

Northeast Deer and Elk Farmer News



Fall/Winter 2004

In This Issue

- President's Paddock 1
- NDEF Officers 2
- Annual Meeting 2
- Annual Meeting Followup 3
- Maine News 4
- Deer & Elk Farmers' Digest . . . 4
- Member Classified 5
- State Correspondents 5
- Membership Application 5
- Photo Winners Announced . . . 8

President's Paddock by Dick Krebs

Hello fellow deer farmers,

Summer has come and gone and I hope all had a successful calving season. It had been a very wet summer in New York but was followed by a beautiful fall with warmer than usual temperatures. The warm temperature didn't put a damper on our bulls, however, as during breeding season they continually challenged our fences. One persistent bull succeeded in getting into the pen with our "Macho Man" and learned the hard way that the grass is not always greener on the other side. Needless to say, he was a 'hurting turkey' at the end of the day and didn't test the fences for quite a while after that!

The warm weather also held off the bulk of the "white stuff" until Christmas Eve Day. This was a blessing as our children and grandchildren were able to travel while the weather was good. Holidays are over now and time to "hunker down" for the cold winter ahead.

It's been a while since our last Newsletter and a lot has happened. I would like to start by recapping our last Convention which was held in Rhode Island. I would like to thank John and Adele Barnatowicz for taking charge and running a wonderful Convention. Fun was had by all and the Chefs from Johnson & Wales Culinary Arts School did a terrific job with the meals. The students were all very professional and ran an excellent competition between each of the teams. I would like to thank Byron Ellis for scoring the hard antler competition. It seems the antlers are getting bigger every year. I would also like to thank Diane Rowlee for organizing the Photo Contest. At the Annual Meeting we decided to investigate the cost of farm signs for all members. Beth Tuttle has volunteered to work on this project. I encourage all members to support this program and proudly display the NDEF farm sign.

This year's Convention will be held in Vermont. Diane Rowlee has been nominated to organize the Convention but is looking for help from other

members. It looks like her program is coming together nicely... and don't forget your skis! We'll be staying at the Jay Peak Ski Resort and they have donated a weekend ski pass to our benefit auction. NADeFA is also contributing to our auction which is one of our main fundraisers during the year. This financial support is used to help members in all of our states to be active and proactive in supporting our industry. Please show your support by donating items.

The Board of Directors e-mail meeting was held in late November. One issue discussed was how best to proceed in trying to get the borders between Vermont and New York opened for free trade. More in-depth discussion will be held during the Convention. The Board all voted yes to supporting NADeFA in their struggle with National issues. They will be sending representatives to Washington, D.C. Remember, we are stronger in numbers.

There have been several articles written recently about how much velvet antler is helping dogs with arthritis. Researchers have scientifically confirmed that there is much improvement in the mobility of dogs with arthritis. It is time to develop this market for all deer and elk farmers. We need to take an active roll in educating our veterinarians to this product. I'd like your help in developing a list of veterinarians from each state so we could do a mass mailing to them. With their support, we could move all the velvet our members could produce and then some.

As quoted from Deer & Farmers Digest, "Getting only 500,000 dogs out of the total 65 million in the USA, will consume all the velvet antler currently being produced in North America and return some \$50 million back to the industry.

Please contact me with your thoughts and ideas on this project – dick@empireelk.com. Thank you.

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 Brookside Studio, PO Box 1882 Wolfeboro, NH 03894 or emailed: cyclutr@worldpath.net

Payment for Ads to be sent to:

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

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ajbarnat@earthlink.net		
Edgar Dolbec	ME	2006
rdolbec@earthlink.net		
John Morse	NH	2005
jjmorse@tds.net		

ANNUAL MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2004 SEEKONK, MA

Present:

Dick Krebs, John Morse, John Barnatowicz, Diane Rowlee, Tony Tuttle, Richard Frost, Henry Ahern and Jim Neil.

