



Special Interest Articles:

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- Vet Corner
- 2020 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar Sales Hit All-Time High
- 2020 MnEBA Summer Picnic

President's Message by Mark Luedtke



Hello everyone, I would like to start out this message with a huge heartfelt thank you to our long-time past President Jim Byrne for the services he has contributed to this association and his ongoing commitment by agreeing to chair the Government Relations Committee. Thank you Jim! I can already tell with my first attempt of the regular President's message that this will not be an easy task for me! But I will do my best!

The Legislative session has just begun, and it appears there will be numerous issues for us to face this year. It's way too early to identify how many bills will surface or which ones will gain traction, but please know the Association is paying close attention and will do all that we can. We will challenge what can be challenged thanks to Tony (our boots on the ground at the Capitol), an active dedicated Government Relations Committee, and dedicated board members.

Brenda and I attended a Cervid Task Force Meeting on Friday, February 21. There was much discussed and good dialogue on many different fronts but there was one particular issue I want to make all of you aware of. Dr. Glaser informed the group that the Board of Animal Health is intending to open up the Minnesota Board of Animal Health Rules through the formal process required by statute to be revised and added to as necessary to accommodate the changes to statute from last year's legislative session. This opening of the rules is being triggered by the recent cervidae legislation, but she indicated that the Board may also be making some less significant changes to rules related to other species as well. The exact scope and schedule is not resolved yet but the current hope by the Board will be to have this established early to mid-summer.

Enough of the boring and frustrating legal and regulatory stuff. I hope the rest of you are as excited as I am for the coming season of calves being born and antlers being grown! I certainly enjoy seeing the results of last fall's breeding efforts and a small part of me is excited to see who has a bull calf or who has a cow calf, but my favorite is seeing the antler growth and especially the 2 year old's. I will admit I get pretty excited about seeing all of my bulls grow antler no matter if it's in the velvet pen, the trophy pen, or the breeder bull pen, but seeing those 2 year old's grow that first real set of antlers is what tells you the most about your breeding program.

Hope you all have a great season and by all means give me a call if you have a question, comment, or just want to talk elk.

Mark



The Board's farewell to President Byrne

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

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2020 MnEBA Annual Conference Recap

Outstanding lineup of speakers!

The 2020 MnEBA Annual Conference took place January 11, 2020 at the Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West Hotel in Plymouth, MN. Seventy two people attended this year's event which featured six seminars, a successful auction and lots of good visiting with fellow producers.

Events began Friday evening as ADM Animal Nutrition hosted a complimentary dinner and nutrition seminar. Members were also introduced to our new ADM regional field representative, Lauren Kirchoff.

Saturday began with the membership meeting followed by MnEBA's lobbyist Tony Kwilas giving a preview of the upcoming session. He stayed for most of the afternoon giving members an opportunity to meet him in person and ask questions. Afternoon seminars included updates from the Board of Animal Health by Dr. Glaser as well as Dr. Peter Larsen from the University of Minnesota talking about the cutting edge research the university is doing to develop more rapid, improved testing diagnostics for CWD. Switching topics, NAEBA President Bill Mayes spoke to members about the importance of marketing your farm. Seminars concluded with Dr. Samantha Wisely from the University of Florida talking about EHD which is a top of mind issue these days with various cases this past fall affecting Minnesota wild and farmed cervidae. Thank you to all for sharing your time and expertise; everyone learned something new that day.

Board member elections were held for the expiring term of Brian Wagner and the remaining one year of term for Jim Byrne who had recently sold his elk and according the By-Laws, could no longer hold a board seat. Perry Olson was nominated from the floor to fill Jim's remaining term and Brian agreed to run again for the full term. Both were elected by unanimous ballot.

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

MnEBA's lobbyist Tony Kwilas was the recipient of one of two MnEBA Appreciation Awards for his outstanding work at the State Capitol on our behalf. Rita Prodzinski was the other very deserving recipient for chairing the annual conference committee and adding her special handmade touch to every conference.

Many thanks to Michelle Lucas for manning the gun raffle calendar table and registration desk for the majority of the day. It was very much appreciated!

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

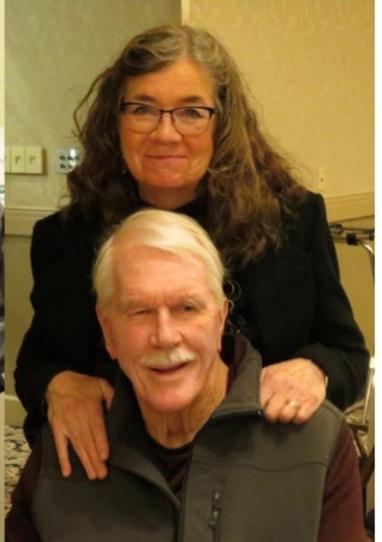
- **Morning and Afternoon Break Sponsor:** *Roger & Saichon Nietfeld*
- **Table and Candy Bar Decorations:** *Pat & Rita Prodzinski*
- **Saturday Night Hospitality:** *Brian Wagner & Tena Martin, Bill & Karen Knutson and Lance & Brenda Hartkopf (Thank you Tena for set up and clean up each night!)*

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

A final thank you to all who attended, made donations to the live and silent auctions, bid on fundraising items and helped in any way. Over \$7,300 was raised for all fundraising efforts combined. Thank you to all for making this a great conference!

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.



Membership Meeting Minutes

Membership Meeting Minutes January 11, 2020

The membership of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held their 2020 Annual Conference on January 11, 2020 at the Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West Hotel in Plymouth, MN. President Jim Byrne called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

President Byrne recognized and thanked all the sponsors and booth vendors who supported this year's event. He then called for additions or corrections to the July 20, 2019 secretary report. Mark Lucas moved to accept the report as written, Pat Prodzinski seconded, motion carried.

Brenda Hartkopf reviewed the treasurer's report by going down the list of income and expense and also pointed out some of the cost savings in budget cuts that were enacted in 2019. The December 31, 2019 checkbook balance was \$20,525.65. Scott Salonek moved to accept the treasurer's report, Greg Lubinski seconded, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Government Relations: Byrne reported that legislative bills relating to farmed cervidae and CWD were introduced the first week of session last year and expectations are that legislators will resurrect some of the bills again this year that did not pass last year. He also reported the deer breeders and elk breeders were not united in what they were wanting to happen legislatively. MnEBA had tried to schedule several meetings between both boards to try to get on the same page and create a united front on items that could be supported by both organizations, but dates/locations could never be agreed upon.

Byrne also announced that just yesterday, another CWD positive farmed whitetail was reported in a Pine County deer herd, the source herd of the CWD positive farmed whitetail in Douglas County. He also reported the Board of Animal Health is questioning a statute on licensing dealers who broker sales of farmed cervids. Licensing is required for most farmed animal species but has not been enforced for brokers of elk and deer. This inquiry came out of discussions associated with the current CWD investigation in Minnesota.

Hartkopf spoke about Dr. Thompson proposing a CWD Control Zone over the entire state of Minnesota, and restricting movement of farmed whitetail deer until the current CWD disease investigation was completed. This was not passed on the Board level,

but an emergency rule was recently enacted by the Minnesota DNR to prohibit movement of farmed whitetail deer for a period of 30 days. It has been reported that the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association (MDFA) is taking the DNR to court over this action, but few details are known at this time. MDFA has not approached MnEBA about these actions.

