

# Northeast Deer and Elk Farmer News



Winter 2004

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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 Brookside Studio, PO Box 1882 Wolfeboro, NH 03894 or emailed: cvclutr@worldpath.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 Dick Krebs

I feel I am speaking for everyone in saying that Old Man Winter has done his job once again this year with too many cold days and weeks and record snowfalls. The lake effect snow in our county has made us the snowiest county in the country. A record we could have done without! A neighboring village received 84" of snow in two days although we only got 52". With our elk looking down over our fences, we're hoping for warm weather and an early thaw.

It wasn't long after the April 2003 Convention that farmers in New York became aware that a bill was passed to shut down all hunting preserves. We all banded together and began getting petitions and letters signed to send to the Governor. We actually sent so many that we overloaded some of their email addresses and stacks of letters were delivered each day. Knowing how concerned we were with the future of farming in the state, the Governor, in August, vetoed the bill. But don't think this is over. We need to stay proactive on the situation as the opposition have already started their campaign to reintroduce the bill again this year.

Once again, I would like to thank Martha Goodsell for her hard work in pulling the group together. But she can't do it alone. We need each and every one of you to do your part. Bob & Patti Vacanti deserve our heartfelt thanks for their efforts in getting the agricultural laws changed by Commissioner Rodgers that recognizes the sale and collection of

deer urine as an agricultural product. This took them over a year to get done. Congratulations! Also our appreciation goes out to Bonnie Brae Farms for putting all of us on national television. Thanks, Henry and Cindy! They had a story about their farm on the Food Network Channel regarding "food finds in New Hampshire." This just goes to show what we are all capable of doing in this business if we put some hard work into it.

Meeting with the Board of Directors in February, it seems that all states are beginning to get their CWD regulations in order, but are still waiting for Federal rules to be completed. Hopefully, this will happen soon and we can get our borders open for trading.

Marketing! Marketing! Marketing! Seems to be the hot button for each state which is needed to move our products to the general public. This will be the main subject at this year's convention to be held April 23-25 at the Johnson & Wales Inn, Seekonk, MA. If you have good ideas, or are looking for some, don't forget to send in your registration for the Convention. It is destined to be a good one featuring a cook-off by students from the culinary school, speakers from the State and USDA, an antler competition and benefit auction.

Hope to see you there!  
Dick Krebs

## 2003 NDEF OFFICERS

### President

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### Directors

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Les Armstrong	NY	2006
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John Barnatowicz	RI	2004
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Edgar Dolbec	ME	2006
rdolbec@earthlink.net		
John Morse	NH	2005
jjmorse@tds.net		

## MAINE NEWS DECEMBER 2003

Marketing of our animals in Maine is paramount to the survival of our industry just as it is anywhere else in the northeast or nation for that matter. There are 58 members of the Maine Deer and Elk Farmers Association who now have a greater chance of marketing their animals for venison. It would behoove you to go to the MDEFA.com website and review the Nov/Dec Newsletter. The organization is working with grant funds and they have developed a Code of Ethics and a Code of Practice that will determine those in the membership that will qualify to sell their animals by a simple, fair lottery system. Our marketing committee chose Luce's Meats, from N. Anson, ME to be our processor. They market under "Maine Farm Brands" where all animals are Maine raised and hormone free. They are also the primary processor for Maine Pork Producers. They are USDA, centrally located and expressed a sincere desire to work with the MDEFA. MDEFA is also hiring a marketing agent to set this endeavor in motion. Many of us in the organization belong to NDEF and NaDeFa. Which, by the way, makes a huge difference to our deer farming industry as we all strive to keep our rights in the legislative bodies of our perspective States.

Individually, we see our own private venison markets growing daily. Organization is key. Your involvement is crucial. The excitement is there and we need everyone of you to decide if you are a hobbyist or a farmer and start working to get this industry in the face of the ocean of customers we have before us!

Crown Point Farm  
Tony and Beth Tuttle  
Albion, Maine

## Proposed Federal Regulation for Deer and Elk Producers

As a member of NAEBA you receive regulation alerts immediately as soon as we discover them.

Currently the USDA is proposing rule regulation that may have a major impact on elk ranching and your ranching business. It is proposed Federal rules pertaining to CWD and interstate or intrastate transportation of cervids. If this rule is put into force a rancher has limited time to register his herd for certification. If a rancher misses this window they will be playing catch up for a long time thus costing profit potential.

