



## Special Interest Articles:

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## President's Message by Mark Luedtke



Hello everyone! I hope you, your family, and everyone close to you are healthy and had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We only have a few weeks to endure before we can put 2020 behind us. I don't even know where to begin on this Presidents Message; this VERY unusual year has taken its toll in so many different ways. I really do hope all of you, MnEBA's extended family, are all doing well.

I also hope everyone's herd is doing well and that you have been able to move the animals you planned for. The breeding season is over and soon I will be able to pregnancy test to determine if my program has performed the way I hoped it would. Either way, testing my cows will help me manage my feed bill and identify how best to fill the freezer.

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

Mark

# *ATTENTION!*

## 2021 MnEBA Annual Conference HAS BEEN POSTONED

**NEW DATE – February 27, 2020**

**Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West Hotel**

3131 Campus Dr ~ Plymouth, MN 55441  
Room Rates \$99 ~ Reservation Line 763-559-6600

*More information will be available as more is known about future Covid-19 government restrictions. Stay tuned!*

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

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(320) 543-2686

## MnEBA

### Mission Statement

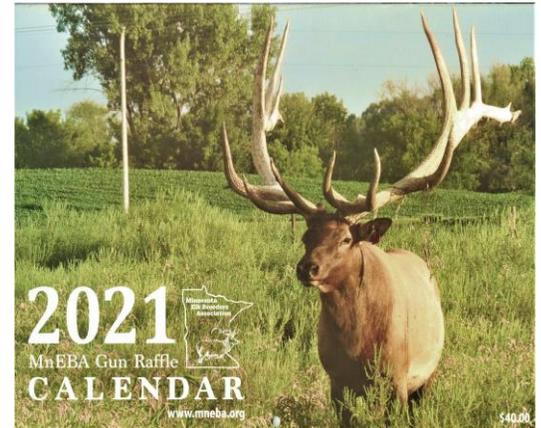
The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association represents a unified voice that strengthens the Elk farming industry in Minnesota by creating awareness about Elk production and promotion and consumption of Elk products.

## 2021 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar Important Deadlines

### NEW LOCATION FOR THE DRAWING!

Drawing Date is January 9, 2021 in Howard Lake, MN

It's time to complete calendar sales as **December 31<sup>st</sup>** 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 31<sup>st</sup> is being offered once again this year and in addition, for every 10 calendars sold with stubs and money being returned before December 31<sup>st</sup>, your name goes into a drawing to win a Winchester Wildcat 22LR rifle. 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 31<sup>st</sup>!**



There are currently over 700 calendars in the hands of members to sell, with 63 stubs returned so far. There are over 100 more calendars out this year compared to last year which is a testament to the membership for your commitment even in a pandemic! A sell-out would be fabulous! 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 has always been Saturday night of the Annual Conference. Since this year's event had to be postponed due to Covid-19, the location of the drawing will change, but **the drawing will still take place on Saturday January 9, 2021 at 8 p.m.** The new location will be Black Velvet Elk Ranch, 8361 30<sup>th</sup> St SW, Howard Lake, MN 55349. All stubs, payments and unused calendars must be turned in to the office at 9086 Keats Ave SW, Howard Lake, MN 55349 before that time. The board is working on arranging videotaping of the drawing with details still being worked out. The membership will be notified via an e-blast on details for tuning in to watch the drawing.

Thank you to all who are participating! These sales are what allow MnEBA to continue necessary marketing and charitable activities, represent the industry in animal health activities and to protect the operating capital needed to watch over our interests and overreaching regulations at the State Capitol. Your efforts are sincerely appreciated. Let's finish strong!



## NEWS RELEASE: Monday November 30, 2020

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

### Longtime Military Veteran Harvests Bull Elk

**Minnesota Elk Breeders Association (MnEBA), November 30, 2020** – Jason Grant spent 10 years of active service in the United States Army, two years in the National Guard and three years in the Reserves. Throughout this time period, he served three tours in Iraq and amassed a myriad of non-combat injuries that continue to follow him throughout his everyday life. While he had hunted elk before, he passed one up as having not been big enough, and never saw another elk again. That is until October 19, 2020 when he harvested a beautiful 7x7 elk courtesy of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association, Fortune Transportation and Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch.

Jason has known the importance of this nation's military his entire life. He was born on an Illinois Navy base and grew up on a California Navy base where his dad later retired in Modesto, California. Once Jason graduated from high school, he joined the United States Army where as they say, the rest is history.

