

Northeast Deer and Elk Farmer News



Fall 2007

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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:

Full Page \$50.00
 Half Page \$25.00
 Quarter Page \$12.50
 Classified Ads \$.15 per word

Camera Ready Ads for the NDEF newsletter should be sent to Jennifer Fullerton, 7 Meadow Lane, Windsor, VT 05089 or e-mailed to jfully@comcast.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, another year has past since I wrote about the excitement of rut and the heralding in of fall, time flies. We finished the last of our paddocks in time to divide the herd before rut, with paddocks for breeding, holding heifers which will not be breed, shooter bulls, and spikers.

While setting here writing I'm thinking, where do we as businesses go from here, we have the stock, good genetics, proof that our herd will reproduce quality animals, the list goes on, and it gets down to "so what who knows". That brings us to advertisement, are you letting people know you have breeding stock, shooter bulls, replacement stock, meat, and elk products for sale. Look through the internet and you will find several producers with websites, this is a productive tool and I believe if you were to ask if they are doing the job of getting the message out a majority will say yes. Advertising in your local Shopper, will bring in some business, and the curious who often will make a purchase when they realize that these items are available. Advertisement can be pricey; however for a few dollars spent, one good sale will pay for the investment. Advertise in the Farm Bureau, Grassroots publication, there you will find a classified add section which is free to its membership. Advertise in this newsletter the price is reasonable and you will be reaching people who are in this business and may need product or services that you can provide. Some producers would rather stay away from the direct sales approach to the public, often because of a busy schedule; in that case maybe hooking up with another producer is the answer. The bottom line is if you do not let the public know you are in business and have product to sell, the public will go to the people who do.

I believe it was this spring at the conference that Jim Neil mentioned that with the climate change we should expect different diseases to surface here in the Northeast. That is happening now with the onslaught of EHD Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease or

Blue Tongue, which is now as far north as Montana in the west, and Pennsylvania in the east. EHD is carried by a gnat which bites and infects the animals, deer, elk, sheep, cattle, the result is, the animal basically bleeds to death internally, they are often found dead around water sources where they are seeking relief. The only good thing about this is that the gnat which carries the disease is not tolerant to cold temperatures and will generally die off after the first frost and much lower temperatures.

If you are wondering what you will do with that bull or two that you wanted to sell to the preserve this year, and didn't, think about cutting velvet this spring. The price of velvet antler was at \$32.00 US at the NAEBA convention this summer and prospects are it may be higher in 2008.

The 2008 spring convention will be in Cortland, New York, we will be keeping you posted by email and mailings. Please plan ahead to attend.

Until Later
 Bob

2007 NDEF OFFICERS

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Tony Tuttle	ME	2010
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Richard Frost	VT	2010
rff-elk@juno.com		

Board of Directors Meeting

April 20, 2007

Augusta, ME

All members of the Board were present except Jim Griswold. Jim had a death in the family and was out of town. Members present: Bob Root, Hank Dimuzio, Koran Cousino, Henry Ahern, Norma Mierke, Jim Neil, Tom Peryea, Ken Swett, Tony Tuttle and Richard Frost

Hank made a motion to accept the minutes from the Oct 5, 2006 phone meeting with the corrections Cindy would be making regarding the antler grant. Jim Neil seconded and motion was approved.

It was brought to the boards attention that the seats on the board held by Tony Tuttle and Richard Frost are up for election.

A motion was made by Jim Neil to increase Jennifer Fullerton's fee to \$150 (per request). Richard seconded the motion and it was approved.

Much discussion took place about the quarterly newsletter. We agreed that we would continue with the quarterly issue, emails would go out to those who had previously requested to receive it that way and hard copy would be mailed to all members. The deadline dates for copy to be submitted are: May 15, August 15, November 15 and February 15.

We were reminded that NDEF members are eligible for 2 free classified ads per year. Norma suggested that everyone consider submitting a business card so one could be featured per issue. Norma offered to follow up.

Bob asked us to please respond to reminders about deadlines and be active in submitting copy so that the newsletter will survive.

Hank made a motion for the Treasurer's Report including the Antler Grant status to "place on file pending audit". Tony seconded and it was approved.

Henry report that he wants to resign as Treasurer and that he will help get someone trained and set up. We made note to address getting a new Treasurer at Sunday's board meeting. Henry suggested that an audit be done right after the transfer. Jim Neil has done this audit for the past three years and felt that someone else should do it this time. Bob volunteered to do it and Hank agreed also. (Thank you again for Jim's past work and

thanks in advance to Bob and Hank for doing the audit this year!)

