

April / May / June '22  
Volume 26, Issue 2



# MnEBA News

## Special Interest Articles:

- Market Watch
- Board Meeting Minutes
- Legislative Update
- Board Blog
- Minnesota State Fair
- Minnesota Board of Animal Health News Release
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources News Release
- Minnesota Department of Agriculture News Release
- Vet Corner

## President's Message by Mark Luedtke



Hello everyone!

Hope everyone and your family are doing well. It is the season of graduation parties and very full schedules. Even though the daylight lasts longer, there just doesn't seem to be either enough time in the day or energy in my body to get everything done that I know I should be getting done. It never fails; that list of things to get done just doesn't seem to get shorter and at the same time the calendar gets fuller and fuller. There are many bright sides to the season as well; I am still waiting for my first calf to be born but I know it won't be long now and the bulls are definitely putting some energy into their antler growth. No matter how long I have been raising elk, it is always exciting to see those calves being born and the new set of antlers being grown.

It appears we have made it through the legislative year without any new regulations being imposed but that isn't to say there haven't been any scares or challenges presented to the industry. I'm sure there are some pieces of news elsewhere in this newsletter regarding some of our concerns and some of our ongoing challenges, a big one that we must wait and see on is who the replacement of the Executive Director of the Board of Animal Health will be with the departure of Dr. Beth Thompson. Please call Brenda or any of the Board members if you have thoughts to share and as always, we will try to keep you posted as best as we can regarding issues of concern with the industry.

Have a wonderful summer and hope to see you at the summer picnic.

Mark

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## *Make Plans to Attend!* **2022 MnEBA Summer Picnic** **DATE – July 16, 2022**

*Hosted By*

**Turek's Arctic Hillcrest Farms**  
**Darrell Turek & Sheila Krukowski**  
11205 140<sup>th</sup> St W, Montgomery, MN 56069  
612-756-0712

**LUNCH BEGINS AT NOON**  
**Bring a dish to pass!**

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

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

### Board of Directors

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Mark Luedtke  
(320) 630-5419

#### Vice President

Lance Hartkopf  
(320) 543-3664

#### Secretary/Treasurer

Brian Wagner  
(612) 366-5078

#### Director

Greg Lubinski  
(507) 273-0525

#### Director

Jerry Campbell  
(218) 820-5515

#### Executive Secretary to the Board

Brenda Hartkopf  
(320) 543-2686

## MnEBA

### Mission Statement

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

## Market Watch

### Velvet 2022

With the reality of everything going up cost-wise, we could only hope that most importantly 2022 would have a velvet buyer! Tie that to a market where everything coupled with creating velvet has also gone up, we could hope that the producer would see an increase in our efforts to cut antler this year.

A very important part for the survival of the velvet market in the U.S. is enough product to keep a buyer interested in what it takes to collect, grade and get the antler to a processing plant. In recent years many factors have caused velvet production to drop at an alarming rate; PRICE the most obvious factor, but animal numbers have fallen, along with animal producers. The hunt market has been very strong over the last few years and more bulls have gone to the trophy market, thus taking many pounds out of velvet production.

The last four years the U.S. industry has seen total pounds produced drop from 38,000 pounds in 2018 to last year's 20,250 pounds. I only hope that 2022 will see levels close to that number. Though as of this writing I do not have a hard number on velvet, I have been assured we will have a buyer, and overall the price will increase 10-20 % from last year. I would expect that actual buying will take place at the end of July, through the first week of August as I MUST be completed by August 7th.

To close it is good news to know there will be a buyer and the price will go up between \$1.50-\$3.00 per pound. As we get into the summer more information will be sent in an email or newsletter, also showing the value of your membership to get the current and greatest news.

Scott Salonek  
612-850-8684

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Looking into another velvet season. We are planning to buy velvet antler again. Looking at a similar year as last. Call with any questions as we start cutting to maximize your best dollar and cut your best antler.

Thanks,  
Brian Wagner  
612-366-5078

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## REMINDER TO ALL MINNESOTA ELK PRODUCERS

When selling animals to other breeders within the state of Minnesota, especially new facilities, please be sure to check with the Board of Animal Health (BAH) on the status of the receiving farm to make sure they are registered with the state of Minnesota, in full compliance, have passed their most recent fence inspection and that there are no outstanding infractions before animals are moved.

## Board Meeting Minutes

### Board Meeting Minutes May 28, 2022

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association Board of Directors held a meeting via Zoom on Saturday May 28, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. Mark Luedtke, Lance Hartkopf, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Jerry Campbell and Brenda Hartkopf were present. President Luedtke called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. and asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda as presented. None were given.