Jason and his wife Kenitra, both work for the New Mexico branch of Fortune Transportation, a trucking business owned by the Olson family who are members of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association. Jason has been a tireless worker for Fortune Transportation for the past seven years, often times working 6-7 days a week. Perry Olson, CEO of Fortune Transportation and long-time Minnesota elk rancher, wanted to give something back to this extremely valued employee. For the past two years, Perry and Jason's wife Kenitra, were trying to find a way that Jason could realize his dream of harvesting a beautiful bull elk and when MnEBA offered Jason the opportunity to harvest a bull elk in Baudette, Minnesota, Jason jumped at the opportunity.

The hunt couldn't have been more perfect for Jason. They started early in the morning, got set up in the stand and began cow calling. It wasn't until noon that that bull finally made his appearance. Once the bull came within 100 yards, Jason dropped him instantly with a clean lung shot, literally near a path making for easy packing out as well. Jason had finally realized his dream of hunting a bull elk and this one was the size he was looking for! Jason and his wife spent extra time at the facility and the final day ended as magically as the first when light snow began to fall capping off a successful couple days of hunting.

Jason and Kenitra described this hunt as "a really wonderful adventure" and continually shared that they "had the best time" and enjoyed every minute of their time in Baudette. They are already enjoying the great eating they will have for some time and Kenitra plans to boil the skull cap and panel mount the antlers for her husband.

MnEBA would like to thank everyone who generously supported this year's hunt including Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch, Fortune Transportation and Splendor Ridge Elk Farm who helped cover the cost of lodging, meals and processing.

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



**Jason Grant**

## Board Meeting Minutes

### Board Meeting Minutes November 24, 2020

The Board of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held a phone conference on Tuesday November 24, 2020 at 10 a.m. Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Kraig Wurst and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Perry Olson was absent. Jim Byrne and Paul Anderson joined the call later in the meeting. Luedtke called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

The treasurer's report was reviewed by Hartkopf. There has been much less activity to date because of Covid-19 including the closure of the State Capitol during session, no state fair, no USAHA in-person meeting and the decrease of MN Grown dues (not due to Covid). The end result of all the changes this year is that MnEBA currently has approximately \$8,000 more in the checkbook than at this same time last year with a current checkbook balance of \$22,372.36. Regarding Minnesota Grown, Hartkopf explained that while MnEBA still has 10,881 credits to use for marketing projects, Minnesota Grown is no longer offering a match for dues funds. But those credits are still available to MnEBA until they are used up. Lubinski moved to accept the treasurer's report, Wagner seconded, motion carried.

Hartkopf reported that members are doing a great job of taking calendars to sell and that there are over 700 calendars in circulation to date which is more than at this same time last year. There are also a higher number of calendar requests from random individuals who have found the raffle calendar on the MnEBA web site and want to purchase one. Board members also reported positive feedback from this year's calendar.

Board discussed the upcoming Annual Conference on January 9, 2021, and the Governor's recent restrictions on no large public gatherings along with bars and restaurants being closed. It was the feeling of the group that restrictions may not be lifted by January and that the event should be postponed. MnEBA's constitution requires that, "The annual meeting shall be within fourteen (14) months of the previous annual meeting." It was decided to postpone the January 9 meeting until February 27 or March 6. Hartkopf to follow up with the hotel to see if either of those dates are available and if we could postpone the event. There was also discussion about what happens with the gun calendar raffle drawing. It was decided to still hold the drawing on January 9, but potentially move the location of the drawing since the

conference is postponed. Hartkopf was directed to email the Gambling Control Board to see if that was an option and to get their response in writing.

Hartkopf shared a brief synopsis of election results which was part of an update provided by Tony Kwilas for the December newsletter. She also reported that Kwilas says to expect an active 2021 at the State Capitol.

Luedtke expressed frustration with lack of Board of Animal Health support of the farmed cervid industry and asked if the Board would be willing to build a concept of how to address that frustration. Board selected the date of December 15 to hold an in-person meeting to discuss more in depth.

As discussion about the charitable elk hunt began, Paul Anderson joined the meeting. The 14<sup>th</sup> annual hunt took place on October 18-21 at Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch in Baudette. Hartkopf reported that Perry Olson donated and transported the bull for the hunt and that all reports indicate it was a successful event and much appreciated by the recipient.

