

April / May / June '23

Volume 27, Issue 2



# MnEBA News

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- Moratoria Paper Available to Members
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- 2024 MnEBA Gun Calendar Raffle
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- Vet Corner

## President's Message by Mark Luedtke



Hello everyone! Hope everyone and your family is doing well. The season of mowing grass is upon us. Green grass and blooming flowers sure are a pleasant change from snow drifts and then mud.

Bulls are well on their way to growing a new set of antlers and the cows are ready to start calving. By the time you read this we will be well into calving season, I wish you all the best of luck. Even after 20 years, I still greet this season with a high level of anticipation wondering if I will get that female calf I have been trying for out of that special combination or will it be my next breeder bull prospect hitting the ground. At the end of the day, male or female, the most important factor is a live healthy calf and a healthy protective mother. Good luck and I hope it turns out well for you.

This legislative session has been very trying and disappointing on many levels. Even with what appears to be some large negative effects to our industry, there were some small wins in the process. I would like to publicly thank first and foremost Brenda for the countless hours of research, monitoring and preparation involved in this process as well as her left and right hand, Jim, and Paul, for their assistance and dedication. Although I'm unhappy with the results, I also am aware it would have been far worse had we not worked so hard and been so diligent through it all. So please reach out to all three of them for all the hard work they put into helping all of us. We will be talking more at the board level to determine what to do now, but I am currently of the frame of mind to start immediately after this session ends with an offensive campaign of our own to remove the most harmful elements being put in place. Please reach out to myself or any of the other board members to share your thoughts, we appreciate your input.

## *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 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

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#### Executive Secretary to the Board

Brenda Hartkopf  
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## MnEBA

### Mission Statement

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

## Market Update

### Velvet Price Increases in 2023

I will start off with the meat market, most prices paid are \$3.75-\$4.00, however animals are very short in supply and with shooter bulls up, I do not anticipate a big change. It is possible with recent legislation, (exclusionary fence by 2024, property claim on deed for 10 years if CWD positive), this market develops more interest.

Shooter bulls will again see a big demand with supply short and prices up. With Minnesota closing its borders to farmed cervid imports, that could have some state's doing that to our animals.

Velvet is going to see a \$2 increase from last year. A big request from Lee is when cutting bulls, make a straight cut. Do not come from one side part way through and then cut from the other. This makes a very uneven cut and wastes a lot of pounds for him as he needs a straight cut to sear the antler before drying. This prevents the blood from bleeding out of the antler during drying.

Best of luck this summer, we will talk more about velvet later in July!

Scott Salonek  
612-850-8684

## MnEBA Wishes All a Successful Calving & Velveting Season!!



## Moratoria Paper Available to Members

Last year, outdoor groups began lobbying some of Minnesota's county commissioners to enact moratoriums to prohibit any new cervid farms in their county. MnEBA testified when opportunities for public comment became available, however comments were limited to just four minutes so not a lot could be said before time was up.

NAEBA financially assisted MnEBA to secure a lawyer's opinion on the legality of such moratoriums and were told that counties have broad latitude to issue moratoriums, but that such moratoriums need to be made on a "rational" basis. If an individual wanted to challenge a county moratorium in court, the judge would look at what evidence the county was presented with before the county commissioners made their decision so it would be incumbent on the individual or industry to provide as much information as possible prior to a moratorium becoming permanent.

The lawyer recommended MnEBA hire an expert to write a white paper containing the facts on why moratoriums are not effective at controlling CWD. MnEBA secured financial assistance from NAEBA, NADEFA and the MN Deer Farmers Association to complete this work which was finalized the end of March. The paper is entitled, "Moratoria on Cervid Farms is not Effective at Controlling the Spread of Chronic Wasting Disease. This paper has been presented to counties, legislators, regulators and more since it was made available and can be found on MnEBA's web site under the Animal Health tab.

