

There is something intriguing in the pastures of the Northeast. A growing number of farmers are raising Fallow Deer, Red Deer, and Elk for venison and velvet antler production. In doing so, they are joining an increasingly popular worldwide movement toward producing leaner, more healthful and natural red meat for both the gourmet and the consumer markets. Farm-raised venison is an exciting and challenging growth industry all over the world.

Several years ago, farmers in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont began taking advantage of changes in the law in their respective states and raising deer. The herds are still relatively small and growing. As they grow, they become more visible and well known, and interest in the industry grows. The venison produced here has met with an enthusiastic response, and indications are good that there is a broad potential market.



To take advantage of that potential while maintaining high standards of production processing, and to share helpful information with regard to all aspects of deer husbandry, many of the pioneering deer farmers of northern New England formed The Northern New England Deer Farmer's Association, which in 1998 became Northeast Deer and Elk Farmers to better reflect the change in the market area and the growing number of elk farmers.

The Association seeks to aid its members in several ways. By arranging for specialists to address the membership at the annual meeting, the organization provides a give and take with knowledgeable authorities on topics of interest to deer and elk farmers. Special courses and demonstrations on topics such as butchering and marketing and other subjects can be presented to suit the membership's interests.

Members receive a quarterly newsletter. The newsletter gives news and advice from around the world, as well as announcements of field days and other events. An annual directory of our membership is distributed to members who can also choose to be listed on our web site: [www.ndef.org](http://www.ndef.org).

We encourage our members to become actively involved in our industry by contacting legislators and wildlife officials when important issues come up that affect our ability to raise and market our animals. We encourage YOU to become one of our members!



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Farm/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Species Owned \_\_\_\_\_

Number \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Website URL: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want to be listed in our next Directory? \_\_\_\_\_

On our web site? \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

**To join the association, complete the information above and mail with a check or money order for \$40.00 to:**

**Northeast Deer and Elk Farmers, Inc.  
C/O Henry Ahern, Treasurer  
601 Daniel Webster Hwy  
Plymouth NH 03264**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**The Northeast Deer and Elk Farmers, Inc.**

**Board of Directors  
2006-2007**

<b>Robert Root (2008)</b> Mariah Elk Farm 13055 Rt. 38 Berkshire NY 13736	<b>President</b>   (607) 657-8069
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Richard Frost (VT) 2007

Jim Neil (NH) (2008)

Tom Peryea (NY) (2008)

Ken Swett (ME) 2009

Tony Tuttle (ME) (2007)

**FALLOW DEER** are a species which originated in the Mediterranean and Near Eastern areas.

They are smaller than the Whitetail with 18 month old bucks dressing out at 55 to 70 lbs. hanging weight. The venison is very tender, fine grained, and mild flavored, and is prized by gourmets.

Often considered to be flighty, experience raising them in a farm environment has shown that they will tame down considerably with good handling procedures and repeated exposure to their handlers. Their high natural disease resistance and ability to both graze and browse make them a low maintenance animal with modest labor requirements.

**RED DEER** and **ELK** are native to most of the northern hemisphere. Included in the species are the European Red Deer, the North American Elk (or Wapiti), as well as several Asian subspecies. They are one of the larger members of the deer family, and produce venison which has a texture similar to beef, with a mild game flavor. The velvet antler of the Red Deer and Elk is highly valued by the oriental medicinal market with a growing following in Western markets.

Large, impressive animals, they are generally calm and easy to handle with a little experience.

Fencing requirements are similar for these animals and may be subject to state regulation.



**Deer and Elk Farming  
in the  
Northeast**



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