



Special Interest Articles:

- 2022 Raffle Calendars Now Available
- Summer Picnic Thank You
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President's Message by Mark Luedtke



Well, a moment of honesty, Brenda was nice enough to give me a whole week to think about this message and I unfortunately squandered the time and sit here on the day she asked for the message trying to put it together. 😊

Another season is upon us as just two days ago my bulls began bugling in earnest. I had heard a few bugles prior to then but that day they really started to get serious. I do love the changes of the season and all that comes with them, but I will admit part of me is nervous when the bulls start bugling and playing rough, especially when my trophy bulls are still on the farm. I hope all of you, your families, and your elk are doing well.

I want to send out a large thank you to the Campbells' for hosting our summer picnic. It was a small group that gathered but it sure was nice to see all that could make it. It was also nice to see everyone that was able to make it to Mankato to participate in the NAEBA Convention and antler competition. The NAEBA event was well attended and it sure was nice to gather with old and new friends and fellow elk enthusiasts, it was so nice to see everyone that made it after missing 2020.

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

Make Plans to Attend! **2022 MnEBA Annual Conference** January 7-8, 2022

Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West Hotel

3131 Campus Dr ~ Plymouth, MN 55441

Room Rates \$99 ~ Reservation Line 763-559-6600

Annual Meeting ~ Informational Seminars ~ Evening Banquet

Make a weekend out of it and take advantage of a trip to the cities to visit friends or relatives or simply take the opportunity to do something interesting in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area!

MORE DETAILS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER!

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

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MnEBA

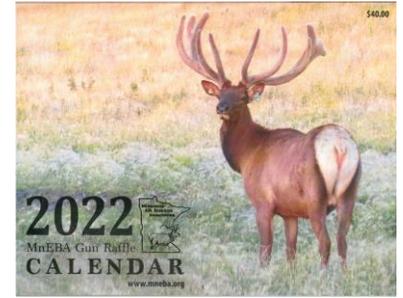
Mission Statement

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.

2022 Raffle Calendars Now Available!

Order Your Calendars Today!!

Have you picked up your 2022 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendars yet? There are 450 calendars in the hands of members to sell and another 350 available for anyone who can sell them! As we move into fall, it's a good time to begin selling calendars. Let's sell out this year!



Once again this year, members are eligible for great incentives when selling the new 2022 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. A free MnEBA membership for selling 30 or more calendars and returning stubs and money before December 31 is being offered once again. Also back by popular demand, for every 10 calendars sold with stubs and money being returned before December 31, your name goes into a drawing to win a GForce Arms GF3T Tactical Pump 12ga shotgun. The more calendars you sell, the more chances to win!

MANY THANKS to all MnEBA members who stepped up to sponsor a month in the 2022 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar! This year's sponsors include: Dennis & Jacky Engebretson, Lance & Brenda Hartkopf, Bill & Karen Knutson, Greg Lubinski, Mark & Lisa Luedtke, Damon & Duane Melquist, Roger Niefeld, Wade Schimmelpennig, Marlen Schmitz, Brian Wagner, Kraig & Jenny Wurst and Klint & Lora Wylie.

Now is a great time to order your calendars to sell while they are still in stock. Contact the MnEBA Office to order yours today!

Summer Picnic Thank You!

Thank you to Jerry & Linda Campbell for hosting the 2021 MnEBA Summer Picnic!

Many thanks to Jerry & Linda Campbell of Stony Brook Elk Farm for hosting this year's MnEBA Summer Picnic! While the day threatened rain, the moisture stayed south and a great afternoon was had by all who attended.

The Campbell's provided delicious pulled pork sandwiches, cheesy potatoes and great array of beverages. While the group was smaller than usual, there was no shortage of delicious food brought to the potluck meal.

The meeting was held a little later this year and in combination with everyone's schedule being busier this year due to Covid-delayed activities, the turnout was a bit lighter so an official summer meeting was not held. The group instead gathered informally to talk about the latest updates.

It was great being able to visit with fellow elk enthusiasts once again. Looking forward to seeing everyone again in January!