**MnEBA members are highly encouraged to make yourself aware of what your county commissioners are talking about to make sure they aren't discussing cervid farm moratoriums in your county. If they are, please contact MnEBA and also personally use this paper to help educate. Information and discussion coming from a stakeholder in the county holds a lot of weight!**

For a quick look at what is contained in the paper, see the Abstract below as found on Page 1:

### ABSTRACT

*The purpose of this paper was to examine whether a moratorium on cervid farms is necessary or appropriate based on the data available regarding the control of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Conclusions of this study support that:*

- 1. There is no rational basis for current or future moratoria on cervid farms in Minnesota counties based on a threat to public health, safety, or welfare.*
- 2. Current studies relied upon by county governing bodies regarding CWD are deeply flawed and based on assumptions not supported by scientific data.*
- 3. Cervid farms utilize a variety of mitigation measures, as required by law, which not only minimize the likelihood of CWD spread from their herds, but also serve as an important source of disease monitoring research to insure a safe source of uninfected animals and animal products.*
- 4. Current and future moratoria on cervid farms cause direct and unnecessary economic harm to both cervid farmers and the local economy while having no measurable impact on the spread of CWD in the local wild cervid population. Any impact on CWD should be measured in cost-savings and containment. Minnesota counties appear to be basing their moratoria on the underlying theory that captive cervids are the source of nearly all CWD infections. The data does not support this assumption. It is not generally accepted in the veterinary scientific community, nor does it have the requisite foundational reliability.*

MnEBA is especially grateful to Dr. Paul Anderson, Jim Byrne and Brenda Hartkopf for putting in a tremendous amount of time and effort to help provide content and numerous review/comments for this paper. Thanks also to all the organizations that cost-shared this effort. May this paper be used for good. Thank you all!

 D. E. Little, DVM

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Moratoria on Cervid Farms is not Effective at Controlling the Spread of Chronic Wasting Disease

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DE LITTLE DVM, INC  
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March 27, 2023

Prepared for  
Minnesota Elk Breeders Association  
Minnesota Deer Farmers Association  
North American Elk Breeders Association  
North American Deer Farmers Association



## Board Meeting Minutes

### Board Meeting Minutes May 27, 2023

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association Board of Directors held a meeting via Zoom on Saturday May 27, 2023 at 8:00 a.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 8:03 a.m.

The secretary minutes from both January 16 and March 31 were reviewed. Campbell moved to accept both reports, L. Hartkopf seconded, motion carried. The treasurer's report was then reviewed in detail. Campbell moved to accept the treasurer's report, L. Hartkopf seconded, motion carried.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Board discussed the final passage of HF2310 and discussed how to move forward with new laws that industry opposes, especially noting the physical barrier requirement and animal import ban. B. Hartkopf discussed the importance of forming relationships with Democratic legislators moving forward starting by inviting legislators to local farms. Decision was made to work to schedule a meeting with our lobbyist and the Department of Agriculture to seek advice for moving forward. Also to schedule a meeting in person with BAH as soon as possible to discuss how they are moving forward with the program.

Board revisited the topic from last meeting about offering elk products on the 2024 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. After much discussion, was decided to keep the same number of guns, but to replace some of the bonus days with processed elk meat packages. Decision made to offer six bonus cash days and four processed meat package days instead of 12 bonus cash days. B. Hartkopf to work on seeking bids for meat packages and to secure calendar sponsors.

President Luedtke reported on manning the MnEBA booth at the State FFA Convention in April. There was good attendance and discussion with attendees and he recommended MnEBA continue to exhibit at this event.

B. Hartkopf reported testifying at a recent Carlton County public hearing regarding a permanent county-wide moratorium on future cervid farms and that she was the only testifier either for or against. The moratorium paper was shared with this group three

weeks prior to the meeting. Unfortunately the moratorium language moved forward. She also forwarded a newspaper article on Cook County passing what looks to be a permanent moratorium even though this was the first anyone had heard about it. Board asked B. Hartkopf to find out if this is permanent and to determine if they followed proper procedure. B. Hartkopf to also check on the progress of the Aitkin County moratorium and report back to the board. Regarding the moratorium paper, want to make a concerted effort to encourage members to utilize the paper with their own county commissioners or as needed.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Board reviewed the latest membership numbers. Membership has dropped by 10 members in 2023. B. Hartkopf was asked to place data request to see how many elk farms are currently operating in Minnesota.