Fundraising Raffle: Hartkopf reported there were 551 gun raffle calendars sold by December 31, 2019. Brian Wagner was the high seller at the end of the year with 131 calendars sold, followed by Wade & Heike Schimmelpfennig at 72 and Pat Prodzinski and Greg Lubinski at 50 each. A drawing was held for the incentive gun drawing and Brian Wagner was the lucky winner. Hartkopf reported there were still calendars available to purchase if anyone had more buyers or needed calendar(s) for themselves. No one had any new suggestions for next year's calendar.

Promotions: Hartkopf reported the new State Fair panels turned out great and worked really well in the booth. She thanked Paul Hueg for creating a good way to display them. She also spoke about the booth MnEBA had at the University of Minnesota CWD educational event in September. It's also the time of year to renew MN Grown Membership and Directory advertising and she encouraged all to look at the MN Grown materials at the registration desk and to consider marketing their elk products through Minnesota Grown if not already doing so. She reported that MN Grown was a major sponsor of this year's MnEBA conference. Finally, she shared that vet students from the University of Minnesota are interested in helping to work elk (ie: helping during TB or Brucellosis testing, semen collection, worming/vaccinating, etc.). She asked that anyone interested let her know and she would forward contact information.

State Fair: Greg Lubinski reported the new promotional panels worked great this year and also that overall meat/antler chew sales were \$2,500 higher than the year before. He said the antler donation program to offset the cost of dog chews worked out really well with almost \$1,000 in antler donated by members. The plan is to do it again this year if Wapiti Labs is willing to trade donated hard antler for commercial dog chews once again. He had a sign-up sheet available for anyone who was willing to sign up for their State Fair shift at the conference.

NAEBA

NAEBA President Bill Mayes, who was a guest at this year's conference, spoke about NAEBA's membership growing, especially in the Northern region. He also invited all to attend the upcoming February Fling in Tulsa, OK later this month and also the summer convention in Colorado Springs, CO where NAEBA will celebrate its 30th anniversary. NAEBA is spending much effort on legislative battles in several states, including Minnesota, as well as elimination of Brucellosis testing requirements across the nation, one state at a time. Work also continues to move TB accreditation to once every five years instead of once every three years. Hartkopf reported the new purity test development continues to move forward and that the lab is nearing the validation phase of the project.

OLD BUSINESS

Hartkopf and Mark Luedtke gave an update on the Cervid Task Force. The first of two objectives, determining possible exclusionary fencing options, has been completed. Work is still being done on the second objective, finding ways to keep cervid farmers in business if they find themselves within 25 miles of a CWD positive whitetail in the wild. The Board of Animal Health is going to go through a new rule making process this year to make new rules for the new legislation that passed in 2019 and the committee will work on additional new rules to try to offer some relief for cervid breeders in endemic areas.

Hartkopf and Byrne reported on MnEBA's sponsorship and participation in the Spotlight on Science CWD Educational Event at the University of Minnesota this past September. MnEBA's part in this event has had long lasting benefits in being seen as part of the solution to the general public and legislators.

Tony Beckel spoke about the 2019 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt. The recipient was a Silver Star medic who was very thankful for the experience and loves the meat. Hartkopf asked members to think about any veterans they know who might enjoy this experience for the 2020 hunt and to forward any names to a Board member or the office.

Mark Luedtke reported on the 2019 USAHA Annual Meeting which he attended on behalf of MnEBA. There was only one resolution offered this year that affected the farmed cervid industry and it was offered by wildlife officials. The resolution was "to evaluate the utility of RT-QulC as an official test for CWD on retropharyngeal lymph nodes in whitetail deer." This resolution was supported by all impacted industries and was passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of officers was held to fill the open expiring term for Brian Wagner, and to complete one year of a remaining term for Jim Byrne who is no longer able to serve on the board. Jim no longer owns elk and MnEBA's By-Laws require that a member serving on the Board must own elk. Wagner indicated a willingness to run for another term. Wagner nominated Perry Olson to serve the remaining one year of Byrne's term. Nominations ceased and both were elected by unanimous ballot.

Byrne announced that MnEBA is looking for a Summer Meeting host farm for 2020 and that anyone interested should contact a Board member or the office.

No other new business was brought forth. Byrne made general announcements regarding the rest of the day and the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary



MnEBA 2019 Appreciation Awards

Given to Tony Kwilas, MnEBA lobbyist (left) and Rita Prodzinski, Annual Conference Chair (right)

Annual Conference Fundraisers a Success!

A Big Thank You to All Donors/Buyers!

Many thanks to everyone who donated and bid on items for this year's live and silent auctions! Over \$7,300 was raised through the auctions and fundraising games for MnEBA! Thanks to Brian Wagner for his assistance in finding special items for the auction. Thanks also to Bill Mayes for serving as auctioneer and to Kraig Wurst and Brian Wagner for their assistance in taking bids.

Item	Donor	Buyer
(10) Bags ADM 18% Complete Supplement x 2	Lauren Kirchoff/ADM Animal Nutrition	Wade Schimmelpfennig
Elk Notecards	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Bill Mayes
Elk Clock	MnEBA	Gary Smith
Vacation at Casa Madera Condo (6 days)	Don & Joyce Kaplan	Pat Prodzinski
Elk Keyholder	MnEBA	Roxy Lubinski
Elk Apron	MnEBA	Roxy Lubinski
(2) Straw Package Drago & Daniel x 3	Bill & Susan Mayes	Brian Wagner Mark Luedke Rodney Miller
(2) Straws Buyer's Choice of Luckyland Elk Bulls	Mark & Lisa Luedtke	Bill Mayes
(3) Straws SPR 352A Vision	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Darrell Turek
WCDEFA Membership	WCDEFA	Brenda Hartkopf
Red Ryder 80 th Anniversary BB Gun	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Greg Lubinski
Elk Flannel Sheets (King)	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Wade Schimmelpfennig
Elk Metal Art	MnEBA	Bill Knutson
Elk Wood Art	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Greg Lubinski
Elk Steak Branding Iron	Brian Wagner & Tena Martin	Kraig Wurst
Elk Gunnysack Throw Pillow	Brian Wagner & Tena Martin	Michelle Lucas
Elk Lodge Throw Blanket	MnEBA	Linda Campell
30 ct. Hickory Sticks	MnEBA	Lynn Hueg
30 ct. Kippered Jerky	MnEBA	Klint Wylie
26 ct Kippered Jerky in Jar	MnEBA	Michelle Lucas
17 ct. Chipotle Sticks in Jar	MnEBA	Rita Prodzinski
2 pkg. 6 oz. Hickory Bites x 2	MnEBA	Jim Byrne Lynn Hueg
1 pkg. 6 oz. Hickory Bites	MnEBA	Michelle Lucas
Elk Metal Art Welcome Sign	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Linda Campbell
Fishing Trip to Lake of the Woods	Tony & Patty Beckel	Kenny Arnzen
Bushnel 6x24mm Prime 1300 Laser Rangefinder	MnEBA	Paul Hartkopf
Camping Hammock	Mark & Michelle Lucas	Jim Byrne
Basket of Elk Velvet Capsules	Bill & Karen Knutson	Brian Wagner
Handmade Elk Quilt (green)	Darrell Turek & Sheila Krukowski	Linda Campbell
Handmade Elk Quilt (red)	Darrell Turek & Sheila Krukowski	Paul Hueg
Elk Beer Glass Chest Set	Mark & Michelle Lucas	Tena Martin
Elk Beer Pitcher	Mark & Michelle Lucas	Tena Martin
Barnwood Vanity Tray	Kraig & Jenny Wurst	Brenda Hartkopf
Set of Elk Candle Holders	Larry & Patty VanGundy	Paul Hueg
Petrified Wood Bowl	Larry & Patty VanGundy	Glen Zebarth
Cuddl Duds Blanket	Mark & Michelle Lucas	Lora Wylie
Barnwood 4-Pane Mirror	Kraig & Jenny Wurst	Karen Knutson
Petrified Fish	Larry & Patty VanGundy	Roger Nietfeld
Barnwood Serving Tray	Kraig & Jenny Wurst	Lora Wylie
Set of Two Handmade Elk Pillows	Wade & Heike Schimmelpfennig	Paul Hueg
Elk Whiskey Flask	Paul & Lynn Hueg	Tony Beckel
Elk Belt Buckle	John & Shirley Fredrickson	Paul Hueg