Board Meeting Minutes

June 23, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association Board of Directors held a meeting via Zoom on Wednesday June 23, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner, Kraig Wurst, Lance Hartkopf, Greg Lubinski, and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Guests included Jim Byrne, Dr. Paul Anderson and Tony Kwilas. Luedtke called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. President Luedtke asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda as presented. No adjustments were offered.

Because Kwilas had to leave the meeting by 8:30 a.m. for a legislative hearing, he gave the legislative update first. He reported the Senate Environment Committee passed a bill last night which included a change in oversight for whitetail deer only to joint oversight by BAH and the DNR. Proposed changes to current regulations include an additional \$3.5 million for enforcement, concurrent authority of BAH and DNR with Chapter 35 Sections 35.92-35.96 only and reporting back to the legislature in February 2022 with a summary of how this is working, assessing ongoing challenges and making recommendations for statutory and programmatic changes. He emphasized that these changes pertain to farmed whitetail deer only and not elk or other farmed cervid species. The overall bill will be heard in the House Environment committee then on to the House floor and could be on the Governor's desk within days. Tony then left the call.

The March 16, 2021 Secretary Report was reviewed. L. Hartkopf moved to approve the report as written, Wurst seconded, motion carried.

B. Hartkopf reviewed both the Treasurer's Report and also the proposed 2021 Budget. After discussion, Wagner moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Lubinski seconded, motion carried. Wagner asked to wait until the end of Old Business to approve the 2021 Budget.

OLD BUSINESS

B. Hartkopf reported that Blair Erickson was the only person who applied for the 2021 MnEBA Scholarship. Blair is the granddaughter of Ken & Carol Mudek. Board also reviewed a scoring system recommendation by the Scholarship Committee. After discussion and one change to the recommendation, L. Hartkopf moved to adopt the revised scoring system, Wagner seconded, motion carried. Wagner asked Hartkopf to convey the Board's thanks to the

committee for their guidance and assistance in putting together the scoring system.

B. Hartkopf reported that all 12 sponsorships have now been filled for the MnEBA Gun Raffle calendar and she is now working to collect all the photos. Board reviewed a previously submitted gun list from Gun's Galore for their consideration. It was decided to replace one of the pistols on the list with a Henry firearm, realizing that the final costs would likely increase. Wagner expressed concern that because gun prices are going up, MnEBA will need to either raise the budget for the cost of the guns or raise the cost of the calendar next year to keep the quality of the guns what they have been in the past. Wagner offered to donate the cost of the incentive gun to help offset this year's extra expense. Wagner moved to approve the supplied gun list with the addition of the Henry firearm replacing the Zigana pistol, L. Hartkopf seconded, motion carried.

Discussed who was planning to attend the MnEBA Summer Picnic on August 7. Not everyone is sure if they can be there. It was decided if no officers are available to conduct a membership meeting, that a formal meeting would not take place but updates given instead.

B. Hartkopf reported the contract has been signed for MnEBA's booth at the Minnesota State Fair and that the antler chews and meat products have been ordered. Greg reported he's working on filling the schedule but is limited to making calls in the morning and leaving messages.

B. Hartkopf reported two possible choices for the MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt. One recipient has been nominated each of the past two years from a MnEBA member. The other was an email inquiry to the office. Hartkopf was directed to have the potential candidate who was nominated by a MnEBA member complete an application form so the Board will have more information about him before making a decision between the two.

As old business was concluding, the topic of the approving the budget came up again. After further discussion, L. Hartkopf moved to approve the budget as written, Wagner seconded, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Board discussed the newest BAH Rule Draft which

was released on June 18. All advisory committee participants have until July 7 to make comment. BAH will consider these comments then update and publish a new draft for BAH Board Members by July 14 in preparation for their July 28 Special Meeting to review and approve a Rules draft. It was noted members of the public can attend the Special Meeting but will not be allowed to speak. After much discussion, it was decided that B. Hartkopf will work on a fiscal sheet outlining the financial impact of being circled into a Farmed Cervidae Endemic Zone and work with the Legislative Committee to fine-tune it. Legislative committee will also work on a response for the July 7 comment deadline. Board to review these documents at a specially scheduled July 2 meeting at 8:00 a.m. B. Hartkopf and Luedtke to meet with BAH Board members in person prior to the July 28 meeting to discuss our ongoing concerns.