Board discussed preliminary numbers for the 2023/2024 budget. One note made during discussion was to ask the State Fair committee to make a recommendation on raising the price of dog chews at the State Fair. B. Hartkopf to send out the draft budget for review. Will set up Zoom meeting week of June 12 to discuss further.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

### Board Meeting Minutes March 31, 2023

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association Board of Directors held a meeting via Zoom on Friday March 31, 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 and Tony Kwilas. President Luedtke called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

MnEBA lobbyist Tony Kwilas reported the House Judiciary Committee heard HF1202 last week. Could only speak on items pertaining to that committee which included data privacy and CWD detection information on real estate deeds. He also reported HF911 dealing with changing the makeup of BAH board members has been heard the House Ag Committee and moved forward for possible inclusion

in the House Ag Omnibus bill but there is not a companion bill in the Senate. The House Environment Omnibus bill will carry HF1202 in its entirety however the companion SF1526 has been modified from the House version in a positive direction. Final language will be decided in conference committee. Of note, the omnibus bill of the Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate Committee chaired by Senator Frenz is expected to be combined with the omnibus bill of Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee chaired by Senator Hawj. Discussions with Senator Frenz to begin immediately. The legislature will take an Easter break next week and come back on April 10. Kwilas then left the meeting.

B. Hartkopf presented a spreadsheet showing proposals by several hotels for the 2024 MnEBA Conference. After discussion, Wagner moved to select the Best Western Plus Kelly Inn in St. Cloud proposal, Lubinski seconded, motion carried.

B. Hartkopf reported the FFA Career Connections event will take place on Monday April 24 from 7:30am-1:30pm. MnEBA signed up to have a booth. Discussed what message we would share with convention attendees. Luedtke and B. Hartkopf to man the booth.

MnEBA has been invited to attend the FFA Foundation Honor's Reception on Monday April 24 in recognition of ten years of contributing funding towards the FFA Jackets Program. As Greg Lubinski has been the donor to this program, he was asked to

represent MnEBA at this program. Because he was unable to attend, Luedtke volunteered to take his place to represent MnEBA.

The Government Relations Committee reported the moratorium white paper is awaiting final review by the committee. Board asked that the paper be sent out for their review as well. Goal is to finalize the paper next week so it can be distributed to legislators and others after the Easter break.

Discussed the resignation of BAH Executive Director Marion Garcia. Will reach out to see how MnEBA can help and ask what the timeline is to hire a replacement.

Wagner reported the stay at the Campbell's Creekside Cabin sold at the recent MnEBA conference was very much enjoyed by the successful bidder.

Campbell asked if there was any more discussion on adding elk products in place of a few of the guns on the next MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar. There was much discussion and many ideas but no final determination was made. Discussion was tabled to be discussed again at the next meeting.

Wagner moved to adjourn, Lubinski seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

## Minnesota FFA Member Thank You's

For the tenth straight year, MnEBA member Greg Lubinski of Lubinski Elk Acres has contributed funding in MnEBA's name for two Minnesota FFA Foundation's "Blue Jackets – Brighter Futures". The jackets were awarded to the Minnesota FFA members below who sent letters of thanks back to the MnEBA as follows.



MnEBA was also recognized as a 10-year donor to the Minnesota FFA Foundation at the recent State Convention in St. Paul.

*Thank you for supporting FFA and sponsoring my jacket. I cannot wait to wear it at my next competition. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.*

*Sincerely,  
Callie McCorkell  
Martin County West FFA*

*Thank you for the opportunity for a jacket. This jacket represents all the CDE I did for the years and the ones I'll do this year. It will represent all the friends and memories I have made with FFA.*

*Thank you again.  
(not signed)*

## Legislative Update

The 2023 Minnesota legislative session ended recently on May 22, 2023. It was an enormously big session with the one-party legislature passing many bills they have spent years trying to pass.

