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## President's Message by Mark Luedtke



Hello everyone!

Hope everyone and your family are doing well. I'm pretty sure every year about this time I'm ready for a season shift. I'm not ready for summer or to be honest even what most people think of as spring, but I sure do like it when we start breaking up the cold with some warmer days, just enough to let us know we are leaving the deep freeze of winter. Unfortunately, this last week has not cooperated with my wishes and today for instance started well below zero with the high in the low single digits and I got to plow snow for hours thanks to the sizable snowbanks. I have had enough of the last few days of snow and wind which translates to drifts and more drifts. On the positive side the days are getting longer, and you can actually feel a little warmth from the sun when it decides to peek out at us. It won't be long, and the bulls will begin growing antler and shortly after that the calves will be showing up. I hope all of you have a great season ahead of you.

I hope I will get to see some of you at the upcoming March Mingle for NAEBA in St. Louis, MO on March 12. I always look forward to seeing all my friends in the industry and spending some time with them telling tall tales and discussing the industry opportunities along with the challenges.

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

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## *Host Farm Needed!* **2022 MnEBA Summer Picnic**

MnEBA is looking for someone to host this year's Summer Picnic! If you would be willing to host this year's event, please contact the office at 320-543-2686 or [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org).



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

### Board of Directors

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Greg Lubinski  
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Jerry Campbell  
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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.

## 2022 MnEBA Annual Conference Recap

### *It Was Good to Get Together Again!*

The 2022 MnEBA Annual Conference took place January 8 at the Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West Hotel in Plymouth, MN. There were 54 people in attendance at this year's event which featured six seminars, successful fundraisers and lots of good visiting with fellow producers.

Events began Friday evening as ADM Animal Nutrition hosted a complimentary dinner and nutrition seminar by Dr. James Lattimer. Members were also introduced to our new ADM regional field representative, Adam Bates.

Saturday began with the membership meeting followed by NAEBA Executive Director Travis Lowe giving two presentations via Zoom, one on the ACA social media campaign and the other on NAEBA's work to combat state closures. Afternoon seminars included updates from the Board of Animal Health by Drs. Linda Glaser and Courtney Wheeler which drew much discussion, especially on Rulemaking. Switching topics, Lance Hartkopf, Scott Salonek and Brian Wagner discussed marketing of various products and the day finished out with the MnEBA Board discussing various topics and Q&A with the membership. Thank you to all for sharing your time and expertise; so much is changing in rulemaking, marketing and the industry, it was important to get updates and thoroughly discuss all topics!

Board member elections were held for the expiring terms of Mark Luedtke and Kraig Wurst. Both were nominated from the floor and both agreed to be put on the ballot. Jerry Campbell was also nominated and accepted his nomination. After a close vote, Mark Luedtke and Jerry Campbell were elected to the board.

Both Paul Anderson and Jim Byrne were recipients of the MnEBA Appreciation Award for their outstanding work on rulemaking and legislative endeavors at the State Capitol on our behalf. Their dedication to keeping Minnesota elk owners in business was well noted!

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

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

- **Morning and Afternoon Break Sponsor:** *Roger & Saichon Nietfeld*
- **Elk Meat for Saturday Evening Banquet:** *Mark & Lisa Luedtke*
- **Friday & Saturday Night Hospitality:** *Brian Wagner and Lance & Brenda Hartkopf (Thank you to Patty Beckel and Linda Campbell for set up and clean up each night!)*

A big thanks to President Luedtke for emceeding the conference and to Mark Lucas for serving as auctioneer for the live auction. Thanks also to Brian Wagner & Kraig Wurst for serving as ring men.

The evening ended with the 2022 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar drawing. This year was an exciting year for the raffle with all 800 calendars selling and none lost!

A final thank you to all who attended, made donations to the live and silent auctions, bid on fundraising items and helped in any way. Over \$7,600 was raised on the fundraisers with an additional \$5,350 raised for the Donation Fundraiser. Thank you to all for making this a great conference!



## Membership Meeting Minutes

### Membership Meeting Minutes January 8, 2022

The membership of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held their 2022 Annual Membership Meeting on January 8, 2022 at the Crowne Plaza Mpls. West Hotel in Plymouth, MN. President Mark Luedtke called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

President Luedtke recognized and welcomed those who were attending their first MnEBA conference. Dr. Paul Anderson led attendees in prayer.

President Luedtke asked members to review the Secretary Report from the 2021 Annual Membership Meeting. Lance Hartkopf moved to accept the report, Mark Lucas seconded, motion carried. Brenda Hartkopf reviewed the treasurer's report noting the December 31, 2021 checkbook balance was \$31,083.94. Kraig Wurst moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as written, Brian Wagner seconded, motion carried.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Brenda Hartkopf gave the Government Relations report in place of Jim Byrne who was unable to attend. She gave updates on the concurrent authority of farmed whitetail deer between BAH and DNR, discussed wildlife groups and specific legislators promoting the idea of a moratorium and buyout of farmed whitetail deer (sometimes all cervids are included) for the upcoming legislative session and the joint BAH/DNR recommendations for the control of CWD to legislators by February 1. She went on to discuss the BAH wanting to resume Rulemaking for all farmed cervid species except whitetail deer which drew much discussion. Membership recommended a letter be written to BAH to outline MnEBA's position on not resuming Rulemaking. (Later in the day, a motion was made, seconded and passed to send this letter as soon as possible.)

Brenda Hartkopf reported on the progress of the Fundraising Donation Campaign. She announced the names of those who have already contributed and said donations are being accepted through the end of the day with the gun drawing to take place that evening for those who pledged at the Silver or Gold level. She also reported on the 2022 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar and that she expected a sell-out, but there were a few calendars still available for anyone who needed one. Brian Wagner was high seller with 151 calendars sold with Marlen Schmitz close behind at 141 calendars sold. Marlen Schmitz won the drawing for the incentive prize for every ten calendars

sold with stubs and money returned by December 31, your name goes into a special gun drawing. President Luedtke asked the membership if they would like to see any changes to the 2023 calendar. Board members talked about the difficulty of securing high quality guns for the same budget as used in years past. Mark Lucas moved to print the same number of 800 calendars for next year, but change the price from \$40 to \$50 each, a portion to be used for increasing gun quality. Lance Hartkopf seconded, motion carried.

