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President's Message by Mark Luedtke



Hello everyone! Hope everyone and your family are doing well. Summer is over, the State Fair is in process, school is either starting or getting ready to start, and here in the elk industry bulls are scored and being shipped. The elk markets appear to be very strong so I hope your bulls finished out well and sell in a timely way, with a price as you hoped. We all have felt the pain in recent months from paying the feed bill so it sure is nice to replenish the coffers when you can.

I know some people are already setting up breeder groups of cows with bulls. It is a little early for that on my farm, but I sure am busy working on the planning side of that exercise. This is a fun time of year for me as far as planning is concerned; I sure enjoy trying to plan out the best combination of which cows are going to perform the best with which bulls.

I am trying to make a conscious effort to not talk about regulations both within our state and in other states but if you want an update of what is going on, please contact myself and I will be happy to share my thoughts and what I am aware of. I am sure somewhere in this newsletter there will also be additional information on current events.

Have a wonderful and prosperous fall.

Take care,
Mark

Make Plans to Attend! **2023 MnEBA Annual Conference** January 6-7, 2023

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Make a weekend out of it and take advantage of all the interesting things to do around Alexandria!

MORE DETAILS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER!

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

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MnEBA

Mission Statement

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

County Moratoriums on Cervid Farming

In the last year, the Minnesota Conservation Federation has been working to form a coalition of wildlife/conservation organizations to advocate for the health of Minnesota's wild cervids. There are currently 12 organizations who are part of this new group called the CWD Action Coalition. Unfortunately, this group's answer to the problem of CWD is to eliminate all cervid farming in the state without addressing anything regarding the movement of wild cervids, disposal of parts, etc.

Over the past several months, members of this coalition have been petitioning county commissioners all across Minnesota to enact a moratorium on any new and/or expansion of any existing cervid farms on a county by county level. They have been successful in three counties in Minnesota who have enacted temporary one-year moratoriums while they research the issue to decide if the moratoriums should become permanent. These counties include St. Louis, Aitkin and Carlton counties.

In May, MnEBA reached out to the North American Elk Breeders Association (NAEBA) for assistance to seek a legal opinion pertaining to counties issuing such a moratorium and were granted both financial assistance and professional guidance. MnEBA will continue to work with NAEBA to find a legal means to stop these moratoriums. In the meantime, Travis Lowe, Executive Director of NAEBA, traveled to Minnesota to testify at a Carlton County public hearing along with Brian Wagner and Brenda Hartkopf this past June. Brenda Hartkopf has since testified during a public hearing in St. Louis County.

MnEBA will continue to fight against county moratoriums on new cervid farms and/or expansion of existing cervid farms in Minnesota. If you hear of your local county commissioners considering such a moratorium, please contact the MnEBA Office immediately.

Summer Picnic Thank You!

Thank you to the Turek Family for hosting the 2022 MnEBA Summer Picnic!

Many thanks to Darrell Turek Family of Turek's Arctic Hillcrest Farms for hosting this year's MnEBA Summer Picnic! While the day was sunny and warm, the Tureks' kept everyone cool and comfortable in their newly air-conditioned shop!

The Tureks' provided delicious sandwiches, brats, beans, beverages and other special treats! Together with potluck items brought to the picnic, everyone enjoyed a great meal and visiting. We even had a visit from their bottle baby "Pumpkin".

We talked as a group about the latest news in Minnesota, then went on a wagon ride throughout the pen areas of the farm, even stopping inside the bull pen for a close-up look at the grown-out bulls.

It was a perfect day to get together and talk elk. Looking forward to seeing everyone again in January!



Board Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association Board of Directors held a meeting via Zoom on Monday June 13, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. Mark Luedtke, Lance Hartkopf, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Jerry Campbell was absent. President Luedtke called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. and asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda as presented. Luedtke asked to add discussion about the proposed moratorium in Aitkin County.

Board discussed preparation for the upcoming June 27 public hearing regarding a proposed temporary moratorium on expansion of current cervid farms and a ban on any new cervid farms in Carlton County. NAEB's Executive Director Travis Lowe will be testifying in person and will be joined by both Brian Wagner and Brenda Hartkopf each offering additional testimony. Wagner and Hartkopf will also be meeting with Minnesota Deer Farmers Association board members later this evening via Zoom to coordinate efforts.