President Luedtke asked for any changes or additions to the May 5 Secretary Report. Campbell moved to approve the report, Lubinski seconded, motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was then reviewed showing a balance of \$39,327.78. B. Hartkopf went through the changes from the previous report and provided an update that the buyer for the Dynasty semen from the 2022 MnEBA Annual Conference still has not paid for half the purchase with \$1,400 still outstanding. B. Hartkopf contacted him to let him know his card on file would be run unless he wanted to pay with a different credit card by a set date. When the set date expired, the card on file was run and payment declined. B. Hartkopf was directed to send a letter via certified mail outlining an ultimatum of 45 days for payment otherwise forfeiting all semen purchased. Lubinski moved to approve the Treasurer's report, L. Hartkopf seconded, motion carried.

### OLD BUSINESS

Board reviewed proposed budget for MnEBA's new fiscal year, July 1-June 30. B. Hartkopf reported that MnEBA can now use MN Grown credits to help offset the cost of the State Fair booth and would add that amount to the budget proposal. After more discussion, Campbell moved to accept the proposed budget with two changes, Lubinski seconded, motion carried.

Board reviewed a proposed letter drafted by the Legislative committee regarding the Board of Animal Health hiring of a new Executive Director with the departure of Dr. Beth Thompson. Lubinski moved to approve the letter, L. Hartkopf seconded, motion carried. B. Hartkopf to send the letter to Board of Animal Health Board Members, and leaders of all domestic animal organizations in Minnesota. The board also agreed with the Legislative committee's assessment to request a sit-down meeting with each board member to discuss our concerns personally as well as offering personal meetings with other state

domestic animal organization leaders. B. Hartkopf to work on setting up these meetings.

B. Hartkopf reported on an update from MnEBA's lobbyist that the Omnibus Ag bill passed which included no new restrictions on cervid farms. The Omnibus Environment bill was agreed to but ran out of time to be passed. The final version contained no new restrictions on cervid farms.

### NEW BUSINESS

B. Hartkopf and Luedtke reported on recent communications from the Carlton County Board of Commissioners of a proposed temporary moratorium on new cervid farms. This follows similar temporary moratoriums in both St. Louis and Aitkin counties. Discussed recent discussions with Travis Lowe, Executive Director of NAEBA, and coordinating efforts to testify during the public comment portion of the next Carlton County board meeting on June 27. B. Hartkopf and Luedtke to coordinate with Travis to attend and testify at this meeting.

As part of that discussion, it was reported that a new elk premises in Carlton County is seeking to bring elk in before the proposed moratorium begins. Unfortunately animals were brought in to the facility before final approval was given by the Board of Animal Health. B. Hartkopf was asked to send an e-blast to members reminding them to make sure that when selling animals to other breeders in Minnesota, the destination farm is compliant and in good standing with the Board of Animal Health.

Discussed open North Central position on the NAEBA Board of Directors. Nominations must be submitted by May 31. Wagner to contact Scott Salonek to see if he would be willing to serve another term. If he declines, Brian to let the Board know so alternate candidates can be discussed.

Luedtke reported discussions are still ongoing with national leaders regarding an industry rewrite of the federal CWD standards.

B. Hartkopf was asked to send an eblast out to the membership seeking people to work the MnEBA booth at the State Fair. Lubinski pledged to work all the weekend shifts for both weekends.

Lubinski move to adjourn, Wagner seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

### Board Meeting Minutes May 5, 2022

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association Board of Directors held a meeting via Zoom on Thursday May 5, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. Mark Luedtke, Lance Hartkopf, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Jerry Campbell and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Tony Kwilas was a guest who joined later in the meeting. 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. B. Hartkopf added a new item pertaining to an ongoing University of Minnesota Biosecurity project under New Business. The agenda was approved by general agreement.

President Luedtke asked for any changes or additions to the March 16 Secretary Report. Campbell moved to approve the report, L. Hartkopf seconded, motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was then reviewed showing a balance of \$41,587.67. B. Hartkopf reported the buyer for the Dynasty semen at the 2022 MnEBA Annual Conference has only paid for half the purchase with \$1,400 still outstanding. B. Hartkopf was asked to contact the buyer to give him a defined number of days to call back with a credit card. If he does not contact the office, run the card on file for the amount owed. B. Hartkopf also reported that changing MnEBA's fiscal year to July 1-June 30 is underway with the accountant. Lubinski moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Wagner seconded, motion carried.

### OLD BUSINESS

Luedtke and B. Hartkopf provided an update on the ongoing social media campaign. A handout was provided with all the ads which have run since this past January. They reported the budget has now been exhausted. There was discussion about keeping the campaign going at some lower level for a period of time or at least through the end of the legislative session.