A discussion took place about a kind of "report card" for Board Members accountability, attendance, etc. It was clarified that this task should be part of Bob responsibility as President.

Tom raised the problem that official scorers in our membership miss a significant portion of the conference and that even getting official scorers within our membership to commit is difficult. We will ask for volunteers.

Hank made a motion which was seconded by Tom that members who do the official scoring at our conference not pay there registration fee for the next conference. The motion was approved. (Those assisting the official scorers are appreciated and not compensated.) During this discussion we were reminded that the Host of the conference does not pay the conference registration fee for the following year.

Bob Root agreed to review the By-Laws from 2002 and the meeting was adjourned without a motion or vote. With this awareness, both the President and Secretary will be sure in the future that we have an official adjourn motion and vote.

Board of Directors Meeting

April 22, 2007

Augusta, ME

All members present except Jim Griswold.

Bob called the meeting to order with a short discussion about having the 2008 Conference in New York State.

The secretary's report and Treasurer's reports from the last meeting (Friday night) were not read as they were not prepared.

Since Henry had told us in Friday night's board meeting that he would be resigning as Treasurer, we opened a discussion about replacing him. No one wanted the job. Bob had asked Jim Griswold via the phone and he is not able to do this. Bob Root volunteered and some members voiced concerns about the President also holding the Treasurer's position.

Jim made a motion to accept Bob Root as our Treasurer and it was seconded by Richard. Motion passed (Thanks, Bob!)

Henry followed this motion by making a motion for the Secretary to cast one ballot to accept the remaining existing officers for

another year and Jim seconded it. The motion was passed (thanks, everyone!)

Bob reported that the Steering Committee will have a face-to-face meeting within a couple of weeks (if it can be scheduled) regarding the antler grant project.

Henry made a motion to continue to support the NADeFA lobbyist with a donation of \$3500 and Richard seconded the motion. Hank abstained from voting and the motion was passed.

We had discussion about the reduction in the size of our membership. Should we be working more cooperatively with other organizations?

We discussed the May 7-8-9 NADeFA Lobby. Tom is thinking about possibly attending. Richard made a motion to pay \$500 each for "up to" 2 members (not spouses) to attend that session and Tony seconded it. The motion was passed.

Jim again wanted the Board to thank Cindy and Henry for the outstanding job on the Antler Grant. We can't seem to thank them enough for the outstanding job.

We again discussed that the financial statements are not posted on the web or transmitted through emails with minutes.

Henry made the motion to adjourn and Richard seconded that. Motion passed.

Annual NDEF Business Meeting Sunday, April 22, 2007

Bob Root opened the meeting at approximately 8:45 a.m. with a total of 23 members present.

John Morse made a motion which Richard Frost seconded to renew Tony as a Board member. The motion was passed. (Thanks Tony!!)

Following that, Tony made a motion which John Morse seconded to renew Richard as a Board member. The motion was passed. (Thanks, Richard)

The discussion regarding the antler grant was continued from Friday night's Board meeting as well as the Conference discussion from Saturday. Henry Ahern will take the roll at this time with the Steering Committee's involvement to go forward. Henry wants estimates of how much velvet each person plans to cut. (Steering Committee members are: Henry Ahern, Bob Root, Jim Neil, Jim Griswold and John Morse.)

Much discussion took place about profit

on the product, upfront money, payment for velvet and the timing. Bob Root assured each commentor that it would all be taken under consideration.

We, again, thanked the folks who assisted with the scoring on Friday night and Saturday.

Henry made a Treasurer's Report which will go on file with these minutes. It is available to members upon request.

We discussed that we "usually" break even on the Conference. Ken Swett reported that \$4,000 was raised Saturday evening at the auction and the per person conference cost was about \$90.

Bob reported that Norma and Butch Mierke will host the 2008 Conference in New York state with the help of Randy and Joanne Ensign and Bob and Beverly Root.

Tom Peryea raised the discussion again about his concern for scoring with certified scorers. It was discussed that we could get someone local within each state for each conference in the future.

Jim Neil thanked Henry and Cindy, again, for taking the lead, administrating and following up on the Antler Grant. There was much appreciative applause.

