

Northeast Deer and Elk Farmer News



Spring 2010

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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 that can be found on our website www.ndef.org to John Morse, 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 Robert Root, Mariah Elk Farm, 13055 Route 38, Berkshire, NY 13736 or e-mailed to Rootnyelk@aol.com.

Payment for Ads to be sent to:

John Morse, Treasurer
83 Patterson, Rd.
Wilmot, NH 03287

President's Paddock by Bob Root

If you have received this Newsletter and you are not a current member it is not a mistake.

By now you should have received a mailing from the membership committee, chaired by Norma Mierke. The gist of this mailing is for you to renew your membership in the Northeast Deer and Elk Farmers Association. The committee has been charged to set up a membership renewal program, that will gather membership renewals on an annual basis with a mailing, not upon your attendance at the annual meeting. In that process; the renewal letter was proposed, accepted, written and sent to all current and past members. The letter is self explanatory, if you have the letter and have not responded please do so now.

Enclosed in this complementary newsletter is the annual conference paperwork, registration, antler competition, auction donation item slip, and contact information. Please respond as soon as possible, your membership is needed and will be greatly appreciated. The strength and longevity of an organization is based on its membership, and its willingness to generate and support its goals.

With that being said; If you are a current member please renew now, if you are a past member please sign up and rejoin now, if you know someone who is cur-

rently in the Deer and Elk Industry and may have not received these items, please share this information that they may consider joining. Hope to see you all at the annual conference at Lake Morey Resort, in Fairlee, Vermont.

News From New Hampshire

2010

CONFERENCE

APRIL 16,17,18

LAKE MOREY RESORT

FAIRLEE, VERMONT

“STAYING THE COURSE”

The conference is coming together. Speakers and topics to interest everyone. Hear what outside interests have to say about the future of our product line.

Antler crafter and artist Norm Hurd will show first hand all the tricks to turn that old set of antlers into a beautiful table lamp - and then put it in the auction. Great, huh? Thanks Norm. Norm will also buy, or trade, your drop antlers. He likes younger sets even. So bring some and pay for the trip.

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Mark Drew (2013) ME
mark@pioneerwireless.net

Veronica Francis of “notchnet.com” has all the in-depth info to get you started marketing your products on the internet, and will be available throughout the day for one on one consultation.

These presentations along with all the rest on herd health, weed control, the future of our markets, and much more among old friends, and new, shape up to a great weekend of fun, eating, and maybe a drink or two. No one does it better than the staff of the Lake Morey Resort.

Auction items are essential to success of every conference as the auction income is what finances the efforts that create the business atmosphere we all thrive under. Even though local businesses are being generous, do not forget to bring yours, or that of another farmer who cannot make the event.

Henry Ahern tells me this may be our 20th anniversary. We are attempting to confirm this as I write. If anyone knows, or has old pictures or stories to share, get them to Henry (henry@hdatech.com) as he is attempting to put a program together commemorating “whatever year it may be.”

With that, I will close.

See you in Fairlee

Jim Neil

New Hampshire Correspondent

News From Maine

The Maine Deer and Elk Farmer’s Association now has its new and updated website online

and it is quickly producing sales and leads for its members. There has been a steady demand for venison and a huge demand for velvet. There have been several velvet buyers contacting our members and Executive Director with requests for this springs velvet crop. This increase in demand is nationwide and with this increase in demand an increase in pricing is following. This is very encouraging to the several of our members that are still cutting velvet.

MDEFA is currently awaiting the results from our fall and winter grant applications. These SARE grants state that we will have our results during the week of February 22nd. We have two grant applications submitted and are optimistic thought it is the first time in several years the Association has attempted to receive funds. MDEFA is also working with other local organizations to try to develop a program to provide healthy venison to those in need of food assistance.

With the extremely mild winter that most of Maine has experienced, thoughts of an early spring greenup are in all the farmers thoughts. Let’s hope Mother Nature doesn’t open up the heavens this spring and ruin them.

NYDEFA NEWS

NYDEFA continues its efforts to protect, strengthen, and promote the deer and elk farmers of New York. Within New York and across the country we are educating the public and our political leaders about alternative livestock farming!

NYDEFA Fifth Annual Meeting is Saturday, April 24 Comfort Inn, 6701 Buckley Road,

Syracuse. The meeting agenda and speakers are still being confirmed so check www.NYDEFA.org or call NY-DEFA at 716-685-4019 for more information and to confirm your attendance. Buffet lunch available \$20.