MnEBA lobbyist Tony Kwilas then joined the call. In the interest of Tony's time, previous discussion was suspended to hear a legislative update. He reported that most issues pertaining to farmed cervidae are contained in the Environment Omnibus bill and that any unfriendly industry provisions are included in the House version with none in the Senate version. A conference committee composed of legislators from both bodies will begin meeting on May 9 to work

towards agreement on final items to be contained in the bill. Tony recommended MnEBA write a letter to the committee outlining who we represent, our economic impact and concerns with proposed CWD provisions. B.Hartkopf was directed to work with the MnEBA legislative committee to draft this letter and report back to the board. Tony then left the meeting.

Discussion then commenced about the social media campaign. A rough estimate on continuing the campaign through the end of the legislative session was discussed. Wagner pledged to provide funding needed to bring the campaign through May 23. Board was updated on staff and board changes within the Board of Animal Health. Executive Director Beth Thompson is leaving May 9, then Dr. Linda Glaser will become the interim Executive Director until a replacement is found. Board Chairman Dean Compart will not seek to renew his term which expires in January 2023. Erica Sawatzke was recently elected as the new chairperson of the Board of Animal Health. B. Hartkopf was directed to work with the legislative committee to draft a letter to Board of Animal Health directors regarding recommendations for the hiring of the next BAH Executive Director. Discussion included sharing this letter with other animal agriculture groups and encouraging them to write similar letters.

Luedtke reported that he and a small group of individuals on the national level are working to rewrite the federal Program Standards. They are currently having conversations to see if there can be alignment for details regarding new Program Standards amongst industry leaders.

B. Hartkopf reported Dr. Glaser recently reached out to MnEBA about sending out a study opportunity to the MnEBA membership regarding RT-QulC testing. After discussion of details, it was decided that without use of validated testing methods, it was not in the industry's best interest to participate in the proposed study at this time. Luedtke and B. Hartkopf to work on a reply back to Dr. Glaser and copy board members on the response.

B. Hartkopf reported the Holiday Inn Alexandria lowered their proposed guest room rates and was therefore selected for the location of the next MnEBA Annual Conference to take place January 6-7, 2023. She also reported the Turek family has agreed to host this year's MnEBA Summer Picnic to take place on July 16, 2022.

Luedtke and B. Hartkopf reported on manning the MnEBA booth at the recent State FFA Convention

Career Fair held at the State Fair Coliseum on April 25. They reported a lot of positive interactions with attendees, most of whom knew nothing about the elk industry.

There was much discussion on a review of Minnesota Gambling Control laws and how gun raffle calendar funds are spent. Decision was made to ask the accountant who handles MnEBA's tax return to review the MnEBA financials to ensure compliance with raffle requirements are being met. B. Hartkopf and Luedtke to follow up with accountant.

An updated MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar gun list was presented prior to the board meeting. Board approved the proposed gun list with one replacement of a gun MnEBA has in inventory at the gun dealer because a recent winner chose the cash option. B. Hartkopf to follow up with gun dealer to finalize the list.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

B. Hartkopf reported she has been part of an advisory group giving feedback to a University of Minnesota Farmed Cervid Biosecurity project. She reported one interesting finding is that over the study group of CWD positive facilities located in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, there has shown to be no association between CWD in the wild and CWD on a farm until the distance between each is six miles or less.

The next meeting was set for the week of May 23 to finalize the budget and other association business. Lubinski move to adjourn, Wagner seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

#### **Board Meeting Minutes March 16, 2022**

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association Board of Directors held a meeting via Zoom on Wednesday March 16, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. Mark Luedtke, Lance Hartkopf, Brian Wagner, Jerry Campbell and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Tony Kwilas was a guest. Luedtke called the meeting to order at 8:03 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 the January 13 Secretary Report.. L. Hartkopf moved to approve the report, Wagner seconded, motion carried.

MnEBA lobbyist Tony Kwilas then joined the call. He reported the first committee deadline is coming up on March 25. Farmed cervid issues have been quiet in the Senate, but the Senate is working to move \$500,000 in relief aid to Minnesota deer farmers for losses incurred during last Fall's movement moratorium by the DNR. There are several bills in the House and added to that, there's a lot going on behind the scenes between both House and Senate. B. Hartkopf asked if MnEBA should put a letter together for testimony in select hearings and Kwilas responded that he will let us know when that would be helpful. She also asked if we should plan a day to meet with legislators in person and again, Kwilas will let us know when a good time to do that would be. Kwilas then left the meeting.

