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President's Message by Mark Luedtke



Hello everyone!

Summer is here; I wish all of you and your families a healthy wonderful season.

We have had a challenging and busy few weeks dealing with recent events and actions by the MN Board of Animal Health. Thank you to all our members who participated in providing opposition to the recent attempt to use the good cause exemption for a rule change regarding cervid farming. Fortunately, the

Administrative Law Judge ruled in our favor denying the request to make this change under the good cause exemption criteria.

I hope all of you understand the board had to make some very difficult decisions in a very short period of time. After thorough discussions with the board and the government relations committee we felt compelled to hire legal counsel to assist in challenging this attempt. I want you all to know we didn't make this decision lightly from either the severity of the implications related to the proposed changes and the attempted technique to accomplish these changes or the financial obligations to the association for hiring legal representation. I will say I was quite pleased with what our legal team put together, I felt it was extremely well laid out based on sound merit and I felt it was significantly different than anything we could have put together without their expertise.

President's Message continued Page 2

Make Plans to Attend!

2021 MnEBA Summer Picnic DATE – August 7, 2021

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)

LUNCH BEGINS AT NOON
Bring a dish to pass!

A Noon meal is being planned followed by the MnEBA summer membership meeting and farm tour.

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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Executive Secretary to the Board

Brenda Hartkopf
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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.

Market Update

Velvet Price for 2021

The unknown of the velvet market for 2021 has prompted me to try and nail down Parkland with getting a sense of what to expect for this year. Though it is certainly not the greatest news, it is to an extent great to know that again this year there will be a velvet buyer for the industry and the price of green antler will not go down. I have been assured that again Parkland will be buying and the price will remain the same as last year (\$17). This should help producers make the choice of what bulls to velvet and what bulls to grow out. The one point made from Lee was, when cutting he asks that once you start your cut, make a straight cut completely through. Again I will also add that with the price as it is, try to cut your bulls on time, this is very important to get the best return possible.

The first thought from some will be that \$17 is not enough. I agree, however the only part of the elk market that cash flows currently, and not on all farms, is hunt bulls. The two mainstays in the industry right now are meat animals and hunt bulls, (meat also will not cash flow). Add all the markets to the bottom line in your operation and they will help increase that bottom number much better than not having them.

I would expect that collection will take place at the end of July and though early, I likely will be having a truck at the convention in Mankato. This is very unusual to get a sense of the velvet market early, I thought it helpful for that information. The industry has been fortunate that Parkland has been a market for so many years.

I urge caution when not cutting for the simple reason of not wanting to accept \$17. The hard antler market cannot handle another 20,000 pounds without also pushing that price down. The hunt bull market though strong, also will make that market vulnerable, and most importantly should the U.S. supply of velvet drop too far below 10-12 ton, it just might not be viable to buy U.S. velvet.

Any questions call 612-850-8684.
Scott Salonek

President's Message continued from Page 1

We are grateful for the financial assistance provided from NAEBA in support of this effort to stop this action by the Board of Animal Health and I ask each of you to thank them as well. One way to show your gratitude would be to make plans now to attend the annual convention and antler competition scheduled for July 29-31 in Mankato, MN. I hope to see you there.

I encourage every member to contact any member of the board if you have any questions, concerns, or comments regarding what we have been dealing with and how we have handled it.

Mark

Board Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2021

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association Board of Directors held a meeting via Zoom on Tuesday March 16, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Kraig Wurst, Lance Hartkopf, Greg Lubinski, Perry Olson and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Guests included Jim Byrne and Tony Kwilas. Luedtke called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. President Luedtke asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda as presented. Olson moved to accept the agenda as proposed, Lubinski seconded, motion carried.

The board was previously sent minutes for the January 29, February 16, March 13, May 28 and November 24 board meetings for calendar year 2020 and minutes for the January 7, 2021 board meeting. Wurst moved to approve the minutes all as one group, Lubinski seconded, motion carried.

Hartkopf reviewed the Treasurer's report, first fiscal year 2020, then fiscal year 2021 to date. Lubinski moved to accept both reports, Olson seconded, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Hartkopf reported BAH is in the process of making updates to the Rules in preparation to present their final proposed version to the BAH Board of Directors on April 21. The legislative committee updated MnEBA's comment draft to reflect changes from the latest draft version, removing items which the association had previously indicated agreement on, eliminating items that had been addressed and changing from 120 days to 180 days, the length of time in which a producer has to construct exclusionary fencing to not be considered part of an endemic zone for intrastate movement. After much discussion on the comments, Lubinski moved to approve the new comment version, Wurst seconded, motion carried. Hartkopf directed to send updated comments to BAH along with additional details about the change to 180 days and also consequences for missed tests as remaining big concerns.

Hartkopf reported there were 26 people on the 2021 MnEBA Annual Meeting via Zoom. The monetary donation fundraiser brought in \$6,450 and the Zihua trip brought \$802.77 for a total fundraiser of \$7,253. Six members donated \$500, 11 members donated \$250 and six members donated \$100.

Board also discussed questions that had come up on the membership meeting. This led to a discussion about updating the association clothing inventory. This topic was tabled until the next meeting.

Tony Kwilas joined the call at 11:00 a.m. He spoke at length about HF 1727 and concerns with language dealing with exclusionary fencing and moving oversight of the farmed cervidae program from BAH to DNR. This bill will be heard in the House Ag committee tomorrow and is expected to pass on party lines. There was much discussion about BAH silence on these matters. Hartkopf was directed to contact both Dr. Thompson and BAH Chairman Dean Compart to discuss our concerns. Tony also pointed out that language regarding ownership of an escaped farmed cervid carcass being retained by the hunter is found in several different bills. There was also discussion about SF 1546 which as of now has no hearing in the House scheduled. SF 1305 was also discussed. It seems many people have a lot of questions about SF 1305 and there needs to be more work done on the bill to advance. Kwilas then left the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The board thanked Olson for his time of service on the board and expressed their pleasure in working with him. Election of officers was then held. Wagner moved to elect Luedtke as President and Wurst as Vice President. Lubinski added Wagner to be Secretary/Treasurer to the motion which was accepted by Wagner. L. Hartkopf seconded, motion carried.

Board discussed a recent meeting with Dr. Peter Larsen about RT-QulC studies at the University of Minnesota to brainstorm about ways this new technology could be proven and used to benefit the farmed cervid industry and how members could take part. There was further discussion about RT-QulC research by Dr. Henderson and Dr. Haley. It was decided to table the topic and revisit at the next meeting. Byrne and Lubinski left the meeting during this discussion.

Discussed the 2022 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar and if any changes should be made to this year's calendar. Budget for guns purchased will be decided during the budget discussions later in the meeting. There was concern about watching that all calendars

that go out are either paid for or returned. Ultimately, no changes were recommended.

Board held discussion about a member request to allow not only children/grandchildren, but also general relatives to be eligible for the MnEBA Scholarship. This idea was positively received by members at the recent membership meeting and also the board. Board further discussed having a scoring system to aid the committee in making their award decision and will ask the committee to make a recommendation for board consideration.

The draft version of the budget for 2021 was then established, going through each line item individually. Hartkopf to prepare the draft budget report then distribute to the board for their review.