Please read this document very closely and advise your regional director or email back the sender of your concerns so we can act on them. The public comment period is short making time of the essence.

This is NAEBA working to inform and protect members. We will keep you appraised of the progress of these proposed rules.

Please go to this email address:  
[www.naelk.org/cwdrules.pdf](http://www.naelk.org/cwdrules.pdf)

Kindest regards  
Ron Greene- President NAEBA,  
Southwest Region  
NAEBA Board of Directors  
Frank Keeton - Central Region  
Jerry Jochims - Central Region  
Scott Groen - North Central Region  
Brian Wagner - North Central Region  
Ted Winters - Northeast Region  
Eric Robinson - Northeast Region  
Tom VanWitbeck - Northwest Region  
Mike Kilpatrick - Northwest Region  
Bob Johnson - Southern Region

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## NH DEER FARM TO BE ON FOOD NETWORK

*Plymouth, NH*

Henry Ahern is pleased to announce that his deer farm, Bonnie Brae Farms, is once again scheduled to appear on the FOOD NETWORK on their program "Food Finds". The FOOD NETWORK is cable's premiere destination for food and lifestyle programming. It is now distributed to more than 78 million U.S. TV households.

Henry was approached about doing the segment after a friend of a Food Finds producer saw them at the Downtown Farmers Market in Manchester NH. A production crew for "Food Finds" came to Bonnie Brae Farms in September of 2002 and spent the day filming, both at the farm and at one of Bonnie Brae's restaurant customers, the Manor on Golden Pond in Holderness, NH.

The episode is called "New Hampshire" and also includes three other New Hampshire food producers, including Van Otis Chocolates in Manchester, The Pie Guy in Salem, and Polly's Pancake Parlor in Franconia. It previously aired in November. The up-coming air dates and times are as follows:

Thursday, March 4 1:00 AM  
Thursday, March 4 9:00 PM

Bonnie Brae Farms is a Red Deer farm in Plymouth, NH, and is now celebrating its 10th anniversary. They produce venison, velvet antler products, and breeding stock. They also offer pre- and post-sales consulting to people interested in becoming deer farmers. The venison

and velvet antler products are available directly from the farm as well as by mail order.

For more information Bonnie Brae Farms can be reached by phone at (603) 536-3880 or by email at [admin@bonniebraefarms.com](mailto:admin@bonniebraefarms.com). Their website can be found at [www.bonniebraefarms.com](http://www.bonniebraefarms.com)

## NORTHEAST DEER AND ELK FARMERS CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEETING April 23-25, 2004

At  
**The Johnson & Wales Inn**  
213 Taunton Avenue  
Seekonk MA 02771

A totally different convention this year! A number of top successful venison marketing people from around the region will be guest speakers explaining their different experiences.

Chefs from Johnson & Wales Culinary School will be speaking on what they are looking for when purchasing venison from you.

The top chefs from Johnson & Wales Culinary School will be doing a cook-off competition with venison—a four to five course meal—with you eating and judging the cuisine.

All of this will be followed by Round Table discussions (questions, answers, and ideas) on how best to market your venison successfully.

Also on the agenda, State and USDA Reps will be speaking about the new developments on CWD.

In addition, Antler Competition and a fun-filled Auction. Vendors will also be available to share their knowledge and support to both the novice and experienced deer and elk farmers.

Please SAVE THE DATE and join us at the Johnson & Wales Inn. A complete agenda and registration forms will follow in a separate mailing in a few weeks.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2003 RAMADA INN, SYRACUSE, NY

**Board members present:** Henry Ahern, Hank Dimuzio, John Barnatowicz, Mark Drew, Richard Frost, Les Armstrong, Jim Neil, Tony Tuttle, Diane Rowlee, John Morse and Dick Krebs.

President, Jim Neil called meeting to order at 8:20 PM.

First item on the agenda was a slate of officers to present to the general membership. Hank, Henry and Dick all stated they would be running again this term. Mark indicated he would not be running again. The board agreed to present this slate and request nominations from the floor. Maine needs to be represented. Tony indicated that Ed Dolbec was interested.

**State Reports:** Jim requested that each state representative present a report to the general membership. Reports will be given by: Tony for ME, Henry for NH, John B. for the southern states, Hank for VT and

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## April 25 Meeting

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Martha Goodsell (non-officer) will give NY.

