



## Special Interest Articles:

- 2024 MnEBA Annual Conference Recap
- Membership Meeting Minutes
- Board Meeting Minutes
- Minnesota State Fair Commitments Needed
- Board Blog
- Minnesota Board of Animal Health Updated Fencing Guidelines
- Minnesota Department of Agriculture Grant
- Legislative Update
- Vet Corner
- Welcome New Members
- 2024 MnEBA Scholarship Application Now Available

## President's Message by Mark Luedtke



Hope everyone and your family are doing well. The holiday season is past us, and spring is right around the corner. What an unusual winter we have had. I am still waiting for the other shoe to drop and finding out what the price to pay is for the mild winter; I am beginning to get nervous about it going into the summer. Not sure about the rest of the state but around me it is incredibly dry and if we don't get substantial moisture going into the growing season, I'm afraid the price we pay for little snow might be very high hay cost. I have decided to add some extra hay to my inventory just in case the moisture ends up being in short supply.

For all of you who were able to make it to St. Cloud for our annual meeting, I want to extend a large thank you; it was great to see all of you. For those who were unable to attend, we missed you and I'm sorry you didn't make it. It was a wonderful meeting with great attendance.

There is much going on in our industry and our association and for those of you who are already engaged, thank you. If you have not already gotten involved, please consider participating to the best of your ability and as your schedule permits. We can always use more help. Three major items that are front and center as I write this message are:

- Efforts to move forward with legislation requesting four significant changes to the bill passed last session.
- Efforts to obtain proposals for necessary changes to our website due to the software no longer being supported.
- Challenges with our association keeping our presence at the Minnesota State Fair.

I am sure you can find information elsewhere in this newsletter regarding all three of the above items, but if you have questions or concerns, please call any of the board members or Brenda to share your thoughts or lend a hand.

I wish you all the best, stay safe, stay healthy and enjoy the spring.  
Mark

## *Make Plans to Attend!* **2024 MnEBA Summer Picnic** **Saturday, June 22, 2024**

*Hosted By*  
**Elkoholics Elk Ranch ~ Dave & Kelly Luedeke**  
7800 Cty Rd 14 NE, Miltna, 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 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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#### Director

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#### 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.

## 2024 MnEBA Annual Conference Recap

### *An Opportunity to Hear from Friends of the Industry*

The 2024 MnEBA Annual Conference took place January 6th at the Best Western Plus Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, MN. There were 64 people in attendance compared to 52 people last year. This year's event featured five seminars, fundraising activities, and lots of good discussion.

Several guests were in attendance, each with a special connection to the industry. Senator Aric Putnam, Chair of the Senate Ag Committee, and Representative Isaac Schultz, both addressed the membership during the annual meeting and were available for one-on-one discussions with members. Dr. Heather Damico, Dr. Erik Jopp and Clarissa Allen from the Minnesota Board of Animal Health joined us to discuss fencing, a new online records system, and listened to concerns from the industry. Paul Hugunin and Kelly Anderson from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture spoke with members and announced a new one-time grant which would help compensate cervid owners for at least some of the cost of new fencing requirements. The former chairman of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health, Dean Compart and his wife Kaye joined us for the evening banquet as Dean received an appreciation award for his support of the farmed cervid industry during the 2023 legislative session. And lastly, the recipient of our 2023 MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt, Chad Sheridan also joined the meeting to thank everyone for the elk hunt opportunity that he so greatly enjoyed. All of these guests have had a special impact on the industry in their own way and it was a great opportunity for everyone to get a chance to meet and speak with them.

Seminars on Saturday featured many presentations on health-related topics such as an Update on the Elk Genome by Dr. Christopher Seabury, Update from the Board of Animal Health by Dr. Damico, Ask the Vet by Dr. Zebarth and an EHD Seminar by Dr. Juan Campos. There was also much discussion on the required exclusionary fencing throughout the day and with the Fencing Panel Discussion led by Brian Wagner, Greg Lubinski and Lance Hartkopf. Thank you to all for sharing your time and expertise; as always, change is constant and it's important to understand what's happening in the industry.

There were two board positions open this year- Lance Hartkopf and Greg Lubinski. Greg Lubinski and Adam Johnson were nominated and were voted by acclimation to serve new terms on the board. Thank you to Lance for your years of service and to Greg and Adam for your willingness to serve!

This year's MnEBA Appreciation Awards went to Dean Compart (as mentioned earlier) and Brian Wagner for his outstanding support of calendar raffle sales, fundraising for the association and advocacy efforts with the Board of Animal Health. Brian is always willing to help in whatever way he is asked and is a tremendous asset to the association! We greatly appreciate both recipients!

Several members generously sponsored events throughout the day. They included Roger and Saichon Nietfeld sponsoring both the Morning and Afternoon Breaks and Brian Wagner sponsoring the Hospitality Room both nights.

A big thank you to Michelle Lucas for helping with the calendar raffle and to Mark Lucas for serving as auctioneer for the live auction. Many thanks to all who attended, made donations to the live and silent auctions, bid on fundraising items and helped in any way to make this another great conference!