It was agreed to schedule the next meeting after the Easter holiday unless one was needed sooner. L. Hartkopf moved to adjourn, Wagner seconded, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2.15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

Legislative Update

It has been another active year in the Minnesota House and Senate regarding farmed cervidae and Chronic Wasting Disease discussions. With new cases of CWD popping up in farmed whitetail deer herds during the course of the session, this always puts more fuel on the fire for legislators to create more laws to curb CWD.

The regular session ended on May 17, but as come to be the new normal, their work did not get done. Because this is a budget year, at minimum, budgets need to be agreed upon prior to July 1 otherwise we will see a government shutdown. In the midst of budget talks, there are certain policy items still being pursued, although these will be pared down significantly as budget talks take precedence. Working groups have been busy hammering out negotiations which ended May 28. Any agreed upon policy compromises coming from these negotiations have a deadline of June 4. Because the governor's emergency powers end June 14, that is the next expected time the legislature will reconvene. The next natural deadline is June 30, the day before a potential government shutdown.



That being said, the Agriculture committees on both sides did hammer out a few new policy provisions by the May 17 deadline which were signed into law from by Governor Walz on May 25. The following is the new language that impacts farmed cervidae. Anything underlined below is new language and anything crossed out is being removed from law:

SF 958

Subd. 5. Chronic wasting disease. If a white-tailed deer was harvested from a chronic wasting disease management area established by the commissioner of natural resources, an individual processing wild game under this section must dispose of the carcass through any disposal method approved for the management area in Department of Natural Resources hunting rules.

Sec. 12.

Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 35.02, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. Members; officers. The board has ~~five~~ six members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate, ~~three~~ four of whom are producers of livestock in the state and at least one of the four livestock producers is also a member of a federally recognized Tribe located in Minnesota, and two of whom are practicing veterinarians licensed in Minnesota. The commissioners of agriculture, natural resources, and health, the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, and the director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory of the University of Minnesota may serve as consultants to the board without vote. Appointments to fill unexpired terms

must be made from the classes to which the retiring members belong. The board shall elect a president and a vice-president from among its members and a veterinarian licensed in Minnesota who is not a member to be its executive director for a term of one year and until a successor qualifies. The board shall set the duties of the director.

Sec. 13.

Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 35.155, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. Disease control programs. Farmed Cervidae are subject to this chapter and the rules of the Board of Animal Health in the same manner as other livestock and domestic animals, including provisions related to importation and transportation. The board shall allow the movement of Cervidae from a Cervidae farm located within a chronic wasting disease management or endemic zone if the Cervidae have tested negative for chronic wasting disease with an antemortem test validated by the United States Department of Agriculture and the herd has met other movement requirements as set by the board.

Sec. 14.

Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 35.155, subdivision 11, is amended to read:

Subd. 11. Mandatory surveillance for chronic wasting disease; depopulation.

(a) An inventory for each farmed Cervidae herd must be verified by an accredited veterinarian and filed with the Board of Animal Health every 12 months.

(b) Movement of farmed Cervidae from any premises to another location must be reported to the Board of Animal Health within 14 days of the movement on forms approved by the Board of Animal Health.

(c) All animals from farmed Cervidae herds that are over 12 months of age that die or are slaughtered must be tested for chronic wasting disease.

(d) The owner of a premises where chronic wasting disease is detected must:

(1) depopulate the premises of Cervidae after the ~~appraisal process~~ appraisal process for federal indemnification process has been completed or, if an indemnification application is not submitted, within a reasonable time determined by the board in consultation with the commissioner of natural resources;

(2) maintain the fencing required under subdivision 4 on the premises for five years after the date of detection; and

(3) post the fencing on the premises with biohazard signs as directed by the board.

HF 1076/SF 959

The big concern at the present time is the Environment Omnibus bill (HF 1076/SF 959) which is still in the negotiating process. This bill has wide disagreement between House and Senate conferees on a myriad of items, including provisions for farmed cervidae. While the House has advocated for language which would allow a hunter licensed by the DNR to kill and possess escaped farmed cervidae, requiring farmed whitetail deer to be double fenced with two 10-ft fences, enact a moratorium on any new deer farms, enact a moratorium on whitetail deer to be moved from one location to another, and transfer oversight of the farmed cervidae program from the Board of Animal Health to the DNR, the Senate has not agreed to any of this language to date. Since both sides would need to agree on any new language in order to move it forward, none of the above-mentioned provisions have come to pass. However with the news this past week of more CWD in Beltrami county and the addition of more farms in quarantine, along with reported illegal dumping of carcasses, we can expect these topics to be picked up again.

This bill has huge discrepancies in budget items so it is hoped that talks will be steered that direction and not towards policy items that would directly impact the farmed cervid industry.

Our lobbyist Tony Kwilas is in discussions every day with the Senate chair of the Environment committee and is diligently working to keep elk out of any new provisions. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.



News Release

For Immediate Release: April 7, 2021

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

Southern Minnesota CWD investigation identifies new infection in Beltrami County

St. Paul, Minn. - A 3-year-old white-tailed doe at a Beltrami County farm has been confirmed CWD positive by the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratories. This 77-head herd was quarantined in October 2020 as part of the Board of Animal Health investigation of the previously reported Houston County CWD detection. The Beltrami County herd owner purchased 11 animals from the Winona County herd also identified in the investigation so these animals were considered CWD-exposed, which led to the quarantine.

“This detection is disheartening,” said Board of Animal Health Assistant Director, Dr. Linda Glaser. “Our investigation and tracing led us to find this positive animal. However, CWD continues to negatively impact Minnesota farmed cervid producers, and the tools we have to control this disease are so limited. The Board will work with the USDA to get this herd depopulated to stop any spread of disease from the herd.”

The Beltrami County owner requested federal indemnity for the CWD-exposed animals, which were appraised by the USDA in March. USDA officials reported three of the 11 exposed animals had recently died and they collected CWD samples from two of them for testing; one of those animals was the CWD positive doe. The third deer was too decomposed to collect a sample. All carcass remains were taken to the University of Minnesota for safe disposal.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, which manages the health of the wild deer population, will conduct precautionary surveillance in the area surrounding the Beltrami County farm to determine if nearby wild deer are infected with CWD. Surveillance will begin with this fall’s hunting season and last a minimum of three consecutive years. The DNR encourages Beltrami County residents to report observations of sick wild deer to their local wildlife office by calling 218-732-8452. A deer feeding ban will also be put in place in Beltrami and surrounding counties.

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 a CWD positive animal is not advised.

Explaining the Recent Emergency Rulemaking by the Minnesota Board of Animal Health

Why did the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) seek emergency rulemaking in late April as seen on the following page? This all came together very quickly after CWD was discovered on a Beltrami deer farm (see above). Because of the Winona county deer farm link between the recent Houston County and Beltrami County deer herds which have been diagnosed with CWD, (the Winona herd has not been diagnosed with CWD to date), the BAH decided an emergency rule was necessary and moved quickly to make that request. The industry was blind-sided at an April 21, 2021 Quarterly Board meeting while BAH sought to make their case to the BAH Directors to approve the request to pursue emergency rulemaking. The BAH Directors approved the request on a 4-1 vote. Thus began the rollercoaster ride between industry and BAH that ended in the request being denied by the Administrative Law Judge.