Brenda Hartkopf reported that MnEBA did not participate in any trade-shows except the State Fair in 2021. She reminded members that for anyone who markets their products through Minnesota Grown or is thinking about joining, now is renewal time. She also announced that because of high inventory, both MnEBA Meat Posters and Table Tents were available free of charge at the meeting, a one-time offer at the conference only.

Paul Hueg and Greg Lubinski reported it was very difficult to fill the worker schedule for the Minnesota State Fair this year. They both ended up filling many open spots. There needs to be more member participation to continue having the booth at the State Fair. There was much discussion about how many fairgoers came to talk to elk producers at the booth, most notably several Board of Animal Health members and Commissioner Thom Petersen and how important it was to have a presence at the fair to remain relevant in people's minds. Discussion was to have the booth one more year then re-evaluate.

NAEBA North Central representative Scott Salonek reported NAEBA membership dues increased from \$150 to \$200 for active members, beginning January 1, 2022. The price increase is meant to be used to aid in legislative issues in various states, Minnesota being one of those states. Brenda Hartkopf spoke about the financial assistance NAEBA provided MnEBA in the past year.

MnEBA's representative on the American Cervid Alliance (ACA), Brian Wagner, reported MnEBA gave a \$500 donation to the ACA in 2021. One month of contract services is \$2,500. The ACA is helping MnEBA with an important social media campaign and the Board would like to see MnEBA do more to support them if possible.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was more discussion about BAH Rulemaking and where the Rules stand now. The most concerning areas are what happens to a producer who misses a CWD test and also what happens to a producer who finds themselves in a CWD endemic circle. There was frustration the farmed cervid veterinarian and at-large cervid representative did not attend most meetings of the advisory committee leaving less support of the industry on the 15-member committee.

Denny Suelflow spoke about the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt and how great the hunt was for the recipient Keith Frantsen. Keith wanted to be at the meeting but was unable to attend because of health reasons. Members thanked Tony & Patty Beckel for all their years of donating their time and facility for this project. Later in the day, Denny gave a slide presentation about both the hunt and facility.

President Luedtke, who serves as MnEBA's representative at USAHA meetings, reported the 2021 convention as a hybrid event, with most committee meetings taking place through Zoom along with many weeks of email communications. No federal employees attended the in-person event, but state people did. There were two resolutions pertaining to farmed cervidae:

1. Pennsylvania officials offered a resolution to require an additional federal tag which would be an RFD tag for farmed cervidae. This did not pass out of committee.
2. Industry offered a resolution asking USDA and APHIS to open the Federal CWD Standards

for review and possible revision. This did pass.

He also spoke of reports on good progress by Dr. Nick Haley and Dr. Chris Seabury on live animal testing and genome research.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The terms for both Mark Luedtke and Kraig Wurst expired this year. Mark Lucas nominated Mark Luedtke, Brian Wagner nominated Kraig Wurst and Tony Beckel nominated Jerry Campbell to run for the two open positions. All three accepted their nominations. After a close vote, Mark Luedtke and Jerry Campbell were each voted into a new three-year term.

It was announced that MnEBA is looking for a host farm for MnEBA's 2022 Summer Meeting.

President Luedtke referred members to the handout showing the number of elk farms vs. number of Active members of MnEBA from 2015-2021 and pointed out that statistically, a Minnesota elk producer has a better chance of staying in business if they are a member of the Association than if they are not.

Glen Zebarth spoke about the Elk Research Foundation and the work they are doing on genome testing and also the Bastien project. He encouraged members to submit hair samples to the Elk Research Foundation on elk they have a CWD result from. Brian Wagner moved to adjourn the meeting, Wade Schimmelpfennig seconded, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

**THANK YOU to All Who Contributed to MnEBA's Donation Fundraiser**

In mid-December, MnEBA members received a letter requesting members consider making a special donation to MnEBA to help raise extra fundraising dollars for the legislative year ahead. Special incentives were offered at specific donation levels. The following 15 members participated in this special request and raised \$5,350!

**GOLD (\$500) Eligible to win Henry H001 22LR Rifle**

Jim & Eileen Byrne  
Paul & Barb Hartkopf

Paul & Lynn Hueg  
Dan & Audrey Mueller

Perry & Sandy Olson  
Aaron Seitz

Glen & Kaye Zebarth

**SILVER (\$250) Eligible to win Savage 320 .410 Shotgun**

Jerry & Linda Campbell  
John & Shirley Fredrickson

Greg Lubinski  
Mark & Michelle Lucas

Gary Smith

Darrell Turek & Sheila Krukowski

Brian Wagner

**BRONZE (\$100)**

Brad & Leah Snelling

Perry Olson won the Henry rifle and Brian Wagner won the Savage .410. **Thank you to all for your generosity!**

## Annual Conference Fundraisers Raise Important Funds!

### A Big Thank You to All Donors/Buyers!

Many thanks to everyone who donated and bid on items for this year's live and silent auctions! Over \$7,600 was raised through the auctions and fundraising games for MnEBA! Thanks to Mark Lucas for serving as auctioneer and to Kraig Wurst and Brian Wagner for their assistance in taking bids.