**Next item:** Official stationery. Henry presented several examples supplied by our newsletter editor. After much discussion concerning the style and whether an address should be added, a style with our logo and just the states listed to the right on formal paper stock was selected. Next consideration was whether to use the 3-color logo or alter it to save money. John Morse made a motion to use the 3-color logo, 2nd by Richard. The motion carried.

Henry made a motion not to put addresses on stationary. Dick seconded and the motion carried. If a director is ever hired, his/her address should be added. Henry will order 2000 sheets. Hank inquired about envelopes. These too would be ordered with just the logo on the left upper corner.

Jim then brought up the ethics complaint. Jim reported that all parties were requested to submit in writing their understanding of the issue with supporting documents. Ethics committee will review information and make a decision. Hank asked if we are to mediate or should we stay out of it and let them settle it in court. Jim felt we were asked to advise if there was an ethics issue. Committee cannot do that without more information. Henry made a motion to table this issue until all parties have been heard from. Richard seconded. Motion carried. The president will appoint a committee of 3.

**Amenable vs. non-amenable classification.** Jim reported that a member requested that we bring this discussion up at the general meeting. Should NDEF push to have venison listed as amenable? Henry stated that only USDA could do this and they are currently not interested. Hank stated that under the current restrictions, it

would hurt farmers. It was suggested that it be brought up under "other" business. Henry suggested running NADeFA article on the subject in the next newsletter.

**Cervid Products promotion committee** – nothing done at this time. Jim as asked committee to make report.

**Treasurer's audit** – Jim did not get one done before meeting. Asked for volunteer. Diane will do it. She will contact Henry in a couple of weeks.

**Treasurer's report** – Full report will be made a part of these meetings as submitted.

**Director position proposal** – Lengthy discussion on this issue voicing pros and cons. Main concern was funding the position. All agreed that it would be nice to have a director or liaison but NDEF just not capable of raising enough money. It was suggested that any member who incurs expenses representing NDEF at meetings, hearings or conferences should be compensated for those expenses. The board agreed to bring the matter to general membership at the annual meeting. Since time is limited for annual meeting, Dick made a motion that the concept be presented to members after lunch break on Sat. before afternoon speakers allowing members to think about it before Sunday's meeting. Hank to explain the need. Henry seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM.

## ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2003 RAMADA INN SYRACUSE, NY

President Jim Neil called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM.

**Secretary,** Diane Rowlee read minutes from 2002 Annual Meeting.

Jim made a motion to accept as read. Seconded by Hank Dimuzio. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's report:** Hank gave the Treasurer's Report, John Morse made a motion to accept report as submitted. Edger Dolbec seconded and motion was carried. Any current member wishing a full report may contact Henry Ahern.

1. Newsletter – Jim explained why we went to a new editor for the newsletter and why we missed an issue or two (Missy Blackwell's resignation). Correspondents need to keep state news coming to new editor. VT needs new correspondent. Karon Casey of Red Rock Elk Ranch volunteered.
2. Dick reported that the auction netted about \$4,110. Final figures to be announced later.
3. Jim thanked Mark Drew, Les Armstrong and Byron Ellis for scoring antler contest. Also expressed appreciation to Dick and Lori Krebs for a great convention. He then looked for volunteers for next years annual meeting.
4. Jim began discussions on the recent legislative and regulatory events over the past year. He stated that even though these have been trying times, he felt we were making headway. Improvements to come soon was not very likely in his opinion. Only hard work from all members will move the industry forward. He then requested state reports:

- a. Tony Tuttle presented Maine report: Maine organization had to fight legislation restricting hunt parks on short notice. 16 members testified and they managed to defeat bill after a lot of hard work. CWD surveillance program: committee formed to work with state. They are also looking into getting USDA inspection as