We were reminded:

- anyone can contribute to the
- Newsletter
- to send messages of any kind to the Board of Directors
- the Membership Directory is on the website (www.ndef.org)
- to familiarize yourself with the website
- please be active in this organization.

We adjourned without an official motion or vote? With this awareness, both the President and Secretary will be sure in the future that we have an official adjourn motion and vote.

Minutes from an email meeting of the Board of Directors of NDEF in May 2007

Following our annual conference in Augusta, Maine in April, 2007, on Tuesday, May 15, Bob Root submitted his resignation as newly elected Treasure of The Northeast Deer and Elk Farmers, Inc. through an email to all Board Members. This was brought about from concerns of conflict; President also holding the office of Treasurer.

In response, Henry Ahern volunteered on May 16, to be treasurer for one more year. Richard Frost made the motion that Henry stays on as treasurer and Hank Dimuzio seconded the motion.

Through email votes, Henry Ahern was approved by the Board of Directors with a unanimous vote of those who responded. Only two members did not respond with a vote. Again we want to thank Henry for stepping forward and volunteering.



VERMONT IS Open! Finally,

On the morning of September 21st, three Elk legally crossed the border into the State of Vermont. These are the first Cervids imported into Vermont in more than five years.

After many meetings with the Agency of Agriculture the borders were opened to the cervid farmers who have worked with the Agency and are enrolled in the CWD certification program. Hank, Koran, the Rowlees and myself were the main characters representing Vermont's Deer and Elk farmers.

There are certain conditions that must be met to have cervids imported. 1st; The cervids must come from a CWD free State. 2nd; The originating herd must be an approved source. (to become an approved source the originating herd owner must complete a form detailing CWD herd status, with the number of animals tested, dates, test results, etc. The state program must be equivalent to Vermont's CWD program.) 3rd; Plan ahead, it may take 3 to 4 weeks to become an approved source and get a permit to transport Cervids into VT. (After you fill out and submit the proper forms, they will still call your State's Agriculture Dept. to verify the information you gave to them.) The permit must accompany the shipment into VT. You may call the VT. Agency of Agriculture to acquire the forms needed.

It may sound like a lot of work, but the process went quite smooth. It is best if you allow some time between applying for a permit and receiving the permit, (do not try to rush the process). If you do your homework and buy your stock from reputable farmers you should have no problems.

I would like to Thank Dr. Kerry Rood and Dr. Michael Wood for working with us in getting the borders open. Regretfully, the last day that we met was also Dr. Rood's last day working for the Agency of Agriculture, he has moved on to "greener" pastures. Dr. Wood is the acting State Vet in his absence, hopefully Dr. Wood can assume the duties of the State Vet on a permanent basis. Good Luck! To Dr. Rood and Dr. Wood.

Also, a big Thank you! to Hank Dimouzio, Koran Casey-Cousino, and Diane and Punky Rowlee for their steadfast dedication to the cause. There is strength in numbers even when the numbers are small.

Richard Frost, Blue Mtn. Elk Farm

The North American Deer Farmer's Association News Release

CERVID INDUSTRY OFFER OF ELK TO TENNESSEE ELK REINTRODUCTION PROGRAM

In February 2007, when it appeared that the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency would be unable to import additional elk to expand the herd on the Northern Cumberland Plateau, interested deer and elk breeders from all over the United States met by telephone conference call to discuss ways that the Cervid Industry might provide elk for this program.

Breeders of elk, both within and without Tennessee, offered to donate approximately 50 elk. Participating in the conference call was Cleve Tedford of Tellico Plains, Tennessee and a member of the Tennessee Elk Health Advisory Board. This Board was established jointly by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. The group of deer and elk breeders including those who had offered to donate elk asked Tedford to make the offer through the Tennessee Elk Health Advisory Board to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

It was also suggested by the Cervid Industry representatives on the conference call that the offer of animals might be made to the University of Tennessee with funding provided by the Cervid Industry to support a graduate level elk research project carried out by University of Tennessee graduate students. Tedford relayed this offer to Dr. Ed Ramsey, Chairman of the Elk Health Advisory Board, who duly presented the proposal to Dr. Buddy Moore, the Associate Dean for Research of the UT College of Veterinary Medicine. Dean Moore replied that the college would be unable to accept elk as a donation.