There was also much discussion about the current BAH protocol to quarantine and conduct traceback investigations of trace-out herds from a CWD positive facility which exceeds required Program Standards guidelines and unnecessarily harms producers caught up in these investigations. There is also concern about the BAH not allowing needed specialized vaccines into Minnesota because of CWD fears. Explored ways of addressing this issue through Rulemaking and/or speaking to BAH Board Members about these issues.

No one had any updates on the DNR hold on movement of farmed whitetail deer through July 30. The Minnesota Deer Farmers Association have filed an injunction against the DNR in this regard.

In other business, a letter outlining displeasure with current BAH staff is on hold as is a potential meeting with Ag Commissioner Thom Petersen as final legislative changes to the farmed cervidae laws and Rulemaking activities are still creating uncertainty about what will happen next.

Hartkopf reported that a letter of support by MnEBA requested by the University of Minnesota for development of CWD biosecurity educational materials was submitted and sent with a BAH application requesting funding for this project.

Discussed the upcoming NAEBA Convention in Mankato, MN on July 29-31. Hartkopf reported that MnEBA is a Silver sponsor as budgeted and that NAEBA staff could use assistance with hospitality room needs.

Wagner moved to adjourn, Lubinski seconded, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

Legislative Update

The June 1 MnEBA Newsletter outlined the new statutes that passed during the regular session. The first special session began June 14 and ended June 30. Of particular interest to farmed cervidae producers were the continuing discussions about farmed cervidae issues in the Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Bill – Chapter 6, Senate File 20.

After much debate between House and Senate subcommittees, the following policy items are the new laws that were passed during this year's special session and signed by Governor Walz on June 29, 2021. (Any words crossed out are eliminated language, any words underlined are new language and everything else is original and current language.)

Sec. 16.

Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 35.155, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

Subd. 7. Inspection.

(a) The Board of Animal Health must annually inspect farmed Cervidae, farmed Cervidae facilities, and farmed Cervidae records. As



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Thank you for your support!

coordinated by the board, the commissioner of agriculture and an enforcement officer as defined under section 97A.015, subdivision 18, may participate in the inspection.

(b) The annual inspection must include a physical inspection of all perimeter fencing around the facility and a viewing to verify that all animals are tagged. The owner of a farmed Cervidae facility must present to the inspectors an accurate inventory of the owner's farmed Cervidae and other records for review. During an annual inspection, the owner must present individual animals in a herd for a physical inventory, if required by the board.

(c) The commissioner of natural resources may inspect farmed Cervidae, farmed Cervidae facilities, and farmed Cervidae records with reasonable suspicion that laws protecting native wild animals have been violated and must notify the owner in writing at the time of the inspection of the reason for the inspection and must inform the owner in writing after the inspection of whether (1) the cause of the inspection was unfounded; or (2) there will be an ongoing investigation or continuing evaluation.

(d) The commissioner of natural resources may inspect farmed white-tailed deer according to the concurrent authority granted under subdivision 14.

Sec. 17.

Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 35.155, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 14 Concurrent authority; regulating farmed white-tailed deer.

(a) The commissioner of natural resources and the Board of Animal Health possess concurrent authority to regulate farmed white-tailed deer under this section, sections 35.92 to 35.96, and any administrative rules adopted pursuant to this section or sections 35.92 to 35.96. This does not confer to the commissioner any additional authorities under chapter 35, other than those set forth in sections 35.155 and 35.92 to 35.96, and any administrative rules adopted thereto.

(b) By February 1, 2022, the commissioner of natural resources, in conjunction with the Board of Animal Health, must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over the environment and natural resources and agriculture on the implementation of the concurrent authority under this section. The report must include:

(1) a summary of how the agencies worked together under this section, including identification of any challenges;

(2) an assessment of ongoing challenges to managing chronic wasting disease in this state; and

(3) recommendations for statutory and programmatic changes to help the state better manage the disease.