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## April 27, 2003 Meeting

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- non-amenable. Borders closed.
- b. John Barnatowicz for Southern States: RI wild deer testing and John's farm testing gave them enough to be declared CWD free. RI can import from any other state that is CWD monitored. Their testing is covered by federal funds. Boned-in meat can be brought in unless from CWD state.
  - c. Hank Dimuzio for Vermont: VT going backwards. Borders are still closed. New commissioners of Agriculture and Fish & Wildlife are not sympathetic to our concerns. Hunt park rulings have been put aside for now. VT State Vet has gone to USDA. No one appointed as of yet. A temporary ban on deer/elk meats with bone-in or mixed is still in effect. There was a public hearing, which we did not know about until after period of comment passed. Hank was unable to convince them that this ruling is hurting the deer/elk farmer. It did go to rules committee but was only able to get slight word change on mixed meat. Final vote not taken yet for permanent ban.
  - d. Martha Goodsell for New York: 1000 wild deer tested (390 captive cervid). Dept. of Ag and Markets included farmers in drafting rules. They are working on getting it out of legal committee. DEC will go with Dept. of Ag in restricting venison imports. They are now trying to get restaurants to join the fight. Bill 4609 affects hunt parks currently no acreage requirements. NY farmers trying to get this reversed. Working on Code of Ethics for hunt parks. Grant was received and still working on regional project. This is threatened by border closings. Did get NY Farm Bureau to accept cervid farmers.

5. Edgar Dolbec reported that the promotion committee did not get together. Other reasons but mostly due to CWD issue. Will try to get committee moving again.
6. At this time Jim called for nominations for Board of Directors. He presented the slate of nominees: Hank Dimuzio-VT, Henry Ahern-NH, Dick Krebs-NY and Edgar Dolbec-ME. Mark Drew stepping down. No other nominations were made from the floor. Andy Hinkley made a motion to accept nominations as presented. Erick Dolberg seconded. Motion Carried.

Henry Ahern made a motion to instruct secretary to cast one ballot for the slate as presented. Seconded by Les Armstrong. Motion Carried.

7. Jim thanked the board for their hard work and support during the two years he has been president.
8. John Barnatowicz and his wife of Granite Acres Deer Farm in our southern region will host next years meeting. Location to be announced at a later date.
9. Jim brought up amenable vs. non-amenable in meat inspection. Martha Goodsell explained that because we do not fall under this act, we have choices. We can use state inspectors or USDA. She express caution in considering any changes in current status. Maine has been looking into the matter and due to the current conditions, may table.
10. Les Armstrong suggested Martha Goodsell as liaison and to fund her expenses. The liaison would act as assistant to board. Martha Morse made the comment that each state needs to make a strong commitment to support this person. John Morse added that funding needs to be provided and suggested \$100 per farm to start. Dick Krebs commented that another way to fund is a per animal

fee. Martha Goodsell thought Jim Neil a better candidate for the position. She added that the key to strengthening our position is effective communication. She suggested that we set up an email "hot line" to get messages out as quickly as possible when action is needed. Discussion turned to funding. Henry wondered who would be responsible for levying fee. Other ways to raise funds were also discussed. It was suggested that each member visit a local non-member to get our membership up (also funds). All above comments to be reviewed by board.

11. Henry asked for a standing ovation for Jim Neil for all his efforts over the past two years.

Motion to adjourn was made by Henry and seconded by Les. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Farm tour and lunch provided by Dick and Lori Krebs at their farm in Sandy Creek.

## FOLLOW-UP BOARD MEETING SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2003 RAMADA INN SYRACUSE, NY

Meeting called to order at 9:35 AM.

Nominations for officers:

**Secretary** – Les made a motion to nominate Diane – Richard seconded – motion carried.

**Treasurer** – Dick made a motion to nominate Henry – Richard seconded – motion carried.

**President** – Richard made a motion to nominate Dick – Tony seconded – motion carried.

Dick asked for all our help, as his personal responsibilities will keep him from being as active as he would like

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## April 27, 2003 Meeting

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to be. All members need to represent NDEF.

If we are to get new members we need updated state lists of cervid owners. Each representative will contact his or her commissioners for new lists.

Discussion on compensation for time and expenses spent fighting regulatory process or representing NDEF at meetings was next. General consensus was that at the very least, expenses would be compensated. Concerns were expressed that the board needs to be more pro-active.

Jim made the motion to adjourn. John Morse seconded – carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:50.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2004 ST. JOHNSBURY, VT

**Directors present:** Dick Krebs, Les Armstrong, Jim Neil, Hank Dimuzio, Tony Tuttle, John Barnatowcz, John Morse, Henry Ahern, Diane Rowlee, with Richard Frost joining later in day.