## Membership Meeting Minutes

### January 6, 2024 – Best Western Plus Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, MN

The membership of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association held their 2024 Annual Membership Meeting on January 6, 2024 at the Best Western Plus Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, MN. President Mark Luedtke called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. He recognized guests from the Department of Agriculture, announced expected guests from the state legislature, and thanked all sponsors. Dr. Paul Anderson then led attendees in prayer.

President Luedtke asked members to review the secretary minutes from the 2023 Annual Membership Meeting. Glen Zearth moved to accept the report, Tony Beckel seconded, motion carried. Brenda Hartkopf reviewed the treasurer's report providing more detail on several different line items. The June 30, 2023 checkbook balance was \$31,497.63. Dennis Suelflow moved to accept the treasurer's report as written, Tony Beckel seconded, motion carried.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Brenda Hartkopf gave a brief overview of the 2023 farmed cervid law changes pertaining to farmed elk and encouraged members to speak to Senator Putnam and Representative Schultz when they arrived to express their concerns. She also mentioned the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association lawsuit and that it is possible a "stay" will be put on the 2023 laws while the case is decided. In the meantime, we know the farmed cervid statutes will be opened during the next legislative session as the revisor has suggested new language to provide more clarification on the statutes. This is an opportunity seek change that is positive for the industry.

Senator Putnam then arrived and was invited to the podium to speak. He shared that he was frustrated that people are not being heard and that legislators are not taking enough time to consider all views from their constituents. He will continue to work to give the farmed cervid industry a voice in the discussions.

Paul Hugunin was then invited to the podium to share information about a new, one-time grant opportunity nicknamed "PROTECT". This program will offer cost-share funding to help several industries with preparedness measures. For the Minnesota farmed cervid industry, the grant will make funds available to farmed cervid owners to help comply with the new physical barrier fencing requirements. The grant will offer to fund 50% of the project to a max of \$10,000. The grant application is expected to be available late January and run through early March. Applicants from two priority species, farmed cervidae and poultry, will have their applications processed immediately. Grant funds must

be spent by the spring of 2025. MnEBA will alert the membership as soon as the grant application is available.

Representative Isaac Shultz was then invited to the podium to speak. He shared a message that the farmed cervid industry should be appreciated and that we need to put a "backstop" on the far-left initiatives coming from St. Paul.

Brenda Hartkopf reported gun calendar raffle sales are trending about the same as last year. There were 476 stubs and money turned in by December 31. High sellers as of December 31 were Brian Wagner at 92 calendars sold, Mark Luedtke with 60 sold and Paul Hartkopf with 49 calendars sold. 41 names went into the drawing for the incentive gun drawing with Perry Olson winning the incentive gun. Hartkopf anticipates either side of 600 calendars will be sold this year compared to 618 sold last year.

Hartkopf also reported the Cash Donation fundraiser is still going on. Gold sponsors to date were Perry Olson, Brian Wagner and Mark Luedtke. Silver sponsors were Jerry Campbell, Darrell Turek, John Fredrickson and Paul Hueg. Drawing to be held later that evening.

Brenda Hartkopf reported promotion activities continue to revolve around the Minnesota State Fair booth and the State FFA Convention, where a lot of emphasis was put on encouraging young people to keep the message of agriculture alive through leadership activities. She also promoted the Minnesota Grown program and encouraged those selling elk meat and velvet products to be a member of Minnesota Grown.

Greg Lubinski and Paul Hueg discussed the State Fair and that they would be stepping down as co-chairs. It has been difficult to find help these past few years and it was getting to be too much. They will continue to support the booth at the fair, but not as chairmen. Greg will once again donate an animal for sausage products and Paul will assist in set-up if MnEBA moves forward another year. President Luedtke reluctantly accepted their resignation and thanked them for their time of service to the association.

#### NAEBA UPDATE

Brenda Hartkopf reported that NAEBA has two events coming up in 2024, the NAEBA March Mingle which takes place in Lafayette, Indiana on March 9 and the NAEBA Convention & International Antler Competition which takes place in Denver, Colorado on August 1-3. She also reported that NAEBA has been extremely



active in advocacy activities for members in several states across the nation as well as working to keep commerce open between the U.S. and Canada. Of note, NAEBA is working with the state of Utah to remove the 100<sup>th</sup> meridian restriction.

### OLD BUSINESS

Tony Beckel reported the 17<sup>th</sup> MnEBA Annual Charitable Elk Hunt went very well and while the recipient didn't know what to expect, he was extremely happy with the hunt and the animal. Hartkopf reported the bull was a full donation from Mark & Michelle Lucas and also that Klint & Lora Wylie made the trip around Minnesota to haul the bull from Pequot Lakes to Baudette. She reported the hunt recipient would be in attendance for the evening banquet.

President Luedtke reported there was very little discussion regarding CWD at the October USAHA Convention. Some of the leaders of the CWD program were not even in attendance. There was one farmed cervid resolution brought forward by Shawn Schafer regarding allowing individual states to adjust TB status and allowing testing of nodes sent in for CWD testing to also be tested to monitor for TB at the same time that ultimately passed.

