

Northeast Deer and Elk Farmer News



Fall 2006

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Membership is available to anyone at a cost of \$40 US per year. Checks should be made out to NDEF and mailed, along with the filled out Membership Application in this issue of the Newsletter, to Henry Ahern, Treasurer as listed below. Membership includes a newsletter subscription, and 2 free classified ads per year.

Advertising rates:

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 Half Page \$25.00
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Camera Ready Ads for the NDEF newsletter should be sent to Meadow Lane Secretarial Services, 7 Meadow Lane, Windsor, VT 05089 or e - mailed to meadowsec@adelphia.net.

Payment for Ads to be sent to:

Henry Ahern, Treasurer
 Bonnie Brae Farms
 601 Daniel Webster Highway
 Plymouth, NH 03264

President's Paddock by Bob Root

Hello All

Rut, do I need say more, the most exciting time of year is upon us. Fall with its numerous colors, hunting seasons, cooler temperatures, and shorter days, that woodsy tang in the air, who can argue with that. Did you finish the new paddocks yet is the question, no is the answer to that, where does the time go, what seems to be a very busy day is absorbed by this that and the other. Seems as though it was just yesterday we were waiting for the first calf to hit the ground to herald in calving season and warmer temperatures, now we are rushing to put the finishing touches to a never ending list of to-dos before the snow starts to pile up.

At the time of this writing there is an important matter going on in the state of Idaho, which will in some way affect all of us in the cervid industry. It has been reported that a herd of farmed elk has escaped from the Chief Joseph Ranch in eastern Idaho, owned by Rex Rammell. The fear is that this herd of estimated 160+ elk will contaminate the wild herd which is in this area, through disease, breeding and the like. This is important because the government agencies have been leaning toward banning the ranching of deer and elk, and the operation of hunt preserves in this state, this only adds fuel to the fire. Although the owner is trying to get his herd back, the governor has ordered the killing of these animals by official shooters, and an emergency hunt on adjoining private lands with the owner's permission, which will allow hunters with elk permits to harvest these animals, with ear tags, with no repercussion from the herd owner. The Idaho Elk Breeders Association has spent many hours of discussion and meetings with government officials, to run damage control to help preserve the farming and preserve hunting, of deer and elk, in their state.

The antler grant is nearing completion, your grant steering committee has been busy with meetings and several emails, the outcome should be interesting and possibly profitable to the membership.

Do you know of anyone who is an elk or deer farmer, rancher, who is not a member of NDEF, if so invite them to join there is power in numbers? Start now in planning to attend the NDEF annual meeting and antler competition to be held in the state of Maine and hosted by Ken Swett and Tony Tuttle.

Until later
 Bob Root

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SUPPORT-----BACKING-----HELP,

these words and many others could be used to lend meaning to what is needed by this and other groups of the deer and elk industry.

Think for a moment as to what you have invested in the setting up of your farm or ranch, the cost of the property, fencing, animals, taxes, time. Tens of thousands of dollars spent for the industry you believe in, so why wouldn't you want to invest a very small percentage of that total and get the support of thousands of people with like interest.

We are talking about dues and membership to organizations which lend support to our industry, NDEF Inc., NADeFA, NAEBA, FARM BUREAU, and many state chapters of the deer and elk industry, to name a few. If you were to put these 4 groups' yearly dues together it would cost a little over \$300.00. With this small amount you get the support of thousands of like minded people working to the same cause, and that is to keep this industry in motion. We as individuals can not do it alone it takes time and lots of money to challenge distractions, and institute change to the betterment of our industry. Each of these groups use and support lobbyists on the state and national level to help bend the ear, and educate governmental leaders toward our wants and needs, for votes in our favor.

This does not mean join, pay the money and set back and let a few people run the show. Participate, be heard. When called upon for letters or calls to elected officials, write that letter, make that call, it doesn't take a lot of time, and it will be noticed. Be involved, our industry is being challenged on all sides not just those who think we shouldn't be raising deer and elk behind high fence, but sports organizations as well, who for reasons of their own would like to see us closed down.

The bottom line is that support is needed to keep our industry going, will you help. You have already chosen to take the first step in the raising of deer and elk to supply an ever growing need for their by products, let's protect that, with support to the organization of your choice.

Bob Root
President NDEF Inc.
NAEBA board member

New York News

This years CWD monitoring will again be aggressive in the Oneida Containment Area and the whole state. It is mandatory to turn in hunter kills for testing from this area, to speed up the process a new collection center has been set up just south of Rome, New York. It is felt by a few that if nothing is found this year, this crisis will grind down, not be forgotten but will fall to a back burner so to speak. For more info visit the NYSDEC website.