Item	Donor	Buyer
Remington R1100 Pump Air Rifle	Paul & Barbara Hartkopf	Klint Wylie
Winchester Rifle	Glen & Kaye Zearth	Glen Zearth
Barnwood Shelf	Kraig & Jenny Wurst	Mark Luedtke
Elk Lunch Bag	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Tena Martin
Browning Clipback Pocket Knife	MnEBA	Peter Larsen
Antler on Board	Brian Wagner & Tena Martin	Peter Larsen
Buck & Little Buck Mug Set	Brian Wagner & Tena Martin	Paul Hartkopf
Elk Puzzle	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Mark Lucas
Elk Hand Towel	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Linda Campbell
(2) 10 oz Elk Drinking Glasses x 2	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Peter Larsen Tony Kwilas
(2) Elk Pilsner Glasses	MnEBA	Peter Larsen
Elk Trivet	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Shirley Fredrickson
Elk Book	Mark & Michelle Lucas	Tena Martin
"Spring Hope" Elk Calf Sculpture	Jim & Eileen Byrne	Lauren Kirchoff
"The Wind River" Elk Sculpture	Jim & Eileen Byrne	Mindy Nelson
Stanley Vacuum Water Bottle	Lauren Kirchoff	Brenda Hartkopf
Stanley Beer Stein	Lauren Kirchoff	Tony Beckel
Ivomec Pour-On Applicator	Jim & Eileen Byrne	Kraig Wurst
(2) Elk Flannel Pillow Cases x 2	Jim & Eileen Byrne	Mindy Nelson Shirley Fredrickson
(2) Elk Handtowels	Pat & Rita Prodzinski	Tena Martin
Towel Boah	Pat & Rita Prodzinski	Brenda Hartkopf
Elk Camp Sign	John & Shirley Fredrickson	Peter Larsen
Elk Hot Pad	Morrie & Daphne Evenson	Michelle Lucas

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- Both products provide 18% protein and no more than 14% fiber; 18-4 provides 4% fat and 18-5 provides 5% fat
- 18-5 Breeder: Formulated specifically for the breeding herd; also provides natural-source vitamin E, B-complex vitamins, selenium yeast, and Antler D™*

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Board Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting Minutes February 16, 2020

The Board of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held a phone conference on Sunday February 16, 2020. Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst, Perry Olson and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Jim Byrne, Paul Anderson and Tony Kwilas were guests. Luedtke called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Luedtke asked Kwilas to give an update about news from the Capitol as the session officially began on February 11th. Kwilas reported that both the House and Senate will be having CWD Update hearings on Tuesday February 18th. There will be updates from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, DNR, BAH and University of Minnesota with no other testimony. Byrne, Anderson, Wagner and Hartkopf plan to attend. Hartkopf reported that the University of Minnesota is planning to make a big announcement.

When asked what he is hearing about potential cervid bills, Kwilas stated that most discussion is on adding members to the BAH Board of Directors. There are two House files to date which contain language changing the make-up of the Board overseeing BAH. Discussion showed support for HF3289, which adds a cervid and dairy producer which would increase the five person board to a seven person board. There was some discussion about also having a dog/cat breeder on the board; Anderson said that is a hot topic. However, it would be important to keep the number of board members to an odd number for voting purposes. Kwilas will check with the lobbyists of the beef, swine and poultry producers to see if they are aware of these specific bills.

Kwilas also explained that during this short session, the primary focus is on the tax, supplemental and bonding bills, with less emphasis on policy changes.

Byrne expressed concern over HF2972 which deals with potential decontamination procedures that would need to take place for a cervid facility that was closing or transferring to new ownership. Byrne pointed out there was no reason for an owner of a non-CWD facility to have to bear this burden. Anderson stated that BAH does not have jurisdiction over land issues. They can only restrict movement of animals onto land.

Kwilas reported the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association is having an information day at the Capitol on Thursday March 12th. No details are known about what this entails.

In the interest of making a more proactive move during the coming session, the board considered three recommendations that were suggested by a member. The Board could not come to alignment on any of the three recommendations. Board then discussed proposed language offered by Luedtke just prior to the meeting, *"DNR to establish science-based rules and regulations to be followed by all licensed practicing taxidermists in the handling and proper disposal of all taxidermy waste associated with CWD susceptible species and regularly monitor and inspect licensed taxidermists for compliance."* Board was in agreement with the language. Kwilas to take this concept to the Revisor to get language drafted and will also pass this language by legislators, BAH and DNR to see if there is support. Olson stated he would also like to see something that would force the DNR to spend more time and money on enforcement of hunter killed carcass movement. Kwilas then left the call.

Hartkopf shared concerns received from Wayne Lautsbaugh of Crescent Meats about the amount of time it's taking for CWD tests to come back from Minnesota elk and that the lengthy delay is a big risk to his business. Luedtke and Hartkopf to bring this issue to the next Cervid Task Force meeting on February 21st for more discussion of what can be done to recognize the faster Elisa test for surveillance purposes.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes January 29, 2020

The Board of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held a phone conference on Wednesday January 29, 2020. Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst, Perry Olson and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Byrne called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m.

Board reviewed secretary minutes from the November 8, December 13, December 18 and January 8 board meetings. Luedtke moved to accept all four reports, Wurst seconded, motion carried. The FY 2019 treasurer's report was approved at the last meeting. There was no treasurer's report for this meeting but rather, the 2020 budget would be set later in the meeting in which the financials would be

reviewed at length.

OLD BUSINESS

Hartkopf reported that 72 people attended the recent MnEBA conference, which is a similar number to the past few years. The fundraisers brought in similar overall income to last year. Byrne reported hearing positive comments about the speakers. Discussed going through the membership list at a future meeting and tracking which members are not attending the annual meeting and potentially contacting them.

Hartkopf reported there were 769 of 800 gun raffle calendars sold for the 2020 calendar. While it was not a sell-out, it was the most number of calendars that have ever been sold. Seven calendars were reported as lost. Eight members received complimentary memberships for returning stubs and money for 30 or more calendars by December 31st. These members included Pat Prodzinski, Greg Lubinski, Paul Hartkopf, Brian Wagner, Dennis Engebretson, Marlen Schmitz, Jerry Campbell and Wade Schimmelpfennig. Brian Wagner was the high seller at 136 calendars sold, Wade Schimmelpfennig at 99, Greg Lubinski at 86, Pat Prodzinski at 52, Marlen Schmitz with 43 and Paul Hartkopf with 41 sold.