Item	Donor	Buyer
(10) Bags ADM 18% Complete Supplement x 2	Adam Bates/ADM Animal Nutrition	Wade Schimmelpfennig Lance Hartkopf
Old Elk Whiskey	Mark & Michelle Lucas	Ryan Hueg
Elk Sherpa Blanket	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Amy Berg
Vacation at Casa Madera Condo (6 days)	Don & Joyce Kaplan	Greg Lubinski
Conceal & Carry Purse	James & Roxanne Lotts	Amy Berg
(2) Straws LLE 331Y	Mark & Lisa Luedtke	Roxanne Lotts
(3) 4 oz. Kippered Nuggets	MnEBA	Roxanne Lotts Scott Salonek Dale Wippler
Crescent Meats Elk Snack Pack	Wayne & Stacey Lautsbaugh	Greg Lubinski
(2) 10 Bottles of Elk Antler Capsules	Roger & Saichon Niefeld	Greg Lubinski x 2
Jug of Honey	Chad Lawler & Amy Berg	Greg Lubinski x 2 Mark Lucas Dale Wippler
Elk Trivet	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Greg Lubinski
(3) Elk T-Shirts	Mark & Michelle Lucas	Greg Lubinski x 3
ADM Camo Sweatshirt	Adam Bates	Colleen Etzbach
ADM Black Sweatshirt	Adam Bates	Greg Lubinski
(2) Barnwood Vanity Tray	Brian Wagner	Michelle Lucas Kraig Wurst
Quilted Elk Table Runner	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Michelle Lucas
Cedarwood Mirror w/Shelf	Brian Wagner	Mark Luedtke
Antler Lamp	James & Roxanne Lotts	Perry Olson
Elk Facemask	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Perry Olson
Elk Antler Bottle Opener	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Perry Olson
Elk Antler Letter Opener	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Perry Olson
Partial Roll Unused High Tensile Wire	Don & Joyce Kaplan	Darrell Turek
Bullet-Shaped Antler Pen	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Brian Wagner
Elk Notecards	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Brian Wagner
Antler Key Chain	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Brian Wagner
"Talkin Trash" Elk Sculpture	Larry & Patty VanGundy	Brian Wagner
Premium Midwestern Snack Pack	Scott Salonek	Dale Wippler
(2) Straws Frisia Dynasty	Mark & Lisa Luedtke	Dan Woods
(2) Straws Frisia Dynasty	Brian Wagner	Dan Woods
Barnwood Flag	Brian Wagner	Kraig Wurst



### The next generation helping out!

Brody & Hayden Lindsley (Brian Wagner's grandsons) helping to set up Deal or No Deal!

## Board Meeting Minutes

### Board Meeting Minutes January 13, 2022

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association Board of Directors held a meeting via Zoom on Thursday January 13, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. Mark Luedtke, Kraig Wurst, Brian Wagner, Lance Hartkopf, Greg Lubinski, Jerry Campbell and Brenda Hartkopf were present. President Luedtke called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda as presented. None were offered.

President Luedtke asked for any changes or additions to the following Secretary reports from October 20, 2021, December 9, 2021 and December 15, 2021. L. Hartkopf moved to approve all reports, Wurst seconded, motion carried. President Luedtke then opened up discussion on the FY 2021 financials. B. Hartkopf went through the Profit Loss statement in detail and noted the December 31, 2021 balance as \$31,083.94. Wagner moved to approve the report as written, Lubinski seconded, motion carried.

### OLD BUSINESS

B. Hartkopf reported there were a total of 54 people who attended the 2022 MnEBA Annual Conference compared to other recent years where the attendance was in the low 70's. The Donation Fundraiser was once again strongly supported with a total of \$5,350 raised. Discussed locking in the dates in the same location for 2023. Board will consider the same location but also asked B. Hartkopf to check out locations in St. Cloud, Alexandria and also the Sheraton Mpls. West hotel near Ridgedale. Because costs are going up with hotels, board considered raising the cost of registration but will wait to see what expenses are expected to be in 2023 before making a change.

Luedtke reported the social media campaign has launched this week but is on hold pending approval for running ads on the site. Luedtke and B. Hartkopf will sign off on ad pages before they are posted. B. Hartkopf reported all 800 calendars were sold for the 2022 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. Discussed the membership vote to raise the cost of calendars to \$50 from \$40 effective with the 2023 calendar. After much discussion, L. Hartkopf moved to add six more bonus days at \$100 each, add one bonus gun, increase the gun quality budget and cover the cost of the incentive gun not to exceed a total of \$3,500 altogether. Wagner seconded, motion carried.

When Old Business ended, all thanked Kraig Wurst for his years of service and Wurst then left the call.

### NEW BUSINESS

Election of officers was held. Wagner nominated Mark Luedtke for President, L. Hartkopf seconded. Luedtke accepted the nomination. Motion carried. Wagner nominated Lance Hartkopf for Vice President. Lubinski seconded. L. Hartkopf accepted the nomination. Motion carried. Luedtke nominated Brian Wagner for Secretary/Treasurer. Lubinski seconded. Wagner accepted the nomination. Motion carried.

B. Hartkopf reported a letter to BAH requesting the continuation of a pause to Rulemaking had been emailed to the BAH Board of Directors and Dr. Thompson on Tuesday January 11. A hard copy also went in the mail to each the same day. The next quarterly meeting of the BAH is February 1, the same day as the joint BAH/DNR legislative recommendation for control of CWD is due.

The first draft budget for income and expense was reviewed line for line. B. Hartkopf to send out clean copy to board for their review. Because so much account activity occurs just before and after January 1, board would like to see what would be involved in moving MnEBA's fiscal year to a time when not much activity is happening. B. Hartkopf to check with accountant to see what this involves and report back.

L. Hartkopf moved to adjourn, Wagner seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary



*Spring Coulee  
Velvet Capsules*

*Bill & Karen Knutson*  
Home of Spring Coulee Elk

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## Report: Concurrent Authority Regulating White-tailed Deer

### Excerpts from report sent to legislators February 1, 2022

The 2021 Minnesota State Legislature, in a special session ending in July 2021, issued direction to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Board of Animal Health (BAH) by amending Chapter 35.155 as follows:

2021 Minn. Laws 1st Sp. Sess. Chap. 6 Art. 2 Sec. 17

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.