Bob Root

Vermont News By Koran Cousino

Vermont NDEF members are still monitoring the progress of Vermont's Fish and Wildlife Board as they draft new Rules Governing the Importation of Animals for the Purpose of Hunting. The Fish and Wildlife Board has been discussing this topic for four months now. The next meeting is on October 18th in Montpelier where the Board will most likely vote to accept a draft of the rules and send them out for public comment. The public comment period will be the deer and elk industry's chance to give our opinions about how these rules will affect the hunt preserves as well as the rest of the farms and ranches in the state. With so many steps in the rulemaking process we are still a long way away from the implementation of the new rules and are optimistic that they will be workable for the deer and elk industry.

News from New Hampshire

By Jim Neil

Folks in the Granite State have had their noses to the grindstone this summer. The weather finally straightened out from a very wet start and it appears the hay season ended up pretty well, albeit, a bit later than normal.

Any available spare time for many has been put to use working on the velvet antler pet supplement project. Unfortunately for Cindy and Henry at Bonnie Brae Farms, the bulk of the burden has fallen on their shoulders. The project is however moving forward. I am sure a report will be published in this newsletter, so no more need be said.

It seems our farmers markets have pretty much shadowed the haying experience. Slow in early summer with sales picking up as the weather improved. With the arrival of lovely late summer/fall weather, and now foliage season upon us – sales have set all time highs for some participating vendors I have spoken to. A great way to market our product, but it certainly requires a high level of commitment.

Elk and deer farmers from New Hampshire to as far off as Michigan/Wisconsin have been contacted by a lady identifying

herself as “Chris” with a New Hampshire phone number and location interested in buying deer and elk. Lots of deer and elk, from what I hear. At this point I have spoken with no one who has seen any money, but reports of various “sales.” What is this all about??? On top of that, as far as I know, New Hampshire borders are still closed to cervid importation. Does someone know something I don't?

Earlier in the summer I spoke with deer farmer and venison purveyor Russell Haney. Russ informed they were planning on expanded their operations into store front retail. I was passing through the quaint little village of Bath, NH last week and passed “Haney's Bridgeview Deli” right on busy Route 302. Michele explained that the purchase of the market has taken place and they are up and running offering deli products, and a line of their own venison and value added products as well. What a terrific location, next to the tourist destinations of the “Brick Store” (advertised as the oldest continuously operating general store in America), and the “Bath Covered Bridge.” Finding a place to park was a challenge with the slug of fall tourists last week. Best of luck Russ and Michele. Who says the deer and elk industry is not moving forward?

State Correspondents

Please send any information or articles for inclusion in the Newsletter to the following State Correspondents:

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VERMONT

Koran Casey Cousino

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PRESS RELEASE: Domestic elk escape in Southeast Idaho from Chief Joseph Ranch

September 8, 2006

RE: Domestic elk escape in Southeast Idaho from Chief Joseph Ranch

The Idaho Elk Breeders Association and the North American Elk Breeders regret the recent unfortunate incident at the Chief Joseph Elk Ranch in Southeast Idaho.

Elk breeders throughout North America welcome appropriate regulation of the industry and desire prompt enforcement of those regulations where indicated. All members of IEBA must be in good standing with the rules and regulations, which govern the industry. Failure to comply with state regulations for domestic cervidae, as overseen by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, disallows membership in that organization. The rancher in question is not a member of IEBA.

Both associations, IEBA and NAEBA, while not defending any alleged violation of current regulations is concerned that inaccurate information has been conveyed regarding this event which must be corrected to properly inform the public:

1. Mandatory testing of all cervidae for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) can only be accomplished post mortem, thus the ISDA is not able to test live animals for CWD. There are live animal tests for Brucellosis and Tuberculosis.
2. Idaho law requires two types of official identification, at least one of which must be visible from one hundred fifty feet (not 150 yards as earlier reported). There is no requirement for a "blaze orange" ear tag.
3. Elk are readily adaptable to many types of situations and do not charge fences unless being pursued by a predator or otherwise frightened. Herd animals generally stay within a specific herd range or home ground thus pose little risk of escape normally.

4. The animals in question or their ancestry were tested for genetic purity by a qualified laboratory and declared pure elk, as it is illegal to propagate red deer in the state of Idaho.
5. We understand that a serious attempt to recapture the escaped animals has been made and many have been recovered or killed as of Sept. 8, 2006.

IEBA and NAEBA strongly support Governor Risch's Emergency Order to depopulate the domestic elk that have not been recaptured and will be working with Gov. Risch, the Idaho legislature and relevant state agencies to review the need for additional regulatory authority to enable the ISDA to prevent further similar occurrences.