Byrne and Hartkopf discussed what was talked about at the January 15th Board of Animal Health quarterly meeting. There was no discussion on the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association (MDFA) lawsuit against the DNR because of pending litigation. Further discussion was had by the MnEBA Board about frustration that no one is holding the DNR accountable for whole hunter killed carcasses that are still coming into Minnesota.

Tony Kwilas called in at 11:02 a.m. to discuss preliminary thoughts on the upcoming legislative session which begins on February 11th. There is discussion all the way up to the Governor's level about adding more members to the current 5-member board who oversees the Board of Animal Health. Discussed a cervid veterinarian being a good choice for an additional board member, and also the Commissioner of Agriculture. In order to keep the total board members to an odd number, MnEBA would support the addition of two members. Kwilas reported that Rep. Hanson will likely bring forward some of the same bills that did not pass last year. Kwilas plans to meet with Senator Ingebrigtsen next week to get his thoughts on the upcoming session.

Discussed getting Minnesota Farm Bureau and Farmer's Union more involved in cervid issues.

Hartkopf to work on scheduling a meeting between Minnesota Farm Bureau and MnEBA sometime soon. No one had any new information on the CWD investigation in Minnesota. It was reported that the temporary injunction the MDFA instituted against the DNR's stop movement order was denied on a technicality. No one knew any more details of the ongoing MDFA lawsuit.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of officers was held. Byrne thanked the Board for allowing him to be President and Legislative Chair for the past several years. He was proud of the professionalism displayed by the association. Wurst then nominated Luedtke for the position of President, Wagner seconded. Luedtke accepted the nomination with caution that family and farm will come first. Motion was carried. Luedtke then called for nominations for Vice President. Wagner moved to nominate Kraig Wurst, Olson seconded, motion carried. Luedtke then called for nominations for the Secretary/Treasurer position. Lubinski moved to nominate Wagner, Wurst seconded, motion carried.

Discussed the 2021 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. Board reviewed the most current Minnesota Rules for conducting raffles in Minnesota. There were no recommended changes to the 2021 calendar from the membership. The pistols from last year's raffle were not taken in lieu of the cash option. Those two pistols will go on the 2021 calendar. The gun dealer has also volunteered to sell MnEBA calendars at their store. They have not done that before so the hope is that more calendars will be sold in 2021.

Lubinski reported that both Jerry Campbell and Tony Beckel have offered to host the 2020 MnEBA Summer Meeting. Decision was made to contact Jerry Campbell and see if Saturday July 18th or Saturday July 25th would work for them? Lubinski to follow up.

Hartkopf reported receiving inquiries from several hotels about hosting the 2021 MnEBA Annual Conference. Hartkopf to provide board a list of potential locations at the next meeting.

The board then set the budget for 2020 by going through each income and expense item individually. Luedtke shared that he has been crunching membership numbers and has found that the rate of non-members getting out the industry far exceeds the number of members leaving the industry. He felt there was a strong correlation to being a MnEBA member and better longevity of an elk farm.

Luedtke also shared information learned from a recent ERF Subcommittee meeting where they talked about live animal testing that's being done in Texas and how Texas officials use protocols that involve live testing for intrastate movement. It was agreed that MnEBA should provide more information to legislators on the live animal testing options that are available, even though they are not yet deemed official tests by USDA APHIS. They are still tools to use if needed.

Board also discussed recent humic acid research that is showing promise in deactivating prions. More work needs to be done, but early results show promise.

Wurst moved to adjourn, Lubinski seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes January 8, 2020

The Board of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held a phone conference on Wednesday January 8, 2020. Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Byrne called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Board reviewed schedule for upcoming annual conference and selected times to begin various fundraisers.

Byrne updated the board on a recent discussion he had with Dr. Glaser about bringing along a "licensing" person to talk to the membership about obtaining a "Dealer's License" for those people who broker elk. Decision was made to ask Dr. Glaser to not bring her along, but that if the state feels the need to begin requiring licensing and bonding of farmed cervid haulers, the state can contact those individuals directly.

Hartkopf reported that \$2,250 was requested from Minnesota Grown to help fund the upcoming conference. A portion of the funding to be used for speaker expenses and the remaining for event space rental.

Hartkopf reported that she asked MnEBA's lobbyist which legislators to invite to the conference and she has since extended those invitations. Representative Poppe is the only one to respond to date that she regretfully cannot make it, but to extend her well wishes to the membership.

Discussed upcoming board vacancies and ideas for members who may have an interest in being on the board.

Hartkopf updated board on the number of gun raffle calendars sold by December 31st which was 551 in 2019 compared to 591 sold by December 31st in 2018.

Board reviewed FY 2019 financials. Luedtke moved to approve as written, Wurst seconded, motion carried.

Discussed a Star Tribune article stating that deer breeder Steve Porter is taking the DNR to court over the DNR emergency order to stop movement of farmed whitetail deer for 30 days. Some at the State Capitol have stated they don't think the DNR has the authority to implement such an order. No one on the call knew anything factual about any type of legal action the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association may be pursuing. They have not contacted MnEBA about it.

Byrne reported that as of today, CWD test results are still pending on four animals of key interest in the current Minnesota CWD investigation.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes December 18, 2019

The Board of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held a phone conference on Wednesday December 18 at 1 p.m. Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Brian Wagner was absent. Byrne called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Luedtke and Hartkopf relayed discussions from the December 13th Minnesota Cervid Task Force meeting which included discussions about pushing for more rectal biopsy testing for CWD affected herds, forming new rules, endemic zones, debt collection and compliance.

Hartkopf reported BAH is still waiting for results on some of the more important trace-outs pertaining to the Douglas County positive. She also reported that Dr. Thompson had a meeting at the Governor's office last Friday and again a phone conference yesterday. They want to "do something" but Thompson says BAH can't do anything except what the board passed

last week. In the meantime, she is checking with other states to see if they will allow cervid movement once a “control zone” is issued and released. Oklahoma did this last spring.

Dr. Thompson and Dr. Glaser both say this will be a difficult legislative session for the farmed cervid industry in light of having another CWD positive in farmed whitetail deer and potentially more to come through trace-outs.

Board reviewed the agenda for the upcoming Annual Conference and also selected award recipients. Discussed fundraising ideas and also which legislators to invite. Hartkopf to ask Tony for his recommendations. Also discussed contacting members individually about running for the board. Board members to ask around to solicit members willing to serve on the board.

Hartkopf reported we still have 85 unsold calendars left in the office. As of 12/17, stubs and money have been returned for 99 calendars versus 178 by this time last year. We will be putting on the big push to return calendar stubs and money these last two weeks before the end of the calendar year.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes December 13, 2019

The Board of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held a phone conference on Friday December 13 at 8 a.m. Jim Byrne, Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Dr. Paul Anderson was on as a guest. Byrne called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Hartkopf described discussions and actions taken at a recent quarterly meeting of the Board of Animal Health in relation to the finding of a CWD positive farmed whitetail doe in Douglas County. Dr. Anderson went on to furthermore explain the background to establishing Control Zones. While designed for new, unusual diseases, it was not meant for already established programs.

There was frustration that when we find a CWD positive, it is too late. And also that the investigations take too long. Real time testing is needed.

