- **Notably, 44% of CWD-positive farms (n=15) did not have known higher-risk CWD exposures.** Seventy-two percent of the CWD positive herds detected since 2012 fell into this category, compared to only 16% of those detected prior, indicating potential changing farm exposures to CWD. Most of these 15 herds had added animals from herds without test-positive animals in the previous 5 years (80%), though some had no new additions (20%). Since current tests detect CWD only in dead animals, the potential exists for animals purchased from tested herds to have been unknowingly infected.
- **Most CWD-positive farms without known higher risk exposures were located within 50 miles of CWD-infected wild deer.** Of these 11 herds, 73% had single and 27% had double perimeter fencing to prevent direct contact with wildlife. CWD detection in herds despite fencing barriers and with no animal movements from other positive farms indicates the potential significance of indirect contact exposures in locations with infected wildlife, and the critical need for research to identify practices to minimize these risks.

Marketing Your Products

Reach new customers: Join Minnesota Grown!

Minnesota Grown is a great way to find new customers this coming year. The Minnesota Grown program - part of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture - is welcoming new farm members to join and be listed in their far-reaching, statewide directory. Each year, 150,000 copies reach individuals across the state and +375,000 directory readers visit the online directory.

Read more about becoming a member or apply online at minnesotagrown.com/members-retailers/about.

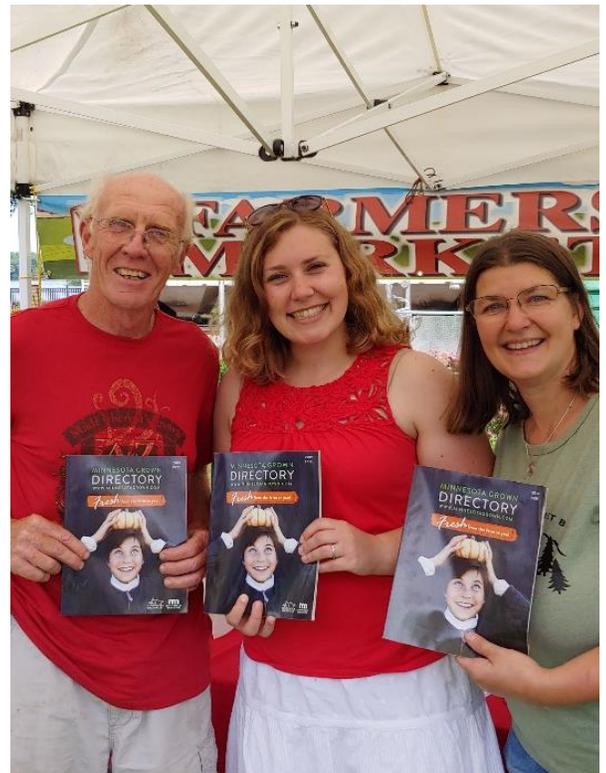
Top Reasons to Join Minnesota Grown:

1. **Find new customers.** The Minnesota Grown Directory has been printed annually since the 1980's continues to grow each year. Our new, mobile-friendly version of the website, helps customers find you even faster! A listing in this directory is an additional \$40 after purchasing the \$20 license to use the Minnesota Grown logo.
2. **Reimburse yourself.** When members add the Minnesota Grown logo on qualifying labels, packaging, or permanent signage, our Labeling/Signage [Cost Share Program](#) can cover 50% of the printing cost, up to \$200 per member per fiscal year!
3. **Order free marketing materials.** When your farm purchases the annual Minnesota Grown logo license, you can also order a variety of free [price cards, stickers, rubber bands, twist ties, and more](#) that are branded with the Minnesota Grown logo.
4. **Promoting you is our focus.** Member events, products, and news are featured on Minnesota Grown's social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram) as well as the website. Regional and statewide media are sent press releases about local foods and farms. We also conduct large-scale marketing campaigns highlighting buying local on television, billboards, and digital media.

No matter your potential customer, Minnesota Grown has resources to help you market your business. **Questions?** Contact Karen Lanthier – Minnesota Grown Member Services Coordinator – at karen.lanthier@state.mn.us or **651-201-6140**.



Label incorporating Minnesota Grown in design to qualify for reimbursement program (Credit: Pure Nature Honey)





NAEBA's 13th Annual February Fling Whitetail of Oklahoma's Association's 2020 Annual Conference January 31- February 1, 2020

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa
777 West Cherokee Street
Catoosa, OK 74015

Tentative Agenda- Featuring sessions for elk and deer owner attendees!