Luedtke reported the 2020 USAHA Conference was held virtually this year due to Covid-19. There was one resolution regarding farmed cervidae submitted by NAEBA asking for USDA to recognize live animal testing for elk. The resolution was thoroughly discussed but received a lot of push-back and did not make it out of committee. When asked about the progress of moving TB testing for reaccreditation to once every five years instead of once every three years, he reported that USDA is not supporting that concept any longer.

As discussion regarding Board of Animal Rulemaking began, Jim Byrne joined the meeting. Hartkopf reported on a discussion with Rich Meech, the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association representative on the BAH Rulemaking Advisory Group, regarding concerns he has with the Rulemaking process to date as well as the current CWD cases in farmed deer in southeastern Minnesota. Luedtke to follow up with Tracy Nichols of USDA-APHIS to see what the protocol is for indemnity payments to cervid producers who come up with a positive herd in an endemic zone and will report back to the board and legislative committee.

Anderson had previously compiled a list of the most concerning areas of the Rule and the legislative committee went through each item individually, offering alternative language solutions where applicable and took in comments from the board on each issue. Based on those comments, the committee will continue to work on missed test and management zone language. The legislative

committee advised that MnEBA should be prepared to voice specific concerns regarding rulemaking details at the Board of Animal Health Quarterly Board Meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting was adjourned at 12.54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

## MnEBA Board Nominations Now Being Accepted!

This year there are two board seats up for re-election – Perry Olson’s partial term to fulfill the term for Jim Byrne, and the full term for Kraig Wurst.

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](mailto:info@mneba.org). Elections will be held during the MnEBA Annual Conference on February 27, 2021 at the Crowne Plaza Mpls. West in Plymouth, MN.

Board Terms	
Mark Luedtke, <i>President</i>	Term ends 2022
Kraig Wurst, <i>Vice President</i>	Term ends 2022
Brian Wagner, <i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Term ends 2023
Greg Lubinski, <i>Director</i>	Term ends 2021
Perry Olson, <i>Director</i>	Term ends 2021

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## News Release

For Immediate Release: October 15, 2020

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

### CWD confirmed in Houston County farmed deer herd

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) has been confirmed at a Houston County white-tailed deer farm. A 2 ½-year-old white-tailed doe tested positive for CWD after it died; all farmed cervids that die or are slaughtered must be tested for CWD. The herd has been quarantined and the herd owner is cooperating with the Board of Animal Health's (Board's) CWD investigation, which includes evaluating herd records and animal movements for the past five years.

"We're compiling the last five years of the herd history and movements as required by federal program standards, and we're working with the USDA to appraise and request federal indemnity for this herd," said Board Assistant Director, Dr. Linda Glaser. "There are 38 adults and 11 fawns in the herd and we plan to work with the producer to develop a depopulation and testing plan."

The farm is located within the Board's designated CWD endemic area\* in southeastern Minnesota and the herd enclosure was double-fenced in 2017; before the Board established the endemic area in Houston County in late 2018. In the last five years, this herd has only imported animals from two Minnesota herds and did import the CWD positive animal in 2019 from a Winona County herd which has also been quarantined. The herd has only exported animals to one location in Wisconsin.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is currently testing hunter harvested wild deer in Houston County as part of the planned CWD surveillance for the fall deer hunting seasons. This surveillance is a critical part of the state's efforts to reduce the impact of CWD on the state's wild deer population.

"We typically heighten our efforts to collect samples from wild deer in areas that surround CWD-infected cervid farms," said Dr. Michelle Carstensen, Wildlife Health Program supervisor. "Even though sampling is voluntary this year, the more hunters submit samples, the better we can understand how CWD is spreading in the area. This new detection is within our CWD management zone and intensifies our need for Houston County deer hunters to submit samples."

Last fall, three deer tested positive for CWD out of approximately 2,260 deer that were tested within 10 miles of this newly detected CWD-positive farm. Hunters should check the DNR's CWD webpage for sampling station availability. Sampling result totals from the DNR are available on the CWD sampling page.

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 meat from CWD infected animals is not advised.

\*The Board establishes the endemic area boundary 15 miles around all confirmed cases of CWD in the wild. The designation of this area impacts farmed Cervidae herds found within the area. Farmed Cervidae in these herds are restricted from moving to other areas of the state until the producer can demonstrate the herd is maintained in such a way to prevent commingling of farmed and wild Cervidae.