Dr. Ramsey then advised that if the industry wished to donate the elk directly to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the man to contact would be Mr. Greg Wathen, Chief of Wildlife. On or about March 1, 2007 Tedford contacted Mr. Wathen and explained that elk breeders both within and without Tennessee had committed to offering up to 50 head of elk to Tennessee's Elk Reintroduction Program. These elk would be certified by licensed veterinarians

State Correspondents

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

MAINE

Tony & Beth Tuttle
ttuttle@uninets.net

NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NEW YORK

Bob Root
rootnyelk@aol.com

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

John Barnatowicz
ajbarnat@earthlink.net

VERMONT

Koran Casey Cousino
kcasey823@aol.com

to meet all health protocols established by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and all proposed rules for transport of elk promulgated by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Wathen declined the offer.

* The North American Deer Farmer's Association is an association representing an industry that has an annual economic impact on this nation's economy of \$3 billion. NADeFA is a political voice for approximately 15,000 deer breeders, ranchers and farmers across the nation. They represent the deer industry by working closely with state and federal legislators and regulatory agencies to develop rules and regulations that govern the deer industry. NADeFA is dedicated to the promotion of deer farming and ranching as an agricultural pursuit and serves its members through its educational programs, publications and by providing leadership in setting and maintaining quality standards.

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January 2008				Deer and Elk		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Read a Book: Deer, Moose, Elk, & Caribou by Deborah Hodge. Learn more about the Foundation: www.nyfbfoundation.org	Sponsored by Northeast Deer and Elk Farms, Inc., New York State Deer and Elk Farmers Association and North American Deer Farmers Association	1 There are over 400 deer and elk farms in New York State. New Year's Day	2 Venison is the meat we get from game animals, such as deer.	3 There are deer farms in almost all of the original 48 states, as well as Alaska.	4 The pastures where deer and elk are housed are called paddocks.	5 Why are deer so good at sports? <i>(Because they are game animals.)</i>
6 When is an elk not an elk? <i>(When he's an elkhound.)</i>	7 Cervidae is the name given to the deer family, which includes not only deer, but elk, moose and caribou as well.	8 The most popular species of deer farmed in the United States are red and fallow deer.	9 Wild elk used to live throughout New York State, but changes in population and hunting practices has nearly driven them to extinction.	10 Deer have one coat of hair in the summer and grow another coat over that in the winter to provide warmth and protection.	11 The moose is the largest member of the deer family.	12 What do you call a deer who gets out of the pasture? <i>(A loose moose.)</i>
13 How do you know where deer like to hang out? <i>(His sign says "the buck stops here".)</i>	14 Deer and elk antlers are used for many purposes - as food supplements, for medicines and even in furniture making.	15 Deer have hooves with an even number of toes on them.	16 Farmers always make sure that deer pastures include areas of shade, windbreaks and plenty of access to clean water.	17 Venison meat is a very healthy meat to eat because it is low in cholesterol and fat.	18 Deer have no top incisor teeth, so they have to pull brush when they eat it, not bite it off like many other animals do.	19 Why are deer good dancers? <i>(They like to hoof it.)</i>
20 How do you know the doe loves her fawn? <i>(Because she is "deer" to her heart.)</i>	21 For good nutrition, farmers often provide mineral blocks in the deer paddocks.	22 Elk are also called Wapiti, an American Indian term.	23 Many farms practice rotational grazing, or moving the herd from one area to another, to ensure a fresh supply of pasture for grazing at all times.	24 Baby deer and mother deer form nursery groups which helps the young deer to socialize.	25 Venison is the only red meat that is hypoallergenic, which means it does not contain anything you can be allergic to.	26 When does a deer get all wet? <i>(When it's a "reindeer".)</i>
27 Why does a moose have such long legs? <i>(So its feet can touch the ground.)</i>	28 Members of the deer family are ruminates, which means they have four stomachs, allowing them to digest all kinds of vegetation.	29 Elk hide, because it is so thick, is often used to make drums.	30 Deer grow and shed new antlers each year. <i>Activity of the Month: Antlers Made Easy</i> <i>Materials Needed: Construction paper, Scissors, Pencil, String, Glue</i>	31 Farmers have to put high fences around pastures to keep deer and elk inside, as they can jump very high.	1. Have each child draw an outline of deer antlers on the construction paper - large enough to use as a headpiece. 2. Have them cut the outline out, leaving some extra paper on the bottom of the antlers. 3. Run the string along the bottom of the antlers, fold the paper up and glue the paper and string together. 4. The string can be cut so it can be tied under the child's chin and the antlers can be worn like a hat.	