Also discussed an upcoming public hearing on July 14 in St. Louis County pertaining to a current temporary moratorium on new cervid farms which was passed last September. Aitkin county passed a similar temporary moratorium this past March and as of now, no future public hearing dates are known. Will keep

watch for opportunities to testify when public hearing meetings are scheduled regarding proposed moratoriums.

B. Hartkopf reported a group of Minnesota deer farmers are hosting a fundraiser for gubernatorial candidate Dr. Scott Jensen to be held in Bemidji on July 10. They are inviting members of MnEBA to participate in a private roundtable meeting with Dr. Jensen and also to take part in the public fundraiser following the roundtable meeting. Donations would need to be made by individuals, not the association. Hartkopf was directed to send out an e-blast to MnEBA members looking for monetary donations that could be given to the campaign during this fundraiser. Brian Wagner will try to attend.

Hartkopf reported receiving feedback from several domestic animal organizations that they will also be working on letters to BAH board members regarding the hiring of a new BAH Executive Director. Hartkopf is continuing to work on setting up meetings with BAH board members which will occur later this month. Wagner and Hartkopf have a meeting set up with Ag Commissioner Thom Petersen for June 22.

Lubinski move to adjourn, Wagner seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

2023 Raffle Calendars Now Available!

Order Your Calendars Today!!

Have you picked up your 2023 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendars yet? There are lots of calendars available for anyone who can sell them! As we move into fall, it's a good time to begin selling calendars for next year!

Once again, members are eligible for great incentives when selling the new 2023 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. A free MnEBA membership for selling 30 or more calendars and returning stubs and money before December 31 is being offered once again. Also back by popular demand, for every 10 calendars sold with stubs and money being returned before December 31, your name goes into a drawing to win a Benelli Nova Pump 28" Black Synthetic 12ga shotgun. The more calendars you sell, the more chances to win!

MANY THANKS to all MnEBA members who stepped up to sponsor a month in the 2023 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar! This year's sponsors include: Glen & Kaye Zebarth, Dennis & Kate Suelflow, Bill & Karen Knutson, Greg Lubinski, Mark & Lisa Luedtke, Jerry & Linda Campbell, Roger & Saichon Niefeld, Marlen Schmitz, Brian Wagner, Kraig & Jenny Wurst, Klint & Lora Wylie and Lance & Brenda Hartkopf. Contact the MnEBA Office to order yours today!



NAEBA Convention in Colorado Highlights!

The 2022 NAEBA Convention took place in Denver, Colorado on July 28-30. See which Minnesota producers received awards and played prominent roles in the conference!



Mark Luedtke, Seminar Speaker
"Getting Started in Elk Ranching"



Mark Luedtke receiving the
Rush Johnson President's Award



Luedtke Family
People's Choice 2-4 Yr Old Hard Antler
LLE Y815



Lance & Brenda Hartkopf
People's Choice 5-Mature Hard Antler
Splendor's Vision 352A

This year's antler competition did not have any velvet antler entries but did have 33 sets of hard antler in the competition, similar to last year. Minnesota bulls won in the top three of several categories! These included:

2 Year Old Typical	Bull	Score	Sire / Dam's Sire	Breeder
1 st Place	SPR Aiden 925G	361 5/8 SCI	PVER Royal T / SPR 552C	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf
2 nd Place	LLE Y923	306 2/8 SCI	LLE 331 / LLE Y434	Mark & Lisa Luedtke
2 Year Old Non Typical	Bull	Score	Sire / Dam's Sire	Breeder
2 nd Place	Sir Lucas 951G	379 1/8 SCI	SPR 561C / SPR 253Z	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf
3 Year Old Typical	Bull	Score	Sire / Dam's Sire	Breeder
1 st Place	LLE Y815	375 7/8 SCI	LLE 320 / LLE Y413	Mark & Lisa Luedtke
4 Year Old Typical	Bull	Score	Sire / Dam's Sire	Breeder
1 st Place	LLE Y709	386 1/8 SCI	LLE 320 / LLE 815	Mark & Lisa Luedtke
Mature Typical	Bull	Score	Sire / Dam's Sire	Breeder
1 st Place	Splendor' Vision 352A	467 0/8 SCI	Styx / SPR 708T	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf

August 25 – Labor Day September 5, 2022

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

The Minnesota State Fair began on August 25 with attendance significantly higher over last year to date. Dog chews and sausage have been the hot sellers so far! We've had to reorder dog chews twice already!