## News Release

For Immediate Release: September 17, 2020

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

### Seasonal disease detected in Dakota County reindeer; no known health risks to humans

A reindeer herd on exhibit in Dakota County has eight confirmed cases of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD), which affects members of the deer family, Cervidae. The herd's veterinarian first noticed a male reindeer appeared sick in late August and when it died, they quickly worked with the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to determine the cause. The laboratory performed a necropsy on the animal and detected EHD, which was later confirmed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Laboratories. Four of the reindeer in the herd are deceased and all eight are laboratory confirmed cases of EHD.

"This virus is transmitted between deer by biting midges, or gnats, which are most active in the fall before they are killed by the first frost of the season," said Board of Animal Health Assistant Director, Dr. Linda Glaser. "These bugs can't travel far on their own and farmed cervid owners in this area of the state should take proactive measures to reduce bug exposure by limiting tall grasses, moving animals to higher and drier ground, and consider pest control treatments."

The Dakota County reindeer herd owner is the Minnesota Zoo in Apple Valley. Zoo staff took a very proactive approach to protect animal health by addressing signs of illness in the herd quickly and requesting official disease testing. They also followed up to reduce risk at their location by mowing the enclosure grass and will treat the area with an insecticide to reduce the gnat population in the exhibit areas. The reindeer and caribou were moved out of the exhibit and are isolated from the remaining cervids at the zoo, which includes moose. Staff are also monitoring the bison herd as bison can also become infected and potentially die from the infection. There is no specific treatment or vaccine available in the U.S.

The sudden onset of this disease and loss of our reindeer has been an extraordinarily difficult development in a difficult year," said Minnesota Zoo Director John Frawley. "The health and safety of our guests, staff, and animal collection is the Minnesota Zoo's utmost priority. Although EHD poses no known health risks to humans, this has been a challenging time for our animal care and veterinary staff who dedicate themselves to the animals at the Zoo. We will continue to work closely with the Board of Animal Health as we monitor our hoof stock populations and take proactive measures in attempts to deter biting midges."

EHD affects members of the deer family, Cervidae, and there are no known health risks to people. Many different deer species may be infected with EHD, and white-tailed deer are highly susceptible, and experience high rates of mortality. Clinical signs can include fever, anorexia, lethargy, stiffness, respiratory distress, oral ulcers, and severe swelling of the head and neck. Sporadic cases occur in hoof stock such as cattle and sheep. Farmed cervid owners are encouraged to work with their veterinarian to reduce the risk of their herd contracting this disease.



## Deer testing finds additional cases of chronic wasting disease

### New detections are in the south metro and southeast management zones

**November 19, 2020** - A wild deer harvested in Dakota County on Nov. 7 and a vehicle-killed deer in Olmsted County on Nov. 4 were confirmed positive for chronic wasting disease. To date, 95 wild deer have tested positive for CWD in Minnesota.

The case of the Dakota County deer, an adult male, marks the first time the fatal neurological disease has been detected in a hunter-harvested wild deer in the newly established south metro disease management zone. The deer was harvested less than a mile from a CWD-positive wild deer discovered in March and was tested after the hunter provided the sample as part of the DNR's voluntary sampling program.

The Olmsted County deer, an adult female, appeared to suffer injury from a vehicle before dying in Rochester. The resident who reported the dead deer brought the carcass to be sampled by DNR staff for CWD testing. While this is not the first wild deer to have the disease within deer permit area 643, it is the farthest northwest that CWD has been found in the southeast disease management zone.

The DNR has notified the hunter and resident who submitted the deer for sampling of the positive test results, and the meat and carcasses from both deer have been properly disposed.

"It's concerning to see these two positive test results. We will continue gathering data to see how prevalent the disease is in these areas, and maintain our aggressive management response," said Michelle Carstensen, DNR's wildlife health program supervisor.

The DNR continues to collect samples from hunter-harvested deer in designated areas during all hunting seasons to help monitor the spread of the disease. Hunters in CWD management zones, control zones or surveillance areas are urged to drop off the head of deer 1 year of age or older at self-service sampling stations. Current sampling locations are listed online.

"We're grateful to hunters and other Minnesotans for providing samples to test for this disease and help safeguard the health of our wild deer population," Carstensen said. "These two positive test results are unfortunate, but highlight the importance of our sampling efforts in getting information that shows us how prevalent the disease is in an area. We urge hunters to continue bringing deer to sampling stations. Every sample counts."

Keeping Minnesota's wild deer population healthy remains the goal in the DNR's response to chronic wasting disease. Since CWD was first detected in Minnesota in 2002, the DNR has tested more than 90,000 wild deer in the state.

CWD test results, including locations of confirmed positive test results and statistics, are available on the DNR website.