In contrast to domestic livestock, wild elk herds are largely unchecked for disease (less than 1% of the wild elk population in Idaho was tested for CWD in 2005). The state of Wyoming, which has the highest incidence of CWD in wild populations of deer and elk, has not allowed domestic elk farming since 1974. Domestic elk herds in Idaho face a mandatory 100% testing for CWD and most ranches have been under this regulation for 8 years. This program is overseen by the ISDA, which also performs an annual inventory of all animals.

While Idaho unfortunately has documented the transmission of brucellosis to domestic cattle from wild elk in eastern regions of the state, there has never been a reported case of brucellosis, tuberculosis or CWD in a domestic elk herd in the entire state.

Gary Queen - President IEBA
Ted Winters - President NAEBA

Accepting Submissions for the NDEF Quarterly Newsletter

As you can see this quarter's newsletter is a little slim. If you have any news items for the next newsletter, which will come out in January of 2007, please see the information below on how and where to send information.

This newsletter is what the NDEF members make of it. I encourage all NDEF members to pass on information to your fellow cervid farmer through this forum.

Information, tips, recipes, news stories are all welcome. Even funny or cute stories are worth sending in. Got a good cartoon, send it along.

The deadline for the January 2007 newsletter is December 28, 2006.

Thank you,

Jennifer Fullerton
Editor

Please mail submissions to:

**Jennifer Fullerton
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7 Meadow Lane
Windsor, VT 05089**

E-mail submissions to:

meadowsec@adelphia.net

If you have any questions please call:

802-674-5396

USDA's Knight moving forward quickly on NAIS outreach

Tuesday, October 31, 2006, 2:33 PM

by Peter Shinn

Last week, USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Bruce Knight told Brownfield he'd already taken a close look at USDA's National Animal Identification System (NAIS) and planned to make it more appealing to individual producers. And on Tuesday, Knight met in Kansas City with state NAIS coordinators, representatives from the offices of state veterinarians and officials with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to roll out an initiative designed to boost producer participation in the NAIS.

Knight told Brownfield today the first fruits of that effort will be coming soon. "We're walking through new pamphlets, a new web site talking about the issues that we've got," Knight said. "We've got a user's guide we're going to be releasing in the next few weeks to more accurately explain many of the recent decisions on animal ID," he added. "This is our first test-run on the re-vamp and on the changes to NAIS."

But Knight said the effort to convince farmers to take part in animal ID won't be done through web sites and publications alone. "We have to earn that farmer's respect," Knight emphasized. "So we're going to have to do the right sort of outreach - we're going to have to sit down with folks at meetings - we're going to have to go belly-to-belly with individual farmers, explain the importance of this to them, and convince them this is in their own best interests."

Knight said part of earning that farmer respect is ensuring USDA does everything it can to protect the confidentiality of information provided by producers under the NAIS. That why he said USDA "in a short time-frame" will publish new rules in the Federal Register on the confidentiality of producer data within the context of NAIS.

"We're giving people the assurances and the confidence in those assurances that we're looking for," Knight explained. "As a farmer myself, my need for confidentiality of this business information is extraordinarily important, so we're telling that story."

Knight said USDA hasn't changed its overall three-phase strategy for the NAIS. Phase one of that strategy is identifying all premises in the U.S. on which livestock are located. Phase two involves actually identifying individual animals. Phase three would implement a database to track the movements of individual animals.

All three phases are to be implemented by the end of 2010. Knight said he's confident that timeline can be met, but also suggested USDA might be satisfied with something less than 100% participation by that point.

"I think with the right sort of outreach, with a voluntary program," Knight said, "we can reach a critical mass that'll ensure that we have enough premises registered by 2010 that in the event of a disease outbreak, we would be able to do the tracking, the trace-back and the trace-out of the disease faster, more efficiently, more quickly than we were in the past."

Taken From the *Brownfield Ag News For America Website*



Fundy

Fundy is an F1 or elk & red deer cross bull

Photo courtesy of Ian Thorleifson

Grant Work Progressing Well

by Cindy Downing

We are now in the last weeks of the USDA Value-Added Producer Grant that we were awarded last fall. Since the report in the July newsletter, your Grant Committee, including Bob Root, Jim Neil, Jim Griswold, John Morse, Henry Ahern, and Helen Costello, has been very busy!