**Treasurer's report:** Henry gave the Treasurer's Report. Hank made a motion to accept the report as submitted. Jim seconded and motion was carried. Any current member wishing a full report may contact Henry Ahern.

**Secretary's Report:** Diane read the reports from the April meetings and reviewed the points discussed in the

email meeting held last fall. Reports were accepted as read.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**Email meetings:** The board reviewed the productivity of email meetings. It was recommended that these meetings be kept to only 2 or 3 topics and should not last more than one week. A point was made that all members should make sure their replies are numbered according to the agenda and sent to all members.

**Membership:** A considerable amount of discussion centered on putting together a membership letter. After several suggestions and drafts, Henry Ahern will put letter together to go out to potential new members and members who have not renewed their membership.

**Ethics Committee:** This report was tabled until the end of the meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS:

#### State Reports:

**Maine:** Tony reported that the Maine association is working on a Code of Ethics that each member must sign and adhere to. They are working on a possibility of working with a processor in a form of a cooperative to market their animals. They currently have about 52 members. This marketing incentive would have its own seal of quality and price list. Animals would be chosen by lottery to fill orders. They will have signs to give retailers promoting the product. Tony also reported that they are raising membership dues. Jim asked about any new news on CWD in Maine. Tony had not heard anything of substance except that APHIS had been doing some testing around deer farms during the hunting season.

**New Hampshire:** Henry reported that there was one less farm in the state that was a concern to the board. There have been some inquiries through the farm bureau into the possibility of using a portion of a slaughterhouse, which recently closed. They are looking for grant money to upgrade the facility. He also stated that the state vet has been trying to push opening borders within the region to CWD monitored herds. First borders would probably be with Maine. As with many of the states, NH is waiting to see what happens with Federal rules now in draft form. One area that was talked about at great length was the problem of disposal of offal. Another area of discussion was state regulations concerning transportation of meat. Henry stated that any frozen meat must be inspected.

**Vermont:** Diane reported that Fish and Wildlife reported year before last that 500 whitetail would be tested during hunting season and would focus their efforts around deer farms. Only 253 were tested and all were negative. They did not publicize that fact. Punky Rowlee (guest) spoke on a new initiative to start a coop slaughterhouse in Troy. He attended a meeting last week and feels that this is a long way from becoming a reality. Hank added that there was a new slaughterhouse in Benson, VT. He thought it would have its USDA status soon. Hank also mentioned that Carl Cushing from the Dept. of Agriculture talked about the possibility of a portable slaughterhouse. Our new state vet is Kerry Rood. Hank thinks that after he gets his feet wet, he will be open to hearing from us.

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## February 2004 Board of Directors Meeting

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At this point the board thought it would be a good idea to invite all the state vet's to the annual meeting.

### Rhode Island, MA, CT and Canada:

John B. reported that he has a great working relationship with his state vet and Dept. of Ag. He is monitoring his herd and can import from other CWD monitored herds. His farm is also being used as a training site for veterinary students and vets wanting experience with cervids. There is no other information from the other states.

**New York:** Dick said there has been no change on CWD positions. The Rockefeller Foundation is funding a feasibility study for slaughterhouse facility that would also do the marketing of products. AS with the other states rendering is a problem. Les wondered if we wanted a booth at the NADeFA convention. There would be no one to man it. Hank thought that would be a good idea if the convention ever comes east. Dick also thought NY would follow Federal Regs on CWD. There was some discussion on identification methods for tracing brought on by BSE discovery.

**Newsletter:** Henry said newsletter has been ready for some time – just waiting for articles. Diane said she has sent April meeting minutes at least twice to editor. They did not appear in the last newsletter and are still not there. Henry suggested sending again and sending to him at the same time. We are still looking for articles. **Reminder to everyone – you are entitled to 2 FREE classifieds per year.**

**Directory:** Diane was upset that the directory has not gone out for 2 years. Henry said, he understood that we wanted to hold it until new membership was accounted for. That was not her understanding. Jim made a motion to have directory printed for annual meeting. Seconded by John B. – motion passed. **If you want to be in directory get your membership renewals in as soon as possible.**

**Website:** Henry presented this years website bill from Joe McGlinchey. After review, Hank made a motion to pay bill. Les seconded – motion carried. Henry said he sends updates on members and newsletters to Joe. It was suggested that members submit pictures to place on website.