As part of its CWD response plan, the DNR is monitoring for CWD in disease management zones around areas that CWD has been detected in wild deer, as well as in CWD surveillance areas where CWD has been found in captive deer. The CWD management zones are located in the southeast, north-central and south metro areas of Minnesota; the CWD surveillance areas are located in the east-central, west-central and south metro areas of Minnesota.

## Board Blog by Kraig Wurst, MnEBA Director



Hello everyone,

I hope everybody has had a great fall. My family is doing great. The youngest (Vale) is 10 months old and getting around well. On a side note, everything in our house is at least two shelves high now. Sadly, the kids distance learning has taught me one important thing; if I went back to school now, I would barely qualify to be a 4th grader. Thank goodness the kids are smarter than me!

When my turn comes around to do the board blog I always look forward to it. I usually have an experience I want to share, or a lesson I learned the hard way to pass on. This time, I've got nothing. I have been wracking my brain the last few days trying to come up with something but three paragraphs about the weather is all I ended up with. As I am sitting here, it is just a couple of days until Thanksgiving, so I have decided to write about what I am thankful for.

I am thankful for a strong state association (MnEBA). Without it, I am afraid the legislature would have put us out of business long ago. It is a fight every year to keep legislators or government agencies from adding more regulations to our business. Our association is always front and center to defend our rights and explain our position which is what an association is supposed to do but sadly many don't.

I am thankful for a strong national association (NAEBA). It is reassuring to have a strong group looking out for our bigger interests, building markets, and studying problems that our association doesn't have the manpower or funds to do. It is also nice having their support as we fight our battles in the state.

Last but not least, I am thankful for Brenda and the other board members. I think I say it every blog I write how lucky we are to have Brenda, and this year is no different. Perry, Greg, Mark and Brian are some of the top elk breeders in the state and represent our association to the very highest standards (not counting the hospitality suite after midnight at most conventions). They are a great group of guys.

To end this, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kraig Wurst

## Shop Amazon Smile to Benefit the Elk Research Foundation

Shop Amazon Smile when shopping on Amazon this holiday season. Select the Elk Research Council (Elk Research Foundation) as your charity of choice. Amazon Smile (www.smile.amazon.com) works the same way as Amazon, with the bonus of a portion of your purchase going towards the charity of your choice. A win-win for everyone!

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## MnEBA Kitchen

Who doesn't love lasagna? Here's a little different spin on making lasagna by baking it in a cast iron skillet. This could be modified to a regular casserole dish if desired.



### Elk Skillet Lasagna

- |                       |                                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 lb. ground elk      | 28 oz. ricotta cheese              |
| 1/2 cup chopped onion | 2 eggs                             |
| 2 tsp. garlic powder  | 2 cups grated mozzarella cheese    |
| 2 tsp. olive oil      | 1 cup grated parmesan cheese       |
| 1 tsp. oregano        | 24 oz. marinara sauce              |
| 1 tsp. basil          | 1 cup water                        |
| 1 tsp. parsley        | 8-9 pieces no-boil lasagna noodles |
| 1/2 tsp. salt         |                                    |

#### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Heat a 12" cast iron skillet over medium heat. When the skillet is warm, add the olive oil, ground elk and onion, cooking until lightly browned, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic, oregano, basil, parsley and salt stirring everything together. Continue to cook for another 2-3 minutes. Remove meat from skillet and set aside.

In a bowl, combine the ricotta cheese with the two eggs. Mix well. In another bowl, combine marinara sauce and 1 cup water. Stir until well blended.

Set the cast iron skillet on a work surface and add a small amount of sauce on the bottom. Place four pieces of dry lasagna noodles on the bottom of the skillet (you may have to break a few in half to make them fit). Spread half the ricotta cheese over the lasagna noodles. Spread half of the elk over the ricotta cheese. Pour half of the marinara sauce over the elk and top with half of the mozzarella cheese and half of the parmesan cheese. Repeat in same order until all ingredients are gone.

Place the skillet in the oven then bake for 50 minutes. Remove from oven and allow to stand for 10 minutes before serving.