The Treasurer's report was then reviewed showing a balance of \$44,250.40. Campbell moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Wagner seconded, motion carried.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was follow-up discussion from the last meeting pertaining to officially moving MnEBA's fiscal year from January 1 – December 31, to July 1 – June 30. The change was proposed because at the end of the year, MnEBA is in the middle of the raffle and annual conference sign up and it's difficult to compare year to year when certain large budget items are split between two fiscal years. Board reviewed the accountant's recommendation and directions for changing the fiscal year and deemed it would be a good change. L. Hartkopf moved to change MnEBA's fiscal year to July 1 – June 30, Campbell seconded, motion carried with President Mark Luedtke abstaining from the vote. B. Hartkopf was then directed to develop an adjusted budget for the new fiscal year for board review at the next meeting.

B. Hartkopf and Luedtke provided an update on MnEBA's social media campaign and reported it is going very well and provided the latest statistics on number of people reached and budget used to date. Board discussed topic ideas for upcoming ads.

Board reviewed list of proposals submitted for the 2023 MnEBA Annual Conference. The choices were narrowed down to three locations with B. Hartkopf directed to go back and negotiate specific areas of each proposal and report back to the board. In the interest of time, board to make final decision via email. Because of food costs going up at all locations, especially after Covid, decision was made to raise the early bird registration cost to \$85 and \$95 at the door.

B. Hartkopf provided a draft gun list for the 2023 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar which included both the incentive and bonus guns in addition to the usual 26 guns. Decision was made to substitute a different hunting gun of similar value for the AR pistol that was being proposed, otherwise the list was approved.

No one has yet offered to host the 2022 MnEBA Summer Picnic. The Turek family indicated at the annual conference they would consider hosting the event but needed time to think about it. B. Hartkopf was directed to follow up with the Tureks' to see if a decision has been made.

### NEW BUSINESS

B. Hartkopf gave an update on (6) non-renewing members to date. She has sent their final notice and will also follow up with a phone call. Current

membership stands at 12 Lifetime, 37 Active and 23 Associate members.

The Minnesota State FFA Convention is once again offering an opportunity for ag-related groups to take part in the Career Fair on Monday, April 25. B. Hartkopf reported she had already committed to MnEBA having a booth at this event. Board approved moving forward with the booth.

The next meeting to be in 2-4 weeks, depending upon the need to meet sooner than later. L. Hartkopf moved to adjourn, Campbell seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

## Legislative Update

The 2022 Minnesota Legislative session began January 31 and ended May 23. While there were a number of proposed bills concerning farmed cervidae, primarily on the House side, the session ended with no new farmed cervid legislation passed.

MnEBA is grateful to our lobbyist Tony Kwilas for his great work to maintain communications between the elk industry and legislators once again this year. He works every day to advocate for the industry in any way he can. Tony makes a point to learn as much as he can about every issue and works tirelessly on our behalf.

Below is a brief update from Tony on end of session highlights:

The agriculture bill passed and included no restrictions on cervid farms. There was some money for drought relief (\$10 million).

The environment bill was agreed to but not voted on by the Legislature. There were no restrictions on cervid farms in the agreement.

The LCCMR bill passed and has some money for the prion research center at the University of Minnesota.

I would say the odds are 60-40 right now AGAINST a special session. The longer we stay out, the better the odds there will be no special session.

Filings for office do not close until May 31 and a number of candidates now have primary opponents. They do not want to have a special session so that the opponents can use that against them.



# Board Blog by Brian Wagner, Secretary/Treasurer



Well Brenda has put me on the spot again. She gives me a 30-day heads up and now needs this blog in 15 minutes (procrastinator??). I think to make this fair to everyone, we should change this to be a member blog then y'all could have a chance to write one.

With all the pressure we've gotten in the last year or two it's still a good time to be in the elk business. Demand is there and markets are good and this is one of my two favorite times of the year to raise elk. Nice green grass, new baby calves, and the excitement of watching new antler growth. After 24 years in the elk business, I'm still amazed how fast antler grows. Before we know it they will be in hard antler and that brings my second favorite time of raising elk; listening to bulls bugling on a crisp fall evening or early morning.

We've made it through another legislative session without any drastic change. Make sure to give our legislative committee and lobbyist a big thank you next time you see or talk with them. They all have many donated hours. Thanks to Paul Anderson, Jim Byrne, Brenda Hartkopf, Mark Luedtke and Tony Kwilas.

I'm struggling a bit as we move into fall as this will be the first year in the last 18 that I don't have an elk hunt scheduled, but I do have Iowa and Missouri whitetail archery to look forward to.

Hope to see you all at the summer picnic at the Turek farm. And if you have any questions or want to talk elk and the market's or have bulls to sell this Fall, give me a call anytime.