Joint Participation to Further education

Early this year; I was contacted by the New York Farm Bureau Foundation for Agricultural Education Inc. The request was for funding, help and information, by submitting a picture and tidbits of information and interest for school children, which would be included in their 2007-2008 School Calendar. This calendar is distributed every fall just before school starts throughout most of the New York States third grade classrooms. The calendar is used as a tool to help inform and educate children and adults to agriculture within the state. Each day having a fact, humor or item for group participation, relating to that month's theme. Having a different topic for each month, such as, apples, grapes, horses, pigs etc, and our part was the calendars Deer Page.

I had asked during a phone conference meeting with the Board of Directors for the support of our organization, to fund the project. It was suggested that we contact New York Deer and Elk Farmers Association, and North American Deer Farmers

Association, to share the cost as they also represent the Cervid Industry in New York State. The request was met with much interest and enthusiasm from those organizations leadership, and the project continued. With joint participation all three organization were thanked and recognized on the last page of the calendar. The end result of the Deer Page is the centerfold of this issue.

Education of the cervid industry is all of our jobs, and we should continue to promote, and educate, the public of our existence, worth, and viability to our communities, and states. This is one such tool, and we thank the NYFB Foundation for Agricultural Education Inc. for their recognition, and the opportunity to help with their 2007-2008 School Calendar. We would also like to thank NYDEFA and NADeFA for their joint support toward furthering education in New York State.

Bob Root

Mariah Elk Farm

Robert and Beverly Root

13055 Rt. 38

Berkshire, New York 13736

607-657-8069

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Cortland, New York 13045

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NDEF Membership/Renewal Application

Name _____ Date _____

Farm/Company Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Province/Country/Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

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:

Northeast Deer & Elk Farmers
Henry Ahern, Treasurer
601 Daniel Webster Highway
Plymouth, NH 03264

Epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD)

Coming to a farm near you?

Almost two summers ago, Indiana deer farmer Tim Tague went to check on his deer. There was one dead. No big deal. The herd was in good health. The next day three more were dead. And the next day more carcasses were found. And again the next day after that, so that by the time the fall ended, he'd lost 95 % of his herd (230 animals), which included Whitetail, Fallow, Sika, Axis, and buffalo. His venison business came to an abrupt halt. He had no breeding stock. All his genetics were gone. What happened? EHD had struck his farm.

Epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) is the most common viral illness of cervidae in North America. It is carried and spread by a biting midge, so it is not transmissible from direct animal to animal contact. However, animals that are concentrated, especially near water, make a collective target for the midges. The midges are more common in the south, and it had been thought to be a primarily southern disease of the late summer and fall. However this year there have been outbreaks in : Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana,

South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. In the past, there have been outbreaks in Alberta, Montana, South Dakota and Wyoming. Typically, once the weather turns cool, the spread of disease stops, as frost kills the midge and the virus.

An animal that is bitten will develop symptoms within 2 to 7 days. However, all you may observe is an animal that is healthy in the morning, staggering by midday and dead by night fall. The virus causes severe, fatal internal organ hemorrhaging (bleeding). A fever develops along with mouth sores, excessive salivation, and a bluish swollen tongue. In that aspect it is similar to Bluetongue in cattle and sheep. Deer that do not die do develop immunity. Thus the poor survival rate of northern deer transplanted to southern climes, because of the lack of exposure to the virus. Although the virus is not transmissible to humans, the carcass is unusable due to the amount of hemorrhage and rapid decomposition. Composting should destroy the virus.

Will NEDFA members have this problem in the future? With global warming and the steady march northward of southern flora and fauna

(opossums, rabid raccoons, dogwood, to name a few) and the course of the jet stream, the midge might tag along, bringing the virus with it. What can be done? Missouri made an autologous vaccine that is USDA approved for the original farm and contiguous farms. However any state veterinarian can apply for a non-adjacent use of that same vaccine with USDA approval. A local vaccine can also be made using the spleen and lymph nodes from the dead animals on the farm. Thru the cervid industry lobbyist in Washington, we are asking for money in the farm bill to fund EHD research thru the Center for Infectious Disease and Applied Genomes.

So while we enjoy this most bodacious fall weather, we might be content later this winter when it's 30 below and three feet of snow outside, knowing that our cool climate might protect our herds from EHD. But if it doesn't, we're working on it on your behalf.

Editor
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