One such bill was HF2310, the environment/energy omnibus bill of which a joint house/senate conference committee consisting of nine democrats and one republican negotiated the 434-page bill, seven pages of which contained CWD language from both HF1202 and SF1526. Quite frankly, most of the process of negotiation regarding farmed cervidae happened behind closed doors with the state departments, committee chairmen and bill authors. While some new language pertained to whitetail deer only, most language included all cervids.



We are sure to hear from the Board of Animal Health on how this new legislation impacts oversight of the farmed elk industry once the Governor signs the bill. See below for a few of the significant changes pertaining to farmed cervidae:

**1. Fencing** – All perimeter fences for farmed cervidae are now required to be constructed and maintained to prevent physical contact. This language takes effect in September 2024. This was language MnEBA fought hard to remove elk from, but in the end, could not generate the support for it. The language does not prescribe how to prevent physical contact so anything from double fencing to shade cloth or electric wire, or combination thereof could be used. Because this clause takes effect next year, MnEBA has one more legislative session to work to change this requirement.

Also changed in this section, if a fence deficiency allows entry or exit by farmed or wild cervidae, the owner must immediately repair the deficiency. All other deficiencies must be repaired within 14 days instead of “not to exceed 45 days”.

**2. Moratorium on new deer farms** (whitetail deer only) – The BAH must not allow new registrations for possessing white-tail deer, however existing operations may transfer the person’s registration to an immediate family member one time only, at a cost of \$500.

**3. Maintain fencing for CWD positive facility for 10 years** – If CWD is detected in a farmed cervid herd, fences must be maintained for 10 years (up from five years) and also must not raise farmed cervidae on the premises for at least ten years. MnEBA fought hard to keep this language to five years to match the federal rule, however researchers at the University of Minnesota were very vocal about research that shows both CWD and Scrapie prions have been shown to exist in the soil for 15 years or longer.

**4. Recording with the county recorder or registrar of titles, notice of CWD detection for positive CWD facility** – New laws will require the owner of a farmed cervid facility to disclose the location data and landowner requirements not only on a purchase agreement but also with the county recorder or registrar of titles. The notice is to expire and have no effect 10 years after the date of detection stated in the notice. MnEBA fought hard against this arguing private property owners where CWD positive animals are detected outside the fence, property where the DNR provides dumpsters for wild deer disposal, and properties containing bone piles with untested deer parts have no such requirements on their purchase agreements or deeds.

**5. Liability** – A herd owner is liable in a civil action to a person injured by the owner's sale or unlawful disposal of farmed cervidae. MnEBA fought to at least limit this language to the person selling the animal or disposing of a positive animal unlawfully needed to "have known or should have known" the animal was infected prior to movement. This was incorporated into the final language.

**6. Importation** – When the original House and Senate bills were drafted, they did not allow for importation of live animals or semen from a state where CWD had been detected in either a farm or in the wild, which would have virtually eliminated all importation. MnEBA fought hard to bring back semen and live animal importation and was successful to a point. Semen is allowed to be brought in from a herd that has been subject to a state, federal or provincial approved CWD program with the highest status certification having been achieved. Live animals may be imported but only with a federally approved live-animal test (there is no approved test at this time).

**7. Live-animal CWD testing required** (whitetail deer only) – Once a USDA approved non-invasive live-animal test capable of accurately detecting CWD in whitetail deer is available, the BAH must have each farmed white-tailed deer tested for CWD. A validated test will be required when moving farmed white-tailed deer six months old and over from any premises within 12 weeks of movement. Original language would have forced whitetail deer owners to whole-herd test their deer every year with potentially un-validated CWD live animal tests. Both associations lobbied hard against this section, and in the end, this section takes effect after live non-invasive tests are validated and for whitetail deer only.

**8. Transfer of duties for farmed whitetail deer** (whitetail deer only) – Responsibility for administering and enforcing the statutes and rules for farmed white-tailed deer are transferred from the BAH to the DNR. BAH continues to retain responsibility for administering and enforcing statutes and rules for all other farmed cervidae including elk.