Have a bright and blessed summer; enjoy family and your elk.



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800.548.2540

Menomonie, WI 54751  
1720 Freitag Drive  
866.467.4717

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

## MnEBA Kitchen

This elk steak marinade recipe can be found in several of MnEBA's meat handouts. It is hands down, the best steak marinade recipe available! If you haven't tried it, make a point to try it this summer!

### Elk Steak Marinade

3 Tbsp. canola oil  
 2 Tbsp. minced onion  
 1 Tbsp. lemon juice  
 1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce

1 Tbsp. soy sauce  
 1 tsp. garlic powder  
 ½ tsp. pepper  
 1½ lbs. elk steak



#### DIRECTIONS

Whisk canola oil, onion, lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce, soy sauce, garlic powder and pepper in a bowl until marinade is well mixed. Place elk steak in a large resealable plastic bag and pour marinade over meat. Coat meat with marinade, squeezing out excess air, and seal bag. Marinate in the refrigerator for at least four hours, turning occasionally.

Preheat grill for medium heat. Drain elk steak and discard marinade. Grill steaks about five minutes per side or until an instant-read thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the steak reads 140 degrees.

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

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\*Antler D is a trademark of Head Gear LLC.

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**August 25 – Labor Day September 5, 2022**



***YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!!***

There was a lot of discussion at this year’s annual conference about the importance of having a presence at the State Fair and how more members are needed to help in the booth. NOW IS THE TIME to check your schedule and sign up for one or more shifts at the booth before your schedule fills up!

Please see sign-up sheet below. There are openings for all twelve days of the fair. Please make sure to sign up as soon as possible to lock in your day! Bring your family and friends, there is literally something for everyone to enjoy at the State Fair

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

Please review the schedule below and **contact the office 320-543-2686 or info@mneba.org or Greg at 507-273-0525** to get on the list. If you can take a full day, or multiple shifts, it would be a huge help! Thank you for your consideration!!

Date	Time	Workers	Date	Time	Workers
Pre-Fair		Set Up – Paul Hweg	8/31	8 – 2	OPEN
8/25	8 - 2	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf		2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/1	8 – 2	OPEN
8/26	8 – 2	OPEN		2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/2	8 – 2	OPEN
8/27	8 – 2	Greg Lubinski		2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	Greg Lubinski	9/3	8 – 2	Greg Lubinski
8/28	8 – 2	Greg Lubinski		2 – 9	Greg Lubinski
	2 – 9	Greg Lubinski	9/4	8 – 2	Greg Lubinski
8/29	8 – 2	OPEN		2 – 9	Greg Lubinski
	2 – 9	OPEN	9/5	8 – 2	Greg Lubinski
8/30	8 – 2	OPEN		2 – 9	Greg Lubinski
	2 – 9	OPEN			

**Hard Antler or Velvet Antler Donations Needed**

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

MnEBA is looking for donations of either hard antler or velvet antler from members to help offset the cost of purchasing dog chews for resale at the State Fair. Even just a stick or two would be helpful, it all adds up! Donated hard antler must **not have any hair on it** and must **not be "chalky"** and velvet antler must be **Grade A** antler.

Hard antler will be collected at the July 16 Summer Picnic, or you can send your hard or velvet antler donations with Brian Wagner. They can also be dropped off directly in Howard Lake. Thank you in advance for anything you can do help!

## 2023 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar

### SIX Sponsorships Are Still Available!

**Many thanks** to all MnEBA members who have stepped up to sponsor a month in the 2023 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. This year's sponsors to date include Brian Wagner, Lance & Brenda Hartkopf, Kraig & Jenny Wurst, Mark & Lisa Luedtke, Greg Lubinski and Jerry & Linda Campbell. **SIX spots are still OPEN!** All you need is good picture with an elk on it, your contact information and logo if you have it. The picture doesn't have to be from this year, it can be a picture from an earlier year. The cost to sponsor a month in the calendar is still \$300. Sponsors are what help to pay for the printing of the calendar so the raffle itself can be more profitable. If you would be willing to sponsor a month in the calendar, please contact the MnEBA Office as soon as possible! There will be a total of 800 calendars printed once again.



**More chances to win this year!** 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. In order to keep the high quality of guns offered, members deemed the increase necessary. The other part of the increase was to create more chances to win! A bonus gun has been added and now there is a Bonus Day \$100 Cash prize for every single month (instead of every other month). **This creates seven more opportunities to win in 2023!**

**Same great incentives to sell calendars this year!** For each group of ten calendars sold by any one person, the seller's name goes in the hat for a special gun drawing outside of the raffle calendar. Stubs and money for all ten tickets must be turned in by December 31, 2022 to be eligible. Sellers can be entered multiple times for each group of 10 calendars sold. The free membership incentive for 30 calendars sold with stubs and money turned in by December 31 will also continue. With 27 guns and twelve \$100 Bonus Cash days, there are many great chances to win!

