

Northeast Deer and Elk Farmer News



Winter 2005/2006

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

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Payment for Ads to be sent to:

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

President's Paddock by Richard Frost

Greetings fellow NDEF members, I hope that everyone had a very happy Holiday season. We have closed out what I hope was a successful 2005 for you and are beginning a new year.

NDEF received their Christmas present, (the USDA rural development grant,) a little early, wrapped in lots and lots of paper. Henry, our treasurer, and Cindy, of Bonnie Brae farm, have been working hard to bring this about, with phone calls, e-mails and road trips to get this all done. Our grant writer, Helen Costello did an outstanding job, even earning the praise of officials at the USDA rural development office. We are extremely fortunate to have such skilled and dedicated people as members and associates. Hopefully we will have a progress report during the convention.

Speaking of the NDEF convention, it's closer than you think. This year it will be held in southeastern New Hampshire, hosted by the Griswold's, I am sure that it will be a great convention. Please make plans to attend, not only will there be variety of speakers, but it is also a wonderful forum where farmers can exchange ideas in farming practices and marketing ideas. We are also having a business meeting on Sunday morning, please try to attend. Remember, if you know of a cervid farmer that is not an NDEF member, encourage them to join and come to the conference. You can also come to New

Hampshire a day early there are a lot of things to do and see, plus lots of tax-free shopping.

In the last newsletter we included a survey concerning the antler scoring competition, as I write for this newslet-

ter I have yet to receive a single survey back. Please take a minute to fill out and return the survey, the BOD can not think for all of the members, if you would like to see some changes made, please, let us know.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year, may we all continue to enjoy raising these beautiful Deer and Elk that have brought us all together in this organization.

See you in April, Richard

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING November 20, 2005 CONFERENCE CALL

Directors participating: Henry Ahern, Richard Frost, Hank Dimuzio, Diane Rowlee, Tom Peryea, Bob Root, Dick Krebs, Jim Griswold, Tony Tuttle, and Jim Neil.

Henry opened meeting with Treasurer's business. He was looking for permission to continue to join the state farm bureaus. Dick made a motion to continue our membership with all the member state farm bureaus. Tom second. Motion passed.

Henry indicated that now that the grant has been awarded, we owe the grant writer, Helen Costello \$1500 as agreed upon at the time of engagement. Diane so moved with Bob Root seconding. Motion carried.

Henry informed the board that he was sending the second payment to NADeFA for our contribution towards the lobbyist. Hank wanted to know how that was going. Henry and Dick both indicated that it was going well. We would like a report for the next newsletter.

Henry also indicated that our \$10,000 CD is coming due at the end of the month. He advised that we might want to pull \$5000 out and renew for just the remaining \$5000 as we are expending a good deal of money at this time. Jim Neil made a motion to put only \$5000 in a CD. Tom seconded. Motion carried.

Henry also reported that we have current Assets of \$17,973.09 and liabilities of \$6. It was suggested that we put the \$6 towards the lobbyist bill since it was set aside for legislative expenses.

Jim Griswold then reported on the progress of the next Annual Meeting. He indicated that after looking into several locations he and Luanne decided on the Best Western Windwood in Portsmouth. He gave some particulars on the cost and plans. He will

need \$500 for a deposit. He was looking for suggestions for speakers or a theme for the conference. Henry indicated that the students who will be working on the grant will be presenting a preliminary report as well as a booth (suggested). It was also suggested that we try for Russell Sawchuck as a speaker (maybe on several topics) as he has done a great deal in the area of pet supplements with antler. Tom wondered about an open house for the public to introduce them to deer/elk farming and product. Tony had a contact in Maine that was interested in filming our conference and cook-off several years ago, maybe can get him to this one. Richard suggested that we get some food editors to judge the cook-off and get some free coverage that way. Jim thanked everyone for the suggestions and he will get busy on the speakers. Everything seems to be under control on the upcoming conference.

Henry then brought up the need for the resolutions in conjunction with the grant award.

Henry made a motion authorizing Richard Frost as president of NDEF to execute and take all action necessary or appropriate to comply with USDA Rural Development Letter of Conditions, Rural Business-Cooperative Service Grant Agreement, and all other written instruments as may be required to evidence and secure the VAPG grant. Jim Neil seconded. Motion carried.