**9. Premises location personal privacy** – Original environment bill language would have allowed the location of farmed cervidae premises to be available to the public. MnEBA fought hard against this provision citing real concern for safeguarding our farms against people meaning to do harm to our farm owners, animals and personal property, especially owners of facilities which have detected a CWD positive animal. While this language was removed from the environment bill, the bill author also added the same language to the judicial omnibus bill which did pass.

In effect, the new bill language all but separates farmed whitetail deer oversight from other farmed cervid species with the transfer of duties for whitetail deer to the DNR. In the coming weeks, MnEBA will work with BAH to discuss the "new normal" and work on a path forward that is as positive as it can be under new requirements.



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*Bill & Karen Knutson*  
Home of Spring Coulee Elk

## Advertiser Index

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**Thank you for your support!**



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** As stated above, language recently passed by the House and Senate would require all farmed cervidae producers to have a physical barrier on their exterior fences completed by September 2024. BAH has had the following approved fencing parameters since August of 2017. This list may expand as breeders think of other creative ways to achieve a physical barrier, however any physical barrier will ultimately need to be approved by the BAH before it is recognized.

You can get creative with how you achieve a physical barrier such as by only utilizing interior pens instead of pens with an exterior fence line, using fewer pens which have an exterior fence line, or any combination of methods below.

Expect to see BAH come out with more information soon.



## ***Farmed Cervidae Program Exclusion Fencing Parameters***

The purpose of exclusionary fencing is to eliminate the direct exposure of wild cervidae species to farmed cervidae.

The following designs are approved to be designated as exclusionary fencing by the Board. Any variations to these options must be approved by the Board. Completed fencing must be inspected and approved by the Board before an exclusionary fencing designation can be granted.

1) Double 8-foot-high fencing at least 10 feet apart

2) Secondary fence on the outside of an existing 8-foot fence:

- Secondary fence material is 2 feet by 4 feet welded wire that is four feet high
- Spacers are attached to existing posts so that the two fences are at least 11 inches apart
- The bottom of this fence is set at 6 inches above the ground and the top is 4 feet 6 inches above the ground
- Spacers are placed between the posts at no more than 8-foot intervals to ensure that the 11-inch space between the fences is maintained

3) Solid fencing as part of an existing 8-foot fence:

- Solid material or densely woven shade cloth
- Must cover at least 4 feet in height from the ground

**BAH 8.23.2017**



## Board Blog by Brian Wagner, Secretary/Treasurer



Well spring is finally here so we have many of the normal fun things about our passion to raise elk upon us like new antler growth, baby calves on the ground and nice green lush grass.

But spring also had a negative side the last couple years and this year worse than ever; that is our legislative session. It's over and these clowns spared nothing on the cervid industry, whitetail obviously getting it worse than others. But don't give up quite so easily yet, let your board get together with the Board of Animal Health (BAH) and see what is going to be acceptable for a physical barrier. If we can use an electric option, it might not be so bad. We have until September 2024 to complete this so it gives us some time to work on it.

My recommendation is that once BAH gives us some guidelines of what we can do, we put together a Zoom call with our association members and share some ideas about moving forward on mainly fencing issues. I don't think this can wait until our winter meeting so maybe July-August? The changes we are looking at are terrible but I'm not ready to let the liberals win quite yet.

We do need to thank several individuals that fought this battle on our behalf: Tony Kwilas, Brenda Hartkopf, Dr. Paul Anderson and Jim Byrne, all of whom have put in countless hours. Also many senators on our side but just outnumbered.

Stay positive and keep the animals we love.

Regards,  
Brian Wagner

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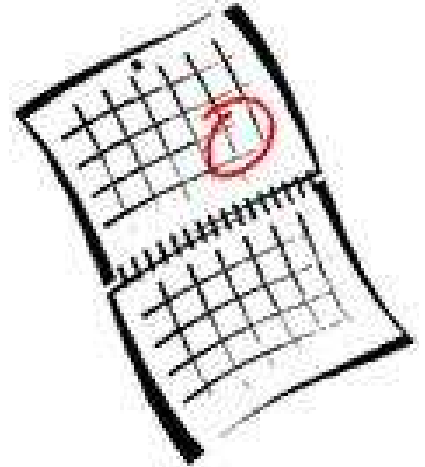
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## 2024 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar

### Your Sponsorships Are Needed!

**Your sponsorships are needed** as MnEBA begins putting together the new 2024 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar! 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.