**2023 Gun Raffle Calendars will be available** at this year's MnEBA Summer Picnic on July 16 in Montgomery. Calendars can also be mailed out from the office or by contacting a board member. Whatever you can do to help sell calendars would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the MnEBA Office with any questions or comments at 320-543-2686 or [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org).

## Seeking Hunter Nominations and Elk Bull for 2022 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt

Do you know someone who would be a good candidate for MnEBA's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt? MnEBA is seeking a disabled Minnesota veteran of the United States armed forces and wants the membership to have the first opportunity to nominate someone for this exceptional opportunity.

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

Please contact the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 or [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org) for your hunter nomination, to help provide financial funds to purchase the bull, and/or to offer a bull for sale. Thank you for your consideration!



*Keith Frantzen  
2021 Hunt Recipient*



## News Release

For immediate release: April 13, 2022

Contact: Michael Crusan, Communications Director, 651-201-6815 or [michael.crusan@state.mn.us](mailto:michael.crusan@state.mn.us)

### State veterinarian stepping down to serve in South Dakota

**Saint Paul, MN** - Dr. Beth Thompson, State Veterinarian and Board of Animal Health Executive Director, announced she is resigning from her position effective May 8, 2022. She accepted the state veterinarian position in her home state of South Dakota. Current Assistant Director, Dr. Linda Glaser will begin serving as Interim State Veterinarian on May 9, 2022.

“When the state veterinarian position opened up in my home state earlier this year, I decided to apply and see where things went,” said Dr. Beth Thompson. “I was offered the position earlier this month and accepted this opportunity to be closer to family and friends. Although I’m departing amidst the HPAI outbreak, our response is strong, and I leave this agency in very capable hands.”

During today’s quarterly Board of Animal Health meeting, Dr. Thompson notified the Board members of her resignation. The Board annually appoints a qualified veterinarian to serve in the position and Dr. Thompson was reappointed to serve until her resignation day, at which point, Dr. Glaser will become Interim State Veterinarian.

“Dr. Thompson was uniquely qualified for this position and her professionalism, experience and educational background will be greatly missed,” said Board President, Dean Compart. “Fortunately, she’ll continue to be involved in animal health in her new position. We are confident Dr. Glaser will continue carrying out the Board’s mission in the interim.”

The Board will announce an application period for the position in the coming weeks and will reconvene in a special meeting to interview qualified candidates to select the next state veterinarian.

## A Reminder for Anyone Moving Trophy Bulls this Fall!

If there’s a possibility you will be moving trophy bulls this Fall to a state where purity is required, now is the time to initiate that paperwork and get hair samples sent to the lab so you have results when needed.

U.C. Davis has been working on extended timelines since last summer and their usual amount of time to return results has nearly doubled in some cases.

Make sure to think ahead and get your tests ordered ASAP! Contact the NAEBA Office at 320-543-3665 or email [info@naelk.org](mailto:info@naelk.org) for more information.





## News Release

For Immediate Release: March 22, 2022

For more information – [info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us) or 888-646-6367

### CWD detected in a wild deer in Grand Rapids prompts DNR to update disease response plan

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is updating its chronic wasting disease response plan after the discovery of a wild white-tailed deer infected with CWD within the city of Grand Rapids. The response plan update will better reflect a statewide approach to disease surveillance, management, control and education.

This is the first time CWD has been detected in wild deer in this deer permit area, so the DNR is also taking immediate steps to understand the prevalence of the disease in wild deer in the Grand Rapids area. The agency will work with local road authorities to collect samples from road-killed deer and is exploring opportunities for targeted culling where it can be performed safely.

“We’ve always looked at CWD as a disease that could impact the entire state, yet implemented disease management actions as needed in each area where CWD was found,” said Kelly Straka, the DNR’s wildlife section manager. “This new discovery doesn’t make CWD a statewide problem, but it does mean we need to take more of a statewide approach.”

While the surveillance outlined in the DNR’s current response plan made this detection possible, the finding of CWD in Grand Rapids highlights the need for an enhanced statewide sampling approach.

The enhanced statewide surveillance will include:

- Updating the DNR’s CWD response plan this spring
- Investigating options for hunters to use a self-mailing kit for free testing statewide
- Expanding the taxidermist network (Partner Sampling Program) statewide
- Upgrading and improving current design for self-service stations

The DNR will seek public input as it explores and implements the ideas above and other options for enhanced statewide surveillance.