### NEW BUSINESS

The board terms for Lance Hartkopf and Greg Lubinski were both up for re-election. Lance indicated he would not seek another term. Mark Lucas nominated Greg

Lubinski who accepted his nomination. This was seconded by Tony Beckel. Ben Johnson nominated Adam Johnson which was seconded by Dennis Suelflow. Lance Hartkopf moved to close nominations and accept both candidates by acclamation. Tony Beckel seconded, motion carried.

President Luedtke reported the MnEBA web site will need to be updated by the end of 2024 due to the "end of life" for the platform the site was built on in 2014. MnEBA is looking for members to participate in a temporary committee to work on recommendations for the new site. Paul Anderson volunteered his help on this committee. Members were encouraged to talk to Brenda or any board member about their willingness to serve. The first committee meeting to take place in later January.

President Luedtke discussed needing to find a volunteer farm to host the 2024 MnEBA Summer Picnic. The Zebbarths were mentioned. The Luedeke family volunteered to host once again this year if the Zebbarths declined.

Being no other business was offered, Mark Lucas moved to adjourn the meeting, Karig Wurst seconded, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

## 2024 MnEBA Gun Calendar Recap

THANK YOU to all sponsors, sellers and buyers of the 2024 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar! It was another solid year of sales with 611 calendars sold compared to 618 calendars sold last year. It was an outstanding effort by a large number of members to help raise important funds to support association activities in the coming year!

### Top Sellers

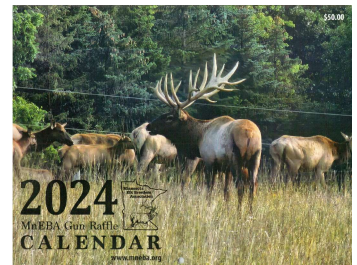
Brian Wagner was the top seller with 105 calendars sold! Paul Hartkopf was the next highest seller with 72 calendars sold followed closely by Mark Luedtke with 70 sold. Greg Lubinski also sold 50 calendars and Perry Olson sold 40. Perry also won the Winchester Wildcat Semi Auto 22LR rifle incentive gun prize.

### Seven Members Qualified for a FREE 2024 MnEBA Membership!

Seven members qualified for a free 2024 MnEBA membership after selling 30 or more calendars and returning stubs and money before December 31. This list included Brian Wagner, Wade Schimmelpfennig, Paul Hartkopf, Jerry Campbell, Perry Olson. Greg Lubinski and Mark Luedtke. The total group effort was once again amazing with calendars sold by 23 different members with additional members purchasing calendars for themselves to support MnEBA. THANK YOU to all!!!!

### 2025 MnEBA Gun Raffle Calendar

Work will soon begin on the 2025 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!



## Annual Conference Fundraisers Raise Important Funds!

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

Many thanks to everyone who donated and bid on items for this year's card gun raffle, live and silent auctions! Over \$6,700 was raised through the auctions and fundraising games for MnEBA! Thanks to Mark Lucas for serving as auctioneer and to Brian Wagner for his assistance in taking bids.

Item	Donor	Buyer
One Day/20 Bird Pheasant Hunt at Rice Creek Hunting & Rec in Little Falls, MN	Rice Creek Hunting & Recreation and Troy Bjorge	Mark Luedtke
Customized Elk Blanket	Brian Wagner	Klint Wylie
Dutch Oven	Mark & Michelle Lucas	Jerry Campbell
Elk Antler Knife	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Roger Nietfeld
Elk Coat Rack	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Darrell Turek
Elk Puzzle	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Perry Olson
(3) Elk Sausage	Greg Lubinski	Kraig Wurst, Klint Wylie, Greg Lubinski
Hickory Sticks Bundle	MnEBA	Dean Compart
Elk Jerky Bundle	MnEBA	Brody Lindsley
Ladies Basket	Darrell Turek & Sheila Krukowski	Lora Wylie
LED Spotlight	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Hayden Lindsley
(2) MN Grown Box Bundles	MnEBA	Mark Luedtke, Mark Lucas
Mossy Oak Men's Sweatshirt	Darrell Turek & Sheila Krukowski	Perry Olson
Outdoor Performance Long Sleeve Shirt	Troy Bjorge	Gary Smith
Peppi Sticks Bundle	MnEBA	Jason Smith
Pewter Beer Mugs	MnEBA	Kelly Luedeke
Pewter Beer Pitcher	MnEBA	Kelly Luedeke
(5) Pie Raffle	MnEBA (gun) and Dennis Engebretson (pies)	Chad Lawler, Klint Wylie, Brian Wagner, Dean Compart, Brad Snelling
Real Tree Ladie's Sweatshirt	Darrell Turek & Sheila Krukowski	Dee Parker
Rifle/Shotgun Sock	MnEBA	Wade Schimmelpfennig
Savage .270	Troy Bjorge	Paul Hartkopf
Shotgun Shell Bird House	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Hailie Luedtke
Stony Brook Creekside Cabin Stay	Jerry & Linda Campbell	Mark Lucas
Elk Table Runner	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Kraig Wurst
Woodwick Candle	Lance & Brenda Hartkopf	Kaye Compart

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

MnEBA once again held the MnEBA Cash Donation Fundraiser this year with winners drawn at the end of the recent convention. This funding raises important funds which helps MnEBA to support the legislative effort ahead. Special incentives were offered at specific donation levels. The following nine members participated in the cash donation fundraiser that raised \$3,250 for MnEBA!