2010 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE IS ON!

Call for a Membership Application today or download one from www.NYDEFA.org! Advertising is available in our quarterly newsletter.

Report from the Membership Drive Committee

Norma Mierke, Chair
Bob Root
Lori Krebs
John Morse

The mailing to all past and current members including 2005 went out during the first week in February. We plan to contact everyone to gather information and/or try to increase membership. That mailing will be followed by a complimentary copy of this Spring Newsletter. We'd like every past member to see a current Newsletter and have any and all registration forms needed for our April 16-17-18 Annual Conference.

We had great team effort as we formed our team and made plans for this important mailing. Would have liked the mailing to have gone much earlier and, as they say, "better late than never". Lori Krebs deserves a HUGE thanks for her administrative effort, patience and willingness to hang in

with a Committee Chairperson with limited computer savvy. This project would not have happened without Lori. Our team will continue to work together to explore a variety of ideas to increase awareness of our NDEF organization and membership that surfaced during the process so far.

Someone will be talking with each of you soon and we'll see you at the 2010 NDEF Annual Conference at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, VT on April 16-17-18.

Rambling Thoughts The Day After NDEF's Conference 2009

By: Norma Mierke

So many thoughts have been rambling through my mind since I (Norma Mierke) left Fairlee, VT

Beautiful location, nice facility, awesome food and outstanding group of people. It was enjoyable to arrive on site and begin renewing contacts. Of course refueling after the trip with food and beverage was a high priority and it did not take long to make plans. So good to get Koran's "with child" announcement and update on her first born. Having Joe Root attend expands our family ties and personal interests with each other. After refueling we returned to Lake Morey Resort and had a Board Meeting that re-connected us and set the stage for the weekend.

We started Saturday with having a new member in attendance, Amy Record from VT – Welcome again Amy. As the antlers gathered for the competition,

State Correspondents

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

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Hank Dimuzio
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Norm Hurd from Hurd's Antler Art & Custom Engraving set up his display and auction items were displayed for viewing. We began a day of information sharing, questions, clarification, education, networking and just plain fun. The break treats and lunch had wonderful variety, presentation and flavor. Tom and Gloria worked throughout the day scoring all those antlers. It was apparent throughout the day that the true auction enthusiasts began their strategies. It was a smashing success!!

Happy Hour was extremely casual and low key – then we transitioned into our WONDERFUL evening meal. The fallow deer from Hank

Dimuzio's LedgeEnd Farm was presented with perfection along with the rest of the menu items. It was a wonderful foundation for the rest of the evening which was a lot of fun.

We failed to recognize and thank Cindy Dowling for her help throughout the auction. She recorded the auction results and collected the payments. Thank you, Cindy, we know and appreciate what that job entails.

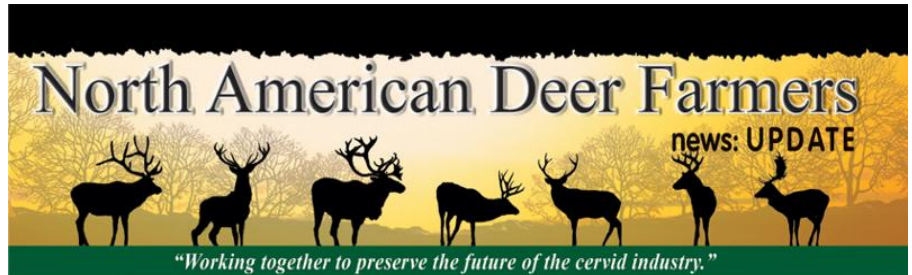
Henry did a great job as our auctioneer as he tried really hard to boost our sales. Throughout the evening we learned a lot including the following:

- Sue Neil will bid on anything that has potential to become a blue bird house
- Several members like bidding but when it gets really competitive, they want to know who they are bidding against
- It's not safe for Jim Neil to go to the restroom during the bidding
- The bat guano probably affected Dick Krebs extremely productive year of hair growth
- Grandparents will bid higher on anything for a grandchild than something for themselves
- To support our cause, Joann Ensign will bid against Norma Mierke even though she had to ride home with her.
- Butch had a hard time finishing his paperwork.

How many times throughout the weekend did we mention how much we missed Beth and Tony Tuttle?!?!?! We also mentioned

Tuttle?!?!?! We also mentioned missing other folks like the Rowlee's. Maybe another time, they can join us?