News Release

For Immediate Release: April 26, 2021

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

Board of Animal Health pursues special rulemaking process to quickly amend farmed cervid rules

St. Paul, Minn. - During its quarterly meeting on Wednesday, April 21, the Minnesota Board of Animal Health approved a measure allowing its farmed cervid program to use a streamlined process to change one of its rules. Minnesota Rule 1721.0420, subpart 3, currently allows a farmed Cervidae herd owner in a CWD endemic area to continue moving animals if they meet certain criteria like having exclusionary fencing to prevent contact between farmed and wild cervids.

The Board asserts this rule needs to be amended faster than it can be amended under the normal rulemaking process in order to stop these cervid movements based on evidence from its investigation of the recently announced CWD positive Beltrami County farmed deer herd. In this instance, exclusionary fencing between farmed and wild cervids does not appear to be an effective means of preventing CWD exposure, which likely came from an exposed herd in Winona County. To prevent the potential spread of CWD to areas outside of a CWD endemic area, the Board proposes to stop these types of movements by amending the rule.

Please visit the Board's eComments site at the Office of Administrative Hearings website to see the full proposal and provide public comment. The comment period and the eComments site will be open for five working days until Monday, May 3 at 4:30 p.m. Once the comment period closes, the administrative law judge has 14 days to review the comments and the Board's justification for utilizing the streamlined rulemaking process, and to approve or disapprove the amended rule.

This streamlined rulemaking process is known as Good Cause Exemption rulemaking, which is a type of rulemaking an agency can use if it believes a rule needs to be amended faster than the normal rulemaking process allows. A Good Cause Exemption rule can be amended within 14 days if the agency can successfully demonstrate to an administrative law judge that the normal rulemaking requirements are contrary to the public interest and the rule amendment is necessary to address a serious and immediate threat to public health, safety, or welfare. Any rule amended through this process is effective for two years.

Public Rulemaking Notice

May 11, 2021

St. Paul, Minn. - An administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings has disapproved the Board of Animal Health's request to amend Minnesota Rule 1721.0420, subpart 3, through Good Cause Exempt rulemaking.

An administrative law judge had 14 days to review the proposed rule and all public comments, and made the final decision today, May 11, 2021.

With this decision, the Board will resume activities on its current rulemaking project to amend Farmed Cervidae rules, Minnesota Rules 1721.0370 to 1721.0420.

News Release

For Immediate Release: May 25, 2021

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

Additional CWD positives and illegal carcass disposal spur expanded investigation and response in Beltrami County

Saint Paul, Minn. - Twelve additional white-tailed deer tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in the infected Beltrami County farmed deer herd, five adult does and seven fawns. The Board of Animal Health (Board) first reported this CWD positive herd in April when a 3-year-old doe tested positive for the disease. Earlier this month, the remaining 54 animals in the herd were depopulated by the USDA and samples from each animal were collected and then tested at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories.

The Beltrami County farmed deer herd was initially quarantined in October 2020 due to receiving animals from a Winona County source herd. Among the deer received by the Beltrami County herd was the doe which tested positive for CWD in early April, about 1 – 1.5 years after moving out of the source herd.

During an inspection of the Beltrami County premises following the quarantine of the herd, a Board agent discovered several adult deer and fawn carcasses had been moved by the owner to nearby county-managed tax-forfeit land. This spurred an investigation by the Board, which has been working with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Pollution Control Agency, and tribal and local officials to mitigate any potential spread of CWD from these carcasses. Due to test results that indicate CWD-causing prions are on this site, agencies are currently working with the county to build a fence that would prevent wild deer access to the site and reduce the risk of prion exposure. The DNR is following its CWD response plan and is planning to test hunter harvested deer this fall to understand whether CWD is in wild deer in this area. The Board's ongoing investigation will address possible violations of Minnesota animal health laws.

Of the 12 additional CWD positive animals most recently identified, nine were born on the Beltrami County farm and three were moved to the farm from other Minnesota herds. These herds are considered to be CWD exposed since there is a possibility the animals could have been infected with the disease prior to being moved to Beltrami County. One of the CWD exposed herds (Winona County) was officially quarantined during the Houston County positive herd investigation. The other two CWD exposed herds in Hennepin and Kanabec Counties were quarantined Thursday, May 20. Three additional CWD exposed herds located in Mille Lacs, Morrison and Mower Counties received animals from the Kanabec County herd and were quarantined on Friday, May 21. The Board is working to identify and test animals in all of these CWD exposed herds that resided in a herd at the same time as a CWD positive animal.

CWD is a neurological disease of the deer and elk family caused by prions and is always fatal. The disease can be spread by both direct (animal-to-animal) and indirect (environmental) contact with infected Cervidae. Prions are shed through saliva, urine, blood, feces, and antler velvet and are known to persist in the environment for years. Additionally, carcass remains from a dead infected deer can serve as a source of further infection to other Cervidae. Consuming meat from CWD infected animals is not advised.

Thank You to Everyone Who Made Comment on the Emergency Rule Regarding Farmed Cervidae in CWD Endemic Zones

THANK YOU to all MnEBA members who took the time to make comment on the sudden emergency rule BAH was seeking which would **no longer** allow farmed cervidae facilities that utilize exclusionary fencing measures in CWD endemic zones to move animals within Minnesota except to slaughter.

Your comments made a huge difference in showing the judge this is an important issue to the industry. There were 37 comments made altogether - 16 comments from the elk industry, 10 comments from the deer industry, 6 comments from Tribes and 5 comments from the general public. To view all comments made, go to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health website at www.bah.state.mn.us, click on Public Rulemaking on the Home Page, scroll down to Good Cause Exemption Rulemaking and click on "ecomments".

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health sent a press release on May 11 announcing the Administrative Law Judge had DENIED their request for emergency rulemaking that would no longer allow farmed cervidae facilities that utilize exclusionary fencing measures in CWD endemic zones to move animals within Minnesota except to slaughter. So for now, farms in located in these zones can continue business as usual as ongoing Rulemaking activities by BAH continue.

The judge noted 80% of comments submitted were in opposition to the emergency rule request. The fact that he mentions this in his letter shows the impact industry comments had on the judge. View this letter at https://mn.gov/oah/assets/9048-37492-animal-health-cervidae-farming-good-cause-exempt-rules-report_tcm19-481599.pdf.

As the MnEBA Board of Directors sought guidance for an industry response, it became clear that legal action was needed. The North American Elk Breeders Association (NAEBA) was instrumental in not only offering advice on moving forward, but also stepped up to grant financial assistance in helping to pay for a portion of the legal fees. While producers were able to represent industry opposition, the Association response was able to focus on legal arguments such as similar past cases which had been denied and also point out the ways the BAH did not meet the criteria to request an emergency rule in a way only lawyers can. MnEBA feels this letter was an instrumental viewpoint that specifically outlined to the judge in legal terms, why the emergency request should be denied. See https://mneba.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Minnesota_Elk_Breeders_Association_Comment_Letter.pdf to view this letter and supporting materials. A hard copy of any of these letters can also be requested to be mailed to you, just contact the MnEBA office at 320-543-2686 to make this request.

Many thanks to Travis Lowe and NAEBA, our lobbyist Tony Kwilas, the MnEBA legislative committee (Jim Byrne and Paul Anderson) and everyone who made comments to help the industry prevail in this effort.