**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, 2023 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 gun days, four Bonus Meat Package days and six \$100 Bonus Cash days, there are many great chances to win!

**2024 Gun Raffle Calendars will be available by August 1.** To receive your calendars, they can be mailed from the office or by contacting a board member who will get you what you need. 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).

***Please help support the association that works continually to support the elk industry in Minnesota!***

## Seeking Elk Bull for 2022 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt

Because of the support of Tony & Patty Beckel and various donors to the annual MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt over the past 17 years, MnEBA will once again offer this hunt to a disabled Minnesota veteran of the United States armed forces. There are already three applicants for this year's hunt!

A lot of things need to come together to make this hunt work year after year. Here's how you can become involved!

1. Sell MnEBA a bull that is minimum size 6x6 measuring 300-350". This bull will need to be held likely until October.
2. Someone is needed to haul the bull to Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch in Baudette, MN from its current location.
3. Donate funds to help offset the cost of this effort. Donations go towards offsetting costs of the bull, transportation, lodging and processing the bull for meat.

Please contact the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686 or [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org) to offer whatever you can for this very worthy cause. It makes a tremendous impact on the recipient and is an awesome way to give back. Thank you for your consideration!



**2022 Recipient Mike Marcum (right) with Jerry Campbell (left)**



## MnEBA Kitchen

Call them barbeques or sloppy joes, here's an easy, quick hot sandwich recipe for these busy summer days!

### Barbeque Elk Burger

1½ lbs elk burger  
1 medium onion, diced  
1 can tomato soup  
1 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar  
2 Tbsp. brown sugar

1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce  
½ cup ketchup  
1 tsp. yellow mustard  
Salt and pepper to taste  
Chili powder to taste

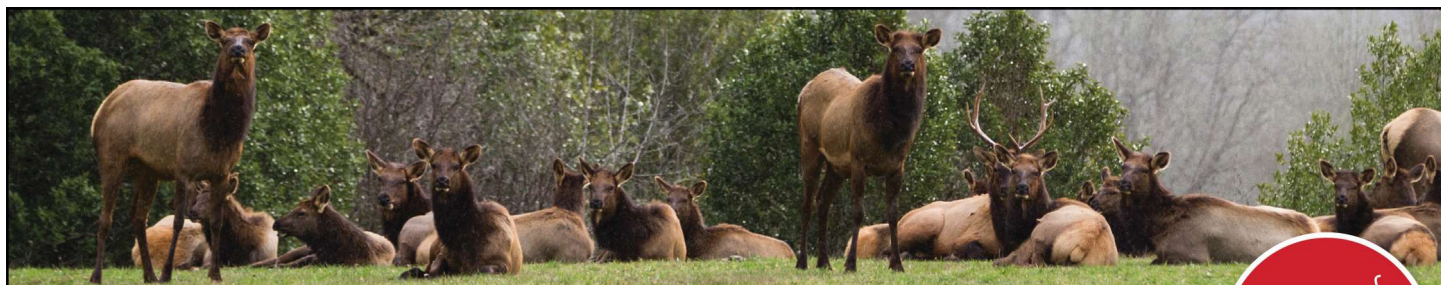


#### DIRECTIONS

Brown elk burger and onion. Season with salt, pepper and chili powder. Add rest of ingredients including more salt, pepper and chili powder. Bring to a boil, cover and simmer for 15 minutes.

Serve on buns with pickles, cheese or anything else you like on your sandwiches.

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

August 24 – Labor Day September 4, 2023

# MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

## YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!!

Last year's state fair sales of elk meat products and dog chews were through the roof and broke all previous sales records! Working the MnEBA booth at the State Fair is a refreshing opportunity to talk to the general public about the awesome animals we raise and the great products they produce which creates positivity for the industry. Fairgoers are always intrigued and have interesting stories to share as well.

