



Special Interest Articles:

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- 2023 MnEBA Gun Calendar Recap

President's Message by Mark Luedtke



Hello everyone! Hope everyone and your family are doing well. Sure is nice the days are starting to get longer and longer and the deep freeze even when it hits us doesn't usually stay around for long. Of course what comes with melting snow around my place is lots of mud and that is never any fun to deal with but you just have to work through it.

It won't be long and bulls will be dropping buttons and then come the calves, another exciting summer is just around the corner. I hope some of you are able to make it to the March Mingle happening out in Salt Lake City, Utah this year. The March Mingle as I have said many times before, is always a great NAEBA event. The fact that the event moves around the country and gives people in different regions an opportunity to participate and learn more about the industry and people in the industry just adds a tremendous amount of value to all who can attend. If you have never had the chance or haven't participated in this event for a while, I highly encourage you to think seriously about attending, it will be worth your time.

Of course, this time of year there are things happening legislatively and unfortunately, I don't have anything good to say about it. I do 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.

Take care,
Mark

Make Plans to Attend! **2023 MnEBA Summer Picnic** **Saturday, June 24, 2023**

Hosted By
Elkholics Elk Ranch ~ Dave & Kelly Luedeke
7800 Cty Rd 14 NE
Miltona, MN 56354
218-639-9340

LUNCH BEGINS AT NOON
Bring a dish to pass!

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

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

Board of Directors

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Secretary/Treasurer

Brian Wagner
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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.

2023 MnEBA Annual Conference Recap

Be Part of the Change You Want to Be

The 2023 MnEBA Annual Conference took place January 7th at the Holiday Inn, Alexandria, MN. There were 52 people in attendance at this year's event which featured five seminars, fundraising activities and good times spent with fellow producers.

ADM Animal Nutrition hosted a dinner and nutrition seminar on Friday evening. There attendees met new ADM field representative Troy Bjorge. We also met a different ADM nutritionist, Tamilee Adolph, PhD, from the St. Cloud area.

On Saturday morning, the membership meeting began the day followed by a presentation by the University of Minnesota on CWD biosecurity research that is ongoing. Members had the opportunity to meet Minnesota's new state veterinarian Dr. Marion Garcia along with a BAH update by Dr. Courtney Wheeler. Dr. Glen Zebarth offered a presentation on deworming and liver flukes and then discussion moved towards the future of the federal CWD certification program. Thank you to all for sharing your time and expertise; as always, change is constant and its important to understand what's happening in the industry.

There was just one board position open this year. Brian Wagner's term ended and he was nominated for another term which he accepted and won by acclimation. Thank you Brian for your willingness to serve!

This year's MnEBA Appreciation Awards went to both Paul Hueg and Greg Lubinski for their outstanding work in setting up the MnEBA booth at the Minnesota State Fair, somehow always making it better than the year before! They both put in not only a significant amount of time with set up and tear down, but personally many man hours during the event. We appreciate them greatly!

Many thanks to Michelle Lucas for staffing the gun raffle calendar table and taking in the last of the calendar stubs before the evening's drawing.

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

Morning and Afternoon Break Sponsor: *Roger & Saichon Nietfeld*
Friday & Saturday Night Hospitality: *Darrell Turek & Sheila Krukowski and Brian Wagner*

A big thank you to President Luedtke for both emceeding the event and serving as speaker for several seminars. Thank you also to Mark Lucas for serving as auctioneer for the live auction. You always know how to make it fun! Thanks also to Brian Wagner for handling the phone bidding on live auction items.

The evening ended with the 2023 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar drawing which always keeps folks on the edge of their seat to see if any of their tickets sold was a winner! This was a long drawing as six more bonus cash days were added along with an additional gun over previous years!

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 \$5,800 was raised on event fundraisers with an additional \$3,500 raised for the Donation Fundraiser. Thank you to all for making this another great conference!



Membership Meeting Minutes

Membership Meeting Minutes January 7, 2023

The membership of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held their 2023 Annual Membership Meeting on January 7, 2023 at the Holiday Inn Alexandria, Alexandria, MN. President Mark Luedtke called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. He then thanked all event sponsors and recognized booth vendors. Dr. Paul Anderson led attendees in prayer.

President Luedtke then asked members to review the secretary minutes from the 2022 Annual Membership Meeting. Mark Lucas moved to accept the report, Kraig Wurst seconded, motion carried. Brenda Hartkopf reviewed the treasurer's report, noting the MnEBA Board changed MnEBA's fiscal year from January 1- December 31 to July 1-June 30. This change was made so year-end didn't occur during the fiscally busiest time of the year when calendar sales and annual conference income is coming in throughout December and January. The December 31, 2022 checkbook balance was \$32,751.43. Glen Zebarth moved to accept the treasurer's report as written, Dennis Sueflow seconded, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Government Relations report was given by Brenda Hartkopf in place of Jim Byrne who was unable to attend. She reported the committee has moved from being active only during the legislative session to being active year-round in dealing with BAH rulemaking and county moratoriums. Committee member Paul Anderson spoke about the importance of getting to know your legislator, especially if they are new to the legislature. Inviting them to the farm or visiting them at the State Capitol and developing those relationships are extremely important as there will be attempts by House leaders to enact many different changes to statutes pertaining to farmed cervidae, most of which are negative and not scientifically substantiated. Also discussed the need for more members to join the Government Relations Committee. Anyone with an interest should let a Board member or the office know. An active legislative session is expected.