Current Ongoing Rulemaking Update

Neither the Rulemaking Advisory Committee nor MnEBA have heard anything from BAH relating to current Rulemaking activities which have been ongoing since June 2019 other than they were paused while BAH pursued emergency rulemaking and that they have now commenced once again.

Stay tuned for further information as it becomes available.

*Spring Coulee
Velvet Capsules*



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Bill & Karen Knudson
Home of Spring Coulee Elk



News Release

For Immediate Release: June 1, 2021

For more information – info.dnr@state.mn.us or 888-646-6367

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

Emergency action will provide time to understand connections between known CWD-positive farms and prevent additional transfer from potentially exposed farms

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has issued an emergency rule temporarily prohibiting the movement of all farmed white-tailed deer within the state, with the exception of deer being transported to slaughter. The rule takes effect Tuesday, June 1, and ends Saturday, July 31.

The rule is a temporary, emergency action to reduce further spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD) and protect Minnesota's wild deer. The action is in response to concerning developments following the discovery of CWD in white-tailed deer at a farm in Beltrami County in northern Minnesota.

The emergency rule will provide time to examine and respond to connections between this farm and other potentially exposed farms throughout the state. The DNR issued a similar emergency rule in 2019 following the confirmation of CWD at a deer farm in Douglas County.

"This is a serious disease that poses a growing threat to Minnesota's wild deer, and our actions must reflect that," said DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen. "The DNR is committed to proactively addressing CWD and doing everything we can to protect Minnesota's white-tailed deer as part of our natural heritage. The CWD detections at the Beltrami County farm, its connections to other farms in the state and the additional contamination outside of the farm, pose a risk to wild deer that requires emergency action."

Last week, the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) confirmed that a total of 13 deer tested positive for the fatal deer disease in a herd of 55 deer. The initial detection was confirmed on April 7, 2021; additional testing of the depopulated herd confirmed that 12 additional deer had the disease. Deer remains from the farm were also discovered on adjacent, county-managed land; testing conducted by the University of Minnesota's Center for Prion Research and Outreach indicated the presence of CWD-causing prions in at least one of the bones found there.

Additionally, the BAH has identified movements of deer to the Beltrami farm from three herds in Minnesota; these herds are considered trace herds. There were no deer movements from the Beltrami herd. Since May 20, BAH has quarantined an additional nine herds in eight counties because of possible CWD exposure. These additional herds are located in the following Minnesota counties: Crow Wing, Dakota, Hennepin, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Mower and Stearns. A Winona County farm has been under quarantine since October 2020.

As announced in a May 25 statement, the DNR is working closely with the BAH as the agencies investigate the Beltrami County discovery and trace the farm's connections to other locations in the state. In an additional effort to reduce disease risk in the area, the DNR is coordinating with Beltrami County to construct a fence at the off-farm site of deer remains to prevent wild deer access to prions.

The DNR is managing and monitoring for CWD in areas of Minnesota where the disease has been detected in both captive and wild deer. These areas are in southeastern Minnesota, the Twin Cities south metro area, and Crow Wing County, Douglas County and Pine County in central Minnesota.

DNR News Release *continued on Page 23*



Driven to DiscoverSM

University of Minnesota researchers develop novel, field-deployable test for CWD

April 20, 2021 - University of Minnesota researchers at the Minnesota Center for Prion Research (MNPRO) have developed a novel approach to field testing chronic wasting disease (CWD). The team confirmed their findings in southeast Minnesota the week of March 8, 2021, making them the first-ever scientists to successfully deploy a CWD field test. (<https://mnpro.umn.edu/>)

There are limited testing options available for CWD, leading scientists to investigate several new approaches with the hopes of obstructing the disease's spread. Last spring, the MNPRO team worked with the Minnesota DNR to analyze tissue samples from CWD-positive white-tailed deer using a technique known as RT-QuIC. The team managed to obtain confirmation of protein-misfolding in just nine hours with that approach. Only a handful of labs currently have access to this top-of-the-line technology for CWD testing.



MN-QuIC vials turning red

Now, the MNPRO researchers have developed a new assay that generates a color change of red for a positive CWD result and blue for negative. They have named the test "MN-QuIC" to honor the state of Minnesota, where the test was developed.

"MN-QuIC uses nanoparticles to identify CWD prions in tissue samples. It is the product of an intense multi-disciplinary research effort that united scientists across the University of Minnesota," says Peter Larsen, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and co-director of MNPRO. He says the new test is also a lot cheaper than those using traditional equipment and uses field-deployable equipment to garner preliminary results in just 24 hours. "We have performed over one hundred confirmatory tests in our MNPRO lab and this was our first field-deployment. We will continue to validate MN-QuIC over the coming months and plan additional field deployments this fall." (<https://vetmed.umn.edu/bio/college-of-veterinary-medicine/peter-larsen>)

The team is striving for a test that could be set-up at individual stations statewide, cutting down on testing bottlenecks. "This would help prevent CWD prions from entering our food supply," Larsen says, "and would be an important step forward in the fight against CWD."

CWD originated roughly 50 years ago and affects white-tailed deer, mule deer, red deer, sika deer, caribou, reindeer, elk, and moose — all animals known as "cervids." The transmissible neurological disease produces small lesions in an animal's brain and ultimately results in abnormal behavior, weight loss, loss of bodily functions, and death. While it is yet unknown whether the disease can spread to humans, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends against eating meat from CWD-infected animals. In 2020, both the Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture declared CWD-positive venison unfit for human or animal consumption, listing the meat as an adulterated product.

CWD is spread by misfolded prion proteins, which also cause scrapie in sheep, bovine spongiform encephalopathy in cattle (sometimes called “mad cow disease”), and sporadic Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans. CWD-causing prions are not alive and can only be destroyed with specialized equipment or strong chemicals, which is what makes CWD so difficult to mitigate. They can also persist in the environment for years. Advances made on CWD could inform other prion-related diseases in humans and animals alike.

The field team was composed of Larsen; Peter Christenson, a graduate student in the UMN College of Science and Engineering who envisioned this new testing method; Manc Li, a PhD student in the CVM; Marc Schwabenlander, MPH, chronic wasting disease research program and outreach manager at MNPRO; and Tiffany Wolf, DVM, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Population Medicine at the CVM and co-director of MNPRO.

The scientists also spent the trip collecting environmental samples from areas impacted by CWD and connecting with partners in nearby Amish communities to identify culturally-appropriate CWD management strategies. (<https://vetmed.umn.edu/bio/college-of-veterinary-medicine/tiffany-wolf>).

“This project is a shining example of bringing bipartisan support in the legislature, scientists, state agencies, and private landowners together to find solutions that support everyone’s needs,” Larsen says. “This is exactly how a land grant institution should function.”

This research was supported by the MN Agricultural Experiment Station Rapid Ag Response Fund and Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund, as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources. Additionally, various entities at the University of Minnesota have provided support, including the CVM’s Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, the Office for the Vice President of Research, and the College more broadly, which also houses MNPRO. The research team works closely with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on multiple aspects of CWD research.

Media Contact: University Public Relations, (612) 624-5551, unews@umn.edu

U of M testing finds presence of CWD prions at Beltrami County carcass dump site

May 18, 2021 - Using forensic science techniques, a team led by University of Minnesota scientists recovered samples from a remote Beltrami County site used by a nearby deer farm to discard white-tailed deer carcasses. Testing for the presence of chronic wasting disease (CWD)-causing prions has found one bone marrow sample to be positive.