Hartkopf shared that Dr. Thompson is asking the industry to think outside the box for what can be done. Everyone from the DNR to legislators to the Governor are putting intense pressure to “do something”. After discussion, was decided to ask two questions:

1. Can more resources be allocated to help speed up the investigation(s)?
2. Can BAH utilize whole herd rectal biopsy testing on herds in quarantine or trace out herds to establish if there is CWD infection presently, instead of waiting until slaughter or the animals dying of natural causes? This would speed up the process to clean up infected herds and lessen the time of infectivity to the environment. This could be considered on a herd by herd basis.

Hartkopf, Luedtke and Wagner to discuss at Cervidae Task Force meeting taking place at 1:00 p.m. later today. Byrne and Hartkopf to discuss with Dr. Thompson.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

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Farmed Cervidae Program

February 2020

PROGRAM NUMBERS:

Total Herds:

304

Total Animals
in Those Herds:

8,427

Species Breakdown of Animals:

Species	Total Animals	Number of Herds*
White-Tailed Deer	4,527	209
Elk	3,492	95
Red Deer	162	8
Reindeer	88	10
Fallow Deer	76	12
Muntjac	34	8
Sika Deer	32	6
Moose	5	1
Pere David's Deer	5	1
Caribou	3	2
Mule Deer	3	1

*The total number of herds in this table does not match the number of cervid herds listed on the left. As some herds may have more than one species of cervid in their herd, a herd may be represented more than once in the "Number of Herds" column.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE TESTING (2019 SURVEILLANCE)

2,172 Farmed Cervids Tested

- 2,143 CWD Not Detected
- 20 Other (location, unsuitable or untestable)
- 9 positive

HERD CANCELLATIONS

Eight herds were cancelled in 2019: five herds were depopulated, one herd signed a compliance agreement, and two herds are pending outcome.





News Release

For immediate release: December 10, 2019

Contact: Erin Crider

CWD confirmed in small Douglas County farm deer herd

Saint Paul, Minn. - The Minnesota Board of Animal Health confirms an 8-year-old white-tailed doe tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD) after its white-tailed buck pen-mate killed it in a small, two-deer, hobbyist herd in Douglas County. The USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratory confirmed the doe's brain and lymph node tissues were positive for the disease. The site is under quarantine, and this is the first time CWD has been confirmed in Douglas County.

"We're conducting a full and thorough investigation of herd history and animal movements to determine any likely routes of CWD transmission in the herd," said Board Senior Veterinarian, Dr. Courtney Wheeler.

When the Douglas County herd owner received the CWD-positive results for the doe, he decided to euthanize the only remaining deer on site, the buck, and submit it for CWD testing. Test results are pending as of this release. The Board is continuing its investigation with other state and federal agencies to detect and control CWD in the state.

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.

News Release

For immediate release: January 10, 2020

Contact: Michael Crusan

Investigation leads to additional CWD positive deer on Pine County farm

Saint Paul, Minn. - The ongoing chronic wasting disease investigation of farms tied to the Douglas County detection first reported in December 2019 has led to a CWD-confirmed doe on a Pine County farm. The herd in Pine County was being investigated because it provided animals to the Douglas County herd in the past, including the CWD positive doe that initiated the disease investigation.

"We identified the Pine County herd as high priority early in our investigation because our records showed it provided deer to the Douglas County herd," said Board Assistant Director, Dr. Linda Glaser. "At this point in the investigation CWD has not been detected in any of the other herds connected to Douglas County."

The Douglas County herd is completely depopulated, and the site is not allowed to have any deer or elk for five years. The owner must also maintain fencing to prevent wild deer from accessing the empty pen and post biohazard signs on the fencing for the entire five-year period.

The Pine County herd owner must also depopulate and test all remaining deer on the farm and maintain fencing with biohazard signage for five years. The investigation is continuing beyond this herd to discover additional

movements of deer between it and other locations in the past. Any additional farms identified will be quarantined and their movement records will be reviewed.

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 Investigation Update

As reported by BAH to Minnesota legislators February 18, 2020

DOUGLAS AND PINE COUNTY CWD-INFECTED HERDS: EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

- A total of seven herds were quarantined during this investigation.
- Both the Douglas and Pine County herds have been depopulated.
- **Douglas County CWD-Infected herd:**
 - A buck remained in the herd when a doe was confirmed positive for CWD in December 2019.
 - The remaining live animal was put down and tested; no CWD was detected in that buck.
 - This herd was assembled in early 2019 with animals from the Pine County herd in this investigation.
 - The Douglas County herd owner has signed a herd agreement with the Board of Animal Health
 - The cervid enclosure is posted with biohazard signs as required by Minn. Stat. 35.155. Subd. 11(d)(3).
 - The fencing will be maintained for five years.
- **Pine County CWD-Infected Herd:**
 - A doe that died in this herd in mid-December was confirmed positive for CWD in January 2020.
 - The remaining eight animals in the herd were put down in January 2020.
 - One doe fawn was positive for CWD and one doe fawn had no CWD detected.
 - Test results on the remaining four adults and two fawns are pending.
 - The herd owner has signed a herd agreement with the Board of Animal Health and USDA APHIS Veterinary Services.
- Two herds remained quarantined with CWD Exposed animals (one each in Wadena and Chisago Counties):
 - The CWD Exposed animals in each herd have been appraised.
 - Indemnity funds from USDA APHIS have been requested.
- One herd remains quarantined pending genetic testing of tissues submitted for CWD testing.
- Two herds were released from quarantine; both were determined not to be exposed to CWD.

CWD SAMPLE COLLECTOR AUTHORIZATION

132 people are authorized sample collectors. We continue to work with producers, veterinarians, and others that want to be authorized to collect tissues from farmed cervids for CWD testing.





Extensive sampling of wild deer in 2019 shows that CWD remains biggest concern in southeastern Minnesota

DNR NEWS RELEASE

January 21, 2020

During the 2019 hunting season and special hunts, chronic wasting disease was confirmed in 27 wild deer, all from southeastern Minnesota.

CWD was not detected in wild deer in central and north-central Minnesota.

“Overall, this is good news for Minnesota’s wild deer. The disease is still relatively rare across the state, and the CWD-positive test results this year came from areas where we had the most risk,” said Lou Cornicelli, DNR wildlife research manager.

In total, 12,618 hunter-harvested deer were tested in the southeast disease management and control zones, 3,965 in the north-central disease management zone, and 536 in the central surveillance area.

An additional 282 opportunistic samples (deer found dead or reported sick) were tested, with one CWD-positive found within the southeast disease management zone. Researchers are still submitting some samples from cooperating taxidermists. Final results will be updated online at mndnr.gov/cwdcheck as they become available.

Minnesota’s CWD response plan calls for testing of wild deer for three years after the disease is detected in either captive or wild deer because the disease incubates in deer slowly. Before the DNR stops looking for the disease in an area, test results for three consecutive years must not detect CWD.

Southeastern area

In southeastern Minnesota, 23 additional cases of CWD were discovered in the disease management zone during the fall hunting season. Three additional deer were found positive for CWD after testing from the two special hunts in this area. The southeast control zone, a buffer area around the management zone, returned no CWD-positive results.

North-central area

This was the third year of sampling in the north-central area, after the discovery of CWD in a deer farm in Crow Wing County. More than 8,000 wild deer were tested during falls 2017 and 2018 without any detection of CWD; however, one CWD-positive deer was found dead near the infected farm in January 2019, which sparked more aggressive control strategies.