Brenda Hartkopf reported there were two major fundraisers taking place at the present time – the gun calendar raffle and cash donation fundraiser. There were stubs and money for 462 calendars returned to the office by December 31 to qualify sellers for both the complimentary membership and special gun drawing incentives. Five members received a complimentary membership for selling 30 or more calendars and returning stubs and money to the office by December 31 – Perry Olson, Wade Schimmelpfennig, Jerry Campbell, Paul Hartkopf and Brian Wagner. There were 36 names

that went into the special gun drawing for selling 10 calendars and returning stubs and money to the office by December 31. Brian Wagner's name was drawn to win the incentive gun. It was announced there were more calendars available that could be purchased up to drawing time.

Brenda also gave an update on the cash donation fundraiser which was ending in the evening. There were three Gold and three Silver sponsors to date, each class competing for a firearm.

Promotions were discussed and the importance of getting our message out at the Minnesota State Fair and State FFA Convention. Brenda also discussed the opportunity to join MN Grown was available with more information available at the registration desk.

Paul Hueg and Greg Lubinski were not able to attend this year's meeting, but Paul Hueg did let Brenda know he "had another year in him" to co-chair the State Fair committee and set up the State Fair booth. There was much discussion about the importance of having a presence at the State Fair and how important it is for members to step up and help take shifts at the fair so we can keep it going.

NAEBA UPDATE

NAEBA President Jon Reed was in attendance and reported that NAEBA has been active in helping both Minnesota and Utah with governmental issues. Also working to find ways to satisfy hunt ranches and challenge individual state radius rules. Committees are active, especially the Government Relations committee. NAEBA is also actively looking for feedback from state associations and leaders regarding the federal CWD program and what it should look like both now and in the future. Brenda Hartkopf encouraged members catch up on purity work now before the busy summer months to prepare for moving trophy bulls this fall.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussed the issue of three county moratoriums in Minnesota which would not allow new cervid farms in their county and what MnEBA has been doing to combat these initiatives. Discussed a white paper currently being written expressing the futility of such moratoriums as recommended by our lawyer. This is a cost share effort between MnEBA, the North American Elk Breeders Association, North American Deer Farmers Association and Minnesota Deer Farmers Association. The report is expected to be completed the end of February.

President Luedtke briefly spoke about the CWD Standards presentation given by Dr. Paul Anderson at

the recent USAHA Convention in Minneapolis. While the proposal was not adopted, it created a lot of discussion which may have long reaching impacts on the future of the Federal CWD Herd Certification Program. The main points of this presentation would be viewed in more detail at a seminar scheduled for later in the day.

Jerry Campbell reported on the 16th MnEBA Annual Charitable Elk Hunt which he was fortunate enough to be a part of with this year's hunt recipient. He shared the veteran was extremely happy with his hunt saying it was in the Top 10 things he's ever done in his life. The recipient would be attending the evening banquet later that night. Jerry thanked everyone who had a part in making this year's veteran hunt a reality.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board term for Brian Wagner was up for re-election.

President Luedtke opened up the floor for nominations. Mark Lucas nominated Brian Wagner who accepted the nomination. After a second request for nominations from the floor, Kraig Wurst moved to close nominations. Jerry Campbell seconded, motion carried and Brian Wagner was elected by acclamation.

It was noted that MnEBA is looking for a volunteer farm to host the 2023 MnEBA Summer Picnic. Anyone who would be interested was asked to contact the office.

Brian Wagner moved to adjourn the meeting, Lance Hartkopf seconded, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

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 \$5,800 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
Elk Blanket	Darrell Turek & Sheila Krukowski	Amy Berg
Elk Sherpa Blanket	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Brian Wagner
Earrings	Jerry & Linda Campbell	Amy Berg
Elk Coat Rack	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Amy Berg
Belt Buckle	Jerry & Linda Campbell	Paul Hartkopf
Elk Puzzle	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Brad Snelling
MN Elk Boxes (25)	MnEBA	Mark Luedtke
Elk Stationary	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Amy Berg
Homemade Caramel Corn	Darrell Turek & Sheila Krukowski	Wade Schimmelpfennig
Head/Neck Warmer	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Brian Wagner
Bird Feeder / Bird Seed	Mark & Michelle Lucas	Paul Hartkopf
Denim Elk Shirt (L)	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Sheila Krukowski
Welcome to the Cabin Elk Sign	Mark & Michelle Lucas	Shirley Fredrickson
Duffle Bag	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Perry Olson
(2) Day (1) Night Corsican Ram Hunt	Aaron Seitz	Jordan Hirsch
Phone & Accessory Sanitizer	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Kelly Luedeke
Elk Fleece Blanket	Darrell Turek & Sheila Krukowski	Jordan Hirsch
Stony Brook Creekside Cabin Stay	Jerry & Linda Campbell	Jordan Hirsch



Board Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting Minutes February 6, 2023

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association Board of Directors held a meeting via Zoom on Monday February 6, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. Mark Luedtke, Lance Hartkopf, Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski, Jerry Campbell and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Guests included Jim Byrne, Paul Anderson, Luke Luedeke and Tony Kwilas. President Luedtke called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. He verified that discussion for this meeting would be regarding H.F.1202.

MnEBA lobbyist Tony Kwilas reported the pace of this year's session is the fastest he's ever seen in his 39 years at the State Capitol. Legislators are taking few amendments on controversial bills and moving fast with no pause. Kwilas reviewed the concerning sections of H.F. 1202 and board members discussed their concerns. It was noted that every opportunity should be taken to remind folks CWD is already in the wild in many places. Kwilas then left the meeting.

B. Hartkopf was directed to send a notice to the membership via email about H.F. 1202 and ask members to contact their legislators with their concerns.

Board reviewed and approved handouts that had been prepared for the upcoming joint hearing of the House and Senate environment committees.

Also discussed H.F. 911 which would change the make-up of the board which oversees the Board of Animal Health. There were many concerns noted about that bill as well.