Treasurer's report:

Tabled until annual meeting

Secretary's report:

Henry made a motion to accept minutes as reported in the newsletter. Jim seconded, motion carried.

Old Business:

Ethics committee letters were sent. Henry sent out letters to all old members. Only 5 responses.

New Business:

State reports: NH – John Morse talked with NH state vet – he is retiring as soon as replacement is named. John would like the board to send letter acknowledging Dr. McGinnis' contribution to the cervid industry especially his pro-active stance on CWD. As soon as his retirement date is set, the board will send letter of appreciation.

Maine – Tony reported that things are quiet on the CWD issue. They are focusing in on marketing. Their annual meeting is the following weekend.

Vermont – Diane reported that we finally have a new vet. Hank to add information at annual meeting.

John Barnatowicz report on tri-state area – Nothing happening on CWD. He feels they are all waiting to see what USDA does.

New York – Dick reported on the canned hunt bill and whitetail harvesting bill. We need to call and write in opposition of both bills.

Board members up for re-election – Diane, Richard and Tony. Due to Les Armstrong's resignation a two year slot is also open. Possible candidates are Diane, Richard, Tony, Bob Roote from NY, Derek Stern from VT and Jim Griswold from NH.

Dick brought up a request from someone looking for venison recipes for a cookbook he is writing. Also discussed hard antler sales.

Diane brought up her idea to take the winning photo contest pictures and make up a calendar to sell and promote the industry. Discussion centered on our ability to sell enough to make enough money to pay for it and still show a profit. Diane will explain the idea to the general membership on Sat. and let them decide at the annual meeting. This brought up the need to promote the organization as well as give our members something for their money. Membership cards and stickers were one form of promotion brought up.

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned.

2004 ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2004 SEEKONK, MA

Meeting called to order by President Dick Krebs. Dick opened the meeting by thanking John and Adele Barnatowicz for a great weekend. The dinner presented by the culinary students in the form of a 3-team competition was wonderful. The students came up with some great ways to serve venison.

Secretary's report: Ken Swett made a motion to accept minutes as reported in the newsletter. ? seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Motion to accept Treasurer's report made by Jim Neil and seconded by Dick Krebs. Motion carried.

continued on Page 3

April 23 Meeting

continued from Page 2

Any member wanting more information about the Treasurer's report is welcome to contact the Treasurer, Henry Ahern, by email at: admin@bonniebraefarms.com, or by phone at 603-536-3880.

State Reports: NH – John Morse again reported the retirement of Cliff McGinnis as soon as a replacement is found. Cliff informed John that he was attending a joint meeting of all state vets on Monday and Tuesday in Burlington, VT. He will be pushing for interstate movement of CWD monitored animals within the region. Jim added that Cliff was the first to institute a surveillance program in the NE region. Also reported was the problem of processing our animals. There is a shortage of facilities and the cost is rising.

VT – Hank Dimuzio reported that things have been quiet regarding CWD. Same problems regarding processing plants. He did report that there is a new plant in Benson, VT. He indicated that it is a nice operation. VT now has a new vet. Fish and Wildlife now has control of wild deer herd.

NY – Martha Goodsell reported on the Canned Hunt bill and the Larkin Bill. She reported that NY also has processing problems. It is legal to ship meat into NY. The Feeding ban is largely ignored. State inspected meat can be sold commercially in NY.

Tri-State Area – John Barnatowicz reported that along with the report given by his state vet on Saturday, RI wants to raise his permit fees. However, his vet has found a way to get around that plan. He feels that Mass and Conn will follow USDA rules. Mass regulators really against cervid farming. RI, MA and CT will act as one in many areas of the regulatory process.

A discussion ensued on permitting

and tagging within the region.

Dick reported that a cookbook author looking for recipes contacted him. He needs them in the next couple of weeks.