**Annual Meeting:** John B. updated the board on plans for annual meeting and asked for help. As he is the only farmer in Rhode Island, he has no other members to help him. Please see information elsewhere in newsletter. It promises to be very informative and John has arranged for a cook-off for the banquet with the culinary students doing the cooking.

Diane suggested something new besides the antler competition and auction. A photo contest. She will head up this part of the program. Please see your convention packet for details.

**Nominating Committee:** Terms up for election are Diane – VT, Richard – VT and Tony from Maine. Dick made a motion to have Richard head up committee and Dick said he would help. Henry 2nd motion – motion carried.

At this point the board went into Executive Session to discuss the Ethics Committee reports. Jim made

the motion to go into executive session with John M. seconding – motion carried.

After the executive session concluded, Les Armstrong submitted his resignation and with much regret the board accepted. This opens an additional spot on the board to fulfill Les' term.

Hank requested reimbursement for expenses incurred by the ethics committee. As board expenses have already been approved at an earlier meeting, this was approved.

Other business: Hank reminded the board that responses to the Federal Rules on CWD needed to be in by 2/23/04.

Tony made a motion to adjourn. Jim seconded – carried.

## Member CLASSIFIED ADS

### 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

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## ***DEER & ELK INDUSTRY UPDATES***

### **A NEW WEB SITE**

For reports on research matters, the US Geological Survey's Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit in Wisconsin has developed a new display for chronic wasting disease. Located at [http://wildlife.wisc.edu/coonlCWD/CW\\_Introduction.html](http://wildlife.wisc.edu/coonlCWD/CW_Introduction.html), this website describes the research projects underway at the research unit and provides a bibliography of the unit's current publications and presentations.

### **NEW AVMA EDUCATIONAL BROCHURE ON CWD**

Informational brochures on Chronic Wasting Disease can be viewed at [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org) or purchased for \$20 plus \$6 shipping and handling for a package of 50 from AVMA on-line. You may also order by phone at 847-925-8070, ext. 6667 or fax 847-925-1329. This brochure covers cause, transmission, clinical signs, diagnosis, prevention, and possible risks to hunter, farmers, and others.

### **MORE RESEARCH FUNDING**

The fiscal year '04 U.S. Department of the Interior budget passed by Congress includes \$4.2 million for chronic wasting disease (CWD) research to the U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS). This is a \$1 million increase over last year's \$3.2 million appropriation and includes a specified appropriation of \$250,000 to establish a wildlife disease center

in Wisconsin. The USGS will utilize the funding to study the transmission pathways of the disease, as well as outbreak patterns and the disease's possible associations with landscape features.

### **ALASKA CHECKING ON CWD**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game reports it will test 500 deer and as many elk as possible for CWD on Kodiak Island this fall. They are working with USDA-APHIS to conduct tests to determine if CWD has infected cervids in that state.

### **MICHIGAN ACTS**

The Michigan Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force, appointed earlier this year by Governor Jennifer Granholm, has issued its final report of recommendations for keeping the disease out of Michigan. A full copy of the report can be downloaded from the Michigan State Government Web Site at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/cwd\\_final-report\\_75838\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/cwd_final-report_75838_7.pdf).

### **CAUGHT IN MICHIGAN**

A police officer in Michigan stopped to help a couple whose vehicle had broken down and found they had six deer and an elk in their trailer. The couple has purchased the animals at an auction in Ohio and wanted to keep them as pets at their home north of Grand Rapids. They were given the choice of euthanizing the animals or returning them to Ohio.

The couple opted to return the animals. It is unknown if the couple was aware of the Michigan ban on the importation of cervids. This is a perfect example of how unregulated interstate movement of captive cervids occurs; if the couple's vehicle had not developed problems, these animals could have made it to their final destination without detection.

### **TESTING IN MINNESOTA**

The Minnesota DNR hoped to collect 13,000 deer for CWD testing during the hunting season. Last year the department collected approximately 5,000m samples after finding CWD in elk on two game farms; the tests failed to detect CWD in the free roaming population of deer. Over 400 DNR employees and volunteers will collect samples at 135 check stations in the northwest, northeast, east-central, and west-central regions of the state. As an incentive this fall, hunters who submit their deer for testing will have a chance to win one of about 20 rifles, shotguns, bows and muzzleloaders donated by the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, the Bluffland Whitetails Association and various outdoor stores.