The management zone, deer permit area 604, will remain in place for at least two more years to see if CWD is found in other wild deer in the area.

“We’ll continue watching the north-central area to see if disease is present beyond the one CWD-positive deer discovered last year,” Cornicelli said.

Central area

Because no wild deer positives were detected in the central surveillance area in its third consecutive year of testing, there will be no more testing in this area during the 2020 hunting season. Precautionary testing in central Minnesota began in 2017 after the discovery of CWD at a deer farm in Meeker County.

Lots of help

To support hunter compliance with CWD management carcass movement restrictions, the DNR placed dumpsters for deer carcass collection and disposal in 25 locations across the disease management zones, as part of the

Adopt-a-Dumpster program. The program kept more than 200 tons of deer remains off of the landscape, reducing the potential for spread of CWD through infected carcasses.

“The support and help from hunters, stakeholders, and businesses were critical in making this effort a success,” said Bryan Lueth, DNR habitat program manager, who helped coordinate the program. Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Bluffland Whitetails Association, Crow Wing County and the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association provided support for the DNR’s Adopt-A-Dumpster program, which was established by the Minnesota Legislature.

Current management actions

In February, the DNR will work with U.S. Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services to complete targeted culling in February in localized areas in the southeast where CWD has been detected in wild deer. Reducing deer densities in these areas reduces the risk of disease spreading. A map of the areas of focus is available on the southeast disease management zone webpage.

Venison from deer harvested that do not test positive for CWD will be donated through the Share the Harvest program. People can find more information about the program on the DNR website.

Final CWD test results will influence how the DNR manages the disease going forward and any changes it will make to 2020 hunting regulations, will be released in August.

In February, the DNR will work with U.S. Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services to complete targeted culling in February in localized areas in the southeast where CWD has been detected in wild deer. Reducing deer densities in these areas reduces the risk of disease spreading. A map of the areas of focus is available on the southeast disease management zone webpage.

Keeping Minnesota’s wild deer population healthy remains the goal in the DNR’s response to chronic wasting disease. The DNR’s three-pronged approach to prevent spread of the disease was detailed in an earlier news release; the department’s CWD response plan can be found on the DNR website.

For more information on chronic wasting disease, visit mndnr.gov/cwd.

DNR to protect Minnesota wild deer through temporary ban on movement of farmed deer in Minnesota

DNR NEWS RELEASE
December 23, 2019

Agency takes emergency action in response to discovery of chronic wasting disease in farmed deer in Douglas County

The Department of Natural Resources today issued an emergency rule that temporarily prohibits the movement of all farmed white-tailed deer within the state.

The rule, which goes into effect today, is a temporary, emergency action to reduce further spread of chronic wasting disease and protect Minnesota’s wild deer. The action is in response to the recent discovery of CWD in a farmed white-tailed deer in Douglas County in western Minnesota. The emergency rule is in effect for 30 days.

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health earlier this month confirmed an 8-year-old white-tailed doe tested positive for the fatal deer disease in a small, two-deer hobbyist herd.

The new discovery in Douglas County has connections to other Minnesota deer farms and the state needs time to investigate locations that either provided deer to, or received deer from, the hobby farm. “We don’t take this action lightly,” said DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen. “The DNR is committed to proactively addressing CWD and

doing everything we can do to protect Minnesota’s deer herd. The Douglas County positive, with its connections to other farms in the state, poses a risk to wild deer that requires emergency action."

The temporary prohibition on all movement of farmed white-tailed deer in Minnesota would help control and contain the current spread of CWD, while allowing the state time to evaluate the outbreak, generate potential solutions to containing and eliminating the disease, and protect the wild deer herd. The DNR is working closely with BAH on investigating the Douglas County discovery and tracing the farm’s connections to other locations in the state.

The DNR is already monitoring for CWD in disease management zones in southeastern and north-central Minnesota where the disease has been detected in both captive and wild deer, as well as in a CWD surveillance area in central Minnesota where it has been found in captive deer.

Prions, the infectious agent causing the disease, are found in urine, saliva, blood, feces, muscle and antler velvet of infected deer. Disease transmission can occur via direct animal-to-animal contact.

Since CWD was first detected in Minnesota in 2002, the DNR has tested more than 90,000 wild deer in the state. To date, 73 wild deer have been confirmed positive for CWD in Minnesota. Test results, including locations of confirmed positive test results and statistics, are available on the DNR website at mndnr.gov/cwdcheck.

EDITOR’S NOTE: This temporary ban on movement of farmed whitetail deer expired after the 30 days was over.

Southeastern Minnesota Deer Movement Study Update

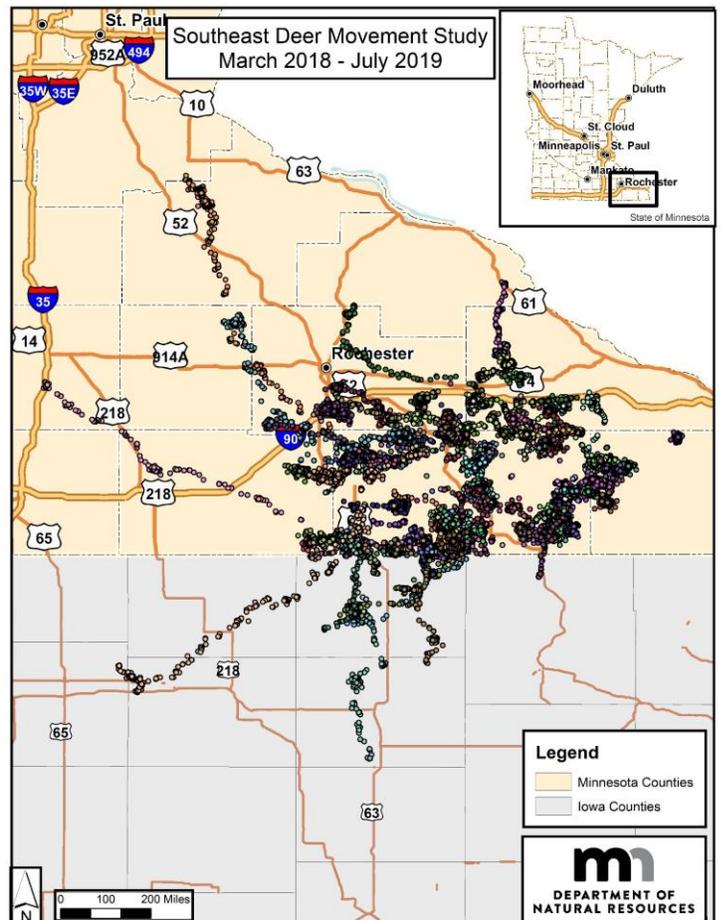
February 2020

During the 2019 fall hunting season, 17 GPS-collared deer (five does and 12 bucks) were harvested. Since then, nine collars have stopped transmitting location data and one deer likely slipped its collar, leaving 29 deer (19 does and 10 bucks) that the DNR is actively monitoring.

This month, the DNR worked on private and public lands to outfit fawns with GPS collars, and is currently tracking 51 fawns (29 does and 22 bucks). Each collar automatically detaches and falls off of the animal after 2 1/2 years.