Maine – Tony reported that their annual meeting is the following weekend. A member is working with the Dept. of Ag on CWD. Not sure, but thinks they will go with Federal regs. They are focusing on marketing, code of ethics and conduct, quality of assurance, signs and labels. Dept. of Ag supportive for the most part. A member of that dept. who is in charge of licensing is new, some problems but in general everything okay for now.

Next was brought up the calendar project. After much discussion it was decided that we want to promote venison and that a recipe calendar would be much more beneficial to the cause. Several ideas were discussed. One was to have Johnson & Wales culinary school cook the recipes and have their photography dept. take the pictures. Jim suggested that NDEF allocate some marketing funds to do some promotion during the year. Dick formed a committee made up by Diane Rowlee, Louanne Griswald, Henry Ahern and Tony Tuttle. The committee is to come up with ideas and costs for this type of program. Jim made a motion to allow board to allocate a sum of money not to exceed \$5,000 towards promotional program. Henry Ahern seconded. Motion carried.

Hank suggested that the organization give the committee some direction; One being promotion of product and another promotion of NDEF.

Beth Tuttle explained the promotion package Maine farmers came up with that consisted of signs, labels and brochures.

2005 convention to be held in Vermont. Diane Rowlee will chair with help from Richard Frost and

Koran Casey. Jim suggested that the convention be held one week earlier next year to allow for more vendors to attend. So moved.

Nominations were then made for offices held by Diane Rowlee (VT), Richard Frost (VT), and Tony Tuttle (ME). There is also a 2-yr vacancy to fill with the resignation of Les Armstrong. Nominations were: Diane, Tony, Richard, Jim Griswald and Bob Roote. Results were: Diane, Richard and Tony re-elected and Jim Griswald (NH) to fill the vacancy. Welcome Jim.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM.

FOLLOW-UP BOARD MEETING APRIL 25, 2004.

Election of officers:

Nominated were: Secretary – Diane Rowlee, Treasurer – Henry Ahern, President – Dick Krebs, 1st vice president – Hank Dimuzio and 2nd Vice President – Tony Tuttle. Richard Frost made a motion to cast one ballot for the slate of officers. Seconded and carried.

Committee for promotion is to report to board in 6 weeks. (2nd week in June).

Newsletter deadline is June 1st. Advertising rate for page is \$25.

Diane to send out email with all members' addresses. Please make sure your address book is correct.

Short discussion on future of NADeFA. Things changing and looking up for the average farmer. Membership dues are now a flat \$100. More promotion efforts with possible funds to help regional organizations.

Meeting adjourned.

MAINE NEWS

It's been a busy spring. We attended the Nadeffa conference in Wisconsin in February, N.D.E.F.'s conference in Seekonk, Mass in April, and, finally, Maine's annual conference on May 1st in Augusta.

I feel that all three of these events continue to prove that our industry has a positive and promising future. We always look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. One of the greatest assets of any organization is the wealth of information that is there to be shared.

Legislatively, Maine is quiet. We still await the infamous U.S.D.A. rulings and the reopening of our border. We hear of a few farmers closing up shop as we sit and wait for our government officials to bring this issue to closure. The Maine association has appointed a member to work with the Maine Department of Animal Health on this issue and to keep us informed of any pending changes.

Spring calving season is in full swing as we are sure it is with all of N.D.E.F. members. It has been a very wet and cold spring here in Maine and we can't wait to complain of the heat and black flies!

There will be an "Open Farm Day" sponsored by the Department of Ag. On July 26, 2004. The Department advertises it free for those who choose to participate. Farms of all types will be open to the public on this day.

In August, deer farmers will be represented at a booth hosted by M.D.E.F.A. for 3 days at "Maine

Farm Days" being held in Clinton, Maine this year. A group of volunteers will be selling various venison items such as burgers, steak bombs and sausage biscuits.

Here is to a successful and satisfying calving season. Get those cameras clicking for the next N.D.E.F. photo contest in 2005!