### **GOLD (\$500) Eligible to win a Winchester XPR Hunter 24" Krytek Highlander Permacote 270WIN**

Mark Luedtke

Perry Olson

Brian Wagner

Glen Zebarth

### **SILVER (\$250) Eligible to win a Henry H001 Lever Action .22LR**

Jerry Campbell

John Fredrickson

Paul Hueg

Darrel Turek

Kraig Wurst

Perry Olson won the Winchester and Paul Hueg won the Henry.

Thank you to all for your generosity!

## Board Meeting Minutes

### Board Meeting Minutes January 26, 2024

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association Board of Directors held a meeting via Zoom on Friday January 26, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. Mark Luedtke, Lance Hartkopf, Brian Wagner, Jerry Campbell, Greg Lubinski, Adam Johnson and Brenda Hartkopf were present. President Luedtke called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. and asked for any additions to the agenda. None were offered.

President Luedtke asked for corrections or additions to the November 3 and December 20 board meeting minutes as previously distributed. Wagner approved both reports, Lubinski seconded, motion carried.

B. Hartkopf then went on to discuss current MnEBA financials, providing detail on several line items. The January 23, 2024 checkbook balance was \$52,096.20. Campbell moved to accept the treasurer's report, Lubinski seconded, motion carried.

#### OLD BUSINESS

B. Hartkopf reported there were 64 attendees at this year's annual conference compared to 52 last year. Feedback from this year's conference was positive and the auctions were well supported. Board discussed possible locations desired for next year. B. Hartkopf to follow up and report proposals to the board.

Final sale numbers for the 2024 MnEBA Gun Raffle calendar were 611 calendars sold compared to 618 last year. Top sellers were Brian Wagner (105), Paul Hartkopf (72) and Mark Luedtke (70). There were seven complimentary memberships earned by members selling a minimum of 30 calendars with stubs and money turned in by December 31. Comments on the 2024 calendar were positive. At this time, no major changes are planned for the 2025 calendar.

B. Hartkopf reported the newly formed web site committee is suggesting keeping the branding theme and content on the current web site, but to work to simplify content by eliminating items that have had little interest over the past 10 years since it was last updated. The committee is working on a Request for Proposals to get quotes for updating the site.

The legislative committee reported they are working to finalize a proposed CWD Risk Assessment import application which can be presented to be used as an added safeguard to restore confidence in reopening the border to elk importations. The committee also supplied a letter for review regarding a fencing

request for the BAH. After much discussion, it was decided to table the letter until more supporting documentation could be provided to accompany the letter.

B. Hartkopf reported on the importance of needing clarification to current fencing guidelines, notably electric fencing details. A meeting between the BAH, DNR and industry representatives will be scheduled by BAH within the next week or two.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Election of officers was held. Vice President Lance Hartkopf asked for nominations for President. Wagner nominated Mark Luedtke which he accepted. Campbell seconded and motion was carried. As this was the last meeting for L. Hartkopf, Mark thanked him for his years of service and Adam Johnson was welcomed to the board. Luedtke asked for nominations for Vice President. Campbell nominated Greg Lubinski who accepted his nomination. Wagner seconded, motion carried. Luedtke opened the floor for nominations for Secretary/Treasurer. Campbell nominated Brian Wagner who accepted the nomination. Seconded by Lubinski, motion carried.

As both Greg Lubinski and Paul Hueg announced at the annual meeting they were stepping down as co-chairs of the MnEBA State Fair booth, there was discussion on a need for more people to help man the booth as well as needing a new chairman/co-chair. The first downpayment for the 2024 booth is due in April. It was decided to send the membership both a letter and multiple e-blasts outlining the need for folks to commit to how many shifts they can work in the booth at the 2024 State Fair by April 1. If there is not enough commitment made, the MnEBA State Fair booth will be discontinued before the first downpayment is due.

The Luedeke family has once again offered to host the 2024 Summer Meeting if no one else indicates an interest. They have proposed Saturday June 22. As last year's June 24 Summer Picnic was well attended, the board finalized June 22 for the 2024 MnEBA Summer Picnic in Miltna.

The next board meeting was tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 4 via Zoom. Wagner moved to adjourn the meeting, Campbell seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Hartkopf, Executive Secretary

August 22 – Labor Day September 2, 2024



## COMMITMENTS by MnEBA Members Needed to Continue the MnEBA Booth at the Minnesota State Fair

### Your Response Needed by April 1<sup>st</sup>!

MnEBA has proudly displayed a booth at the Minnesota State Fair for many years. This venue has always been our best opportunity to share our story with the general public about the great benefits of raising elk, promote elk products, and develop relationships with regulatory officials and fairgoers over the years. Everyone agrees this is something we want to continue if possible.

However, as membership numbers have declined over time, trophy bulls sales and moving bulls in August have become the mainstay for many folks in the industry, and people are concerned for personal safety, these and many other factors have contributed to a continual decrease in the number of people who have been willing/able to help in the Minnesota State Fair booth.