We hired Susie Lordi as our Marketing Research Consultant in July. Her responsibilities have included finding research on the use of velvet antler by pets; researching appropriate trade shows for us to participate in; making the contacts and getting us signed up; and creating the questionnaires and supporting literature for three groups—holistic vets, pet industry professionals (groomers, etc.), and consumers.

She also found and contacted appropriate people to participate in our marketing research, packed and labeled the product for them and to take to the shows, and mailed out the research packages. We have clients of holistic vets using our velvet antler, as well as groomers and other professionals, and consumers. We have sent out capsules and powder for this project which were produced by D.L. Tobin in Mapleton, ME. Over 300 pounds of Velvet Antler were donated by NDEF members for use in the research.

Susie has attended two shows as of this writing, in North Conway NH and West Point NY. She has two more to go, a pet groomers show in Rhode Island and a consumer show in Manchester NH.

We have looked at various other ways to use the velvet antler to make it attractive to pets. A couple of biscuit and treat options didn't work out very well in limited experiments. We were able to obtain a velvet/venison supplement in tablet form that we are trying at the last two shows to determine the interest and palatability of the product. This could be another way to use our products.

Helen Costello, whom many of you met at the meeting in April, has invested untold hours in this project. She accepted the role of Susie's supervisor and has been working w/ Susie and guiding her throughout the project. She is also responsible for handling the extensive reporting that the grant has required, makes sure that we fulfill the terms of the grant, and acts as our liaison with the folks at USDA. To date we have received two reimbursements through the grant.

As of this writing, the research project has two more weeks to go, at which point we will be getting the participants' questionnaires back. Susie will compile the results of the project, as well as feedback from the shows. She will provide us with a final report to wrap up the grant.

Recipes

Dilled Venison Liver and Onions

½ cup all-purpose flour
¼ tsp. pepper
¼ cup butter
½ tsp. dill weed
2 tsp. salt
1 lb. venison liver, sliced
½ cup onion, minced

Stir together flour, salt and pepper. Coat liver with flour mixture. Melt butter in a large skillet; brown liver over medium heat. Reduce heat and sprinkle with onion and dill. Cover tightly and simmer 20 minutes.
Serves 4

Elk Enchilada Casserole

1 pound cooked shredded elk
1 medium onion
4 tbsp. butter
1 can cream of mushroom soup
1 small can green chilies, drained
1 cup beef broth
1 pound longhorn cheese, shredded
1 pkg. flour tortillas

Tear up tortillas and line 9x13 inch casserole pan. Cook onions in butter. Add elk, mushroom soup, chilies, and broth. Spread mixture over tortillas and add cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

Jane Berg, Oak Creek Elk Ranch
Ottumwa, Iowa
IEBA 3rd Cookbook

Venison Meatballs

2 cups grated raw potatoes
1 tbsp. onion, chopped
1/8 tsp. pepper
¼ cup milk
3 cups water
2 cups sour cream
1½ lbs. ground venison
1½ tsp. salt
1 egg
¼ cup butter
2-3 tbsp. flour
1 tsp. dill seed

Combine potatoes, venison, onion, salt, pepper, egg, and milk. Shape into 1½-inch balls. Brown balls slowly in butter in large skillet. Add ½ cup water and cover. Simmer for 20 minutes or until done. Remove meatballs.

Stir in flour and remaining water. Simmer until thick. Reduce heat. Stir in cream and dill. Add meatballs. Heat, but do not boil. Serves 8.

Note: May be cooked by alternate method – Brown meatballs; remove to casserole. Make gravy, add sour cream and dill. Pour gravy over meatballs and finish in oven.

Elk Venison Roast

3-4 pound elk roast of brisket
1 onion, sliced
½ cup chili sauce
2 tbsp. brown sugar
1 clove garlic
12 ounces beer; add another can as needed

Place meat in a 9x13 inch pan or roasting pan. Cover with onion slices. In a bowl, combine the chili sauce, brown sugar, garlic, and beer. Pour over the meat. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 3½-4 hours. For leftovers, add BBQ sauce to sliced meat for sandwiches.

Elizabeth Garrels, Garrels Elk Ranch
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa
IEBA 3rd Cookbook

All recipes taken from Deerfarmer.com



— Mariah Elk Farm

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E-mail _____ Web Address _____

_____ New Membership _____ Renewal Membership Is above an Address Change? _____ Yes _____ No

Currently Own Deer? _____ Type of Deer Owned _____ # of Deer Owned _____

Topics of Interest _____

Do you wish to be included in the Association Website? _____ Yes _____ No

Do you wish to be included in the Association Directory? _____ Yes _____ No

Sponsored by/Referred by: _____

To join or renew membership in the Association, complete the information above with a check or money order for \$40, mail to:

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