The rapid testing was completed using RT-QuIC technology, a highly-sensitive assay that can be used to identify CWD prions in carcasses and the environment. Faster, accurate testing that can be used on a wide variety of sample types is critical to improving efforts to limit the spread of CWD, a transmissible neurological disease that is always fatal to white-tailed deer.



Credit: Harry Collins/Getty

“This is a rapidly evolving situation. We are glad that we were able to assist our collaborators at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Board of Animal Health, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture with RT-QuIC testing of the carcasses,” said Peter Larsen, Ph.D., who led the team and co-directs the Minnesota Center for Prion Research and Outreach (MNPRO) at the University. “Our work helps everyone respond more quickly with actions to safeguard our collective white-tailed deer resources. Identification of a positive carcass within

an area that is frequented by wild white-tailed deer is highly concerning. Our MNPRO team is ready to assist with securing the dump-site to try and prevent CWD from spreading to the surrounding wild herds.”

Sweeping across the site on May 2, the team collected bones, hides, soil and plant samples. Their expertise in cervid anatomy and mortality investigations of wildlife allowed the discovery of portions of ten or more deer. Additionally, the team’s knowledge of the conditions that promote the survival of CWD-causing prions allowed them to focus on collecting and processing samples obtained from highly deteriorated and desiccated materials with a high likelihood of retaining the prions months or years after their deposition.

The nearby deer farm herd was depopulated last week, and samples from those deer have been collected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for official CWD testing. MNPRO obtained additional research samples from the depopulated animals. Further testing of the carcass samples in-hand, as well as future collection and testing of additional samples from the carcass site, is dependent on MNPRO receiving additional funding.

The forensic recovery team included Larsen, Tiffany Wolf, DVM, Ph.D.; Roxanne Larsen, Ph.D.; Marc Schwabenlander, MPH; and Gage Rowden, M.S., all from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. Joining the team was Jason Bartz, Ph.D., from Creighton University’s School of Medicine. Bartz will independently verify the results of the RT-QuIC testing performed by the MNPRO laboratory.

The MNPRO team also recently developed a new assay that generates a color change of red for a positive CWD result and blue for negative. They have named the test “MN-QuIC” to honor the state of Minnesota, where the test was developed. The new test is cheaper than those using traditional equipment and uses field-deployable equipment to garner preliminary results in just 24 hours. The team is striving for a test that could be used at individual stations, cutting down on testing bottlenecks during deer hunting season. MN-QuIC is another tool that holds promise for rapid sample screening in forensic investigations such as this.

CWD originated roughly 50 years ago and affects white-tailed deer, mule deer, red deer, sika deer, caribou, reindeer, elk, and moose — all animals known as “cervids.” The disease produces small lesions in an animal’s brain and ultimately results in abnormal behavior, weight loss, loss of bodily functions, and death. While it is yet unknown whether the disease can spread to humans, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends against eating meat from CWD-infected animals. In 2020, both the Food and Drug Administration and the USDA declared CWD-positive venison unfit for human or animal consumption.

CWD is spread by misfolded prion proteins, the same process that causes scrapie in sheep, bovine spongiform encephalopathy in cattle (sometimes called “mad cow disease”), and sporadic Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans. CWD-causing prions are not alive and can only be destroyed with specialized equipment or strong chemicals, which is what makes CWD so difficult to mitigate. They can also persist in the environment for years. Advances made on CWD could inform other prion-related diseases in humans and animals alike.

MNPRO’s research is supported by the MN Agricultural Experiment Station Rapid Ag Response Fund and the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources. Additionally, various entities at the University of Minnesota have provided support, including the University’s Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, the Office for the Vice President of Research, and the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Media Contact: University Public Relations, (612) 293-0831, unews@umn.edu

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Thank you for your support!

Board Blog by Brian Wagner, MnEBA Secretary/Treasurer



What a perfect year 2021 is turning out to be other than dealing with legislation, the Board of Animal Health and in the last 16 months, turning the whole world upside-down that our great grandchildren will still be paying for. I'm still going to try and stay positive here.



Life couldn't be better; Sunday afternoon sitting on the porch, sun shining bright. Grandkids were all here for the weekend.

Just had a 2" rain and will be making 1st crop hay this week. Had two new calves today and six on the ground. Hard antler bulls are looking good. We've cut six spikers and will be velveting several older bulls this week.

Also this week I drew a Wyoming archery elk license that I've waited 14 years for. Before I know it September will be here (full rut bugle) and we'll be on the mountain again.

I hope these beautiful days ahead find everyone as healthy and happy as we are in Howard Lake.

Black Velvet Elk
Brian Wagner



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*See your veterinarian for direction when developing a pour-on program for your elk.

MnEBA Kitchen

Here's a great recipe to change things up for mealtime!

Sour Cream Enchiladas

1 lb. ground elk	8 oz. sour cream
1 small jar picante sauce	1 pkg. large soft-shell tortillas
½ pkg. taco seasoning	1 can Cream of Mushroom soup
1 can refried beans	2-3 cups shredded cheddar cheese (divided)



DIRECTIONS

Brown elk burger, add picante sauce and simmer for 15 minutes. Add taco seasoning and refried beans; let simmer while mixing sour cream and soup together.

Fill shells with meat sauce and sprinkle each shell with cheese. Roll up and place seam side down in a cake pan. Cover shells with sour cream and soup mixture. Sprinkle top with more cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 30-40 minutes or until it bubbles and the cheese melts. Makes 8 to 10 enchiladas.

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!

2022 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar

SEVEN Sponsorships Are Still Available!

Many thanks to all MnEBA members who have stepped up to sponsor a month in the 2021 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. This year's sponsors to date include Brian Wagner, Lance & Brenda Hartkopf, Kraig & Jenny Wurst, Mark & Lisa Luedtke and Greg & Roxy Lubinski. SEVEN spots are still OPEN! All you need is good picture with an elk on it, your contact information and logo if you have it. The picture doesn't have to be from this year, it can be a picture from an earlier year. The cost to sponsor a month in the calendar is \$300. Sponsors are what help to pay for the printing of the calendar so the raffle itself can be more profitable. If you would be willing to sponsor a month in the calendar, please contact the MnEBA Office as soon as possible!



Same great incentives to sell calendars this year! For each group of ten calendars sold by any one person, the seller's name goes in the hat for a special gun drawing outside of the raffle calendar. Stubs and money for all ten tickets must be turned in by December 31, 2021 to be eligible for the drawing. Sellers can be entered multiple times for each group of 10 calendars sold. The free membership incentive for 30 calendars sold with stubs and money turned in by December 31 will also continue. With 26 guns and six \$100 Bonus Cash days, there are many great chances to win!

800 calendars will be available again this year. It wasn't a sellout last year but considering all the gathering restrictions due to Covid-19 during the sales period, selling 754 calendars was fantastic!

2022 Calendars will be available at this year's MnEBA Summer Picnic on August 7 in Pequot Lakes. They will also be available at the NAEBA Convention in Mankato, MN on July 29-31. Calendars can also be mailed out from the office or by contacting a board member. Whatever you can do to help sell calendars would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the MnEBA Office with any questions or comments at 320-543-2686 or info@mneba.org.

Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

I am a trustee of the Elk Research Foundation and am very hopeful about the following elk genome project which would help better identify genetic susceptibility to CWD in elk.

Please consider taking elk hair samples from animals that go to slaughter or to harvest preserves and have or will have a post-mortem negative CWD test to help further research on this important work.

Elk Hair Samples Needed for Groundbreaking Research Project

ERF Project 2102- Elk DNA Genomic Sequencing Collection- Part Two

The Elk Research Foundation is collecting DNA hair samples from farmed elk across the United States and Canada to assist in validation of an elk genome.

In 2019, the Elk Research Foundation partnered with Dr. Chris Seabury of Texas A&M University who is learning more about elk sequencing technologies by collecting elk DNA samples. Dr. Seabury's recent work includes creation of a white-tailed deer genome.

Dr. Seabury's research suggests the new technology for whitetail deer is allowing the possibility for more genetic trends to be identified, which may help pinpoint susceptibility to diseases such as Chronic Wasting Disease. Initial validation is very promising.

The ERF is currently collaborating with Dr. Seabury on how comprehensive sequencing and a genome for elk can be accomplished. There are several steps to take place in the process but collecting additional elk DNA samples will be crucial for future validation trials.

In the coming months, the ERF is requesting elk owners pull DNA hair samples from their animals that are expected to be post-mortem tested for Chronic Wasting Disease. As examples, elk expected to be sent for meat harvest or to trophy preserves this year would be helpful opportunities to pull hair. The animal's age or gender does not matter, as long as there is a negative Chronic Wasting Disease test after harvest.

Samples can be mailed to the ERF office at the following address:

Elk Research Foundation
9086 Keats Ave SW
Howard Lake, MN 55349

DNA samples will need to be collected very similar to samples collected for parentage. Each sample needs to be in its own sealed small envelope labeled with the following information:

Tag Number
Male or Female
Ranch Name
City, State/Province

The ERF kindly asks for a list to be submitted in spreadsheet form noting the inventory of the samples submitted. Thank you in advance!



RT-QulC: The Future of CWD Diagnostic Testing

By Peter A. Larsen

Department of Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences, Minnesota Center for Prion Research and Outreach (MNPRO), University of Minnesota, St. Paul MN 55108

Reprinted from the May 2021 North American Elk Breeders Association Journal

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) of cervids is one of the most challenging animal diseases that we have ever faced, as scientists, producers, managers, and regulators alike. Since its discovery in Colorado in the 1960's, CWD has steadily spread across North America, leaving a destructive trail across cervid health and related economies in its wake. Decades of scientific research resoundingly show that CWD is caused by pathogenic misfolded prion proteins, twisted molecules that ultimately clump together in cervid central nervous system tissues, forming plaques that are eerily similar to those observed in Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and Huntington's diseases of humans. The shared features between CWD and other neurodegenerative diseases are not a coincidence, indeed, there exists an entire spectrum of protein-misfolding diseases in humans and animals that are related in different ways. CWD is part of that spectrum, it belongs to a family of prion diseases such as scrapie in sheep, bovine spongiform encephalopathy in cattle, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease in humans, and there are even prion diseases that infect camels, cats, and mink. The connections between CWD and other diseases of the nervous system cannot be ignored, because it is these connections that provide essential clues, threads of knowledge that will lead us to the development of new technologies to fight the war against CWD.

Fighting CWD requires tools that are sensitive enough to accurately diagnose the prion infection in both deceased and live animals, including animals that have recently been infected. As with any infectious disease, the rapid and robust detection of the underlying disease agent is key to mounting an effective containment strategy. Existing CWD diagnostics (ELISA and IHC) are time-consuming, require expensive equipment, and cannot identify CWD during early stages of the disease. For these reasons, those who submit samples for CWD testing must endure long wait times before receiving the results and a "not detected" outcome might be inaccurate. All the while the disease continues its relentless march. It is abundantly clear that we must work urgently to develop new CWD diagnostic tools in order to protect the rich heritage surrounding cervids and all cervid-related economies. It is within the diagnostic realm that a spark of hope has emerged for all those impacted by the spread of CWD. Hope that traces its origin to a moment of scientific ingenuity in the mid 2000's. This hope, this new weapon in the war against CWD, is known as RT-QulC.

Real-Time Quaking Induced Conversion (RT-QulC)

In 2007, a research team working on the development of diagnostic assays for human prion diseases made a startling discovery. They could observe, in **Real-Time**, the misfolding of prion proteins from human Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease samples. How did they accomplish this? As with all prion diseases (including CWD), a key feature of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease is the abnormal twisting of prion proteins that eventually begin to glob together (plaques) and kill brain and other nerve cells. The Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease research team knew that if they could efficiently detect prion protein misfolding, then they should be able to accurately diagnose the prion disease. To accomplish this, they placed samples of misfolded prion proteins from Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease-positive patients within tubes containing the normal, healthy version of the prion protein. They then warmed this mixture, shook and **Quaked** it for a period of time. They observed that the misfolded prion proteins from the human patients, actively **Induced** the misfolding of the normal prion proteins, a domino effect that **Converted** them to the abnormal twisted form. They witnessed and measured this conversion using a fluorescent dye (thioflavin T), a molecular magnet that binds to misfolded prion proteins and that produces a light signal when beamed with a laser. This was the birth of RT-QulC.

RT-QulC as a Diagnostic Tool for CWD

The first scientific paper showing the potential for RT-QulC as a diagnostic tool for CWD was published in 2010. Much like the original Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease study, the CWD-focused experiment revealed that when a sample of CWD positive deer brain was placed in a tube with normal prion proteins under warming and shaking conditions, it caused them to misfold. The team monitored this misfolding using a machine that recorded the shape-change

based on the same fluorescent magnet (thioflavin T), thus allowing for sophisticated statistical analysis to identify CWD positive samples. The RT-QuIC machine that is used to measure prion protein misfolding is incredibly sensitive and can detect tiny amounts of CWD prion proteins, opening the door for a wide variety of potential diagnostic applications.

Research papers using RT-QuIC are now routinely published, and the method has been used to detect CWD prion proteins within a wide variety of cervid samples, including: brain, obex, lymph nodes, tonsils, rectal biopsies, eye tissues, skin, blood, saliva, urine, and feces. Over the last year, our research team has performed thousands of RT-QuIC reactions using a variety of white-tailed deer tissues and our results show the method is not only 100% accurate when using the same tissues that the traditional CWD diagnostic tools use (lymph nodes), but it can also detect CWD prion proteins that would have been missed using those traditional methods, such as in animals with early-stage infections. A number of research teams across the United States, including our own, are working diligently to internally validate RT-QuIC as a diagnostic tool for CWD using various tissues and biological samples while at the same time, the USDA is investigating the validation of RT-QuIC as a regulatory test.