MnEBA is at a crossroads with being able to have a booth at the State Fair this year due to simply not having enough help to man the booth during all shifts at the fair. Once we leave the fair, it will be difficult to get back in. There are 12 days to the State Fair and 24 shifts to cover with a minimum of two people needed per shift. We also need new chair/co-chairs for the State Fair as both Paul Hueg and Greg Lubinski are stepping down. Both have agreed to help anyone new learn what's required and will help set up the booth the first year.

To move forward with the State Fair booth this year, there needs to be a commitment made by MnEBA members by April 1<sup>st</sup> to work more shifts at the fair. This year's event runs from Thursday August 22 – Monday September 2. If continuing the Minnesota State Fair booth is important to you and you are willing to commit the time to help, please contact Brenda at the office by phone, 320-543-2686, email [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org), or text 320-282-3241 with how many shifts you are willing to commit to for both weekday and/or weekend shifts. Shift times are the morning shift from 8:00AM-2:00PM and the afternoon shift from 2:00PM-9:00PM. While there are 24 shifts altogether, each shift needs two workers, so we are looking at 48 spots needing to be filled. Please also consider if you can help to lead the effort to have a Minnesota State Fair booth by chairing the committee.

To move forward with the State Fair booth this year, there needs to be a commitment made by MnEBA members by April 1<sup>st</sup> to work more shifts at the fair.

This commitment must be made no later than April 1, 2024. After that time, if there is not enough response from members to man the booth, the booth will reluctantly be discontinued. April is the month booth vendors are required to make their first payments and why commitments need to be made in the coming weeks. The board sincerely hopes we can make this work, but for that to happen, we will need much more assistance working shifts at the booth from the membership than we have had in recent years. Thank you for carefully considering what you can do to help.

If continuing the Minnesota State Fair booth is important to you and you are willing to commit the time to help, please contact Brenda at the office by phone, 320-543-2686, email [info@mneba.org](mailto:info@mneba.org), or text 320-282-3241 with how many shifts you are willing to commit to for both weekday and/or weekend shifts.



## Board Blog by Greg Lubinski, Vice President



Hello everybody!

The last time I wrote the letter to Brenda I was in deep snow and lying flat on my back because of the ice. This year I didn't know if I should break out the lawn mower or not. Unbelievable winter; no snow! We had a green Christmas and New Year's which was good because it saved on feeding hay which I didn't start doing until the 1st of February. Being that we were in a terrible drought in the summer of 2023, I'll have plenty of hay until the new grass grows. Hopefully I have a very good hay crop this year.

As I'm writing this to you right now, I'm in Mexico looking out at the ocean and it is a very beautiful site. I just got done talking to my son at home and he said it's about 50° so I won't be coming home to cold weather. I don't know if that's good or bad, but we'll take what we can get.

Calving season is going to be right around the corner and I hope everybody's cows have calves. I hope you all are thinking about the State Fair. It would be nice to be able to have everybody at the fair. Give it some deep thought and we'll see you later.

Greg

"I hope you all are thinking about the State Fair. It would be nice to be able to have everybody at the fair. Give it some deep thought..."

### RACK PLUS™ FOR OUTSTANDING RESULTS

**OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IS THE HALLMARK OF ADM'S DEER AND ELK FEEDING PROGRAM.**

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#### DEER & ELK 18-4 (81686AAA) AND DEER & ELK 18-5 BREEDER (81692AAA)

- Complete, pelleted feeds formulated specifically for deer and elk
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- Both products provide 18% protein and no more than 14% fiber; 18-4 provides 4% fat and 18-5 provides 5% fat
- 18-5 Breeder: Formulated specifically for the breeding herd; also provides natural-source vitamin E, B-complex vitamins, selenium yeast, and Antler D™\*

CitiStim®, an ADM proprietary feed ingredient, is a proven, truly unique, whole-cell, inactivated yeast product that may help the animal strengthen its defense against health challenges by supporting and optimizing gut function, gut integrity, and body defense responses.

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

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## Fencing for Farmed Cervidae Minnesota Statutes

(Released 2/27/2024)

### Minnesota Statutes § 35.155, subd. 4, provides, in part:

- Farmed Cervidae must be confined in a manner designed to prevent escape.
- All perimeter fences for farmed Cervidae must be at least 96 inches in height and be constructed and maintained in a way that prevents the escape of farmed Cervidae, entry into the premises by free-roaming Cervidae, and physical contact between farmed Cervidae and free-roaming Cervidae.
- The Board of Animal Health or commissioner of natural resources may determine whether the construction and maintenance of fencing is adequate to prevent physical contact or escape under this subdivision and may compel corrective action when fencing is determined to be inadequate.
- All new fencing installed, and all fencing used to repair deficiencies, must be high tensile.

### Examples of Exclusionary Fencing Plans

The examples listed below are for illustrative purposes only and are not an exhaustive list for satisfying the statute. Exclusionary fencing plans will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Animal Health (Board) on a case-by-case basis. The purpose of this document is to provide examples of exclusionary fencing plans that the Board believes would satisfy the no physical contact requirement; the examples provided are informational only and should not be interpreted as creating new criteria or requirements beyond what is already established in the relevant statutes and rules. The statements in this document do not have the force and effect of law.