### Inspections of Farmed White-tailed Deer Facilities

Immediately upon passage of concurrent authority legislation, the BAH engaged with the DNR to provide structured training on program management, conducting epidemiological investigations, and monitoring whitetailed deer movement. This education progressed into real-time field training during joint BAH and DNR farm inspections. Additionally, BAH staff provided guidance and instruction to the DNR in email communications, reference documents and written processes. This training was initially provided to support BAH inspectors during field activities, with an eventual goal of DNR staff conducting inspections independently in the future.

DNR and BAH staff conducted joint inspections of white-tailed deer farms. Initially, BAH served as the lead inspector while the DNR took an active learning role. As inspections progressed into the late fall and early winter, the DNR took a more active role, offering suggestions to mitigate interaction between farmed and wild white-tailed deer and helping BAH inspectors determine compliance. From the end of August to December 2021, DNR and BAH inspectors jointly inspected 50 registered Cervidae farms and identified 17 compliance infractions:

- 10 farms with inadequate fencing;
- 2 farms with inadequate redundant gating;
- 2 herd owners' failure to submit death reports within the required timeline;
- 1 herd owner's failure to submit samples for CWD testing;
- 1 farm where inspectors could not visualize official ID, and
- 1 farm with official identification missing.

During the inspections, DNR staff closely evaluated the potential for farmed and wild deer to interact near fence lines, since this is a potential risk for the spread of CWD. DNR found:

- Good deer cover or habitat at the fence line on 35 farms.
- Close or direct contact potential between farmed and wild deer on 22 farms. Evidence included feces, rubs/scrapes, tracks, and wild deer sightings in the vicinity of the fence.
- At least one water, feed, or mineral station within 10 feet of the perimeter fence on 23 farms; 17 farms had at least one feeder within 10 feet of the fence.

This new information shows that wild and farmed deer have the potential to interact at fence lines; given that, it reinforces the need for strong fencing requirements and compliance. Further, it highlights the potential for exclusionary fencing to offer additional safeguards for separation of wild and farmed deer.

### **Recommendations for Rule and Statute Changes to Address CWD Challenges**

The BAH has been pursuing changes to Minnesota Rules Chapter 1721 for cervid program rules modifications for approximately two years. The agency has enlisted the assistance of a rules advisory team, held numerous virtual listening sessions for many diverse groups and communicated publicly during the process. The change to concurrent authority occurred during this rules process. The BAH paused its rules process after the legislative change, intending to pick up the important and imperative work with DNR rule writing staff for the white-tailed deer portion of the rules. The BAH recommends the DNR provide designated staff to continue this work in cooperation with the BAH.

The DNR has identified areas of CWD transmission risk it believes can be mitigated through changes to rule and statute. These changes have the potential to benefit both wild cervids and the farmed cervid industry.

- Fence deficiencies: Perimeter fences are the last line of defense in keeping farmed deer secure inside the enclosure and keeping wild deer out. Fences must meet specifications and be free of defects to promote animal containment and reduce escapes.
  - o DNR recommends reducing the time allowed for repair of fence deficiencies from 45 days to 14 days (Statute 35.155, Subd. 4). This change would be further supported in Rule 1721.0380 General Requirements: Subp. 3. Inspections B with a reduction in time allowed for repair from 45 to 14 days. Further, a change to Inspections A to reduce the window for reinspection from 3 months to 30 days will help ensure fence deficiencies are corrected in a timely manner.
- Spread of CWD through interstate and intrastate movement: We must minimize the risk of deer moving between herds spreading disease. To accomplish this, we must be able to account for all animals in a herd, ensure they are properly identified, and inventories are accurate.
  - o DNR recommends statutory and rule changes that require all white-tailed deer fawns be tagged within 14 days of birth, physical inventories occur on 2-year intervals to verify ID of all animals in the herd, and record keeping that includes age, sex, species, date of birth/acquisition, and parentage (Statute 35.155 Farmed Cervidae, Subd 6, 7; Rules 1721.0390 Animal Identification, 1721.0380, Subp. 10. Record Keeping, 1721.0380 General Requirements).
  - o DNR recommends prohibiting import of cervids from any herd originating from a state or province where CWD has been detected in either farmed or wild deer. This would also prohibit all movement of live cervids that originate from a herd within a CWD Management Zone, except direct to slaughter (Statute 35.155 Farmed Cervidae, Subd 12; Rules 1721.0400 Importation of Farmed Cervidae, 1721.0410. Intrastate Movement of Farmed Cervidae).
- Rapid detection of CWD within a herd, timely depopulations, and containment of prions in the environment: To increase the opportunity to detect CWD early within a herd, it's important to test all animals upon death.
  - o DNR recommends requiring CWD testing upon death for all deer ≥6 months, reporting the death within 7 days, and submitting all collected tissue samples within 7 days to an appropriate laboratory (Statute 35.155 Farmed Cervidae, Subd 11, Rules 1721.0420 CWD).

- o DNR recommends that herd owners who fail to test all dead deer for CWD have movement restrictions on their herd.
- o DNR recommends that herds confirmed with CWD be required to be depopulated within 30 days by the owner if an indemnification application is not submitted (Rule 1721.0420 CWD). Also, all herd depopulation plans will be required to include perimeter fencing requirements maintained for 20 years to reduce risk of spread to wild cervids (Statute 35.155 Farmed Cervidae, Subd 11, Rules 1721.0420 Subp. 2, CWD).

## Legislative Update

The 2022 Minnesota Legislative session began January 31. Over the course of the past month, several bills have emerged concerning farmed cervidae, primarily affecting farmed white-tail deer at the present time. The items mentioned in the legislative report above are expected to come out in new bills in the coming days and weeks. Below is a list and short summary of current bills MnEBA's lobbyist is acting upon:

**H.F. No. 2814 (companion to S.F. 3037)** – relating to animal health; modifying requirements for certain owners of farmed Cervidae; requiring live-animal testing for chronic wasting disease (for farmed deer); appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2021 Supplement; section 35.155, subdivision 11.