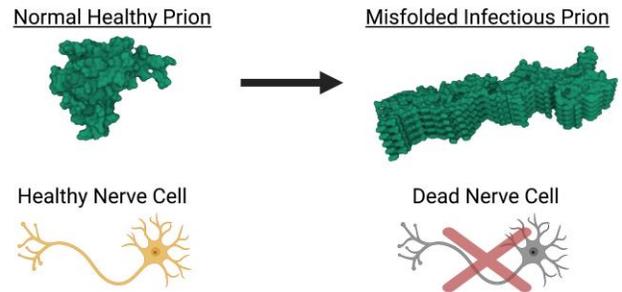
Given the exceptional sensitivity of the method for detecting misfolded prion proteins, RT-QuIC is useful for screening both live and deceased cervids and cervid by-products. The method can be used not only on freshly deceased animals but also on animals that are found dead and are at varying stages of decomposition. A number of labs are currently developing protocols for RT-QuIC based detection of CWD prion proteins in plants, soil, water, and environmental surfaces. For these reasons, RT-QuIC has great potential to reduce additional spread of CWD. Another benefit of RT-QuIC is that the method can be scaled up to meet testing demands. The machines capable of performing the assay can analyze up to 128 samples (three replicates per sample) in a single run. Run-times for RT-QuIC largely depend on the sample type being analyzed. Detection of miniscule amounts of CWD prion proteins, such as those in feces, might take upwards of 48 hours, however, analyzing tissues where prion proteins concentrate (lymph nodes or brain) can be completed in less than 24 hours.

Current Limitations of RT-QuIC

Make no mistake, RT-QuIC is not a silver bullet for CWD and the method requires formal validation before it can be widely adopted for CWD diagnostics. Validation of a diagnostic test requires that the test be shown to routinely detect “true positives” and “true negatives” with a high degree of confidence. State-level validation of RT-QuIC can be performed within a certified diagnostic lab. However, when national-level regulatory policies are considered, the test must be validated and formally recognized by a national regulatory body, in this case the USDA. It is essential that state and national-level validation of RT-QuIC be performed before the test can be widely adopted for official CWD surveillance. Despite being ~14 years old, RT-QuIC is still a relatively new assay and only a handful of research and diagnostic labs have access to the method, thus slowing the validation process.

Another limitation of RT-QuIC is that the assay requires a special ingredient, recombinant “normal” prion protein that is cultured using bacteria within a lab. This ingredient is difficult to mass-produce and most labs grow their own recombinant prion protein for RT-QuIC. Thus, the ingredient is not widely available. Few institutions have the infrastructure required to mass-produce the recombinant prion protein required for RT-QuIC. This is a major

- A. CWD is caused by the misfolding of a normal prion protein into an abnormal infectious form that kills nerve cells.



- B. RT-QuIC has the potential to detect CWD prions in a variety of samples



limitation for national-level adoption of RT-QuIC and for this reason our team, and others, are working to solve the recombinant prion protein mass-production issue.

The Critical Need for Research Funding

Are the current limitations surrounding RT-QuIC insurmountable? No, they can be solved through the dedicated work of teams of scientists who are skilled at problem solving. Forming these scientific teams requires sustained funding that allows for the employment of laboratory technicians, purchase of necessary equipment for RT-QuIC, standardized production of the RT-QuIC ingredients, and purchase of the day-to-day consumables required to perform the test. Large grants from federal institutions that would specifically support CWD diagnostic research across the United States are lacking. For this reason, legislative bodies of individual states (such as Minnesota and Michigan) have stepped in to support the advancement of CWD diagnostic tests, including RT-QuIC. If we are going to win the war against CWD, we must have the ability to quickly and effectively identify the disease in both wild and farmed settings. This can only be accomplished through the formation of multidisciplinary research teams who are dedicated to solving the problem and who have the resources required to perform the necessary scientific research. The recent forming of the multi-state North American Interdisciplinary Chronic Wasting Disease Research Consortium (supported by the USDA) is a positive step, as this effort unites over 40 scientists who will work together to solve a variety of CWD-related problems over the coming years.

A Path Forward

One of the most exciting aspects of the research surrounding RT-QuIC, is that it can be leveraged to develop next-generation diagnostic tools that are field-deployable and are cost-effective. These technical feats are not science fiction, they are already being developed for a variety of human neurodegenerative diseases and are driven by substantial federally funded research dollars. The story of RT-QuIC is common in science, important discoveries that are initially made based on well-funded human health research are then adapted and applied to a variety of areas. Advancements that focus on cutting-edge nanotechnologies for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease diagnostics can be modified to produce rapid and sensitive diagnostic tools for CWD. It is this area that holds great promise, and our research team is working to develop prion diagnostic tools that represent a generation beyond RT-QuIC. Adoption of any new technology for CWD diagnostics will take time, and there are those who question whether or not such advancements are even possible. Failure is not an option. We must think outside of the box, leverage our collective strengths, and do all that we can to protect the cervids of North America.

Dr. Peter Larsen is an Assistant Professor in the Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department of the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Larsen is Co-Director of the Minnesota Center for Prion Research and Outreach (MNPRO). He leads a diverse research program focused on the discovery of emerging infectious diseases, field-based molecular diagnostics, and the mechanisms of neurodegenerative disease.

Please visit the MNPRO website for additional information: <https://mnpro.umn.edu/>

Minnesota FFA Member Thank You's

Last October, MnEBA members Greg & Roxy Lubinski of Lubinski Elk Acres contributed funding in MnEBA's name for an eighth year to the Minnesota FFA Foundation's "Blue Jackets – Brighter Futures" campaign. Two jackets were awarded to the Minnesota FFA members below who sent letters of thanks back to the MnEBA as follows.



Thank you for sponsoring my FFA jacket. I am excited to wear it to upcoming events. I am very thankful for you sponsoring FFA.

*Thanks again,
Hailey Klimek*

Thank you so much for paying for my FFA jacket. Thank you!!!

Timothy Brule

2021 MnEBA Scholarship Application Is Now Available

Deadline to apply is June 15, 2021

The MnEBA Scholarship Application for 2021 is now available! New this year, a relative of a current Active or Lifetime MnEBA member will also be eligible to apply for this scholarship. Previous applicants had to be a child or grandchild of an Active or Lifetime member, but now eligible applicants also include relatives. The award applicant must be pursuing post-secondary education in the Fall 2021/Spring 2022 school year. One scholarship in the amount of \$350 is available. An agriculture-related field of study is preferred, but not limited to.

An e-blast with the link to the scholarship application was sent to MnEBA members on May 12. You may also request an application from the MnEBA Office by calling 320-543-2686 or emailing info@mneba.org. If you know someone who may have an interest, forward them the application today! **The deadline to apply is June 15, 2021.** There will be no extension of the deadline.



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In Memory

Many longtime MnEBA members will remember Jim Scram who raised elk and whitetail deer for many years. He was an interesting character and will be greatly missed by his friends and family. Blessed be his memory.

James Curtis Scram

June 12, 1955 – April 26, 2021



James Curtis Scram, age 65 died April 26, 2021 at St. Mary's Hospital-Mayo Clinic Rochester, MN. He was born on June 12, 1955 to Richard & Marcella (Piske) Scram-Meixner in Owatonna, MN.

Jim was an elk & deer farmer and skilled drywall taper by trade; he was the owner of Royal Flush Elk & Deer Ranch and Straight Ace Drywall. Jim was known for his love of animals from a small child often terrorizing his older sister Sharon with various wild animals he would find and care for. Jim prided himself with the elk and white tail deer he raised, often winning awards for them. He was a member of the MN Deer Farmers Association and the MN Elk Breeders

Association. Jim was an avid card player from Pfeffer, Blackjack, Texas Holdem and everything in between; he had quite the "poker face!"