L. Hartkopf moved to adjourn, Wagner seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes January 16, 2023

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association Board of Directors held a meeting via Zoom on Monday January 16, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. Mark Luedtke, Lance Hartkopf, Brian Wagner, Jerry Campbell and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Greg Lubinski joined the meeting later as well as Tony Kwilas as a guest. President Luedtke called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. and asked if there were any changes or

additions to the secretary reports from November 16 and January 4. Luedtke pointed out a correction in the November 16th minutes. Campbell moved to accept both minutes as amended, L. Hartkopf seconded. Greg Lubinski then joined the meeting and was given time to review the minutes. The motion to approve the secretary minutes was then carried.

B. Hartkopf went through the treasurer's report in detail. A couple changes which would make the report more transparent were requested. She was also asked to get quotes from other accountants as this past filing was significantly more expensive than in the past. Campbell moved to accept the treasurer's report, Lubinski seconded, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

After a short discussion about the annual conference, Tony Kwilas joined the meeting and discussion moved to a legislative update from Kwilas. He reported there are 70 new legislators and the legislature is wasting no time moving on big high-profile issues. Regarding farmed cervidae, BAH has given a general overview of all their programs to the House and Senate ag committees. Kwilas provided background on the new House and Senate environment and ag chairs. Kwilas expects a bill similar to last year's "Ecklund" bill to be introduced in the next week or two in the House. After more discussion, Kwilas left the meeting.

Continued discussion about the annual conference. B. Hartkopf reported there were 52 attendees this year compared to 54 last year. Financials for the event were reviewed during the treasurer's report. Discussed potential locations for next year's conference. B. Hartkopf was asked to focus on the outskirts of the West metro or St. Cloud. Campbell asked if a video presentation of comments from the veteran who spoke on the recent elk hunt at the conference could be added to the MnEBA web site so members who were unable to attend the conference could see it. Campbell to get it out to the board for their review before deciding.

B. Hartkopf reported the moratorium white paper was progressing and that a rough draft is expected by the end of January for review. The final report is scheduled to be completed the end of February. Luedtke shared he is encouraging NAEBA and the ERF to promote the studies that are available on the CWD/human species barrier. Campbell asked Luedtke to send a copy of Dr. Anderson's Federal

CWD Program Standards draft document to the Board. Campbell also expressed interest in joining the Government Relations committee and asked to be included in communications and meetings.

Final 2023 gun calendar raffle sales were 618 calendars sold compared to 800 last year. There were 462 calendar stubs/money turned in by December 31 compared to 634 by the end of December a year ago. Brian Wagner was the top seller with 143 calendars sold followed by Wade Schimmelpfennig at 58 sold and Paul Hartkopf selling 55. Discussed if there were any comments by members regarding changes or improvements for next year's calendar and no one had received comments.

B. Hartkopf reported the meeting with the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association, Governor's office representatives and BAH was postponed until February 1. B. Hartkopf still plans to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

B. Hartkopf reported Dr. Wheeler contacted the MnEBA office last week to ask if MnEBA could provide a presentation to the BAH Board of Directors at their next quarterly meeting on February 8 regarding what an elk farmer's day to day looks like, busy times of year, how we handle our animals etc. so they can better understand our industry and make more informed decisions. B. Hartkopf agreed to give this presentation and is working to develop it.

The Luedeke family has offered to host the 2023 Summer Picnic. Their best date would be Saturday June 24. This is a bit earlier than usual but the decision was made to move forward with the earlier date. All were appreciative of the offer. B. Hartkopf to confirm.

Election of officers was held. Wagner nominated Mark Luedtke for President, L. Hartkopf seconded, motion carried. Wagner nominated L. Hartkopf for Vice President, Luedtke seconded, motion carried. Luedtke nominated Wagner for Secretary/Treasurer, Campbell seconded, motion carried.

Plans are to have the next board meeting within the next few weeks to review the draft moratorium paper and/or introduced legislation. L. Hartkopf moved to adjourn, Wagner seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes January 4, 2023

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association Board of Directors held a meeting via Zoom on Wednesday January 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Mark Luedtke, Lance Hartkopf, Brian Wagner, Jerry Campbell and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Director Greg Lubinski was absent. President Luedtke called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda as presented. None were given.

B. Hartkopf reported expected convention attendance would be 45 people. Discussed fundraising and Wagner asked about the possibility of adding a sheep hunt to the auction list which all agreed would be a great addition. B. Hartkopf to send out notice of the opportunity on the Facebook page Elk Ranchers Unlimited. It was decided to not include semen on the live auction as there was not enough time to promote it. Also discussed how to organize the Deal or No Deal fundraiser and gun card raffle. B. Hartkopf to ask Mark Lucas if he will auctioneer once again.

Board also discussed the Strategic Discussion seminar and how to organize what would be discussed. After much discussion, a short outline was developed.

B. Hartkopf reported the Government Relations committee has submitted a library of information to the study coordinator writing the white paper outlining the futility of moratoriums on cervid farms to prevent CWD. Also planning to use the paper for educational purposes at the State Capitol. Will be working to set up submission deadlines for the rough draft, final draft and other details soon.

B. Hartkopf reported there were 462 calendar stubs and money to the office by December 31. This compares to 634 calendars at this same time last year. A sell-out is not expected this year.

The Minnesota Deer Farmers Association has invited B. Hartkopf to attend a meeting they have set up with Governor's office policy advisors, the Department of Ag Commissioner and Board of Animal Health on January 13. She plans to attend.

L. Hartkopf moved to adjourn, Wagner seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

Legislative Update

This past November, the Minnesota State Legislature became a one-party body with the House, Senate and Governorship all of the same Democratic party. Once the 2023 Minnesota Legislative session began January 3, Democrats have moved bills at an extremely rapid rate, including a number of previously very controversial bills.