Sec. 62.

Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 97A.505, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

Subd. 8. Importing ~~hunter-harvested~~ Cervidae carcasses.

(a) Importing hunter-harvested Cervidae carcasses procured by any means into Minnesota is prohibited except for cut and wrapped meat, quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached, antlers, hides, teeth, finished taxidermy mounts, and antlers attached to skull caps that are cleaned of all brain tissue. ~~Hunter-harvested~~

(b) Cervidae carcasses ~~taken~~ originating from outside of Minnesota may be transported on a direct route through the state by nonresidents.

*Spring Coulee
Velvet Capsules*



N7447 Cty Hwy D
Holmen, WI 54636
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Fax (608) 526-2055
miniman41@centurytel.net

Bill & Karen Knudson
Home of Spring Coulee Elk



Animal Bytes – Update on Beltrami County CWD Investigation

August 12, 2021 - The Board last reported an update on the CWD investigation into the Beltrami County CWD-positive farm in May 2021. Since that announcement the Board has been busy with its partners at the USDA and the DNR to continue investigating disease spread and risk and address the known exposures. Part of the investigation included identifying herds with connections to the CWD-positive Beltrami County farm. These herds had CWD exposed animals in their herds or animals that had resided with a CWD positive animal within the last five years. The Board connected producers from those herds with the USDA to get all CWD exposed animals appraised for indemnity. The USDA agreed to pay for indemnity for 8 of 9 herds with exposed animals. Of the approved herds, 6 of 8 agreed to indemnity and 31 animals were depopulated and sampled. CWD was not detected in any of the 31 samples or exposed animals.

Two of the herds have not yet accepted indemnity from the USDA and they must remain quarantined if they chose not to put down the animals and have them tested for CWD. Both of those farms could be released from quarantine in 2022.

The DNR recently completed a fence around the county-owned land near the Beltrami County farm where the owner illegally dumped deer carcasses. The fence is meant to keep wild deer out of the area because of the CWD risk of the dumped carcasses on the landscape.

The Board is pursuing compliance actions against the owner of the farm for violations and that process is currently being litigated.

Notice to Minnesota Farmed Cervidae Producers

August 3, 2021

Dear Farmed Cervid Producer,

The 2021 legislative session was another active session for the introduction and passage of legislation impacting farmed cervid producers. We want to make you aware of the laws enacted by the legislature this session that will impact the Board's farmed cervid program and farmed cervid producers.

Minn. Stat. 35.155. Subd. 5 was amended to allow the movement of farmed cervids from a CWD endemic area if the animal has tested negative for CWD with a live animal test validated by the US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) if the herd has met other movement requirements set by the Board.

Currently there is no test available for live animal testing, and this law was passed in anticipation that live animal testing may become available in the future.

Minn. Stat. 35.155. Subd. 11 was amended to allow a producer with a CWD infected herd to wait until the indemnification process has been completed before the herd must be depopulated.

Previously, the law passed in the 2019 legislative session required the herd to be depopulated after the appraisal process was completed, which would require the animals being put down after the herd was appraised and potentially before indemnity was approved or available from the USDA for the herd. The USDA requires animals to be alive to provide federal indemnity. This change will allow the herd to remain alive until USDA decides on federal indemnity for the herd.

Minn. Stat. 35.155. Subd. 14 gives the MN Dept. of Natural Resources, along with the Board, the authority to regulate farmed white-tailed deer following the Board statutes and rules. With this new law, the DNR received

funding to implement this new program in their agency; 1.25 million in the first year and 2.25 million the second year for inspections, investigations, and enforcement activities. A report is due by February 1, 2022 to the legislature to summarize how the agencies worked together under this section along with an assessment of challenges to managing CWD in MN and recommendations for additional statutory or programmatic changes.