It is important for our industry to have a presence at the State Fair and help is needed now more than ever. NOW IS THE TIME to check your schedule and sign up for one or more shifts at the booth before your own 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.

Please review the schedule below and **contact the office 320-543-2686 or [info@mneba.org](mailto: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
<b>Pre-Fair</b>		Set Up – Paul Hueg		<b>8/30</b>	8 – 2	OPEN
<b>8/24</b>	8 - 2	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf			2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	OPEN		<b>8/31</b>	8 – 2	Dale & Donna Wippler
<b>8/25</b>	8 – 2	OPEN			2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	OPEN		<b>9/1</b>	8 – 2	OPEN
<b>8/26</b>	8 – 2	Greg Lubinski			2 – 9	OPEN
	2 – 9	Greg Lubinski		<b>9/2</b>	8 – 2	Greg Lubinski
<b>8/27</b>	8 – 2	Greg Lubinski			2 – 9	Greg Lubinski
	2 – 9	Greg Lubinski		<b>9/3</b>	8 – 2	Greg Lubinski
<b>8/28</b>	8 – 2	OPEN			2 – 9	Greg Lubinski
	2 – 9	OPEN		<b>9/4</b>	8 – 2	Greg Lubinski
<b>8/29</b>	8 – 2	OPEN			2 – 9	Greg Lubinski
	2 – 9	OPEN				

## Hard Antler Donations Needed

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

MnEBA is looking for donations of hard 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"**.

Hard antler will be collected at the June 24 Summer Picnic, or you can send your hard antler donations with Brian Wagner. They can also be dropped off directly at the office. Thank you in advance for anything you can do help!



## Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

### RT-QuIC Testing Potential for the Farmed Cervid Industry

By Davin Henderson, PH.D., CWD Evolution LLC

*(Reprinted from the North American Elk Breeders Association May 2023 Journal)*

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is an expanding prion disease affecting primarily deer and elk. New CWD cases have been found across not only the United States but as far away as Northern Europe. CWD affects numerous stakeholders ranging from hunters to game agencies and, of course, deer and elk farmers. It appears we have been stuck in a loop of bad news. No new tests or effective management strategies have been proven to slow the spread of CWD. We have all heard of new tests coming soon; new tests promising to be useful in live animals that will be more sensitive for the detection of CWD in tissues that have less CWD accumulation than the brain or lymph node.

One such testing technology seems to be separating itself from the rest of the pack and promises to deliver on a number of highly anticipated tests. Real-time quaking induced conversion (RT-QuIC) is a next generation test that works fundamentally different than current tests. RT-QuIC amplifies the CWD found in tissues and can be a million times more sensitive than currently approved tests. Numerous studies using RT-QuIC have shown it to be both reliable and effective in diagnosing CWD in tissue harvested easily from a live deer or elk without asthenisation. RT-QuIC can also detect CWD in third eyelid tissue that a hunter can easily remove from the deer or elk themselves making testing for CWD in hunted animals considerably easier.

Late last year, CWD Evolution, the first company to commercialize RT-QuIC testing, partnered with VMRD, a manufacturer of USDA approved kits and reagents. This partnership seeks to bridge the final gap for a USDA approved RT-QuIC test. VMRD has the know-how and approved facility to manufacture USDA approved reagents and test kits. In March, VMRD is beginning manufacturing of all the reagents necessary for an RT-QuIC test kit. The first step will be a validation against gold-standard IHC testing which will lead to a post-mortem approved RT-QuIC test. Next, VMRD will seek approval for the same test on rectal biopsy tissue harvested from live animals. Finally, a high-throughput third eyelid test will go through the same process to achieve approval of an easier surveillance test for hunters.

There is a lot of interest in using a live animal test in a captive deer setting from multiple stakeholders. Here are a few potential uses for this new and exciting technology.