One large bill has emerged concerning farmed cervidae with some language primarily affecting farmed white-tail deer and some pertaining to all farmed cervidae owners. In addition, there is a bill being followed regarding the board that oversees the Board of Animal Health. The bills being followed by our lobbyist include:



H.F. No. 1202 (Companion Bill S.F. 1526) – A bill for an act relating to animal health; declassifying certain data; modifying requirements for certain owners of farmed Cervidae; prohibiting certain registrations; establishing civil liability; modifying disposition of certain federal funds; requiring live-animal testing for chronic wasting disease; transferring certain duties from the Board of Animal Health to the commissioner of natural resources; appropriating money.

Concerns include;

- Making producers locations available to the public
- Requiring whitetail deer owners to have two 120" fences; all other farmed cervidae to have a physical barrier
- Moratorium on any new deer farms
- In the event a facility finds a CWD positive animal, fences would need to stay up 10/20 years, instead of the current 5 years
- If a CWD detection is found, must record with the county recorder or register of titles, CWD details
- Increased liability for farmers after sale of animal that later becomes CWD positive
- No imports of semen or live animals from states/provinces where CWD has been found in wild or on farm
- Annual live animal CWD testing of all farmed whitetail deer (currently no USDA approved test)
- Moving complete oversight of whitetail deer to the DNR

Both bills have mostly similar language. There was concern these may move to immediate floor votes and the Governor's desk, but so far they have stayed in committee. It is unclear if these will eventually go to floor votes as stand-alone bills or be referred for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill.

An email was sent out to all members with links to find your legislators and asking you to become familiar with the bill language and be ready to contact your legislators on short notice. This is still important. Given the pace of this year's session, things may move quickly.

See www.leg.mn.gov to find your legislators and specific bill language. If you would be willing to testify at future bill hearings, please contact the office ASAP.

H.F. No. 911 – A bill relating to the number of board members overseeing the Board of Animal Health and amending their qualifications. The current board make-up requires two practicing veterinarians in Minnesota along with four producers of livestock, one of which is a member of a federally recognized tribe in Minnesota. This bill would eliminate the requirement of two practicing veterinarians, create regions with members only needing agriculture knowledge instead of being a practicing producer with no two regional members residing in the same region, along with two at-large individuals with no ties to agriculture. This bill was heard in the House Agriculture Finance and Policy committee on February 21. There were eight organizations who testified against the changes and no testifiers in favor however it passed along party lines for possible inclusion in the Ag Omnibus bill. There is no Senate companion bill as of yet.

MnEBA Written Testimony Regarding H.F. 1202

February 20, 2022

Chair Samantha Vang
House Agriculture Finance & Policy Committee
545 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Jamie Becker-Finn
559 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Vang, Rep. Becker-Finn and Members of the Committee,

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association represents elk farmers from across Minnesota who are working diligently to responsibly raise elk and support our local small-town communities and economy. We share your passion for a healthy cervid population, both inside and outside the fence and ask you to thoughtfully consider our comments below.

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association does see several new provisions we can support but also several we oppose relating to H.F. 1202. Most notably, we draw your attention to:

- Section 1 Subd. 6 – We oppose making physical location data publicly available. Allowing public access to farmed cervid location premises data significantly increases the probability for every cervid farmer in Minnesota to experience vandalism to our fences, animals, property and self. There is no reason that deer or elk farmers should be subjected to public exposure any more than producers of cattle, pigs or poultry.
- Section 3 Subd. 4 – We oppose requiring the addition of a physical barrier be added to existing fencing as well as double 120” fences. Data from a recent study by the University of Minnesota does not support the effectiveness of a physical barrier or double fencing to control CWD on either side of the fence. No state in the nation requires the addition of a physical barrier to existing 96” fencing or double fencing of all farmed cervid facilities within its jurisdiction. In addition, there has never been a documented case of a farmed cervid escape being caused by a farmed cervid jumping up and over a 96” fence in Minnesota. Requiring a physical barrier or 120” fence is not warranted.
- Section 7 Subd. 11 (3) – We oppose the 10-year requirement to maintain fences after a CWD detection. There is no data or science to support maintaining fences for 10 years as being more effective than the current five-year requirement. Federal guidelines require five years. There is currently no action taken for public property where CWD positive deer have been taken, nor for dumpster sites where carcass overflow has likely created super-saturated prion sites.
- Section 8 Subd. 11a – This section needs to reflect someone knows their herd is infected or has been exposed to CWD prior to that sale or unlawful disposal. Line 5.27 could read, “...unlawful disposal of farmed Cervidae known to be infected with or exposed to chronic wasting disease.”
- Section 9 Subd. 12 – We oppose restricting interstate movement of live cervidae and/or semen into Minnesota from states where CWD has been detected in the wild and/or farm. Under current regulations, we are not aware of any documented farmed cervid moving from an out of state herd to a Minnesota farmed cervid herd causing that herd to later become infected with CWD. The transfer of semen has never been documented either experimentally or on-farm to cause CWD in the receiving animal. This language would severely diminish the ability for producers to utilize A.I. as a means to accelerate CWD-resistant genetics into their herd. Utilizing artificial insemination also lowers live animal movement in order to introduce new bloodlines into the herd. In addition, if the receiving farm is already located in a CWD endemic area, even the most negligible risk semen or animal importation is a mute point.

CWD is endemic in Minnesota and will continue to spread with or without cervid farms. The farmed cervid industry is closer than ever to breeding genetic resistance into our herds, identifying enhanced biosecurity measures and beginning discussions on how to utilize live animal testing when it becomes validated. We are on the verge of being able to manage the threat of CWD in a farm situation with these increased measures. We stand ready to work with you on achieving our shared desire for healthy deer herds on both sides of the fence without eliminating over 200 small family farms through overregulation in doing so.