This law was added to the Board's farmed cervid program statutes and was the most significant change to the farmed cervid program this legislative session. As this is an exceptional arrangement for two agencies to use one set of laws and rules to regulate the same sector, staff at the Board and DNR are meeting now to outline a plan going forward for this shared regulatory oversight. We will be providing additional information to you once the DNR and Board have outlined a plan for managing this sector of farmed cervids together.

You may also be aware of other legislation introduced this session related to farmed cervids however, the only legislation passed this session is outlined above. Certainly, proposed legislation could be reconsidered in future legislative sessions. Please do not hesitate to contact me or the Board if you have any questions regarding this information. My phone number is 651-249-1963, email address is Linda.Glaser@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Linda C. Glaser, DVM
Assistant Director

CC: Dr. Beth Thompson, Executive Director BAH
Cervid Veterinarians

Special Board Meeting to Review Farmed Cervidae Rulemaking Postponed

July 27, 2021 - The special meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health scheduled for Wednesday, July 28 to review farmed Cervidae rulemaking has been postponed. New statutory language from the 2021 special session grants concurrent authority of farmed white-tailed deer to the Board of Animal Health and Department of Natural Resources. Crafting the bounds of that shared regulatory oversight is a top priority for both agencies and needs to be fully addressed before resuming the rulemaking process.

DNR Issues White-tailed Deer Movement Ban

Editor's Note: This temporary DNR ban on the movement of farmed white-tail deer expired on July 31.

June 1, 2021 - The Board of Animal Health acknowledges the DNR's 60-day moratorium on white-tailed deer movement, beginning Tuesday, June 1 and ending Saturday, July 31. During this time, the Board will continue collaborating with state and federal agencies to facilitate federal indemnity, depopulate CWD exposed animals and test them for CWD. A herd's CWD status is unknown until all test results from the CWD exposed animals are reported, which means a herd classified as "exposed" does not mean it's CWD positive. The moratorium acts as an insurance to help the Board get ahead of animal movements if any additional CWD positives are discovered which would lead to further herd quarantines. Animal health is the core function of the Board and stopping animal movements to reduce risk is a proven and effective tool in disease response.

What movements are allowed under this temporary ban?

- Move deer to slaughter.
- Send deer to another state.
- Movement of cervids that are not white-tailed deer.

August 26 – Labor Day September 6, 2021

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

The Minnesota State Fair began last Thursday and has been somewhat down in attendance compared to 2019 all-time high numbers. But the people that are there are ready to talk about elk, enjoy some great elk snacks and purchase dog chew treats for their dogs!

Paul and Greg have done a great job preparing the booth for the fair with Paul putting together a new modern center stand with an elk mount for fairgoers to enjoy. Many thanks to Greg Lubinski for donating a whole animal and paying for the processing to make the sausage being sold in the booth.

MnEBA could not complete the schedule without all the great volunteers who have stepped up to take shifts in the booth. They include Paul & Lynn Hweg, Brenda Hartkopf, Greg Lubinski, Jim Byrne, Bryce Lubinski, Wade & Norman Schimmelpfennig, Luedtke Family, Ken Arnzen, Denny Suelflow, Wurst Family, Lucas Family, Marlen Schmitz & Rhonda Bjornson. Thanks again to all, your time and efforts are very much appreciated!





News Release

For Immediate Release: August 23, 2021
For more information – info.dnr@state.mn.us or 888-646-6367

Return to Mandatory Testing in Chronic Wasting Disease Zones this Season

Also new in 2021: name changes for CWD zones, and expanded zones due to CWD detections

Chronic wasting disease testing for deer harvested in certain deer permit areas will once again be mandatory for specified weekends of the 2021 deer hunting season. This year hunters will also find additional deer permit areas have been added to disease zones due to detections of CWD in both wild and farmed deer in the past year.