Current Collar Statistics [Updated 2/24/2020]

Age & gender	Number being tracked
Buck Fawns	22
Doe Fawns	29
Adult Bucks	10
Adult Does	19
Total	80



Board Blog by Greg Lubinski, MnEBA Director



Hello everyone, as I write this from the cold tundra of southeastern Minnesota! It is even worse when I talk to Tony Beckel in Baudette and he tells me it is 20 degree's warmer up north...

I want to thank Jim Byrne and Dr. Paul Anderson for their help working on the Government affairs. They will do their best to make sure we can still raise elk. Please thank them for their hard work and time. We will be busy again at the State Capitol this year...may it be great news for our industry.

With this cold weather, ice fishing might be on the list for me. May you all have a successful and safe year!

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 seventh 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,

I appreciate your donation that allowed me to receive my own personal FFA jacket. This is my second year in FFA, and this jacket will last me for years to come. Without your generous contribution, I wouldn't have got to wear my very own blue corduroy jacket at my first national competition this fall. I will couldn't be more appreciative!

*Sincerely,
Courtne Forcier*

Minnesota Elk Breeders Association,

Thank you for sponsoring my official FFA jacket this year. I was able to get an official FFA jacket and an FFA scarf. I'll be able to wear these to any future FFA contests and events.

*Thank you,
Brook Trust*

2020 MnEBA Scholarship Application Is Now Available

If you have a college age young adult in your family, make sure to check out the MnEBA Scholarship. One \$350 scholarship will be given out this year. The scholarship is being made available to sons/daughters or grandsons/granddaughters of any active/lifetime MnEBA members who are pursuing a post-secondary degree in the Fall of 2020. An agriculture-related field of study is preferred, but not limited to.



Please contact the MnEBA Office for an application for this scholarship at 320-543-2686 or info@mneba.org. You need to request an application in order to apply. If you know someone who may have an interest, request the application today! The deadline to apply is **May 15th**. There will be no extension of this deadline.

MnEBA Kitchen

Here's a great Tex-Mex casserole that you can spice up any way you like by making as is, or add jalapenos and/or green chilies to give it more kick.



Ground Elk Casserole

1 lb. ground elk	1 can (15 oz.) corn, drained
1 cup onion, diced	1 can (14 oz.) black beans, drained
1/2 cup green pepper, diced small	2 tsp. chili powder
1 tsp. garlic powder	1 tsp. cumin
1 1/2 cups dry noodles, prepare according to pkg.	1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
1 quart diced tomatoes (or home canned)	olive oil, salt, pepper

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In large pan, brown elk, onion and green pepper with olive oil until fully cooked. Season with garlic powder, salt and pepper. Add in the tomatoes, corn, beans, cooked pasta, chili powder and cumin and mix well. Transfer to greased baking dish and top with shredded cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes or until hot and bubbly.

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!!



Welcome New Members

MnEBA welcomes these recent new members!

Paul & Buffy Jaffke, Lakewinds Elk Farm, 782 Ulao Parkway South, Grafton, WI 53024, 414-380-9382, lakewindsfarm@yahoo.com

David, Kelly & Luke Luedeke, Elkholics Elk Ranch, P.O. Box 197, Miliona, MN 56354, 218-639-9340, rrdavid@midwestinfo.net

Paul L. and Mindy Anderson, 3903 Campello Curve, Chaska, MN 55318, 952-212-6109, opa6109@gmail.com

Clint & Mindy Nelson, Boulder Acres Elk Ranch, 2889 250th Street, Terril, IA 51364, 712-260-7088, clint@terril.net

Lauren Kirchoff, ADM Animal Nutrition, 459 Connecticut Street NW, Hutchinson, MN 55350, 320-510-2754, lauren.kirchoff@adm.com

Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM**U of M research team achieves CWD testing milestone**

February 18, 2020

The team of University of Minnesota researchers developing a faster diagnostic test for identifying the misfolded prions associated with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has reached a key milestone. Through their collaboration with National Institutes of Health Rocky Mountain Laboratories (Hamilton, Mont.), the team now has RT-QuIC technology that will facilitate a number of exciting research avenues. With this technology, the team analyzed tissue samples from CWD-positive white-tailed deer and obtained confirmation of protein-misfolding within nine hours.

With this technology, the team analyzed tissue samples from CWD-positive white-tailed deer and obtained confirmation of protein-misfolding within nine hours.

“We were working with known positive samples,” explains team co-leader Peter Larsen, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences in the University’s College of Veterinary Medicine. “To independently confirm that our procedures are successful is a critical first step and we greatly appreciate the help that NIH Rocky Mountain Labs provided our team. This milestone was made possible through Rapid Agricultural Response funds from the Minnesota Ag Experiment Station and bipartisan support from the Minnesota Legislature.” The team is working to develop prototypes of more rapid and accurate tests that will identify CWD-causing prions in various kinds of samples.

RT-QuIC stands for Real-time Quaking-induced Conversion. It is a highly sensitive test for detecting prion diseases such as CWD, scrapie in sheep, bovine spongiform encephalopathy in cattle, and sporadic Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans. The test involves placing suspected misfolded prions in a prion-rich solution, shaking and incubating the mixture to promote molecular interaction, and then monitoring for growth of misfolded prions. RT-QuIC has proven useful to detect CWD prions in a variety of sample types from both live and harvested deer, including feces, blood, saliva and tissues. At present, RT-QuIC is only used for research purposes. It has not been validated for official, regulatory disease diagnostic testing in wild or farmed cervids.

“Achieving a statistically positive result within hours demonstrates the advantages of this newer technology,” Larsen says. “The ultimate long-term goal for CWD diagnostics is the availability of next-generation diagnostic tools that can quickly and reliably process many samples. RT-QuIC functionality helps provide the foundation for developing and validating prototypes of a new class of CWD diagnostic tools.” More common, currently validated diagnostic methods are slower and more costly, which in the case of CWD, limits hunters and resource managers from making the timely decisions needed to contain the disease. In the future, RT-QuIC and further developed tests may be validated by regulatory agencies such as the United States Department of Agriculture and be available for official disease diagnostic testing.

This milestone places the U of M team among an elite community of research laboratories around the world that use RT-QuIC for both wildlife and human diseases. The U of M team is funded by approximately \$2 million, awarded through the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station Rapid Agricultural Response Fund and appropriated by the Minnesota Legislature via the Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources in 2019.

After further in-house validation of the RT-QuIC testing, the U of M team will turn its attention to analyzing tissue samples from approximately 500 deer that were generously provided by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Previous testing by currently validated methods has found 12 CWD-positive samples within the collection. Confirming whether RT-QuIC can correctly identify the positive samples is the team’s next step. Further research initiatives include utilizing the RT-QuIC testing capabilities for environmental testing, transmission studies and ecological impact investigation.

FAQs

Will the RT-QuIC testing be available for hunter harvested and farmed cervid samples?

No. At this time, RT-QuIC is used for research purposes only. Diagnostic tests for CWD, other than those currently being used by state and federal agencies, must go through a validation process by those state and federal agencies.

Will next-generation CWD tests be available to use by the public and/or regulatory agencies in two years?

No. Current research to develop new CWD tests is projected to deliver a prototype of the technology during the two-year funded process. Further time and resources will be necessary to enhance the prototype as well as fully validate the new testing platform for state and federal agency use.

What is the future of CWD testing?