Tony Tuttle
Crown Point Farm
Albion, Maine

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Russell Sawchuck
**The Deer and Elk
Farmers' Digest
March/April 2004**

Research

Dr. Maxim Moreau and his colleagues at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Montreal recently published the results of their study on the effectiveness of velvet antler and dogs. A powder of elk velvet antler was evaluated on client-owned dogs with osteoarthritis (OA) in a clinical, double-blind, and placebo-controlled study. Thirteen dogs received a placebo for 30 days and then velvet antler for 60 days. Twenty-five other dogs received velvet antler for 60 days. Measures included gait analysis measured by a force plate, clinical signs assessed by an orthopedic surgeon, performances in daily life activities and vitality assessed by the owners, and complete blood analysis.

On placebo, the 13 dogs did not show significant improvement; however, their gait, their performance in daily life activities, and their vitality were significantly improved after treatment with velvet antler. The 25 dogs on velvet antler showed similar improvements. No

clinical changes were revealed on blood analysis.

The researchers concluded that administration of velvet antler was effective in alleviating the condition in arthritic dogs. (Canadian Veterinary Journal, Volume 45, February 2004, page 133. All correspondence and reprint requests should be made to Dr. Maxim Moreau at:

m.moreau@umontreal.ca

The above study was initiated and funded by Qeva Velvet Products Corporation of Calgary, Alberta Canada. Qeva Corp., in conjunction with Steppingstones Partnership, Inc. (owner of Deerfarmer.com) also undertook a sixteen-month long market research project to determine the best strategies for the marketing and promotion of dog health products to North American consumers. Free samples of Qeva's elk velvet product were made available to dog owners through Steppingstones' arthritis-in-dogs.com website. In return for a free sample, dog owners agreed to complete a questionnaire before and after the treatment providing data about their dogs, the treatment results and their buying preferences.

In this study, there was an observed improvement in 70% of the dogs after taking velvet antler. The dog owners reported no change in 21% of the cases. Using pre-post score changes, the greatest improvements were seen in energy levels, endurance and reduction of pain. Even in the dogs where the owners did not notice any changes, pre-post scores were statistically higher in energy and endurance levels. In 72% of the cases, improvements were noticed within ten days.

The elk industry now has the scientific evidence it needs to convince veterinarians and dog owners that velvet antler is an effective product for treating arthritis and joint problems in dogs.

Member CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED: Recipes for your favorite venison dish. We plan to produce either a recipe calendar or small recipe book sponsored by NDEF and made available to all members to sell or give to customers.

Please mail or email to:
 Diane Rowlee
 Hollander Farm
 58 Stage Coach LN
 Holland, VT 05829
 hollander@vtlink.net.

FOR SALE:

Cervid Solutions Veni-Min, granulated minerals for deer and elk. \$35 per 50# bag plus shipping.
 Contact:

Henry Ahern
 Bonnie Brae Farms
 601 Daniel Webster Highway
 Plymouth NH 03264
 Ph:603-536-3880
 fax: 603-536-2649
 email: admin@bonniebraefarms.com

FOR SALE: 2 year old stags. Proven producers. TB and Brucellosis tested and CWD monitored herd. Call Hollander Farm for further details.
 802-895-4115 or email hollander@vtlink.net
 Also available: hinds in various age groups.

State Correspondents

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

MAINE

Tony and Beth Tuttle
 ttuttle@uninets.net

NEW HAMPSHIRE

John & Julie Morse
 jjmorse@tds.net

NEW YORK

Deb & Les Armstrong
 elkfarmerd@aol.com

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

John Barnatowicz
 ajbarnat@earthlink.net

VERMONT

Koran Casey
 kcasey823@aol.com.

NDEF Membership /Renewal Application

Name _____ Date _____

Farm/Company Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Province/Country/Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____ 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

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



TOM'S ELK RANCH
518-561-3555

Pictured on the far left are Enforcer's horns. He cut 38.8 lbs taking 1st place in NE and 3rd place in International NAEBA velvet competition 2004.