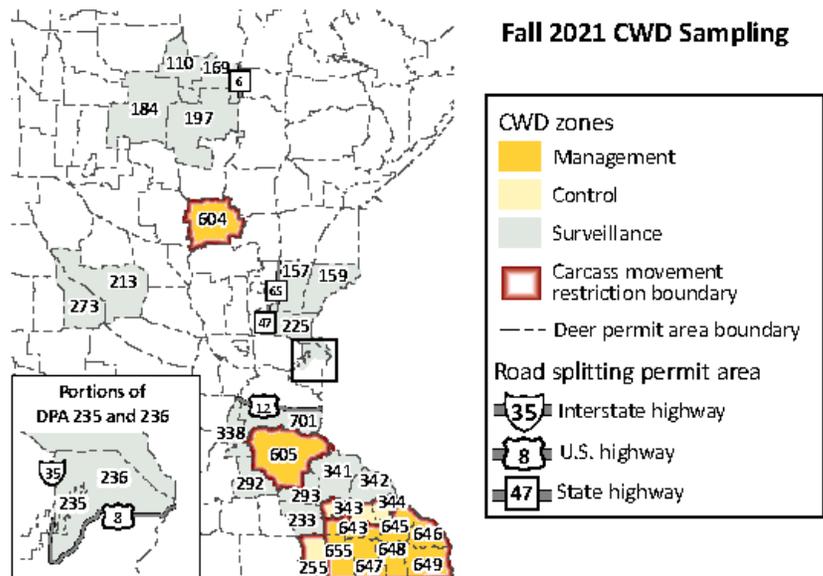
During the opening weekends of both firearms A and B seasons (Nov. 6-7 and Nov. 20-21, respectively), any deer 1 year or older that is harvested from a DPA in one of the CWD zones must be submitted for testing. The exceptions are DPAs 213 and 273, which are part of a risk-based surveillance program and will accept voluntary sample submissions until goal is reached.

Outside of opening weekend, voluntary submissions for deer harvested in any CWD management or control zone will be accepted at self-service stations throughout the hunting season, starting with the opening of archery season on Saturday, Sept. 18; deer harvested in the surveillance zone can be sampled voluntarily by making appointments at area wildlife offices.

“Test results show how prevalent chronic wasting disease is in a certain areas, which helps us tailor our management actions to focus on areas where the disease is concentrated,” said Erik Hildebrand, wildlife health specialist. “The DNR’s aggressive, risk-based response is based on the best-available science, and hunter-provided samples are a crucial component in helping us monitor the health of our wild deer herd.”

The DNR will staff sampling stations during mandatory weekends, as it did prior to the 2020 hunting season. This year, DNR staff will be following any Minnesota COVID-19 social distancing or mask requirements that are in place during these weekends.

Self-service sampling station options also will be available for hunters who would prefer to drop off their deer heads rather than having staff take the samples at stations. Sampling stations are listed online. Due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 response, hunters should check the DNR’s CWD webpage, subscribe to the Deer Notes newsletter, or monitor the Wildlife Facebook or Twitter pages for any modifications closer to the season.



Disease regulations apply within CWD zones

This year, the DNR has simplified CWD zone names into three tiers: management zone, control zone and surveillance zone. Hunters should refer to the regulations book to see whether their deer permit area is within one of these zones, where special disease regulations apply.

All DPAs that were in a CWD zone last year remain in a CWD zone this year, with several DPAs added. As a result of the detection of CWD in a Beltrami County deer facility, along with test results confirming the presence of infectious prions in deer carcasses that were dumped on county land near the farm, DPAs 184, 110 and 197, and the portion of 169 west of highway 6, are part of the CWD surveillance zone. DPAs 233 and 342, located between the south metro area and the southeastern corner of the state, also have been added to the CWD surveillance zone because additional CWD-positive deer were detected within the management zone.

This is the third year of testing since finding disease in a wild deer within DPA 604, in north-central Minnesota. If CWD is not detected, and an adequate number of samples are collected, testing will conclude and this DPA will dissolve back to historic DPAs.

Bag limit changes

This year, the unlimited antlerless bag limit, which applied to DPAs in the CWD management zone, has changed to a five-deer bag limit. Both bucks and does harvested count toward the bag limit. The five-deer bag limit does not apply during the late CWD hunts, scheduled in designated deer permit areas for Dec. 17-19 and Dec. 31-Jan. 2. Full details of the hunts will be available online later this year.