In addition to his parents, Jim is predeceased by grandparents-Leroy & Alice Scram, Albert & Erna Piske, Nephew-William Richard Buechner, many aunts, uncles and cousins. Survived by his daughter, Stephanie (Mark) Edlund, grandchildren Richard, Michael & Emily Jo, Big Lake, MN, sister Sharon (William) Buechner, Brooklyn Park, MN, nieces-Elena (Richard) Rogers, Bakersfield, CA, Teresa (Eric) Christenson, Woodbury, MN, Angela (David) Easterwood, Minneapolis, MN and several great nieces and nephews.

Jim, known to many others simply as, "Scram" was known for his dry sense of humor, jovial personality and wonderful attitude. His famous Christmas present shenanigans were always a huge hit at Christmas time, you truly never knew what you were going to get or what may jump out at you from the often securely taped packaging. His love for the kids was evident in his eyes. Jim was so proud of his daughter, Stephanie and his three grandchildren, Richard (17), Michael (16) & Emily Jo (12), he would often travel great distances to see his grandchildren even if it were only for a short time or performance of some sort with their various activities. When the grandchildren were young, they were blessed with so many grandparents on both sides of the family that Grandpa Scram simply went by the name "Silly Papa"-a term he was so proud of and appreciated with his infectious laugh. As they were young, a simple trip to Chuck E. Cheese proved difficult with the child in him coming out, he was truly a child at heart; he was never kicked out though!

Nearly everyone loved joking around with him, he was a sweet man with a huge heart and was a character and a half! He will definitely be missed by many from his smile, his contagious laugh, his crazy gifts, his ridiculous t-shirt collection and his stupid jokes are what many will miss the most!!

Jim's family would like to thank you all for your kind wishes and prayers over his last 29 days as he courageously fought for his life at St. Mary's Hospital-Mayo Clinic. We would like to thank his care team for their skilled medical treatment and compassion as they too fought to save Jim's life. It is comforting knowing how many wonderful people there are in our support system.

We are honoring Jim's wish of not having a funeral, but it would not be right if we did not have some sort of a gathering to celebrate his life. We look forward to seeing as many of Jim's family & friends at his Celebration of Life to be held on Sunday, June 27, 2021 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Darts Park (large pavilion) located at 439 Mineral Springs Rd, Owatonna, MN 55060.

Our family looks forward to you sharing a story about Jim's crazy antics, if you knew him or even met him once, we are certain most have some sort of memorable story to share at that time. One thing we know is that "You all have a Merry Christmas" will be so sadly missed.

Please RSVP with Stephanie if you plan on attending Jim's Celebration of Life and the amount attending at Scrambaby1@yahoo.com.

August 26 – Labor Day September 6, 2021

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

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

The 2021 Minnesota State Fair is a go! It's exciting to once again have the opportunity to set up the MnEBA booth at the Minnesota State Fair scheduled for August 26 - September 6, 2021.

As MnEBA prepares for this year's State Fair event, we are needing members to sign up to take a shift at the MnEBA booth! While co-chair Greg Lubinski has worked most days in the past, he will be unable to do that this year, so more help is needed than ever, especially on the weekdays! This is a great event in which the entire family can enjoy the day, there is literally something for everyone! Bring the family and take turns in the booth or meet up later after your shift to enjoy some family time together!



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

Please review the schedule below and **call Greg at 507-273-0525** to let him know when you would be willing to work. If you can take a full day, or multiple shifts, it would be a huge help! Thank you for your consideration!!

Date	Time	Workers	Date	Time	Workers
Pre-Fair		Set Up – Paul Hueg, Greg Lubinski	9/1	8 – 2	OPEN
8/26	8 - 2	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf		2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/2	8 – 2	Jim Byrne
8/27	8 – 2	OPEN		2 – 9	Jim Byrne
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/3	8 – 2	Jim Byrne
8/28	8 – 2	Greg Lubinski		2 – 9	Jim Byrne
	2 – 9	Greg Lubinski	9/4	8 – 2	Greg Lubinski
8/29	8 – 2	Greg Lubinski		2 – 9	Greg Lubinski
	2 – 9	Greg Lubinski	9/5	8 – 2	Greg Lubinski
8/30	8 – 2	OPEN		2 – 9	Greg Lubinski
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/6	8 – 2	Greg & Roxy Lubinski, Paul & Lynn Hueg
8/31	8 – 2	OPEN		2 – 9	Greg & Roxy Lubinski, Paul & Lynn Hueg
	2 – 9	OPEN			

Hard Antler or Velvet Antler Donations Needed

Donations used to offset the cost of dog chews sold at the State Fair

In order to help increase sales/profit at MnEBA's State Fair booth to help boost available funding for legislative initiatives and other activities, MnEBA is looking for donations of either hard antler or velvet antler from members. Our dog chew vendor, Wapiti Labs, has agreed to accept either hard or velvet antler in exchange for finished product to sell at the fair. Even if you can donate just a stick or two, it would be helpful. It all adds up! Donated hard antler must **not have any hair on it** and must **not be "chalky"** and velvet antler must be **Grade A** antler.

Hard antler will be collected at the August 7 Summer Picnic, or you can send your hard or velvet antler with Brian Wagner or Scott Salonek who have agreed to collect antler for MnEBA when they are out purchasing velvet. It could also be dropped off in Howard Lake.

Anything you can do to help with this project would be very much appreciated and will help MnEBA's bottom line in a year with a lot of extra expenses. Thank you in advance for anything you can do help!

DNR News Release *continued from Page 10*

Since CWD was first detected in Minnesota in 2002, the DNR has tested more than 90,000 wild deer in the state. To date, 115 wild deer have been confirmed positive for CWD in Minnesota. Minnesota has taken an aggressive approach to managing CWD in wild deer. Disease prevalence in Southeast Minnesota where the disease was first detected in 2016 is low, less than 1%. In contrast, states that have not responded as vigorously as Minnesota have seen continued geographic spread and CWD rates high enough to have negative impacts on the health of their deer herds.

CWD affects the cervid family, which includes deer, elk and moose. It can be spread from both direct (animal-to-animal) and indirect (environmental) contact with infected deer. Prions are shed through saliva, urine, blood, feces and antler velvet. Additionally, carcass parts from a dead infected deer can serve as a source of further infection to other deer in the area. There is no vaccine or treatment for this disease.

Test results, including locations of confirmed positive test results and statistics, are available on the DNR website at mndnr.gov/cwdcheck.

Elk Bull Needed for 2021 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt

MnEBA is seeking an elk bull for the 2021 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt to be held at Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch in Baudette, MN later this Fall. Looking for someone to donate a bull, or to provide funding in any amount to help purchase a bull. Minimum size 6x6 bull measuring 300"-350".

This elk hunt will be awarded to a disabled Minnesota veteran of the United States armed forces. This will mark the 15th anniversary of this annual MnEBA sponsored hunt!

Please contact the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 or info@mneba.org if you can help in any way. Thank you for your consideration!

Pictured to Left: Jason Grant, 2020 Hunt Recipient



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

August 7, 2021 – MnEBA Summer Picnic, Stony Brook Elk Farm, Pequot Lakes, MN

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

January 7-8, 2022 – MnEBA Annual Conference, Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West, Plymouth, MN

Classified Ads

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

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 2021 now! Visit our website at www.outbackMN.com.

MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

9086 Keats Avenue SW
Howard Lake, MN 55349