The cows listed below are all bred to Enforcer. Pick any 5 cows for \$8000.00. (5 yr CWD status)

- | | | | |
|----------------------|--|----------------------|---|
| <u>WWA 154 L P</u> - | WWW REED 8
PLATINUM -
WWA SUPERMOM
CBF JACK
WWA 922 J Y -
WWA 408 O | <u>WWA 025 K P</u> - | WWW REID 8
PLATINUM -
WWA SUPERMOM
ECLIPSE
WWA 611 W -
WWA 11W |
| <u>WWA 036 K Y</u> - | WWA BRUTUS
BRUTUS II -
JANICE II O
ECLIPSE
WWA 804 W -
WWA 404 W | <u>WWA 020 K P</u> - | WWW REID 8
PLATINUM -
WWA SUPERMOM
CZAR
WWA 654 O
WWA 654 Y |
| <u>WWA 026 K P</u> - | COLUMBUS
PRIMETIME -
WWA MAMA COW II
WWA REED 8
WWA 11 W -
WWA 25 Y | <u>WWA 003 K R</u> - | CANADIAN CLASSIC
LEGACY STARBUCK -
WOLFGANG SUCH
IMPERIAL RJ
IMPERIAL BLOSSOM -
WWA PAULETTE |
| <u>WWA 149 L P</u> - | WWW REED 8
PLATINUM -
WWA SUPERMOM
CLEARSTONE CAESAR II
WWA 920 J Y -
WWA 657 O | <u>NY TOM 52 N</u> - | WWW 8 Y
WWA JETHRO -
WWA 63
PLATINUM
WWA 025 K P -
WWA 611 W |
| <u>WWA 110 L Y</u> - | COLUMBUS
PRIMETIME -
WWA MAMA COW II
WWA REID 8
WWA 402 W -
WWA 9 Y W | <u>NY TOM 55 N</u> - | WWW 8 Y
WWA JETHRO -
WWA 63
BRUTUS II
WWA 036 K Y -
WWA 804 W |

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Tom & Gloria Peryea

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3 used Jug water fountains – ½ price of
new

Tom is the new owner of
Enforcer. Enforcer cut
35.8 lbs and placed 3rd as a
5 yr old at the International
Competition.

Semen available.

10 straws for \$1000.00

Syndications – 100 straws
for \$7500.00

Many other bulls available
at \$100.00/straw

Call 518-561-3555



*Pictured is an example of the kind
of elk at my farm. 142 is a 6 yr old
who scored 412 7/8 at the 2004
NDEF hard horn competition and
took 1st place!*

Cows for sale: \$1600.00 **each for 5 or more**

From the Pat Cooper ranch
These cows are daughters of
Starbuck, King, Platinum,
Primetime, Brutus II, Jethro,
Apex and Raptor.

See separate ad for more details

Note:

2 of the best three spikers at Pat's
ranch came from these cows. One
spiker was sold in February 2004
for \$15,000.00

Calves from the above cows
\$1000.00

**One of my 2004 2 yr olds
scored 295 in the squeeze
before being sold as a
shooter.**

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Whitetail Category:

Buck: Houp's Acres
1st, 2nd and 3rd place
Group: Houp's Acres
1st, 2nd and 3rd place
No fawns submitted

Elk Category:

Bulls: 1st - Houp's Acres
2nd - Kearwood Farm
3rd - Mountain Ash Farm
Group: 1st - Houp's Acres
2nd - Kearwood Farm
3rd - Kearwood Farm

Red Deer Category:

Stags: 1st - Crown Point Farm
2nd - Granite Acres
3rd - Hollander Farm
Group: 1st - Crown Point Farm
2nd - Crown Point Farm
3rd - Hollander Farm
Fawns: 1st and 2nd -
Hollander Farm
No entries for Fallow Deer

Editor
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