Sincerely,
Mark Luedtke, President

MnEBA Written Testimony Regarding H.F. 911

February 17, 2022

Chair Samantha Vang
House Agriculture Finance and Policy
545 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Rick Hanson
House Environment and Natural Resources Finance
407 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Vang, Chair Hanson and Members of the Committee,

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association represents elk farmers from across Minnesota who are working to responsibly raise elk and support our local small-town communities and economy. To that end, we are concerned about proposed changes to the qualifications for Board of Animal Health Board Members in H.F. 911 and ask you to thoughtfully consider our comments.

Officials with the Board of Animal Health and the state of Minnesota have been at a heightened level of awareness with the escalating presence of Avian Bird Flu affecting millions of birds on Minnesota farms as well as the pending threat of African Swine Fever which if found in Minnesota, will have catastrophic impacts on Minnesota's swine producers and the general food supply.

This Board oversees the response to all animal diseases including but not limited to Avian Bird Flu, African Swine Fever, Foot & Mouth Disease, Tuberculosis, Johne's Disease, Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (BSE, Scrapie, CWD), Rabies, Canine Influenza, Equine Infectious Anemia and a host of other horse diseases, new foreign animal disease threats, and the list goes on. It is clear that members of this Board need a high level of understanding pertaining to animal husbandry and disease transmission to oversee a significant number of animal species and diseases.

The current Board is required to have four producers of livestock with at least one of the four also a member of a federally recognized tribe in Minnesota and two practicing veterinarians. While H.F. 911 adds five more members to the Board, it removes almost all of the knowledge Board members must have to deal with current and potential disease threats. With the number of serious current and future diseases on the horizon, it would be prudent to add one or two more practicing veterinarians, not eliminate them altogether. Requiring members to only be knowledgeable about animal agriculture and not currently raising livestock is also a big step down from current requirements. While this bill adds a number of individuals, it fails in every other aspect to improve the ability of the Board of Animal Health to make educated decisions compared to its current level of knowledge.

Most concerning are the proposed changes to the process of selection and approval of the Executive Director for the Board of Animal Health. These changes make it a political appointment and substantially change how the Board will function and carry out its mission. These changes remove the hierarchy of operation between the Executive Director and Board of Animal Health leadership and hence the day-to-day operations of staff which have proven over time to be highly effective. By removing the political separation that currently exists between the immediate leadership of staff and operations, this change will also remove the ability to make difficult but appropriate decisions regarding proper and necessary actions needed to fulfill the Boards mission.

Given the importance that current and emerging animal disease threats pose to Minnesota's farmers and citizens, it is critically important to not advance H.F. 911 until it contains language that would increase the knowledge and expertise of the Board, not decrease it.

Sincerely,
Mark Luedtke, President



News Release

For immediate release: December 5, 2022

Contact: Erin Crider, Communications Specialist, 651-201-6839 or erin.crider@state.mn.us

No Additional Chronic Wasting Disease Detected in Remaining Depopulated Deer on Winona County Farm

A Winona County deer farm went through a mandatory herd depopulation in October, and no Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was detected in any of the 120 white-tailed deer tested. The Winona County farm had been quarantined since October 2020 because of its connection to other Minnesota CWD positive farms. In August 2022, CWD was confirmed in a 4-year-old doe in the herd (https://www.bah.state.mn.us/news_release/cwd-confirmed-in-quarantined-winona-county-deer-herd/). A total of three CWD positive deer have been confirmed on this farm when two deer harvested after the August detection also tested positive for CWD.

“Unfortunately, we rarely find a definitive answer to how CWD was introduced into a herd. We will continue to work with farmers and state and federal partners to better understand how these animals were infected,” said Senior Veterinarian Dr. Courtney Wheeler. “We’re fortunate this producer is interested in solving this puzzle and is working with us, the USDA and the University of Minnesota on further research. Tissues from the depopulated deer will be submitted for a federally funded genomic testing project to understand if some deer are more susceptible to CWD than others.”

“We’re fortunate this producer is interested in solving this puzzle and is working with us, the USDA and the University of Minnesota on further research.”

The Winona County herd actively participated in the national CWD Herd Certification Program since 2012 and tested more than 100 deer for CWD before the disease was detected in August 2022. The herd was in a CWD endemic area of Minnesota where there is a high prevalence of CWD in the wild deer population. The farm and deer enclosures had been double fenced since 2015.

As part of an agreement with state and federal animal health officials, the herd owner is required to clean and disinfect all enclosures and must maintain fencing on the property for five years from the date of the last detection. The farm is not allowed to have any deer or elk for five years, and the property owner must maintain fencing to prevent wild deer from accessing empty pens. Biohazard signs will be posted on the fencing and must be maintained for the entire five-year fallow period.

CWD is a disease of the deer and elk family caused by prions, which can damage brain and nerve tissue. The disease is most likely transmitted when infected deer and elk shed prions in saliva, feces, urine, and other fluids or tissues. CWD is not known to naturally occur in other animals. The disease is fatal in deer and elk, and there are no known treatments or vaccines. According to the CDC, consuming meat from a CWD positive animal is not advised.



News Release

For immediate release: February 21, 2023

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

DNR Announces 2022 Deer Season Preliminary Harvest Results, CWD Management Findings

Hunters harvested about 170,000 deer during the 2022 deer hunting season, a lower total harvest than in recent years. Total harvest was down 7% compared to the 2021 season and 10% less than the five-year average deer harvest for Minnesota.