#### 1. Double 8 foot (96 inches) high fencing at least 4 feet apart

#### 2. Secondary (coupled) fence attached to the outside of an existing 8-foot fence:

- Secondary fence composed of welded wire mesh fence material with openings no larger than 2 inches by 4 inches that is minimum of 4 feet in height, parallel to the perimeter fence.
- Spacers are attached such that they maintain a minimum of 12-inch space between the two fences.
- The bottom of the fence is no more than 6 inches above the ground and the top is a minimum of 4 feet, 6 inches above the ground.

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

- Solid material such as wood, metal, or densely woven shade cloth.
- Solid material must be attached to perimeter fence no more than 6 inches above the ground.
- The top of the solid material must be at a minimum height of 5 feet or 60 inches from the ground.

#### 4. Electric fencing:

Number of electrified wires	Height of top wire from ground	Height of lowest wire from ground (must be electrified)	Distance from perimeter fence	Maximum distance between electrified wires
Four wires	48 inches	16 inches	16 to 36 inches	11 inches
Five wires	48 inches	10 to 12 inches	12 to 16 inches	9.5 inches

- Electrified 12.5 gauge high tensile or larger diameter fencing wire must be used to create an external barrier.
- The fence must deliver a minimum of 5000 volts/8 joules throughout the length of the fence.
- An industrial strength fencer with alarm notification and battery backup must be utilized to electrify the fence.



## New MDA Grant Funding Available for Protecting Livestock

Final Date to Apply is March 7, 2024

**January 25, 2024** - To help Minnesota farmers and ranchers protect livestock from disease and other risks, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is offering a new grant opportunity to help eligible producers buy and install supplies or equipment that will help prevent disease outbreaks and protect animals not currently covered by existing depredation programs.

The Protecting Livestock Grant Program, also referred to as the Protect Grant, offers one-time competitive grants of up to \$10,000 and requires a 50% match. While all types of livestock operations are eligible to apply, priority consideration will be given to those who produce:

- **Cervids (farmed elk and deer): Due to new fencing requirements passed during the 2023 legislative session.**
- Poultry and ratites (ostrich, emu): Due to the ongoing threat of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Since 2022, the most recent outbreak has affected at least 150 poultry operations and more than 6 million birds in Minnesota.

“With risks like chronic wasting disease and HPAI continuing to threaten Minnesota livestock, it’s important for farmers and ranchers to take proactive efforts to protect their animals,” said MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen. “I encourage all livestock producers to apply for these grant funds to fortify their operations.”

For the purpose of this program, “livestock” includes beef and dairy cattle, swine, poultry, goats, mules, bison, sheep, horses, farmed cervids (deer, elk), ratites (flightless birds including emu), llamas, and honeybees.

Eligible projects include fencing, electronic animal ID systems, air filtration, exclusion systems, Danish entry systems, truck washes, and other strategies to prevent and mitigate disease and other risks.

A total of \$500,000 is available, and the MDA expects to award 50-75 grants. Applications are currently being accepted through March 7, 2024. Applicants will be notified as soon as possible, but no later than April 15, about whether their proposal was funded.

The Protecting Livestock Grant Program is funded through the Agricultural Growth and Research Initiative (AGRI) Program, which provides grants to farmers, agribusinesses, schools, and more throughout the state of Minnesota. The AGRI Program exists to advance Minnesota’s agricultural and renewable energy sectors.

Full grant details and the request for proposals (RFP) can be found on the MDA website.

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting-livestock-protect-grant>

### Editor’s Note: EVERYONE IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY!

Even if you are not sure if you are adding a physical barrier, you are highly encouraged to apply so the money is available to you if you need it. DO NOT WAIT to see what will happen legislatively or for the outcome of the deer breeders’ lawsuit. Make sure the money is there if you need it. This is a one-time-only special grant offering. If you have not already applied, make it a priority to apply by March 7!



## Legislative Update

The 2024 Minnesota legislative session began on February 12. No new bills regarding farmed cervidae have surfaced as of yet but we know the Revisor has requested more clarity to the farmed cervidae language that passed last year, primarily in the area of the transfer of oversight of farmed whitetail deer from the Board of Animal Health to the Department of Natural Resources.

That being said, MnEBA is in the process of pursuing the following initiatives at the State Capitol this year. See the following for issues of concern and reasons why.



## MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

### Re: Statutory Changes Requested

Date: February 12, 2024

**Whereas Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has not been detected in a Minnesota farmed elk in 15 years;**

**Whereas years of anecdotal evidence in both wild and farmed environments show elk and deer do not naturally interact;**

**Whereas elk breeders from across Minnesota are suffering from the effects of new laws passed during the last legislative session and many are suddenly leaving the industry as a result.**

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association (MnEBA) is requesting statutory changes to four primary areas of concern regarding legislation passed during the 2023 legislative session:

**1. Section 35.115 Subd. 4 Fencing.** The addition of requiring a physical barrier be added to all existing fencing to prevent nose to nose contact between wild deer and farmed cervids. We would ask that elk facilities be removed from the physical barrier requirement.