**H.F. No. 3273** – relating to animal health; prohibiting new registrations for farmed white-tailed deer; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 35.155, subdivision 10.

**H.F. No. 3421** – relating to animal health; requiring a study of COVID-19 in farmed deer; appropriating money.

**H.F. No. 3684** – relating to animal health; prohibiting new registrations for farmed white-tailed deer; establishing a voluntary farmed white-tailed deer buyout program; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 35.155, subdivision 10.

**S.F. No. 2595** – relating to natural resources; prohibiting registration of new white-tailed deer farms; prohibiting movement of farmed white-tailed deer except for purposes of slaughter; prohibiting importation of white-tailed deer from Cervidae farms; appropriating money for voluntary herd buyout program for participating white-tailed deer farmers; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 35.155, subdivisions 10, 12; Minnesota Statutes 2021 Supplement, section 35.155, subdivision 11.

**S.F. No. 2792** – relating to agriculture; prohibiting registration of new white-tailed deer farms; prohibiting movement of farmed white-tailed deer except for purposes of slaughter; prohibiting importation of white-tailed deer from Cervidae farms; appropriating money for a voluntary herd buyout program for participating white-tailed deer farmers; requiring a report; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 35.155, subdivisions 10, 12; Minnesota Statutes 2021 Supplement, section 35.155, subdivision 11.

**S.F. No. 3037 (companion to H.F. 2814)** – relating to animal health; modifying requirements for certain owners of farmed Cervidae; requiring live-animal testing for chronic wasting disease; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2021 Supplement, section 35.155, subdivision 11.



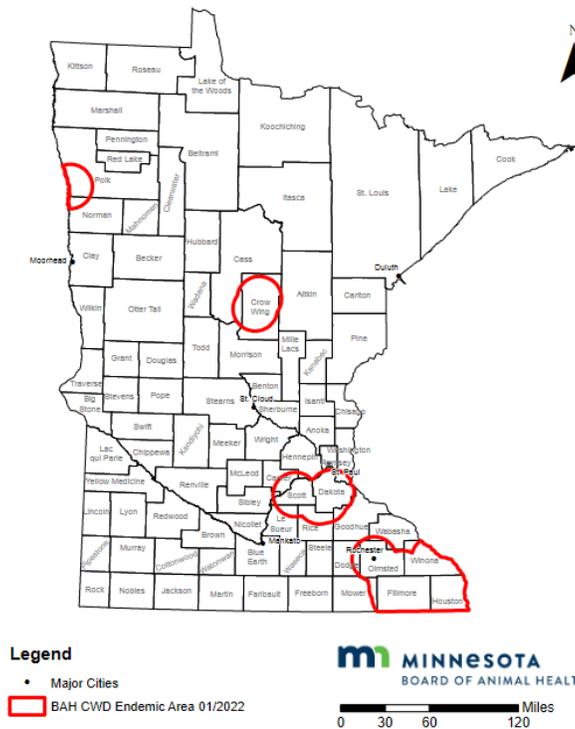


## Animal Bytes – January 2022

### CWD endemic area update

The Board has expanded the endemic area for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in the state again this year based on information from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on CWD positive wild deer harvested or found dead during the 2021 fall hunting season. From this data, the Board establishes the endemic area boundary 15 miles around all confirmed cases of CWD in the wild. The endemic area also includes all of Houston County as most of the county was within 15 miles of a confirmed case of CWD in the wild including a CWD positive wild deer harvested in Vernon County, Wisconsin on the border with Minnesota. The map linked below depicts the perimeter of the endemic area in Minnesota.

Board of Animal Health CWD Endemic Area



### Beltrami County CWD Investigation Update

A farm in Kanabec County that supplied deer to the CWD positive farm in Beltrami County depopulated its entire herd late last year and has received CWD results. A total of 110 animals from the Kanabec County herd were tested for CWD and no CWD was detected in tissues from these animals. The Board is verifying the herd inventory and plans to release the quarantine in the coming weeks because no CWD was detected in the herd and no deer remain on site.

## Board Blog by Greg Lubinski



Greetings all! Well this winter has not been too bad, and for me I haven't had any ear cleanings yet, in other words, no frozen waterers.

Feeding hay has been a chore though, it's always blowing 30-40 miles per hour and I seem to be in the wrong area because I'm covered in hay all the time, but the elk look really good. At least now I have a heater in the loader but no door. They wanted \$2,000 for a door; I thought I could do it cheaper and I did... **\$10.29**. Got a clear shower curtain and rod and it works great! I now can take my gloves off and the push buttons on the handles don't freeze. We won't talk about the guy outside cutting the strings when it's -20 degrees and a 30 mile per hour wind.

Good to see everyone at the Winter Meeting and hope to see you at the Summer Picnic! Hopefully your ear cleanings are checked to a minimum.

Best wishes to our son Bryce and his fiancé Kelly who are getting married February 26 and the expected granddaughter in June, the first daughter in three generations!

Best wishes,  
Greg

## 2022 MnEBA Scholarship Application Now Available

The MnEBA Scholarship Application for 2022 is now available! New last 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 2022/Spring 2023 school year. One scholarship in the amount of \$350 is available. An agriculture-related field of study is preferred, but not limited to. Previous award recipients are not eligible to reapply.



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

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



2021 MnEBA Board of Directors (L to R): Lance Hartkopf, Kraig Wurst, President Mark Luedtke, Greg Lubinski and Brian Wagner

# Minnesota FFA Member Thank You's

In 2021, Greg Lubinski of Lubinski Elk Acres once again contributed funding in MnEBA's name to the Minnesota FFA Foundation's "Blue Jackets – Brighter Futures" campaign. Two jackets were awarded to the Minnesota FFA members below who sent thank you's back to MnEBA as follows.