Paul and Greg have done another outstanding job preparing the booth for the fair. From a nice solid floor underneath to the pine trees and mums for a finishing touch, the booth looks inviting and professional.

Many thanks to Greg Lubinski for donating a whole animal for the sausage and to both Greg and Paul for paying for the processing to make the sausage being sold in the booth. This gives the association 100% profit on sausage sales!

Several members also donated hard antler to offset the cost of the dog antler chews purchased for the fair. Many thanks to Dale & Donna Wippler, Gary & Dave Smith, Ted & Sheila Mehrkens and Lance & Brenda Hartkopf for your donations!

MnEBA could not even have a booth at the fair without all the great volunteers who have stepped up to take shifts in the booth. They include Paul & Lynn Hueg, Greg Lubinski & Colleen Etzbach, Jim Byrne, Bryce & Kelly Lubinski, Dale Wippler, Mark Luedtke, Kraig & Jenny Wurst, Marlen Schmitz & Rhonda Bjornson, Scott Salonek, Turek Family, Michelle Steele, Precious Hight, Dan Mueller and Lance & Brenda Hartkopf. Thanks again to all, your time and efforts are very much appreciated!



Board Blog by Lance Hartkopf, Vice President



Hi everyone. I hope you are all getting through this busy season. This is the time of year we get to evaluate the fruits of our decisions from the past years. With it being a minimum of five years for a female offspring of a breeding sire until she herself would have a two-year-old bull from your next sire, our decisions take some time to prove out. Make sure to take time to review this information before putting your breeding groups together. It's very important to bring your business to an efficient level.

I would like to thank the MnEBA board members, our legislative committee and Brenda for their many hours of extra work these past few months. From testifying in opposition to Carlton and St. Louis county's cervid farming moratoriums to meeting with Farmers Union, Minnesota Ag Commissioner Thom Petersen and Minnesota Board of Animal Health board members in person prior to them selecting a new State Veterinarian, they have been all over the state.

I worked the first day of the State Fair a couple days ago and I must also say a big thank you to Paul Hueg and Greg Lubinski for the time and effort they have put into designing and constructing the MnEBA fair booth. From the construction of a level base to a great mount set-up, they have really created a top-notch booth display. On top of all that, they take many shifts to make sure the booth is always staffed.

I wish everyone a great Fall season on the farm and hope to see you all in January.



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

MnEBA Kitchen

Looking for a little something different to make for dinner? Try this delicious dish!

Elk Cheeseburger Quiche

9-inch baked pie shell
 ½ lb. elk burger
 1/3 cup chopped onion
 ½ cup mayonnaise
 ½ cup milk

¼ tsp. pepper
 ½ tsp. salt
 ½ tsp. ground oregano
 3 eggs, beaten
 1½ cups grated cheddar cheese



DIRECTIONS

Brown meat and onion, drain well. In medium mixing bowl, beat together milk, mayonnaise and seasonings. Stir in beaten eggs. Add cheese and ground elk/onion mixture to bowl.

Pour into baked pie shell. Bake at 350 degrees for 35-40 minutes.

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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www.ADMAAnimalNutrition.com/wildlife



News Release

For immediate release: August 5, 2022

Contact: Erin Crider, erin.crider@state.mn.us

CWD Confirmed in Quarantined Winona County Deer Herd

Saint Paul, Minnesota - Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been confirmed in a four-year-old doe in a Winona County white-tailed deer herd. This herd has been officially quarantined since October 2020 and is part of the Board of Animal Health's (Board's) investigation into the CWD-positive Beltrami County herd. The Board has been working with the Winona County herd owner to collect samples and test them for CWD. The National Veterinary Services Laboratory confirmed the positive results this week. "This herd is part of an existing CWD investigation," said Interim Executive Director Dr. Linda Glaser. "We're now working with the producer and the USDA to develop a plan for depopulation and testing."

The Board officially quarantined this herd as CWD exposed in October 2020, when CWD was confirmed in a Houston County white-tailed deer that came from the Winona County herd. The investigation then expanded to include a herd in Beltrami County, which was also found infected with CWD in late winter 2021. Both CWD infected herds in Houston and Beltrami Counties were depopulated.

In response to the detection of CWD in another Winona County deer farm, a special hunt resulted in the first detection of CWD in a wild white-tailed deer in Winona County in January 2019. The Winona County herd where CWD was confirmed this week has been double fenced since 2015.