Mandatory carcass movement restrictions

Mandatory carcass movement restrictions are in effect for the CWD management and control zones. Whole carcasses cannot leave these zones until a "not detected" test result is received. Hunters can debone or quarter their deer, in order to transport their harvest; the DNR will have dumpsters and quartering stations available in the management and control zones to help with disposal of parts that cannot be transported. No carcass movement restrictions are in place in the CWD surveillance zone, where the disease has not been discovered in wild deer.

More information

The DNR is committed to maintaining a healthy deer herd and is taking three primary management actions to control the disease in areas where CWD was detected in wild deer: reducing deer densities; using feeding and attractant bans to reduce contact between deer; and restricting carcass movement. Keeping our deer population healthy supports hunting opportunities for current and future deer hunters.

For more information on CWD, the DNR's continued efforts to manage the disease and how to help, visit the DNR's chronic wasting disease management page. Hunters can also find hunting regulations and information about chronic wasting disease regulations and sampling in the 2021 Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations book.

MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt

Elk Bull Still Needed for the October 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 or sell 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 the 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!

MnEBA Kitchen

If you're need a good elk meatball appetizer, there's no easier way to make them than by baking them!

Baked Elk Meatballs

1 lb. ground elk
 1/3 cup onion, chopped
 1/3 cup fresh parmesan cheese
 1/4 cup breadcrumbs
 3 garlic cloves, minced
 2 eggs, beaten

3 Tbsp. ketchup
 1 tsp. salt
 1/4 tsp. pepper
 1 Tbsp. dried parsley
 1 1/2 cups barbeque sauce



DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400 degrees and spray a large baking sheet with cooking spray. In a large bowl mix together the ground elk, onion, parmesan cheese, breadcrumbs, garlic, eggs, ketchup, salt, pepper and parsley. Mix until just together, making sure not to overmix.

Form into 1-inch balls and place on baking sheet. Bake until browned and cooked through, about 15-20 minutes. Pour the barbeque sauce into large bowl and toss the meatballs in the sauce. Serve on toothpicks.

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!

Congratulations to MnEBA for receiving the NAEBA 2021 Association of Distinction Award



NAEBA Convention in Minnesota Highlights!

The 2021 NAEBA Convention recently took place in Mankato, MN on July 29-31. Besides MnEBA receiving the “Association of the Year Award”, Minnesota producers received other awards and played prominent roles in the conference! These members include:



*Perry Olson, Seminar Speaker
“Best Practices of Velvet Cutting”*



*Dr. Glen Zearth, Seminar Speaker
“Ask The Elk Experts”*



*Mark Luedtke, Seminar Speaker
“Getting Started in Elk Ranching”*



*Lance Hartkopf & Perry Olson
NAEBA Velvet Antler Judges*



*Marlen Schmitz
People's Choice – 2-4 Yr Velvet
Tomah B.38*



*Lance Hartkopf
People's Choice – 5-Mature Hard Antler
Splendor's Vision 352A*

Last but not least, this year's antler competition had 14 sets of velvet antler and 34 sets of hard antler. Minnesota bulls won in the top three of several categories! These included:

Velvet 2 Year Old	Bull	Score	Sire / Dam's Sire	Breeder
1 st Place	Tomah B.38	89.73 CWI		Marlen Schmitz
2 nd Place	SPR 939G	87.49 CWI	SPR 561C / SPR 166Y	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf
3 rd Place	SPR 934G	83.02 CWI	Frisia Integrity	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf
Two Year Old Non Typical	Bull	Score	Sire / Dam's Sire	Breeder
2 nd Place	LLE Y847	354 0/8 SCI	LLE Rebel / LLE 716	Mark & Lisa Luedtke
3 rd Place	LLE Y807	342 7/8 SCI	LLE Rebel / GEF Braetak	Mark & Lisa Luedtke
Three Year Old Typical	Bull	Score	Sire / Dam's Sire	Breeder
2 nd Place	LLE Y709	386 4/8 SCI	LLE 320 / GEF Braetak	Mark & Lisa Luedtke
3 rd Place	LLE Y704	361 6/8 SCI	LLE 320 / CBF Ludwig Y496	Mark & Lisa Luedtke
Four Year Old Non Typical	Bull	Score	Sire / Dam's Sire	Breeder
3 rd Place	SPR 612D	449 0/8 SCI	Levi ASEU 501 / Johnnie B	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf
Five Year Old Typical	Bull	Score	Sire / Dam's Sire	Breeder
3 rd Place	LLE Y541	419 6/8 SCI	LLE Zoomer / JKP Apache 061K	Mark & Lisa Luedtke
Six Year Old Non Typical	Bull	Score	Sire / Dam's Sire	Breeder
1 st Place	LLE Rebel	497 2/8 SCI	LLE Zoomer / GEF Braetak	Mark & Lisa Luedtke
Mature Non Typical	Bull	Score	Sire / Dam's Sire	Breeder
3 rd Place	LLE 331	510 2/8 SCI	LLE 729 / GEF Braetak	Mark & Lisa Luedtke

Board Blog by Lance Hartkopf, MnEBA Board Member



The city folk may call August the “dog days of summer” but for an elk farmer, it is anything but that. From scoring and marketing trophy bulls to evaluating the cow herd to deciding how to fill the meat client orders, many decisions made this month will impact your farm’s bottom line for years.

Let me start by saying when we decided to start raising elk, I knew we had a lot to learn but I didn’t realize how many great people we would meet. The friendships we’ve made in this industry have had a big impact on my life as well as our elk farm.

We have been raising elk for 28 years. Starting with just three heifer calves, we knew it would take a number of years for the farm to become profitable. In the last 15 years or so we have made many decisions with the farm to improve the profitability. The last major decision we made was a few years ago and that was to grow out our three years old bulls and sell them to the trophy ranch at three years old as well. The biggest reason for this change was to get the poor bulls off the farm one year sooner because a poor three year old bull will be a poor four year old bull most likely. Realizing that each year that bull is physically bigger and therefore will eat more and create more wear and tear on your farm. And even more importantly, this allows us to move up the evaluation for our cows one year. It is amazing how quickly your herd’s average score goes up when you are identifying and culling the bottom third of your cow herd each year. This decision has turned out to have an even bigger impact than I expected. It truly is one of the best decisions we’ve made for our elk farm’s profitability.

Safe travels to all of you who are on the road moving bulls.

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Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

Be Careful Feeding Stunted Corn This Fall

As breeding season begins we need to be careful with what we're feeding our elk. This dry summer can have a big impact on the success of your breeding season.

Supplement with hay or grain this fall if you still have dry pastures. These later rains have helped somewhat. You can supplement with oats and a little corn if needed. Hay will be scarce no matter what, but that doesn't mean you can get by feeding junk hay. Hay should be better than 135 RFV.

Stunted Corn Warning

Make sure to test any stunted corn for nitrates if you're going to use it for silage. Work with your crop specialist on what the nitrate value is and how to feed it. Test the section of the corn stalk 6" from the bottom of the stalk up to 18"-24". In our area, some nitrate readings have come back with the recommendation not to be fed for silage. Make sure to test first before you spend the time and money into making silage only to later find out you might have a problem.

Readings are not black and white; lab readings vary depending upon the lab you are using. Just make sure to work with your crop specialist to get the best advice on how to move forward with what you have. If elevated readings are found, sometimes the silage can be mixed along with other feed or it can be kept in a sealed bag for awhile but your crop specialist can help make those recommendations. In the lab I've been using, any reading under 1,000 is normal and safe, and a reading over 4,000 is toxic.

Another thought going into fall breeding, make sure to wean calves if you're going to AI your cows. It's a good idea if you're also natural breeding, it really helps to increase the body condition on your cows.



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Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

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

Calendar of Events

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

Classified Ads

For Sale: Heavy duty tubular steel gate with pass through, 8' tall by 9' wide @ Okaman. Call 507-384-2448 or 507-267-2716.

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.

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