“Lower deer numbers in northern Minnesota and poor weather during opening weekend in some parts of the state likely contributed to lower firearms A season harvest,” said Barb Keller, DNR big game program leader. “Hunters struggled with rain and wind in some parts of the state during early November, but weather was better during later seasons including firearms B and muzzleloader seasons.”

The number of deer harvested during muzzleloader season was the highest reported since 2007 and was 10% higher than the 2021 season harvest. Archery season harvest was about 1% lower than the 2021 season. Most archery season harvest occurred prior to the firearms season and peaked in late October and early November.

Analysis of the 2022 deer harvest are still underway. A final deer harvest report will be available in March — past season harvest reports are available on the DNR website.

The release of the final 2022 season harvest results will coincide with opportunities for public input. The DNR will offer walk-in office hours at area wildlife offices across the state, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, March 2. Local wildlife managers will be available to talk one-on-one with anyone about deer and other wildlife, hunting and habitat topics, specific topics that the DNR’s deer advisory committee should be aware of, or thoughts and feedback about deer population management. Those unable to attend office hours in-person will also be able to share their thoughts through an online questionnaire available March 2. Written comments may be submitted to Barb Keller, Fish and Wildlife Division, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155. Comments will help inform season-setting decisions this spring for the 2023 fall deer hunting season.

CWD Management

Chronic wasting disease remains a serious and persistent threat to Minnesota’s deer herd health, but sampling efforts revealed some good news – three consecutive years of disease surveillance in deer permit areas 157, 159, 213, 225 and 273 yielded no detections of the disease in wild deer. Consistent with the DNR’s CWD management plan, these zones were established due to the detection of CWD in captive deer facilities. Following these three consecutive years of no detections in wild deer, successful hunters in these DPAs will no longer need to submit samples for testing.

“This is great news for deer and deer hunters,” said Erik Hildebrand, wildlife health program supervisor. “We greatly appreciate hunters’ help monitoring these areas over the past few years.”

CWD was detected in 26 hunter-harvested deer through the 2022 fall seasons. Of these, 73% were from the southeast, a region that continues to see persistent CWD infections in wild deer.

CWD was detected in two hunter-harvested bucks in DPA 184 in the Bemidji area. DPA 184 is part of a CWD surveillance zone established due to the detection of CWD in a captive deer facility and illegal dumping of infected captive deer carcasses on public land. After the discovery of this fall’s CWD detections in wild deer, the DNR held a late disease management hunt to learn more about the presence of CWD in the area. An additional 102 deer were harvested by hunters, with no additional CWD detected.

These results, along with the fact the two deer in which CWD was detected were both bucks, led to the DNR's decision to not conduct targeted agency culling in DPA 184 this winter.

"We use targeted culling in areas within two miles of a known CWD detection in deer, particularly does," Hildebrand said. "We know an adult doe has a smaller home range and a tight social group. If a doe has CWD, the likelihood that her social group also has it is high. When we find a doe with CWD, that serves as anchor point for our culling efforts — we can apply it to very small, specific areas to fight the disease."

Conversely, bucks have larger home ranges and detecting CWD in two bucks does not allow the DNR to establish an effective anchor point for a culling effort.

Culling efforts in the southeast started Jan. 23 and will continue through late March. Targeted culling will take place in the city of Grand Rapids (part of DPA 679) and the south metro (DPA 605) from Feb. 27 to March 10, focusing on locations where CWD has been detected in the past. All deer culled are processed and the venison is frozen until test results are received. Venison from deer with a not-detected result is distributed to cooperating landowners and those signed up through DNR's Share the Harvest program.

Hunters and conservation partners are critical in helping control CWD and maintaining the health of Minnesota's deer herd. The DNR would like to thank deer hunters, taxidermists, processors, tribal nations (Leech Lake, Red Lake and White Earth), and deer conservation partners (Minnesota Conservation Federation, Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Bluffland Whitetails and Backcountry Hunters & Anglers) that helped collect or submit samples for testing.

For more information about deer hunting in Minnesota, visit the DNR deer hunting page. CWD information, test results and more can be found at the DNR CWD page.

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Board Blog by Greg Lubinski, Director



Hello all!

I am writing to you as I look out my shop door window at what must be the world's largest ice skating rink. Everywhere I look it is nothing but a sheet of ice. Ha ha Al Gore and your global warming. Where is it?

Anyway. Walking on this stuff takes quite the art. At first walking across it was alright until I did the cheerleader splits. When I heard the rip and my butt landed on the cold ice, I knew I was in trouble. There I lay like a chicken who just laid the world's largest egg. I just laid back on the ice and looked up. And mumbled under my breath words I cannot put in print as the back of my head started to throb.

I began to ponder about what happened as I literally crawled on my hands and knees back to the shop. Luckily there was a small patch of grass peeking out that I could grip on to and crawl back into the shop as my boxers fluttered behind. When I got back in the shop I saw a safety picture. It was a penguin, and underneath it said to do the penguin shuffle with arms down on sides and no hands in your pockets and shuffle on the ice. I looked at it and cussed again as I ripped it up...penguins have claws on their feet!

Right then I had an epiphany. I spied my old pair of three buckle rubber boots that slip over my boots. They had a few holes in them. Then I spotted the roofing nails. I grabbed my hammer and the nails and started nailing the soles of the boots with roofing nails. After I was done with my handy work I put them babies on and out the door I went. No slippage here I thought, they even have good brakes.

All day doing chores I was having fun, going up and down hills. Even the rip in the pants seemed to fade away. I said to myself, "this isn't so bad". But I made one fatal mistake. When I walked into the house, I forgot to take my boots off thus securing my feet to the floor. Well anyway the boots were easy to get off. I didn't have to bend over. Luckily we had a pry bar in the house so I could pry the boots off the floor. With the boots off the floor they went into the shop for the next day.