#### **Live animal testing to remove quarantine restrictions**

This is obviously the most important for deer and elk farming operations. Unfortunately, it is also the potential use that is most uncertain. In order for a quarantine to be lifted early or not be imposed at all, the USDA would have to write new program standards incorporating the use of RT-QuIC testing into the quarantine guidelines. The USDA would lay out the requirements of the testing regime such as how many times and how far apart the tests must be. They would also dictate the genetic composition required for eligibility. Peer reviewed and published data suggest that genotype does not affect the ability to detect CWD positive deer or elk by RT-QuIC. However, since there are so few positive deer with the most resistant genotypes, there is not a lot of available information. The number of tests and the time between them will likely be determined by a probability analysis based on the approved test's sensitivity and specificity compared to post-mortem testing.

#### **Live animal testing prior to movement**

One of the most concerning topics for state regulators is the expansion of CWD positive regions through introduction of CWD by transportation of positive deer or elk from farm to farm or hunting ranch. If there is a straightforward and minimally burdensome test that can prevent 80-90% of unintended CWD transports, then you can bet many states will impose live animal RT-QuIC tests to be performed prior to movement. Although it adds an increased expense and time to take samples, live animal testing may drastically reduce the number of operations that are caught up in trace-forward and trace-back quarantines which as a whole, would save money for the industry. It could also reduce needless depopulations that fail to find evidence of CWD.

**Whole state live animal testing requirements**

If there is enough interest from the states, we might see the USDA create a program where farmers could conduct whole herd tests on an interval basis to be declared certified or some such designation, similar to how the TB accreditation and Brucellosis certification programs work. Time will tell how ranchers and regulators choose to utilize this new technology when it becomes available and/or approved.

Each of these potential scenarios is just speculation for how this new testing technology might be used. There are likely many other possible outcomes for how this new frontier of CWD management will shake out. At least we are poised to offer a new tool to combat the spread of CWD and hopefully have some good news in the future with regards to CWD.

*Davin is the founder of CWD Evolution which is the first company to commercially offer RT-QulC testing. He has spent a decade using RT-QulC to understand how CWD is spread and refining this powerful testing technology for use in a diagnostic setting.*

## 2023 MnEBA Scholarship Awarded

MnEBA is pleased to announce that Hannah Luedtke, daughter of MnEBA members Mark and Lisa Luedtke, is the recipient of the 2023 MnEBA Scholarship valued at \$350. Hannah will be beginning her first year of post-secondary school at North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota this fall where she will study Radiologic Sciences.

In her high school career, Hannah has been a three-sport athlete, as well as being active in FFA, Drama Club, Student Council, both Band and Choir, Knowledge Bowl and serving as a mentor. She has served in many leadership roles and received numerous honors and awards as well as being active in her church youth group.



Being involved in agriculture has made a huge impact on Hannah's life. She says, "Through the farm we are involved in many associations and I am very thankful for every single one of them. I have made so many friends through all of the associations and it has definitely made me more of a social person." Hannah's career plan is to become an ultrasound tech. In that role she says, "My goal is just to be able to help others in any way possible. I love interacting with people and helping them with whatever they may need."

There were three applicants for this year's scholarship award. The committee had a very difficult time determining a recipient and commends all applicants! Thank you to Rita Prodzinski for managing the scholarship applications this year and for locating and working with a local friend to review the applications.

MnEBA wishes Hannah all the best as she pursues her goals and dreams. With the skills she already possesses, she is sure to be successful in her future endeavors.





# *2023 Annual Convention & International Antler Competition*

**JULY 27-29  
2023**

*Best Western Plus Ramkota*  
**Sioux Falls, SD**



[www.naelk.org](http://www.naelk.org)



**Minnesota Elk Breeders  
Association**

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320-543-2983

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

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

**Calendar of Events**

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

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

**January 6-7, 2023** – MnEBA Annual Conference, Best Western Plus Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, MN

**Classified Ads**

**Wanted:** Any and all elk meat animals, trophy bulls, breeding stock or whole herds. Brian Wagner, 612-366-5078.

**Wanted:** Wapiti Labs is buying hard antler. Best prices on 2" diameter and larger. Call 651-237-4051 for more information.

**MINNESOTA ELK  
BREEDERS  
ASSOCIATION**

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