# ATTENTION ALL DEER & ELK FARMERS

Do you have some special photos of your animals? Some funny, other beautiful and maybe even some cute? NDEF WANTS THEM!

ANNOUNCING NDEF'S FIRST ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST  
JUDGING AND AWARDS TO BE DONE AT THE  
ANNUAL MEETING THIS APRIL



Categories are:  
Fawns, Stags, and Groups  
Judging will be in 4 divisions:  
Elk, Red Deer, Fallow and  
Whitetail.

Send your entries to:  
Diane Rowlee  
Hollandeer Farm  
58 Stage Coach LN  
Holland, VT 05829

Entries should be 8x10, mounted on card stock, with Farm name, owners name, age of subject and animals name (if there is one) written on the back of the card stock on each photo. You may enter more than one photo. Best in Show will be awarded from winning entries in each division. Entries must be received by April 15th.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

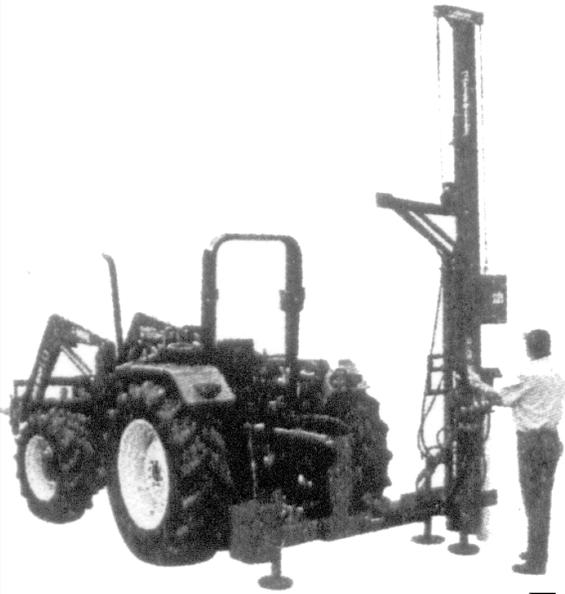
Topics of Interest \_\_\_\_\_

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**



# POST DRIVING

*Serving New England/Eastern NY*

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ROCK SPIKE

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**JIM NEIL**

Eastridge Elk Farm    Cornish, NH

**(603) 542-2912    •    [nhelk@yahoo.com](mailto:nhelk@yahoo.com)**

## WELLSCROFT FARM FENCE SYSTEMS

167 Sunset Hill • Chesham, Harrisville, NH 03450



*For the best in Wildlife Fencing and Accessories*

*Heavy duty game gates 6' and 8' high by 4' to 16' long*

*30 year pressure treated posts 10' to 16'*

*KINGHITTER post drivers*

**Call for details 603-827-3464**

# TOM'S ELK RANCH

*Tom sells all you need  
for elk ranching*



Call

**518-561-3555**

*Pictured is an example of the  
kind of elk at my farm. He is a  
2 year old 7x7 who scored 286  
7/8 at NE Elk Convention in  
2003 and took 1st place!*

**Fencing:** \$260 P/R -  
20x96x6 = 396 lbs

**Cedar Posts:**  
12' - \$4.50  
14' - \$5.00

**Hydraulic Squeezes:**  
- Reid \$6,000  
- Homemade \$2,000

**Scales,  
Jug Water Fountains,  
Gates  
Know How**

Tom is 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

**Cows for Sale: \$2,000**

40 lbs x 40 lbs

*From the Pat Cooper ranch*

These cows are daughters of Starbuck,  
King, Platinum, Primetime, Brutus II,  
Jethro, Apex and Raptor.

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**

**\$1,000**

**One of my 2003 spikers  
scored 295 in the squeeze  
before being sold as a shooter.**

# NORTHEAST DEER AND ELK FARMERS ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 23-25, 2004

JOHNSON & WALES INN  
213 Taunton Avenue  
Seekonk, MA 02771

Partial agenda is a Culinary Cookoff with top chefs of  
the Johnson & Wales Culinary School  
and the Rhode Island Vet giving a talk on CWD

**For more information contact:**

John Barnatowicz

Granite Acres Deer Farm • 144 Smith Road • Harrisville RI 02830.

Ph/fax: 401-568-4045 • email: [ajbarnat@earthlink.net](mailto:ajbarnat@earthlink.net)

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