Hope your elk are all doing well. They have studs on their feet and just get on their tippy toes and dig in. Hopefully this Spring is good to everyone and calving season is just around the corner. Hope to see all of you at the picnic this summer.

Be safe on the ice!

Greg Lubinski
Lubinski Elk Acres



MnEBA Kitchen

As we wrap up another cold snowy winter, this recipe is sure to make the house smell amazing and warm you up after another long day of moving snow!

Elk Tips & Gravy

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| ½ cup flour | 1 cup water |
| 1 tsp. onion powder | .87 oz. pkg. brown gravy mix |
| 1 tsp. garlic powder | 3 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce |
| pepper to taste | ¼ cup soy sauce |
| 2 lbs. elk steak or tips, cubed | 3 carrots, sliced (optional) |
| 3 Tbsp. oil | mashed potatoes or elk noodles (cooked) |



DIRECTIONS

Mix flour and seasonings in a large Ziplock bag. Add elk meat; shake to coat meat thoroughly. Pour oil into a large heavy skillet and heat over medium heat for 2-3 minutes. Add meat to skillet; brown on all sides. Blend water, gravy mix and sauces in slow cooker; add meat. Cover and cook on low for 5-6 hours. Add sliced carrots if desired and cook 2 more hours. Add a little more water if needed to thin gravy mixture. Serve over mashed potatoes or cooked noodles. Serves 4-6.

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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Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

Preparations for a Successful Calving Season

By Glen Zebarth, DVM, Douglas County Animal Hospital

We have all dealt with the frustration of having a cow successfully calve only to later on lose that calf. Calf loss can occur for a variety of reasons, but there are measures we can take to help calves through those first critical months to weaning.

Preparing for a successful calving season begins even before the calves are born and that is with the cows.

Cow Nutrition

The ideal body condition for a cow going into calving is a body score of three. This means ribs can barely be seen, backbone can be seen but is not prominent and the hip bone is visible, but not sharp. Overfat cows showing no ribs, no hips or with rolls of fat will be more prone to calving problems. If cow is under condition, she might calve successfully, but may not be able to keep up with the nutritional needs of her calf making that calf more susceptible to illness.

Copper

Ensuring cows have enough copper going into calving is very important. The best way to do this is to test the livers of animals being brought to slaughter to see what an average copper level is in your herd. You want a number over 30; 100 is better. Go by the recommendation of the lab doing the test.

The copper requirements for a cow going into calving are 260mg/head/day of copper sulfate or chelated copper which is better because it is more easily absorbed; Zinpro® 4-Plax® for example, is a chelated copper feed companies may use. You can also use copper boluses as an insurance for adequate copper levels.

Parasites

Check fecal samples in late spring and deworm accordingly. Ensuring sure cows don't have a parasite problem going into calving helps the cow maintain better overall health throughout lactation.

Vaccinations

Providing an 8-Way Clostridium vaccination annually covers most common illnesses that could become a problem. This may be done every six months if a problem persists. You may also need to add a vaccination for Clostridium Perfringens C and D. Using viral vaccines should be based on a history of having had viral diseases such as IBR/BVD previously or if you are in close proximity to cattle that have had those disease problems.

Scour vaccines for E-Coli, Reo and Corona Virus can be given to cows one month before calving. Make sure to use killed products that are labeled "safe for pregnant cows". Generally speaking, it is better to use these vaccines only if you have had problems with those diseases in the past.

Calving Pastures

Before calving, cows tend to walk the fence for 12 to 24 hours and separate themselves from the rest of the herd. Give a cow two to three hours to calve on her own. If calf is partially out, intervene sooner. Be sure to use disposable sleeves and a disinfectant such as iodine and chlorhexidine. Have on hand, either frozen elk colostrum or a commercially produced colostrum product. For milk supplementation, sheep or goat milk or sheep or goat milk replacer. If required to pull a calf, put the cow and calf in a box stall and monitor for nursing activity. Keep feeding the calf until the cow accepts the calf. This may take several days.

A clean and dry calving area is essential. Eliminate mud holes. The best calving pastures are new areas with no previous calving. Other helpful pasture features include a quiet area, good clean water, some sort of shade or hiding area and a pen that can be easily observed.

If calves begin to show signs of sickness, especially with scours, move the cows that have not yet calved, to a new pen. Do not move infected calves. This is called the "Sand Hills Calving System". The first infected calves are the source of infection for subsequent calves. If there is a history of scours, you may need to give newborn calves probiotic orally or a product such as Calf Guard® for Reo or Corona virus plus E-Coli. If a calf shows up with pneumonia or scours, treat it immediately. The calf will not cure itself.

Work with your local veterinarian for help in diagnosing the cause and treatment. It is very important that if you lose a calf, immediately attempt to get a diagnosis, either via on-site autopsy or taking the calf to the state diagnostic lab. You need to know the cause of death in order to treat and/or prevent illness and most diagnosis will require a laboratory workup. You also may have to submit multiple samples or animals for a final diagnosis. Do not be discouraged if you do not get a diagnosis on the first submission.

Calf Observation

A normal newborn will nurse and then lay down for several hours. If a calf is walking around and crying, he is not nursing. If the weather conditions are hot, provide shade and accessible water.

After calving, you should increase the quality and quantity of feed for the cows so they are on a gaining level of nutrition. The greatest demand on the cow is from two weeks after calving to weaning. For the calves, either creep-feed or provide enough bunk space for the calves to access feed.

Check fecal samples of the calves for parasites and generally, when calves are about 1-2 months old, vaccinate calves with 8-Way Clostridium and Perfringens C and D and any other diseases that are a problem on the farm. Be sure to get one dose of vaccine and appropriate wormer into calves before weaning. You can give two doses before weaning, or the second dose at time of weaning. If possible, provide a soft weaning where the calves and cows are placed in lots next to each other.