- Adding a physical barrier is not scientifically supported to prevent the spread of CWD. Research from the University of Minnesota has concluded that transmission by nose-to-nose contact through a single fence is unlikely. (<https://cwdbiosecurity.umn.edu/transmission-pathways/>)
- No other state requires the addition of a physical barrier to existing 96" fencing or double fencing of all farmed cervid facilities.
- By nature, elk and deer do not interact in the wild or farmed setting.
- Because of this requirement, we estimate losing a third of all current elk producers by the effective date, September 1, 2024 and additional producers within two years as they take more time to completely dissolve their herds.

**2. Section 35.155 Subd. 11(d)(7) Mandatory surveillance for chronic wasting disease; depopulation.** Section (d)(7) requires the owner of a farmed cervidae facility to record with the county recorder or registrar of titles the legal description of the premises, date of detection, the date of depopulation, the landowner requirements under this paragraph, and other information required by the board. This notice is to expire 10 years after the date of detection stated in the notice. We would ask the new deed requirement language be stricken.

- CWD requirements and restrictions are necessary disclosures on the purchase agreement for a property where CWD has been identified (Subd. 11(d)(6). But it is redundant to also require this information be recorded on a property deed (Subd. 11(d)(7).
- There are no requirements for private landowners to report known CWD exposure on their real estate deeds. Singling out a landowner using their property to raise cervids versus a landowner using their property for raising crops, recreation or other land use is discriminatory.

**3. Section 35.155 Subd. 12(a) Importation.** This section removes the ability to import farmed cervids into the state from a state or province where CWD has been detected in the farmed or wild cervid population in the past five years unless the animal has tested not detected for CWD with a validated live-animal test. We request elk be removed from this requirement and we support increased import requirements as determined by the Board.

- Under previous regulations, we are not aware of any documented instance where a farmed cervid moving from an out of state herd to a Minnesota herd caused that herd to later become infected with CWD.
- Elk producers are now losing business from out of state breeders who have told us they will no longer buy animals from us because we can't buy from them.
- While a live-animal test for whitetail deer is nearing federal approval, the same cannot be said for federal approval of elk which is not even on the horizon.
- We are working with the Board of Animal Health to create stronger, more transparent import requirements.

**4. Chapter 52 Article 10 Section 77 Subd. (6)(a) Animal Premises Data.** In Chapter 52, farmed cervidae premises location data collected and maintained under section 35.155 is now classified as public information. This information includes a cervid producer's name, address and identification number of the premises or the animal. We are asking to remove this exemption for farmed cervidae owners.

- Data privacy has been a basic protection for all farmed animal premises for decades, regardless of the species or disease outbreak.
- Farmed cervidae producers are being discriminated against over all other farmed species owners.
- Any farmed cervid owner falling victim to CWD infection in their herd is in personal danger by misguided individuals, public humiliation and loss of reputation. Animal owner victims of disease outbreaks are rarely "bad actors" but instead unfortunate victims of diseases their animals are susceptible to.

We are at the most significant crossroads the elk industry has ever seen because of excessive new laws passed during the 2023 legislative session. We believe that in five years, 80% or more of today's elk producers will have left the industry as a result. Chronic Wasting Disease is present in wild deer in 14% of Minnesota counties today and is spreading through natural movement at an unknown, but steady rate. Extreme measures against farmed cervidae owners are not going to reverse this trend but instead serve to drive away farmers who support their local businesses and provide wide-spread taxpayer benefits to the state. We urge you to support these hard-working individuals and to stand up for equal rights for every Minnesota farmer.

Sincerely,



Mark Luedtke, MnEBA President

## MnEBA Kitchen

Looking for something different to try for supper that is quick and easy?  
Try BBQ Elk Meatballs!

### BBQ Elk Meatballs

#### Meatballs:

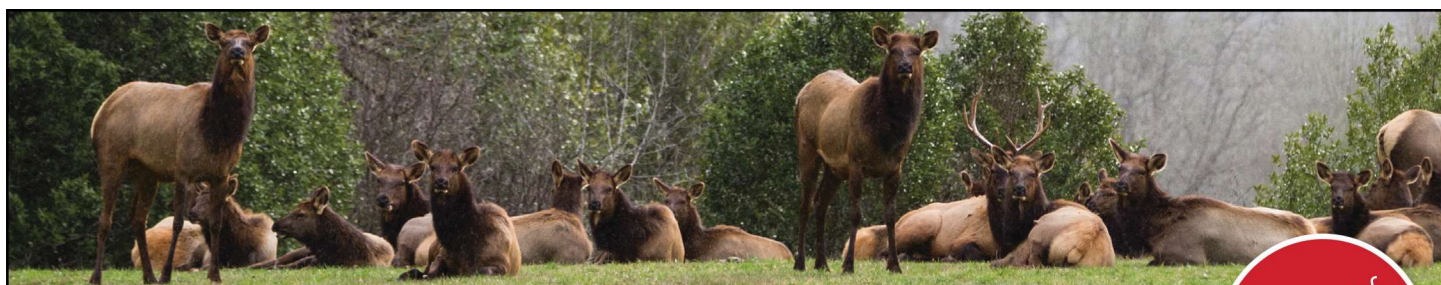
1 lb. ground elk	1 egg
1 tsp. salt	1/3 c. milk
1/4 tsp. pepper	1/4 c. chopped onion
1 c. soda cracker crumbs	

#### Sauce:

1 c. ketchup	1 Tbsp. vinegar
1/2 c. water	3 Tbsp. brown sugar
1/2 tsp. chili powder	1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce

#### DIRECTIONS

Combine meatball ingredients. Shape into balls and brown in frying pan in a small amount of oil. Place meatballs in single layer in baking dish. Mix sauce and pour over meatballs. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes, covered.