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

News Release

For immediate release: August 22, 2022

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

Board Appoints New Executive Director

Saint Paul, Minnesota - The six-member Minnesota Board of Animal Health has named Dr. Marion Garcia as its new executive director and state veterinarian. The Board selected Dr. Garcia to succeed Dr. Beth Thompson, who left the agency in May of this year and served the agency since 2016. Dr. Linda Glaser served in the interim while the Board went through the hiring process. Dr. Garcia will officially start at the end of September.

Dr. Garcia has been a livestock veterinarian in the poultry industry for more than 20 years. She worked for a commercial poultry operation in veterinary school and continued in the industry until accepting her new position with the Board. Prior to veterinary school, she served as a member of the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Reserve until retiring

from service in 2020. Dr. Garcia also holds a Master of Veterinary Public Health and Epidemiology and is board certified by the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine. She is active in the National Poultry Improvement Plan and was recently elected to represent the Midwest at the national meeting.

“I’m excited to be joining the team at the Board of Animal Health. I have practiced in Minnesota for several years and have a high respect for the state’s producers and industry,” said State Veterinarian and Executive Director, Dr. Marion Garcia. “I look forward to working with the talented staff at the Board, our partner agencies at the State of Minnesota, and serving the people of this great state.”

Dr. Garcia is the tenth executive director to hold the position in the Board’s 119-year history. Executive directors are appointed annually by the Board members unless a vacancy occurs, and the position needs to be filled mid-term. For details about other news and events at the Board of Animal Health, visit www.bah.state.mn.us.

MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt

Elk Hunt to Take Place October 25-27, 2022

The 2022 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt is scheduled for October 25-27 at Tony’s Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch in Baudette, MN. Several MnEBA members are putting their resources together to provide this opportunity for a veteran of the United States armed forces to harvest a beautiful bull elk. These members include:



- Tony & Patty Beckel** – elk hunt facility, guide services and holding bull until ready to harvest
- Dennis Engebretson** – discounted priced elk bull
- Aaron Seitz** – hauling the bull from Clearbrook to the hunt facility in Baudette
- Lance & Brenda Hartkopf** – funds to purchase bull, travel, lodging and processing for recipient

There are two veterans who have applied for this year’s hunt. The board will soon determine the recipient and will hold the application of the second applicant for consideration next year. This will mark the 16th anniversary of the annual MnEBA sponsored hunt!

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Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

Alternative A.I. and Weaning

Last fall, I did not wean the calves off my A.I. cows and A.I. bred them with their calves still by their side. My A.I. results were really high and I have nice, big calves this year.

One of the keys to the best chances of conception is putting those cows on a gaining rate of nutrition. I really kicked up the feed so both the cows and calves had plenty of feed and were really gaining condition.

This method of A.I. is not for everyone. You need to work the animals slow and easy each time you bring them in to ensure the calves are not injured in the process. This should be done with experienced people with whom the elk are used to being around.

Also make sure to keep the CIDR's in a minimum of 10 days, but 12-13 days are better.

In the News

Dogs Being Trained to Sniff Out CWD In the Field

Excerpt from CIDRAP CWD Monthly News – August 3, 2022 Edition

A project on the Blackfeet reservation in Montana will be the first to study whether dogs can detect CWD in the field. (The University of Pennsylvania's veterinary school has been studying whether dogs can detect CWD in the lab.)

A federal grant will be used to run a yearlong study to train dogs to sniff out CWD and toxic waste that might otherwise be ingested by people who hunt wild game and gather traditional plants. The dogs, trained by the nonprofit organization Working Dogs for Conservation, will work to detect CWD in deer and elk scat sights that serve as watering holes for herds with the intent to help alert wildlife managers to the presence of CWD as early as possible. Scat, soil, and water samples from locations where the dogs alert their handlers will be sent for laboratory testing confirmation. If the project proves dogs can effectively do this work, the researchers hope to expand the effort across the country. Funding for a similar project with the Blood Tribe in Canada has already been obtained.



***Stay Safe This Bull
Hauling Season!***



Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

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

Calendar of Events

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

January 6-7, 2023 – MnEBA Annual Conference, Holiday Inn Alexandria, Alexandria, MN

March 10-11, 2023 – NAEBA March Mingle, Hampton Inn SLC Airport, Salt Lake City, UT

July 27-29, 2023 – NAEBA Convention & International Antler Competition, Best Western Plus Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center, Sioux Falls, SD

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MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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