“The DNR has taken an aggressive approach to managing CWD in Minnesota,” said DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen. “We will continue this strong approach as we address this latest finding and as we update our statewide CWD response plan. The health of Minnesota’s wild deer herd remains a top priority for the DNR.”

There now are eight areas spread across Minnesota, from north to south, where CWD has been found in wild or farmed deer. Despite these detections, the disease remains rare in Minnesota. Fewer than 1% of deer have tested positive for CWD in areas where the disease has consistently been detected during the past five years.

Since 2002, DNR has tested 106,000 deer statewide and 153 have tested positive. Most of those cases occurred in southeastern Minnesota.

The DNR received confirmation of the Grand Rapids CWD infection on March 15. A Grand Rapids resident reported to the DNR in mid-February that an adult doe had died in his backyard. DNR staff collected the carcass and submitted a lymph node sample for CWD testing.

Results of a full necropsy showed the deer died from a collision with a vehicle, not CWD. The deer showed no clinical signs of the disease but final test results confirmed the infection.

Active surveillance for CWD has not occurred in the location where the infected deer was found (deer permit area 179) since 2004. The DNR conducted CWD surveillance to the west and north of Grand Rapids in fall 2021 in DPAs 197, 169, 184 and 110 in response to captive deer infected with CWD on a Beltrami County farm. More than 1,800 samples were tested and CWD was not detected. To the west and south of Grand Rapids, a CWD management zone exists in DPA 604. Surveillance has been ongoing in this area since 2017. Two wild deer detections have been found in the 6,300 deer tested since surveillance began.

More information about CWD and what the DNR is doing to limit disease spread and protect the health of Minnesota's white-tailed deer is available on the DNR website.

**Editor's Note: A second CWD positive wild whitetail in the city of Grand Rapids has also since been detected for a total of two new positives in that area.**



## Drought Relief Application Window to Open Mid-June

Prepare now to apply for up to \$7,500 reimbursement for expenses

**For Immediate Release: May 27, 2022**

Minnesota livestock farmers and specialty crop producers (including those that grow fruits, vegetables, nursery, floriculture, horticulture, and other crops) who incurred expenses due to last year's drought can apply for up to \$7,500 per farm in reimbursement through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) 2021 Agricultural Drought Relief Program (ADRoP) when it opens in mid-June.

The Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$8.1 million for ADRoP, which will reimburse farm operators for drought-related expenses incurred after June 1, 2021, and before May 23, 2022.

Farms must be located in a county designated by the United States Department of Agriculture as a primary natural disaster area after July 19, 2021 and before January 1, 2022, or in a county contiguous to a designated county. All Minnesota counties except Goodhue, Rice, Wabasha, Winona are eligible.

The application window will run approximately 10-12 business days and applicants are highly encouraged to submit their application through the online grants management system to ensure it is received in a timely manner. The application window will be announced when finalized.

More information about drought relief for farmers is available at [www.mda.state.mn.us/droughtrelief](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/droughtrelief). Once the application opens, farm operators can email [drought@state.mn.us](mailto:drought@state.mn.us) or call the Grants Line at 651-201-6500 with any questions.

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## Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

*The industry has worked for many years to help supply elk and handling equipment for various challenge studies dealing with CWD. In addition, the Elk Research Foundation has spent a lot of time, effort and money also to research CWD. The following article outlines a great effort by USDA/APHIS to map the genome of an elk for CWD susceptibility as a next generation genotyping test and an opportunity to breed even more CWD resistance into our elk herds. **Reprinted from the May 2022 NAELK Journal.***

### Predictive Genetics and the Management of CWD in Farmed White-tailed Deer

*By Tracy Nichols, Ph.D., M.S., M.A.  
USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Cervid Health Program*

As chronic wasting disease (CWD) continues to spread across the United States in farmed deer and elk, the need for tools to control the disease has become more urgent than ever. Efforts to develop vaccines to prevent CWD have been unsuccessful, leaving few alternate approaches.

One potential approach to control CWD is by genetic selection. We know that certain amino acid sequences in the prion protein, the protein that misfolds to cause CWD, can strongly influence the CWD incubation period and even the sensitivity of live animal tests. These amino acids are coded by DNA for the prion protein gene at a region called Codon 96 in white-tailed deer (WTD). There are two genotypes or amino acids coded from this region, Glycine (G) or Serine (S). Each WTD has either two G (GG), two S (SS), or one G and one S (GS). WTD that are GG have the shortest incubation period, SS have the longest, and GS in between the two. However, none of these genotypes confer protection from CWD as disease has been detected in all three genotypes in farmed WTD. Since a single gene does not prevent CWD, a whole genome approach is warranted.

APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) enlisted the help of Texas A&M University geneticist Dr. Christopher Seabury to tackle this project. Dr. Seabury has spent a great deal of time looking at WTD genetics and is known for his whole genome predictive genetics approach to production and disease in cattle.

APHIS VS and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department provided Dr. Seabury with 807 farmed WTD samples from CWD positive herd depopulations. The age, sex, region of the United States, and disease status were known for each animal. Dr. Seabury initially identified over 200,000 regions of interest, or single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), across the WTD genome. After analyzing the samples, he was able to hone the number down to over 123,000. He discovered that the susceptibility of WTD to CWD involved contributions from hundreds of different genes. While Codon 96 made the greatest contribution at approximately 5-7 percent, more than 90 percent of the CWD susceptibility that is heritable was conferred by other genes.

Dr. Seabury's efforts showed that breeding exclusively for codon 96 SS deer will not achieve the goal of reducing CWD in farmed WTD.

Dr. Seabury also confirmed that there was a high degree of heritability of the genes influencing CWD susceptibility, indicating that selective breeding could be employed to breed away from WTD highly susceptible to CWD.

***While Codon 96 made the greatest contribution at approximately 5-7 percent, more than 90 percent of the CWD susceptibility that is heritable was conferred by other genes.***

Next, a gene array of 125,000 SNPs was generated and data from CWD-positive and non-detect deer were recorded and analyzed by a sophisticated computer program comparing SNP patterns between the CWD positive and non-detect deer. The numeric data was then used to generate a score called the genomically estimated breeding value, or GEVB, which identifies deer highly susceptible to CWD. The higher the score, the more susceptible an animal is to CWD infection. The data from this study was published in G3, a peer-reviewed genetics publication, in April 2020.

To further confirm the ability of the GEVB scores to predict which deer are highly susceptible to CWD, APHIS VS provided Dr. Seabury with an additional 700 blinded, farmed WTD samples from herds depopulated due to CWD. The samples were run, analyzed, then given a GEVB score that was sent back to APHIS VS. Using the GEVB score approach, deer with scores in the highly susceptible range were CWD positive 88 percent of the time. Other deer

with scores in the highly susceptible range but were non-detect at the time of their death may not have been exposed to CWD. This suggests the accuracy of identifying WTD highly susceptible to CWD is higher than 88 percent. The findings from this part of the study confirmed we were on the right track and that a whole genome genetic approach could be very useful in identifying highly CWD-susceptible WTD.

In summer 2020, the North American Deer Registry (NADR), in partnership with Dr. Seabury, made a 50,000 SNP array commercially available to producers. At the time of this writing, predictive genetics have been run on over 11,000 WTD.

Once all animals in a herd have been given a score and highly susceptible animals have been identified, efforts can be made to remove those animals and selectively breed deer that are the least susceptible to CWD. The data suggests that having a herd with minimally susceptible animals would allow it to avoid propagating an infection upon an introduction of CWD. It is currently unclear if WTD identified as minimally susceptible avoid infection in herds with a high prevalence of CWD. We are currently working to answer this question.

In 2021, the Texas Animal Health Commission, in partnership with Dr. Seabury, was awarded a USDA APHIS CWD cooperative agreement to study the predictive genetics approach in elk. The engineering blueprint for the SNP array has been completed and Dr. Seabury is awaiting sample commitments from various collaborators.

For the first time, a scientifically sound tool to prevent CWD has been discovered. It is our hope that this approach will change the trajectory of CWD in farmed deer and elk.

***In 2021, the Texas Animal Health Commission, in partnership with Dr. Seabury, was awarded a USDA APHIS CWD cooperative agreement to study the predictive genetics approach in elk. The engineering blueprint for the SNP array has been completed and Dr. Seabury is awaiting sample commitments from various collaborators.***

## MnEBA Booth at Minnesota State FFA Convention

Mark Luedtke and Brenda Hartkopf represented the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association at the Minnesota FFA Convention Career Fair on April 25 at the State Fair Coliseum. This was the first State Convention for most attendees as the last in-person event occurred in 2019. It was a great opportunity to teach Minnesota's next generation of young adults about America's Greatest Animal – Elk!



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

**Minnesota Elk Breeders  
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OFFICE HOURS  
8:30 -11:30 a.m.  
Mondays, Tuesdays &  
Thursdays

**Calendar of Events**

**July 16, 2022** – 2022 MnEBA Summer Picnic, Turek's Arctic Hillcrest Farms, Montgomery, MN

**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

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