***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!***

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Home of Spring Coulee Elk

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***Thank you for your support!***

**Vet Corner** by Glen Zebarth, DVM

**Monthly Scrapie Report is Available – September 2020**

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service sent this bulletin on 10/20/2020

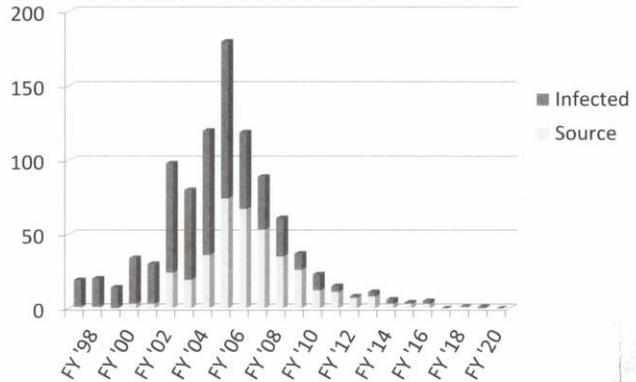
The Monthly Report for September 2020 is available on the USDA APHIS VS website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/>.

The highlight of the September 2020 report is that as of September 30, 2020, 33,839 animals have been sampled for scrapie in FY 2020; 32,172 animals were sampled at slaughter and 1,667 on-farm; 26,454 were sheep and 7,385 were goats. To date no animals have tested positive for classical scrapie in FY 2020.

The chart to the right shows how the industry and USDA APHIS have been able to significantly reduce cases of classical scrapie in sheep in goats over time.



**Infected and Source Flocks  
New Statuses by Year – Fiscal Years 1997 to 2021\***



(Chart 3)

\* As of October 31, 2020

**Winter Reminders**

Just a few winter reminders for optimal health of your animals.

**Lice or Ticks** – Make sure to check for lice or ticks whenever you have your animals in the facility and pour on ivermectin or permectrin as needed.

**Stomach Worms** – Winter is a good time to take fecal samples of both your yearling and adult animals (take separate samples of each) and treat accordingly. Clearing up worms in the winter will set the animals up well for spring and summer when worm activity begins again.

**TB Testing** – Check to see when your TB testing accreditation expires and if it is time to retest for reaccreditation again. Letting TB accreditation lapse can cause problems down the road, even if you just want to move animals for slaughter purposes.

**Minnesota Board of Animal Health Reminders!!!**

Remember to submit your 2020 Calf Inventory and BAH Registration Fees by December 31, 2020!

## Board of Animal Health Reviewing MN Farmed Cervid Rules

The MnEBA Legislative Committee and Board continue to offer input to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) during its ongoing Rulemaking process. The farmed cervid rules are being rewritten to incorporate new laws from the Minnesota State Legislature in 2019 in addition to updating, simplifying and clarifying existing rules.

The BAH has put together a 15-member task force of various stakeholders, MnEBA and the elk industry counting as one. This task force has met seven times to give input into changes the BAH is proposing to make to the current Rule. The third version has just been completely reviewed by the committee and a fourth draft version will be reviewed by the committee in December. An official Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules is expected to be released in January which will be the official notice to adopt version. This document will be the culmination from previous stakeholder meetings and comments from the public and it may include items the cervid industry is not in agreement with. Cervid owners, stakeholders and the general public will then have an opportunity to comment on the official version when it is officially filed. Expect to see the new proposed Rule in early 2021. MnEBA will notify the membership of any areas of concern and what members may want to comment on.

*Be watching and ready to offer comment when the Board of Animal Health sends out their Notice of Intent to Adopt New Farmed Cervidae rules, coming out in early 2021!*

Below are general statements about the third version the committee recently reviewed to give an idea about the topics that are causing concern for the industry. Throughout the entire process, MnEBA has been working to offer solutions to areas that we feel could be detrimental to the industry. This effort will remain ongoing.

### Statement Regarding Rulemaking from the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

*By the MnEBA Legislative Committee*

We support the Board of Animal Health in this rulemaking process. We also support the effort to control the spread of CWD in Minnesota. We do not want our herds to become infected. If they do, we want to identify the infection as quickly as possible and prevent the movement of infected animals.

We raise elk for many reasons. The primary reason for most of us is to provide income that sustains our families. It is our livelihood. Like every other livestock producer in the state, we want the opportunity to raise our animals in a responsible way with as little government interference as possible.

We understand that there are specific changes that must be made to the rules because of changes made to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 35.155 during the 2019 legislative session. We propose that any additional changes to the rules must meet the following criteria. A change (1) must be needed to help control the spread of CWD, (2) must provide a reasonable solution to a problem that exists in the CWD control program, and (3) must not unnecessarily limit our ability to raise our animals and provide for our families.

**Fencing.** We oppose any language that requires

fencing that is more than 96 inches tall. There is not a problem to solve and fencing of this height is the national standard.