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



## Vet Corner by Glen Zebarth, DVM

### Spring Management Decisions to Make Now

This is the time of year when bulls begin shedding their antlers/buttons from last year- the beginning of seeing what bulls will do in the new antler growing season. Occasionally, we will see a bull that drops one button, but the other button wants to hang on and doesn't fall off. If you see a bull with this issue, keep watching him and if you see that velvet is beginning to grow around the button, it is important to bring that bull in as soon as possible and get the button pulled off. Once the button is off, treat the area with disinfectant and if it looks infected, also give an antibiotic such as LA 200®.

Another good thing to watch for is the body condition of the bulls at this time of year. Ideally, you want bulls to be in very good condition when buttons drop, although that is sometimes easier said than done. Begin giving better quality hay and add grain if you haven't already. The better the condition of the bulls throughout the entire growing season, the greater amount of velvet and hard antler the bull will produce.

Monitor and make sure bulls are getting adequate copper. If there is no copper in the current feed ration, make sure to add it to the ration immediately. Copper levels are always important to monitor. This is best done when sending animals to slaughter and taking that opportunity to check the livers of different genders and multiple age groups for copper levels when you have the chance.

Now is the time to be thinking about which bulls you plan to velvet and which bulls to grow out. If you have a handling facility, separate the two groups if at all possible. The fewer times hard antler bulls have to go through the chute, the better to minimize the chance of unnecessary damage. As velveting bulls are brought into the barn several times a season, it is best for hard antler bulls to not have to go through the facility if they do not have to.

When it comes time to sell trophy bulls, the sooner you can move them the better. Know who the buyer is, have your paperwork organized early and be ready to move them as soon as they are done growing. It can even be as soon as a week before they begin shedding their velvet. This will save from death loss. It seems once bulls are ready, it is not unusual to lose a bull just days before they are scheduled to move. A lot of hunt ranches will take them early. It does not hurt to ask how early you can ship the bulls and that should improve the odds of not losing a bull just before shipment.

This is also a critical time to check the body condition of your cows. If cows are too thin, you need to increase their body condition by improving hay quality and adding grain. There is such a thing as a cow being too thin going into calving. She will likely calve okay, but the calf may not have the stamina it should, and the cow will be low on milk putting the calf at greater risk of illness or death. On the other hand, if the cow is in overweight condition and big globs of fat are evident, now is the time to put the cow on coarser hay until she loses that extra weight. Once the cows begin to calve, most cow groups will need grain to keep the cows providing adequate milk for their calves.

Now is the time to be thinking about how you wish to separate your cows for calving. Some breeders separate by age, others by genetics, and still others by body condition, putting pregnant females together of similar body condition so they can be fed the needed feed ration for their current body condition status.

Putting thought into these management decisions now can provide unlimited benefits this season. From making sure buttons cast correctly to getting bulls sorted into separate pens early on to moving trophy bulls as soon as possible, these simple management decisions can be the difference between moving a bull this year, being forced to hang on to it for another year, or the worst outcome, losing a bull. Also making sure your cows are in the correct body condition going into calving will increase the likelihood of healthy, thriving calves that will be your means of income in future years. These are management strategies under our control that can help our operations be successful for the long haul.

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

## Welcome New Members

MnEBA welcomed two new members at the end of last year- Shane & Jennifer Horrocks and Matt Hitchen. We welcome Shane & Jennifer and Matt to MnEBA and look forward to sharing friendship and comradery together!

**Matt Hitchen**, 16208 450<sup>th</sup> Street, Fertile, MN 56540, 218-289-5630, [hitchen5004@yahoo.com](mailto:hitchen5004@yahoo.com).

**Shane & Jennifer Horrocks**, MaxRax Wildlife Nutrition Inc., 108 El Cid Drive, Rockport, TX 78382, 979-224-4399, [maxraxdeerfeed@gmail.com](mailto:maxraxdeerfeed@gmail.com).

## Calendar of Events

**March 8-9, 2024** – NAEBA March Mingle, Courtyard Marriott, Lafayette, IN

**June 22, 2024** – MnEBA Summer Picnic, Elkoholics Elk Farm, Milona, MN

**August 1-3, 2024** – NAEBA Annual Convention & International Antler Competition, Hilton Fort Collins, Fort Collins, CO

## 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.



## 2024 MnEBA Scholarship Application Now Available!

**The MnEBA scholarship application for 2024 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 2024/Spring 2025 school year. One scholarship in the amount of \$350 is available. An agriculture-related field of study is preferred, but not limited to. Previous award recipients are not eligible to reapply.

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

### Spring Coulee Velvet Capsules



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