2023 MnEBA Scholarship Application Now Available!

The MnEBA scholarship application for 2023 is now available! Applicants must be a child, grandchild or relative of an Active or Lifetime member. The award applicant must be pursuing post-secondary education in the Fall 2023/Spring 2024 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. **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 15th**. There will be no extension of this deadline.

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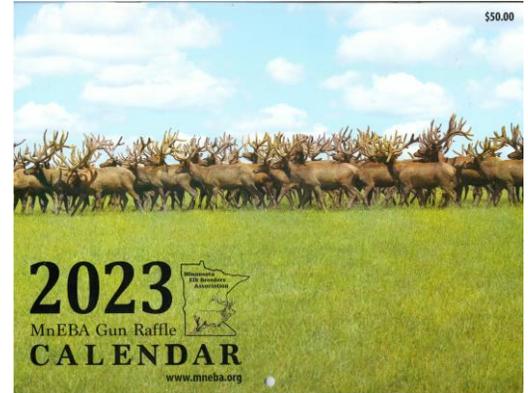
2023 MnEBA Gun Calendar Recap

618 Calendars Were Sold!

THANK YOU to all sponsors, sellers and buyers of the 2023 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar! It was another outstanding effort by a large number of members to help raise important funds to support association activities in the coming year!

Top Sellers

Brian Wagner was the top seller with 143 calendars sold! Wade Schimmelpfennig sold 58 calendars with Paul Hartkopf not far behind with 55 calendars sold. There were 462 stubs and money returned by December 31, with 36 names put into the hat for the special incentive drawing to win a Benelli Nova Pump 28" Black Synthetic 12ga shotgun. Brian Wagner was the lucky winner of this year's prize.



Five Members Qualified for a FREE 2023 MnEBA Membership!

Five members qualified for a free 2023 MnEBA membership after selling 30 or more calendars and returning stubs and money before December 31. That list included Brian Wagner, Wade Schimmelpfennig, Paul Hartkopf, Jerry Campbell and Perry Olson. 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.

2024 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar

Work will soon begin on the 2024 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar! Sponsorship opportunities will be sent out in a few weeks! No changes have been suggested for next year's calendar. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the office or any board member ASAP!

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

In order to take pressure off the convention live auction and to give all members an opportunity to make a special monetary donation to MnEBA and the chance to win a great prize, MnEBA once again held the MnEBA Donation Fundraiser with winners drawn at the end of the recent convention. This funding raises important funds which help MnEBA support the legislative effort ahead. Special incentives were offered at specific donation levels. The following 10 members participated in this special request and raised \$3,500 for MnEBA! Many thanks to Greg Lubinski for donating the Mossberg Maverick 88 Black 28" Pump 3" 12ga Silver level gun!

GOLD (\$500) Eligible to win a Remington 783 Bolt Heavy Barrel 16.5" FDE 6.5CM rifle

Paul Hartkopf Mark Lucas Perry Olson Brian Wagner

SILVER (\$250) Eligible to win a Mossberg Maverick 88 Black 28" Pump 3" 12ga shotgun

Jerry Campbell John Fredrickson Gary Smith
Darrell Turek Kraig Wurst Glen Zearth

Paul Hartkopf won the Remington 6.5 CM rifle and Jerry Campbell won the Mossberg 12ga shotgun.
Thank you to all for your generosity!



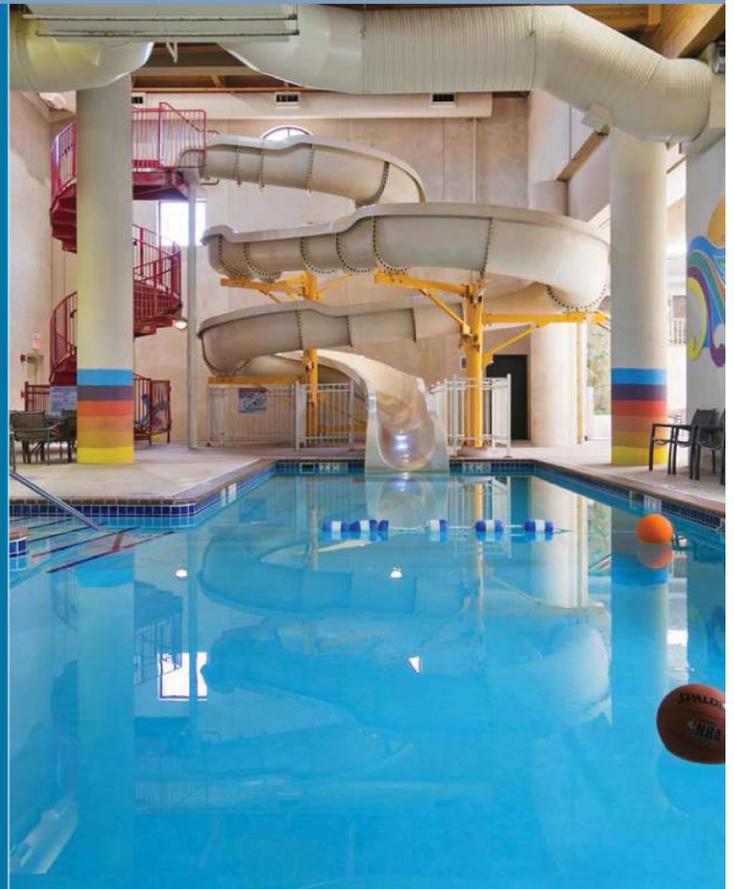
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Calendar of Events

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

June 24, 2023 – MnEBA Summer Picnic, Dave & Kelly Luedeke, Milona, MN

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

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