Friday, January 31

9:00 am	Registration & Exhibitor Set Up
8:00- 12:00 pm	NAEBA Board of Directors Meeting
12:00- 1:30 pm	Lunch on Own
1:30- 2:15 pm	SESSION: Assessing Elk Market Demand – <i>Speaker TBD</i>
2:15- 2:45 pm	SESSION: Elk Product Marketing- <i>Andy Azcarraga, AEPF Chairman</i>
3:00- 3:30 pm	Afternoon Break
3:30- 4:15 pm	SESSION: EHD Update- <i>Speaker TBD</i>
4:15- 5:00 pm	SESSION: Best Practices for Artificial Insemination of Whitetail Deer & Elk- <i>Luke Duckworth, Southern Veterinary Services</i>
5:00- 6:00 pm	Cash Bar & Social Networking
6:00- 7:00 pm	Dinner Served

Saturday, February 1

8:30 am	Registration
8:30- 9:30 am	Whitetails of Oklahoma Board Meeting
10:00- 10:45 am	Oklahoma Animal Health Update- <i>Dr. Justin Roach, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture</i>
10:45-11:15 am	Oklahoma Legislative Update- <i>Karel Brewster, WOO Lobbyist</i>
11:15- 11:45 am	NADeFA Update- <i>Shawn Schafer, NADeFA Executive Director</i>
12:00- 1:00 pm	Lunch Served
1:00- 1:30 pm	NAEBA Update- <i>Travis Lowe, NAEBA Executive Director</i>
1:30- 1:45 pm	Booth Vendor Showcase
2:00- 4:15 pm	Whitetails of Oklahoma Benefit Auction & NAEBA Benefit Auction- <i>Auctioneer services donated by Mayes Auction Service</i>
4:30- 5:30 pm	SESSION: CWD Resistance in Elk and Whitetail Deer – <i>Speaker TBD</i>
5:30- 6:15 pm	Cash Bar & Social Networking
6:15- 7:00 pm	Dinner Served
8:30 pm	Check Out & Exhibitor Tear Down

See all details at www.naelk.org!

Register online or mail in registration form by January 2nd to receive early bird rates!

Make plans to attend!

MnEBA Board Nominations Needed

The year 2020 brings with it one full board term to be replaced. However, this year is a little different in that Jim Byrne has recently sold the rest of his elk herd. The MnEBA By-Laws state that board members must own elk to hold an office on the board, so Jim has been forced to resign the rest of his term that goes through 2021. That means besides the (1) full term that is up for re-election, there is also a (1) year partial term available to fulfill Jim's remaining term. Both Brian and Jim have contributed a vast amount of time and talents to the Association, Jim in particular has served for 17 years! Please take a moment when you see them to thank them both for their time and efforts!

Board Terms

Jim Byrne, <i>President</i>	Term ends 2021
Mark Luedtke, <i>Vice President</i>	Term ends 2022
Brian Wagner, <i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Term ends 2020
Greg Lubinski, <i>Director</i>	Term ends 2021
Kraig Wurst, <i>Director</i>	Term ends 2022

Nominations for these open positions are now being accepted. If you know of anyone who would be a good candidate, or you as a member are willing to run, please contact the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 or info@mneba.org. Elections will be held during the MnEBA Annual Conference on January 11, 2020 at the Crowne Plaza Mpls. West in Plymouth, MN.

Elk Meat Products for Sale

MnEBA has just a few discounted meat items left over from the State Fair which would make great Christmas presents! They include:

- (17) 1 oz. Peppi elk meat sticks - \$1.50 each
- (30) 1 oz. Hickory Smoked elk meat sticks (1 caddy of 30) - \$1.50 each
- (56) 1 oz. Hickory Smoked jerky (includes 1 caddy of 30) - \$2.00 each
- (4) 6 oz. Hickory Smoked snack bites \$6.00 each

Please call or email the MnEBA Office to order elk snack items at 320-543-2686 or info@mneba.org before they are gone!

You're Invited!

Watch your mailbox in mid-December for an invitation to attend a free dinner and nutrition seminar hosted by **ADM Animal Nutrition** on January 10, 2020 at the Crowne Plaza Mpls. West Hotel in Plymouth (the night before the MnEBA Annual Conference).

Take advantage of this great opportunity to go into greater depth about elk nutrition while enjoying a free meal. Also, meet Lauren Kirchoff, ADM's newest representative handling elk & deer products in our region. Make sure to RSVP so Lauren can get an accurate meal count!

Your Fundraising Donations are Needed!

Please bring an item or two for the silent and/or live auctions for this year's conference fundraisers. Your donations help raise much needed funds to continue the important projects of the association and to protect our interests at the Minnesota State Capitol!

Could everyone bring at least one item? Any and all donations would be greatly appreciated!



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

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

January 31-February 1, 2020 – NAEBA February Fling, Hard Rock Hotel, Tulsa, OK

Classified Ads

For Sale: Fresh processed elk meat for sale; ground, roasts, steaks, summer sausage and snack sticks. Call or text 507-521-2389

For Sale: (4) bunk feeders, (2) self-feeders, 5"17' auger on wheels with electric motor and numerous other elk farming items. Contact Ray Smothers at 507-340-7119.

For Sale: Semen from Adonis, Pirhana, White Lightning and Ruger (son of Bullseye). Contact Jay Pronschinske at 507-458-7970.

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 2019 now! Visit our website at www.outbackMN.com.

MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

9086 Keats Avenue SW
Howard Lake, MN 55349