Ultimately, we intend to deliver a prototype of a next-generation CWD test. Further time and resources will be necessary to enhance the prototype and fully validate the new testing platform for state and federal agency use.

Is RT-QuIC useful as both a live animal test and test for hunter-harvested deer?

Yes, other laboratories have used the technology to identify CWD prions in a wide variety of samples, including blood and saliva from live deer and lymph nodes and brain stems from harvested deer.

Are RT-QuIC and anticipated future testing platforms only for CWD?

No. RT-QuIC is currently used for detecting other prion and protein misfolding diseases. Future platforms are likely to advance diagnostic testing across the spectrum of neurodegenerative diseases in humans and animals.

Is it beneficial for the U of M to invest in RT-QuIC and further develop diagnostic platforms if other research institutions are also?

Yes. The fact that multiple research groups across the world are working on similar projects supports the line of research and strengthens the end product(s). The U of M is a comprehensive research university with a diverse realm of expertise. The diagnostic R&D team spans multiple colleges across the U of M, and is leveraging state-of-the-art research facilities to support these activities.



2020 MnEBA Board of Directors

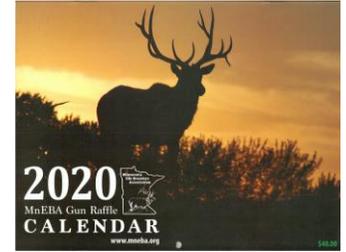
L to R:

Perry Olson, Greg Lubinski, Mark Luedtke, Kraig Wurst and Brian Wagner

2020 MnEBA Gun Calendar Sales Hit All-Time High

New Record Sales of Calendars Sold!

New this year, there were 50 more 2020 calendars printed than in previous years. While they were not all sold, there were 769 calendars that did sell making this year's calendar sales a new all-time record! GREAT JOB to everyone who sold this year's calendars and THANK YOU for your time and efforts! Thanks also to everyone who sponsored a page in the calendar. It's amazing to see such a great group effort that generates such important funding to help MnEBA continue all the endeavors which are so important to this organization.



Top Sellers

Brian Wagner was once again the top seller with 136 calendars sold! Wade & Heike Schimmelpfennig sold 99 calendars, Greg Lubinski 86, Pat Prodzinski 52 calendars followed by Marlen Schmitz with 43 sold and Paul Hartkopf with 41 sold. 551 stubs and money were returned by December 31st, with 46 names put into the hat for the special gun incentive drawing for every 10 calendars sold. Brian Wagner was drawn out of the hat as the lucky winner of the Winchester SXP 12ga shotgun.

Eight Producers Qualified for a FREE 2020 MnEBA Membership!

A total of eight producers qualified for a free 2020 MnEBA membership after selling 30 or more calendars and returning stubs and money before December 31, 2019. That list included Brian Wagner, Pat Prodzinski, Wade Schimmelpfennig, Dennis Engebretson, Paul Hartkopf, Greg Lubinski, Jerry Campbell and Marlen Schmitz. Every sale was important, no matter how many any one individual or couple sold. The group effort was once again amazing with tickets sold by 32 different members. THANK YOU to all!!!

When Winners are Posted

Monthly winners will be posted every other Wednesday on the MnEBA web site at www.mneba.org.

What will the 2021 calendar bring...

Feedback from the membership at the annual conference recommended staying at 800 calendars printed with no other changes suggested over last year. If you have any suggestions, please contact a board member or the office.

MnEBA 2021 Gun Raffle Calendar Sponsorships Now Available! A GREAT Opportunity to Promote Your Farm

MnEBA is now selling sponsorship opportunities for MnEBA members to be featured in the 2021 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. Sponsorships are available on a first come, first serve basis for all twelve months of the calendar, January 2021 through December 2021. Last year, 769 calendars were sold!

Your sponsorship includes:

1. One picture from your farm which will serve as the picture for a specific month. The picture must have elk on it. It should be the best quality possible and can be sent via email or hard copy. An electronic version is preferred. This picture will be enlarged to 8½" x 11".
2. An area on the upper right hand side of the calendar page to publish your logo and contact information. The publisher will decide which picture should correspond with which month to best enhance the layout of the calendar.
3. Business card size ad on the inside back page of the calendar.
4. Your picture and business information will be viewed by hundreds of people for an entire calendar month!

There will be 800 calendars printed. A gun or cash option will be awarded every other Wednesday throughout the year. Additionally, there will be SIX Bonus days with cash/prize offerings in addition to the 26 gun days.

Please contact the MnEBA Office at 320-543-2686 or info@mneba.org to pledge a month in the calendar no later than May 15, 2020. Thank you for your support!!

Committee Reports

Legislative Update

The 2020 Minnesota State legislative session began February 11, 2020. This year we have entered into the short session which is not a "budget" year and where the three main objectives are taxes, bonding and the supplemental budget. There are typically fewer policy issues pursued in the short session, however, policy items are still introduced.

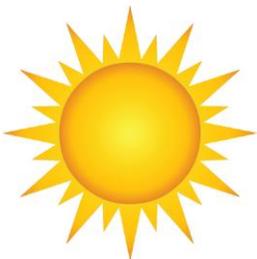
To date, there are several bills which have been submitted which would have an effect on the farmed cervid industry. The main discussion so far as been over the make-up of the five person Board who oversees Minnesota's Board of Animal Health. First introduced in the 2018 Minnesota Legislative audit, the idea of increasing the board member size is growing amongst state legislators.

Other bills have been introduced regarding increasing funding for the Adopt-A-Dumpster program, importation of carcasses procured by any means, funding for the University of Minnesota to study water's role in transporting CWD prions and asking Board of Animal Health to develop recommended protocols for closing or transferring farmed cervid facilities.

Other bills are expected. The first committee deadline is March 20th. MnEBA's lobbyist Tony Kwilas is in daily contact with MnEBA and is keeping a close eye on any new bills and following up with MnEBA's position with legislators as needed.

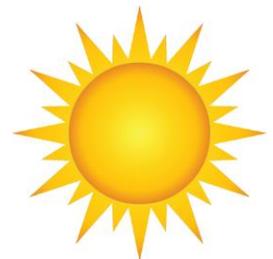
Dr. Paul Anderson has also agreed to join the Government Relations. He will be a valuable resource to the committee!

MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS	
Annual Conference	Rita Prodzinski (507) 452-1282
Fundraising	Brenda Hartkopf (320) 543-2686
Government Relations	Jim Byrne (507) 358-6505 Dr. Paul Anderson (952) 212-6109
Health	OPEN
Scholarship	Eileen Byrne (507) 358-3063 Rita Prodzinski (507) 452-1282
State Fair	Greg Lubinski (507) 273-0525 Paul Hueg (612) 791-0443



Make Plans to Attend!

**2020 MnEBA Summer Picnic
Saturday, July 25, 2020**



Hosted By

Stony Brook Elk Farm – Jerry & Linda Campbell

6497 41st Avenue SW – Pequot Lakes, MN 56472
218-568-8241(Home) or 218-820-5515 (Jerry'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!

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 25, 2020 – MnEBA Summer Picnic, Stony Brook Elk Farm, Pequot Lakes, MN

August 6-8, 2020 – NAEBA Annual Convention & International Antler Competition, Hotel Elegante, Colorado Springs, CO

August 27-September 7, 2020 – Minnesota State Fair, St. Paul, MN

Classified Ads

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

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

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Howard Lake, MN 55349