Here's hoping we get even more participation next year as there's lots of learning and fun to be shared.



U.S.D.A. Plans to Drop Program to Trace Livestock

By WILLIAM NEUMAN

Published: February 5, 2010

The New York Times

Faced with stiff resistance from ranchers and farmers, the Obama administration has decided to scrap a national program intended to help authorities quickly identify and track livestock in the event of an animal disease outbreak.

In abandoning the program, called the National Animal Identification System, officials said they would start over in trying to devise a livestock tracing program that could win widespread support from the industry.

The agriculture secretary, Tom Vilsack, will announce the changes on Friday, according to officials at the Agriculture Department, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the decision had not yet been made public.

The officials said that it would be left to the states to devise many aspects of a new system, including requirements for identifying livestock.

New federal rules will be developed but the officials said they would apply only to animals being moved in interstate commerce, such as cattle raised in one state being transported to a slaughterhouse in another state.

It could take two years or more to create new federal rules, the officials said, and it was not clear how far the government would go to restrict the movement of livestock between states if the animals did not meet basic traceability standards.

The system was created by the Bush administration in 2004 after the discovery in late 2003 of a cow infected with mad cow disease.

Participation of ranchers and farmers in the identification system was voluntary, but the goal was to give every animal, or in the case of pigs and poultry, groups of animals, a unique identification

number that would be entered in a database. The movements of animals would be tracked, and if there was a disease outbreak or a sick animal was found, officials could quickly locate other animals that had been exposed.

But the system quickly drew the ire of many farmers and ranchers, particularly cattle producers. Some objected to the cost of identification equipment and the extra work in having to report their animals' movements. Others said they believed the voluntary system would become mandatory, that it was intrusive and that the federal government would use it to pry into their lives and finances.

The old system received \$142 million in federal financing, but gained the participation of only 40 percent of the nation's livestock producers, according to a report by the Congressional Research Service.

When Mr. Vilsack took over the Agriculture Department last year, he began a series of public meetings on the identification program and was bombarded by strident opposition.

Agriculture officials said that most details of a new system would be worked out in the coming months through consultation with the livestock industry and the states.

"It was just overwhelming in the country that people didn't like it, and I think they took that feedback to heart," said Mary Kay Thatcher, public policy director of the American Farm Bureau Federation, which had opposed the identification system. "I think it's good

they've at least said we're going to do something different."

Carol Tucker Foreman, a food safety expert of the Consumer Federation of America, agreed that the old system was not working and needed to be changed. But she worried that a new system that could have different rules in every state might not be effective. "It's very, very hard to have an effective state-by-state program," she said.

CWD confirmed south of TransCanada

By Elizabeth Huber
Prairies Post
February 4, 2010

Following the 2009 hunting season, the province of Saskatchewan received 3,200 deer heads to sample for chronic wasting disease.

Testing, not quite complete, has shown 38 new positive cases within Saskatchewan in 2009.

It is a provincial sampling effort, although it cannot be enforced "we certainly ask for (hunters') participation," said Penny Lalonde, provincial licensing specialist.

The monitoring and surveillance of the disease through harvesting the animals helps keep the numbers low enough so the prevalence stays low, she added.

In Saskatchewan, 2008 monitoring practices also revealed three positive cases in elk, but there haven't been anymore since then, according to numbers provided by the fish and wildlife

branch of the ministry of environment.

In Alberta, as of Jan. 15, 2468 heads had been tested since Sept. 1, 2009 and revealed seven new cases of CWD in wild deer. The total is now 69 confirmed cases of CWD in wild deer in Alberta.

Although a case of the disease was found on an Alberta farmed elk in 2002 it has not yet been found in the wild populations, noted Darcy Whiteside, spokesperson for the Ministry of sustainable Resource Development.

Alberta concentrates their sampling along the border region with Saskatchewan from north of Lloydminster to south of the TransCanada Highway and identifies the zones as mandatory deer head submission.

Last year, the first case was found north of Lloydminster and this year, the first case was discovered below Highway 1, noted Whiteside. The majority of cases have been found near Empress and Edgerton.

In Saskatchewan, three clusters of CWD areas have been identified near Nipawin, Lloydminster and North Battleford and the South Saskatchewan River north of Swift Current.