*Minnesota Elk Breeders Association,*

*Thank you for being so generous in donating to the FFA Blue Jackets Bright Future program. I will be using the official FFA jacket to further my opportunities in FFA. I will further my opportunities by participating in CDE's and trying to become an officer.*

*Once again thank you for donating to this program, without sponsors like you our Blue Jacket's Bright Futures program would not be successful.*

*Sincerely,  
Dylan Marketon*



*Minnesota Elk Breeders Association,*

*Thank you for donating to the Blue Jacket Bright Future program. I'm excited to have my very own FFA jacket. I will definitely wear it with pride and honor to FFA events in upcoming years and proudly represent the Sleepy Eye FFA Chapter.*

*Jezzel Del Toro*

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## MnEBA Kitchen

*This recipe has a few extra special ingredients to make spectacular elk barbeque meatballs!*

### Elk Meatballs in Bourbon Barbeque Sauce

1 Tbsp. olive oil	1½ tsp. ground allspice
1 cup finely chopped onion	14½ oz. can tomato puree
3 garlic cloves, chopped	¾ cup cider vinegar
2 slices white bread	½ cup bourbon
2/3 cup milk	½ cup brown sugar
1½ lbs. ground elk	½ cup ketchup
8 oz. ground pork	¼ cup molasses
2 tsp. salt	¼ cup Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp. pepper	4 tsp. chili powder



#### DIRECTIONS

Set the oven to broil and place rack in upper third of oven. Heat oil in a large frying pan over medium heat. Add the onions and garlic and cook until the onions have softened, 6-8 minutes. Remove the pan from the heat and let cool slightly.

Tear the bread into 1-inch pieces and place in a large bowl. Add the milk and stir until the mixture forms a wet mash. Let sit until the bread absorbs all of the milk, about 5 minutes. Add the onion and garlic as well as the elk, pork, salt, pepper and ¾ tsp. of the allspice. Mix with hands until just combined. Using two rimmed baking sheets, form the meat mixture into about (48) 1¼" meatballs and place them about a 1/2" apart on the baking sheets. Place sheet of meatballs in the oven and broil for 10 minutes. Repeat with second sheet.

Meanwhile, place the tomato puree, vinegar, bourbon, brown sugar, ketchup, molasses, Worcestershire sauce, chili powder, and remaining ¾ tsp. allspice in a large pot and whisk to combine. Bring the mixture to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to low and simmer. Add meatballs to mixture as they come out of the oven. Simmer, carefully stirring the meatballs occasionally until the sauce has thickened slightly and the meatballs are fully cooked, about 30-40 minutes.

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

## Welcome New Members

Several new members joined MnEBA in January. We welcome you and look forward to sharing friendship and comradery together!

**Mark & Suzanne Hollenbeck**, Sunrise Ranch, Box 739, Edgemont, SD 57735, 605-685-3376, [markholl@gwtc.net](mailto:markholl@gwtc.net)

**Ben Johnson & Adam Johnson**, Oak Point Elk Farm, 8258 County Rd 25, Evansville, MN 56326, 320-815-5211 (Ben), 320-815-0341 (Adam), [benajohnson732@gmail.com](mailto:benajohnson732@gmail.com), [adamleejohnson1@gmail.com](mailto:adamleejohnson1@gmail.com)



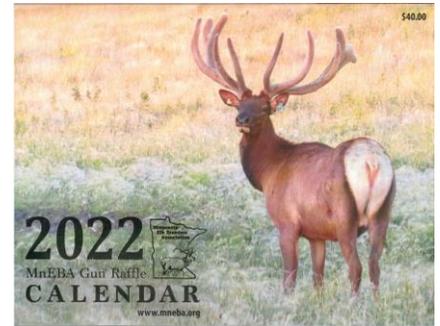
## 2022 MnEBA Gun Calendar Sells Out!

### All 800 Calendars Sold!

For the first time ever, MnEBA members sold 800 calendars to complete the sell-out of the 2022 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar! THANK YOU to all sellers and buyers for your time and efforts! This funding will give a great amount of support to association activities in the coming year!

#### Top Sellers

Brian Wagner was the top seller with a whopping 169 calendars sold with Marlen Schmitz selling an incredible 141 calendars! There were 634 stubs and money returned by December 31, with 52 names put into the hat for the special gun incentive drawing for every 10 calendars sold before December 31. Marlen Schmitz was drawn out of the hat as the lucky winner of this year's prize, a G-Force Arms GF3T Tactical Pump Shotgun 12ga.



#### Eight Producers Qualified for a FREE 2022 MnEBA Membership!

A total of eight producers qualified for a free 2022 MnEBA membership after selling 30 or more calendars and returning stubs and money before December 31. That list included Brian Wagner, Marlen Schmitz, Pat Prodzinski, Paul Hartkopf, Greg Lubinski, Jerry Campbell, Perry Olson and Ken Arnzen. The total group effort was once again amazing with tickets sold by 25 different members. THANK YOU to all!!!

#### When Winners are Posted

Monthly winners will be posted every other Wednesday on the MnEBA web site at [www.mneba.org](http://www.mneba.org).

#### What will the 2023 calendar bring...

The membership voted at the 2022 Annual Conference to increase the cost of each calendar to \$50. The increase came in part because the cost of guns has been steadily going up but the budget has not. In order to keep the quality of the guns offered, members deemed the increase necessary. The Board has since made the decision to not only increase the budget for guns purchased, but to add a bonus gun and also six additional \$100 cash prizes so there will be seven more opportunities to win in 2023!

## MnEBA 2023 Gun Raffle Calendar Sponsorships Now Available! A GREAT Opportunity to Promote Your Farm

MnEBA is now selling sponsorship opportunities for MnEBA members to be featured in the 2023 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. Sponsorships are available on a first come, first serve basis for all twelve months of the calendar, January 2023 through December 2023.

Your sponsorship includes:

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

There will be 800 calendars printed. A gun or cash option will be awarded every other Wednesday throughout the year with an additional bonus gun. Additionally, there will be twelve \$100 Bonus Cash days with one every month!