**Running at large.** Our animals are livestock. We own them and we do not lose ownership when they are outside our fences. We oppose any language that suggests otherwise. If an animal of ours is killed while running at large, we want to be notified so we can retrieve the animal, properly dispose of the carcass and test it for CWD.

**Identification.** We support requiring two forms of identification in our animals. It is needed and reasonable to ensure proper and unique identification. It is also required in federal Program Standards.

**Intrastate movement.** We support requiring animals to originate from CWD level 6 herds. The only reason a herd should be at less than level 6 is if they have missed CWD tests.

**CWD missed tests.** We do not support the board's current proposal regarding consequences for CWD missed tests. Missing a single test must not automatically end a producer's ability to move animals. Past surveillance must be considered.

Substituting another animal for a missed test may have some value, but it is a system that must have limits. We have developed a different plan for dealing with missed CWD tests that we believe has merit. We request that the board consider this plan. We further request that all language regarding missed tests be incorporated into the proposed rules.

**Quarantine release.** We oppose the board’s proposed language for quarantine release. It is too restrictive. We must provide methods for quarantine release in addition to depopulation. Such methods should include testing of exposed animals and testing for five years. We have developed language that addresses these concerns. We request that the board consider our proposal.

**Forced depopulation of infected herds.** We do not support extending the authority of the board to force depopulation of infected herds without payment of federal indemnity. The language provided by the 2019 Legislature regarding depopulation of CWD infected

herds is very specific. We request that this language be incorporated into the rules as written. We also do not support language that requires “the owner to take measures to minimize commingling of the herd with wild cervids.” Such language is vague and does not specify what the board may require.

**Boundaries of CWD control zones.** We oppose the board’s proposed language for management zones. It is overly restrictive and does not allow producers time to continue doing business while preparing to protect their herds from possible exposure to CWD infected wild deer. We maintain that a single case of CWD in a wild deer that is 15 miles away from a farm does not put the herd at any increased risk of infection. We propose that movement of farmed cervidae from a herd not be restricted until it is shown that CWD cases in wild deer are continually and consistently present in close proximity to the herd over a period of at least 12 months. We have developed language for this section for the board to consider.

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## APHIS Announces \$2.8 million in Funding to Combat Chronic Wasting Disease

Last Modified: Oct 15, 2020

Contact: [APHISpress@usda.gov](mailto:APHISpress@usda.gov)

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is providing nearly \$2.8 million to 17 states and one tribe to conduct research and management activities to combat Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

"APHIS is committed to protecting agriculture and wildlife across the country and slowing the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease across our agricultural and wildlife landscapes contributes to that vital mission," Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Greg Ibach said. "This is a prime example of Federal, State and Tribal partners working together to develop solutions to extremely challenging problems, and these cooperative agreements will help us control the disease and protect our natural resources."

More than \$2.4 million will be awarded to 15 different State Departments of Natural Resources and one Tribal Nation. Five State Departments of Agriculture will receive a combined total of \$349,531 to combat CWD. States receiving funding announced today include Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New York, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin, along with the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

These funds will allow these partners to further develop and implement CWD management, response, and research activities, including surveillance and testing. APHIS gave priority to states and tribes in states that have detected CWD and have a CWD monitoring and control program or that propose to create a control program.

APHIS also used \$200,000 to continue funding work on validating the use of predictive genetics in White Tail Deer. Additionally, \$1.26 million was allocated for indemnity payments to producers to assist State agricultural agencies in controlling CWD by removing infected herds or exposed cervids.

In determining how to allocate this funding, APHIS held a virtual summit in May with state agricultural and wildlife representatives, Tribal officials and the cervid industry to discuss and develop current and future needs to address CWD. Attendees helped develop a list of key priorities that will help us manage existing reservoirs of the disease, but also give us additional tools to better manage it in the future. APHIS used these collaboratively established priorities as the criteria for evaluating the projects states and Tribal Nations suggested. Those priorities are:

- improving CWD management of affected farmed herds and free ranging endemic populations;
- improving CWD management of affected areas or premises;
- conducting additional research on amplification assays;
- conducting additional research on predictive genetics; and,
- developing and/or delivering educational outreach materials or programs.

In July, APHIS solicited proposals from state and tribal governments to expand our ability to understand and combat this disease. APHIS received 53 proposals, had a scientific and program panel review those, and worked with the entities were needed to refine the scope of the most promising projects. A complete list of the projects is available at [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/animal\\_diseases/cwd/downloads/CWD-Coop-Agreements-Spending-Plan.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/cwd/downloads/CWD-Coop-Agreements-Spending-Plan.pdf).