The surrounding wildlife management zones were designated as earn-a-buck zones in 2009, which means hunters must turn in two doe heads before receiving a buck tag. It is the first year the wildlife management Zone 45 near North Battleford was identified in the program.

It is very difficult to say if the disease is increasing in prevalence

or not, said Yeen Ten Hwant, wildlife health specialist with the fish and wildlife branch, because the calculation is dependent upon the number of samples submitted in a year.

"It has been holding steady between 1.5 and two per cent," said Hwant. Working with neighbouring jurisdictions in Canada and the States is important for understanding CWD, noted Whiteside and Hwang. "We know that it is not a disease that is not a natural part of the Alberta Ecosystem, environment, habitat," added Whiteside.

They need to also consider how hunters actions can assist with the disease management as well, he said. For example, looking at proper techniques to ensure transmission doesn't happen when transferring the meat and moving the meat, carcasses, hides and heads around.

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North American Deer Farmers Association:

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North American Deer Farmers Association Executive Director

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Guano, The Ultimate Auction Item

By Bob Root

How many years has this item been the target and quest of so many members that they bid at the auction hundreds of dollars for a box of bat manure. I have been trying to track the source of this priceless item and seem to think it started in New York at the Syracuse Conference, some 6 or 7 years ago, if I'm wrong please correct me.

The reason for this memo is that the box of Guano has been passed and repackaged so many times it is starting to suffer the wear and tear. I aim to correct that. This item which has not raised one plant or greenery has raised thousands of green dollars for this organization. As I said before; several people have bid generously to have the honor of this stuff setting around in their homes, hidden, for a year only to bring it back to dump it off on someone else, who for some reason just can't wait to get their hands on it. Proof of this is that some have owned it more than once.

Well Beverly and I are going to take our turn at dumping; and once again it will be repackaged.

Keep an eye out for this item on the Auction Item Display. Prepare yourselves for the bidding to begin.

A hint it's not in a plain brown wrapper, any more.

Attention Northeast Deer and Elk Farmers members:

In addition to your membership including 2 free advertisements per year, remember the Photo Gallery on our website.

You can post as many photos there as you wish!

Contact Norma Mierke or Koran Cousino for directions.



Advertisements

James (Jim) Chase, Farm Manager, for the Clark Foundation in Cooperstown, New York, is looking for a proven fallow breeder buck. Jim does work the farm so you may need to leave a message. He will return your call as soon as he can. Please direct your questions about this matter to Jim Chase at 607-544-1807.

This Road Sign Moves

By Bob Root, Mariah Elk Farm

In the last newsletter I had asked if members had a Road Sign; if so, send in a photo and we would put it in this newsletter, here is ours, and it moves. It is on display in Berkshire, our home, or in Cortland, our farm, or in Minnesota a couple of times, and the state of Maine and several states in between, you name it, where ever I am it is.

For a few hundred bucks we have advertised our farm all over the northeast and a few times across the Mississippi. On a delivery of a harvested animal to our butcher we had passed a car from down state on route 81, a few days later we received a call, with an inquiry of meat pricing and then a order. This isn't the first time this has happened since we put the graphics on our truck, and they still keep paying off. Not everyone wants to have graphics, or even a vanity plate on there vehicle, but it does get the word out, with a small outlay of cash.



Photo below and right Submitted by Norma and Butch Mierke
Back-Forty Elk Farm



NEW YORK DEER & ELK FARMERS ASSOCIATION



Fifth Annual Meeting is Saturday, April 24

Comfort Inn, 6701 Buckley Road, Syracuse

9a Registration & Coffee Mingle, 9:45a Meeting Begins

Noon Buffet Lunch \$20 & Afternoon Meeting Continues

Meeting speakers are still being confirmed so check www.NYDEFA.org or call NYDEFA at 716-685-4019 for more information and to confirm your attendance.



Recent Economic Impact Study Revealed ~

New York State is among the Top 10 States in the cervid industry!

~No. 6 in total deer & elk kept

~No. 9 in total deer & elk farms

~No. 7 in deer & elk sold

~No. 10 in commercial deer & elk farms

New York State was home to the highest scoring hard antler elk bull in the United States as well as several of the top 10 white-tailed deer.

Educating the public and our political leaders about alternative livestock farming.



2010 Membership Drive is On!

Call for a Membership Application today or download one from www.NYDEFA.org!

Advertising available in our quarterly newsletter.



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