Please contact the MnEBA Office at 320-543-2686 or [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org) to pledge a month in the calendar no later than May 15, 2022. Thank you for your support!!

## Vet Corner by Glen Zearth, DVM

*At the MnEBA membership meeting in January, the membership had a lot of discussion both with Drs. Glaser and Wheeler, then again later in the afternoon as a group, about not resuming Rulemaking until rules could be made for all farmed cervidae, not just all species except farmed white-tail deer as was being proposed. The following letter was sent to the Board of Animal Health Board of Directors and Executive Director Dr. Thompson. The status of this request is that the letter was received, but they are unclear at the present time when Rulemaking will resume. The most current Rules version has been at the Revisor's Office for many weeks and because legislators are now in session, that could further delay movement on Rulemaking.*

January 10, 2022

Dean Compart, President of the Board  
39895 State Hwy 111  
Nicollet, MN 56074

To Minnesota Board of Animal Health Directors,

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association was made aware at the December 2021 Board of Animal Health quarterly meeting that Board staff will resume the process of making rules for farmed cervidae. We were told that the rules draft in process and current as of January 2022 will be used moving forward, except that the updated rules will no longer apply to white-tailed deer. We were shocked by the announcement that white-tailed deer would be taken out of the current rulemaking process. The membership of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association unanimously agreed at our January 8, 2022 annual meeting to request a pause on all farmed cervidae rulemaking until all farmed cervid species are included in the rules.

We have been told that current rulemaking is taking place to update the rules to reflect new legislation which was passed in the 2020 legislative session. These new laws pertain to all farmed cervid species and do not exclude farmed white-tailed deer. Removing white-tailed deer from the current rulemaking process is a dramatic shift and would first require a change in current Minnesota law (Minnesota Statutes 35.155).

White-tailed deer have a much higher rate of susceptibility to chronic wasting disease (CWD) compared to other cervid species such as elk and reindeer. Even in captivity, elk and reindeer are more resistant to CWD and have longer incubation periods. Removing farmed white-tailed deer from consideration in current rulemaking changes everything. The shift to remove farmed white-tailed deer which are at the greatest risk for contracting and spreading CWD is counterintuitive. Under rules as currently proposed, elk and reindeer producers would be held to a much higher standard than white-tailed deer producers.

Board of Animal Health staff stated that farmed white-tailed deer should be excluded from current rulemaking because new laws may be passed in the 2022 Legislative session that apply only to white-tailed deer. While new legislation may be passed, it may also include all farmed cervid species. Removing farmed white-tailed deer from current rules based on speculation that new laws will be passed is out of order. Rules are made to explain how to implement the requirements set forth in law. Rules must never be made that supersede the law.

We implore the Board of Animal Health to stop the current rulemaking process until rules are drafted that apply to all farmed cervidae species and that are based solidly on the authorities set forth in law.

Sincerely,

Mark Luedtke, President, Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

CC: Erica Sawatzke, Peggy Anne Hawkins, DVM, Jessica Koppin-Fox, DVM, Jim Vagts, Dr. Beth Thompson

## Defining Deadly Deer Diseases

By Dr. James C. Kroll

Reprinted with permission from NORTH AMERICAN WHITETAIL - February 16, 2022

*Many hunters struggle to understand the biological differences in deer diseases and their respective impacts on the herd, so here's the science.*

I remain amused by the naïve beliefs people often have about wildlife and nature. The idea that wild animals acquire diseases and die, or even that they commonly make mistakes and have fatal accidents, just does not seem to sink in! Actually, bad things happen quite frequently to wildlife. The list includes various diseases.

As whitetail populations soared to around 40 million by the turn of the 21st Century, we became concerned about potential impacts of diseases that logically would accompany population growth. In 1994, Dr. Harry Jacobson and I traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland, to deliver a plenary address to the 3rd International Congress on the biology of deer; entitled, "The White-tailed Deer: the Most Managed and Mismanaged Species."

During our presentation, we warned about future problems in deer management, including emergence of new diseases and future impacts. Although our warnings went unheeded, in the last two decades, it did not stop disease from happening!

There are two kinds of diseases: density-dependent and frequency-dependent. A density-dependent disease is one in which spread and impact is directly related to how crowded is the population. Frequency-dependent diseases impact the

population, regardless of density. Dealing with these two types of diseases calls for completely different management strategies.

With this short introduction to disease, I turn to the ones I feel have an impact on deer populations. Deer diseases can be lumped into the following categories: bacteria (including rickettsia), viruses and proteins.

I recently asked three colleagues who study wildlife diseases to rank them, in proportion to impact on deer. It is hard to get two scientists to agree on anything, but their response was universal: viruses, bacteria and proteins.

### Viruses

Hands down, viruses have caused and will continue to cause more deer deaths than any single factor! In the last 20 years, deer harvest has declined about 20 percent, and viruses certainly are causal factors. Comparing deaths from viruses to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), I am reminded what it says in the Bible about David: "Saul has slain his thousands, but David has slain tens of thousands!"

To date, untold thousands of deer have died from just one group of diseases, collectively called Hemorrhagic Disease. Until recently the general public remained unaware of these

deaths! More recently, die-offs in many areas have brought the public to full attention.

What are Hemorrhagic Diseases? There are two main groups, Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) and Bluetongue Disease (BT). Hemorrhagic means producing a hemorrhage, in this case throughout the body.

Bluetongue is named for the common symptom of a swollen tongue that is bluish in color. They are in the Orbivirus group, which are transmitted by biting insects (midges or gnats), generally of the genus *Culicoides*. The gnats live as maggots in mud next to ponds and streams, emerging in the evening, when deer come to water.

An infected whitetail will have very high fever and disintegrating organs, hence the name "hemorrhagic." They go to water to cool off, where they are bitten by gnats, that in turn bite healthy deer. Between 36 hours and a few days later, that deer also becomes infected. The problem with these viruses, and others, is they come in many variations (strains or serotypes), some more virulent than others!