CWD is an infectious, degenerative disease of cervids that causes brain cells to die, ultimately leading to the death of the affected animal. The disease has spread widely and the limited number of tools, as well as their effectiveness, impacts the ability to effectively control the disease.

# Committee Reports

## 2021 MnEBA Annual Conference

Because of recent Governor’s restrictions on meetings and closures of bars and restaurants, the Board made the decision to postpone the 2021 MnEBA Annual Conference until Saturday February 27<sup>th</sup>. Per MnEBA’s constitution, MnEBA must have an annual meeting within 14 months of the previous meeting so the board will work to meet that requirement. At this time, the meeting is scheduled to take place at the same location in Plymouth at the Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West. This is the same location where the 2020 conference was held.

There will be much to discuss pertaining to the Rulemaking activities currently underway by the Board of Animal Health and other items as well. The usual seminars may need to be modified somewhat and are subject to current restrictions on travel by state workers, etc. If you have a topic you would like to see offered, please let Rita or the MnEBA Office know.

More information will be forthcoming as it becomes available!

## 2021 Election Outlook

*By Tony Kwilas, MnEBA Lobbyist*

The dust has settled on the 2020 elections and the results are official. The Minnesota Senate will remain under Republican control by a 34-33 majority. The Senate was controlled by the Republicans 35-32 in the previous session. The Minnesota House of Representatives will remain under DFL control 70-64. The DFL formerly controlled the House by a 75-59 margin (there are 2 recounts outstanding where the DFL candidates lead by 40 and 99 votes). With this result the Minnesota Legislature will remain the only split Legislature in the nation.

The 2021 legislative session will lead to new committee structures and new committee chairs in both bodies. The Senate is going to reduce the size of the committee membership and the House is going to reduce the number of the committees they had in the previous session. Representative Jeanne Poppe, former chair of the House Agriculture committee and Representative John Persell, former chair of the House Environment Policy committee, were both defeated on November 3. So we know that there will be new chairs of those respective committees in the House. It is anticipated that Senator Carrie Ruud will continue to chair the Senate Environment Policy committee and Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen will chair the Senate Environment Finance committee with Bill Weber and Torrey Westrom chairing the Agriculture committees.

The two areas of focus for the 2021 Legislature will be COVID response items and the state budget. The Minnesota Constitution requires that the state have a balanced budget in place by June 30, 2021. The budget forecasts for Minnesota have shown that there will be a significant budget deficit facing the Legislature when they convene on January 5. It can be anticipated that there will be legislation introduced that will impact the farmed cervidae industry during the 2021 session. We will be closely monitoring bill introductions and will keep the membership updated on any new developments. The Board of Animal Health is also moving forward with updating the rules regulating cervidae and is anticipated to public notice the rule in early December.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Stay safe and have a great Holiday Season!

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

## Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

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[info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org)

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

## Calendar of Events

**January 9, 2021** – Drawing for MnEBA Gun Calendar Raffle, Black Velvet Elk Ranch, Howard Lake, MN

**February 27, 2021** – MnEBA Annual Conference, Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West, Plymouth, MN

**March 12-13, 2021** – NAEBA March Mingle, Hampton Inn Salt Lake City Airport, Salt Lake City, UT

**July 29-31, 2021** – NAEBA Convention & International Antler Competition, Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center, Mankato, MN

**August 26-September 6, 2021** – Minnesota State Fair, St. Paul, MN

## Classified Ads

**For Sale:** Kiwi Ultimate squeeze chute for sale. Always shedded, in great shape and comes with an electric hydraulic pump, \$5,000. Also gating system for sale, 507-383-6113.

**Wanted:** Wapiti Labs is buying hard antler. Best prices on 2" diameter and larger. Call 651-237-4051 for more information.

**For Sale:** NV Elk Modular Handling System, (8) swing gates, (7) slider gates, (2) homemade slider gates, one unit has Manual Squeeze and one unit has AI door. Also Elk-Rite 7000 Squeeze Chute with electric hydraulic unit, 10K for all. Will consider reasonable offer. Also other elk raising related equipment for sale. Contact Pat Prodzinski at 507-312-0327.

**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](mailto:outbackfence@hotmail.com). Book for your fencing needs and projects for 2021 now! Visit our website at [www.outbackMN.com](http://www.outbackMN.com).

## MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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