Although there are multiple strains of EHD, three remain problematic. EHD-1 was first reported in New Jersey and Michigan in 1955, while EHD-2 first appeared in Alberta (2013). EHD-6 reassortant virus was

reported from Indiana in 2007, probably representing a combination of EHD-2 and EHD-6, from Australia, by the process called reassortment.

There is no known cure for the diseases, and you cannot inoculate deer against them. We have found the best approach is management, using sound herd management, improved nutrition and strategically placed artificial water sources. This spreads deer out and reduces the production of gnat maggots.

### Bacteria

Whitetails are beset with a host of bacterial infections, which on rare occasions can be quite devastating; however in a localized context. Anthrax (*Bacillus anthracis*), an ancient disease going back as far as one of the Egyptian plagues in the Bible, periodically kills thousands of deer in southern Texas.

Anthrax spores remain viable in the soil for 50-100 years, emerging during extremely wet years, followed by prolonged drought. I have witnessed losses of up to 90 percent in local deer populations.

Another somewhat geographically limited bacterial disease is bovine tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*), which as the name implies came from cattle. I have been involved in BTb management in the Northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan since 2003, and found this disease to be manageable, and having little impact on deer populations per se.

Other bacteria such as *E. coli*, *Clostridium*, *Pseudomonas*, *Fusobacterium*, and *Pasturella*

(*Mannheimia*) cause significant deaths. Combined with predation, bacteria are a significant mortality agent of fawns.

Older deer contract several diseases, including hoof rot, caused by *Fusobacteria*, which can lead to death. For some reason, bucks seem to have this disease more often than does; generally, it begins with an injury between the toes.

Bacteria cause abscesses, puss-filled bags under the skin or inside the body. Deer recover from most, but brain abscesses in bucks are almost universally lethal. They are caused by skull damage from fighting. Late stage symptoms include staggering, circling and apparent deafness and blindness. Collectively, though, the greatest impact of bacteria is on fawn survival, which can be quite dramatic.

### Proteins

What hunter has not heard of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)? Since the late 1960s, millions of dollars and a great deal of manpower have been spent attempting to eradicate or control CWD. To date, there is not a single demonstrable strategy that has been shown to work!

There are isolated cases where an infected deer was destroyed, resulting in no further cases; but, these are few and far between. As the Deer Trustee of Wisconsin, I concluded efforts to eradicate CWD in southern Wisconsin failed, after spending



*The buck above fell victim to EHD after being bitten by midges carrying the deadly virus. (Photo courtesy of Dr. James C. Kroll)*

millions of dollars and killing at least 200,000 deer!

CWD is caused by aberrant proteins, called prions (pre-ions). Normal prions are found in the nervous system and are “thought” to function in everything from nerve formation to regulating stress. Like the “transformers” of Hollywood, they can become distorted in shape, rendering them insoluble in the nervous system.

They reproduce and ultimately lodge in critical portions of the brain, where they erode critical tissues. Prions are long-lasting in the environment and are difficult to destroy. Deer can become infected through contact with other deer and some environmental agents, but the transmission route remains poorly understood.

We do know CWD is not a density-dependent disease; rather, it is a frequency-dependent disease, the spread of which is through multiple, prolonged contact with prions. Yet, what constitutes an “infective dose” evades scientists. Yet, the media reports would lead you to believe the woods are full of single prions, waiting to pounce on a deer!

We have yet to prove CWD has caused significant population decline. The name "chronic" is instructive, since unlike many diseases, deer do not die in a short time. This chronic disease takes as much as four years to become clinical. In that time, a

doe will produce up to 6 fawns; mitigating population impacts. The true impact of CWD will emerge over the next decades. For now, we feel it should not be included in the top five deer mortality agents. We may be wrong, but time will tell!

Whitetails are ultimate survivors; they have been on this earth for over 2 million years! Countless species have become extinct, yet the whitetail remains with us, the challenging adversary we all love.

## Legislative Committee Report

In addition to the letter to Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) Directors found in Vet Corner, the following general position statements were also forwarded to the BAH Directors and Dr. Thompson earlier this month:

1. Minnesota Elk Breeders Association is requesting to continue the pause on Rulemaking.
2. Minnesota Elk Breeders Association does not object to the concept of differing Rules for farmed whitetail deer and other farmed cervid species. However we feel it is premature to continue Rulemaking for all farmed cervid species except whitetail deer because to do so would put all other farmed cervid species under stricter regulations than farmed whitetail deer for an undetermined amount of time. Secondly, BAH proposes to begin where the Rulemaking left off. If Rulemaking for all farmed cervid species other than whitetail deer commences, we oppose beginning where Rulemaking left off and feel we should start from the beginning. We may have differing positions on some items when the most susceptible species is taken out of the Rules because negligible risk on some areas would become even less than it already is.
3. Minnesota Elk Breeders Association opposes a buy-out of farmed elk in Minnesota. In addition, Minnesota Elk Breeders Association opposes a moratorium on farmed elk in Minnesota.



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

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

## Calendar of Events

**March 12, 2022** – 2022 NAEBA March Mingle, Aviator Hotel & Suites, St. Louis, MO

**July 28-30, 2022** – 2022 NAEBA Annual Convention & International Antler Competition, Crowne Plaza Denver Airport, Denver, CO

**August 25 – September 5, 2022** – Minnesota State Fair, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

## Classified Ads

**For Sale:** (15) elk cows for sale. Preg tested positive on January 11, 2022. We have had cuttings of 42-46.5 lb. velvet with a scoring of 450" to 500" genetics. Also good production of nice typical-framed trophy bulls. CWD Level 6, TB Accredited herd. \$3,000 per cow, delivery available. Darrell Turek, 612-756-0712.

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**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.

## MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

9086 Keats Avenue SW  
Howard Lake, MN 55349