Henry made a motion authorizing Henry Ahern in addition to Richard Frost and Diane Rowlee to sign the Resolution of Authority on behalf of the Board. Dick Seconded. Motion carried.

Diane read the resolution that was passed at the April 17, 2005 annual meeting regarding the \$1850 pledged by members to the study as well as the velvet pledged at that time. Henry has sent letters to all that pledged requesting payment. Tom wanted to know about the velvet and when it was needed. Henry indicated that at the moment they have enough velvet to

begin the process. They might need more in the spring. More velvet was pledged then was needed for the grant.

If the grant study produces favorable results, Henry said there was another grant we could apply for that will help with the start up costs. We won't necessarily get the grant, but since the people at USDA are pushing for this, our chances are good.

Diane moved the resolution as follows: Be it resolved that at the Annual Meeting of the Northeast Deer and Elk Farmers, held on April 17, 2005, the general membership voted to match amounts totaling \$1850 from organizational funds for the purposes specified in the final approved budget and scope of work associated with the Rural Business-Cooperative Service Grant. Henry seconded. Motion carried.

Henry also stated that the USDA would like pictures showing "happy cervid farmers" for their newsletter. Diane, Dick and Jim all stated they would send some as attachments to Henry to submit.

Henry needs a copy of the signed minutes faxed to him.

Jim Neil wanted to express his thanks to Henry and Cindy for all the work they have done on the grant and without that commitment we would not have gotten the grant. Also that Helen Costello did a wonderful job in writing the grant. Since it may come to a considerable amount of administrative work going forward, did we want to consider hiring Helen as a PT administrative person or a liaison? When it appears that this is the case we will address the issue. Helen is interested Henry indicated.

Richard brought up the timeliness of the newsletters. It was agreed that there would be a deadline and if articles were not submitted by that deadline, the newsletter would go out regardless. Since the last one was 6 weeks late our next one will have a December 1st deadline with finished product going to Henry for printing by

Dec. 15th for January 1st publication. Next deadline will have to be Feb. 1st for a 15th submission in order to get one out before the annual meeting. Jim Griswold will have preliminary information ready for the Dec. issue and final plans for the Feb. issue.

Since no one has gotten any NY news from the correspondent, Bob Root agreed to put together NY news going forward.

Richard reminded all about the survey in the recent issue concerning the antler contest. Please submit and get other members to do the same.

He also wanted to know if anyone has heard from Edgar. Tony indicated that he had not seen or heard from him in several months. He will call him to see what is going on with him.

Next meeting will have to be towards the end of January. Richard will decide if we have to meet or if we can do the conference call once again. Everyone seemed to think that this was working well.

Diane made a motion to adjourn. Jim Neil seconded. Motion carried

NDEF Annual Convention

The 2006 Annual Convention of the Northeast Deer and Elk Farmers Association will be held this year in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The conference will begin with an informal get-together on Friday evening, March 31 with the main conference taking place on Saturday, April 1 (no foolin'!) and the business meeting on Sunday, April 2. The conference will be held at the Wynwood Hotel & Suites (a Best Western hotel) conveniently located at the junction of US Route 4 and Interstate 95 in Portsmouth (also known as the Portsmouth traffic circle). Topics of interest that will be featured include updates on CWD, land and farm preservation and easements and the use of velvet antler in animals (especially pets) with an update on the recent grant award to NDEF. Additional in

formation, including reservation information, will be forthcoming in the next edition of the NDEF newsletter.

Contact:

Jim or Lou Ann Griswold
Velvet Pastures Elk Ranch
Lee, New Hampshire
603-659-6972

State Correspondents

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

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ttuttle@uninets.net

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VERMONT

Koran Casey Cousino
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New York News

I guess the big news should be that there have been several samples taken in the endemic area around Oneida County with no positive results for CWD to date. With several weeks of hunting season remaining and the rest of the state samples to be tested, the age old saying, (If you look hard enough you will find it), may well come true. Now with 4 positive wild White Tail Deer in Tennessee and a positive Moose in Colorado it looks to be certain this will not just go away. The Moose finding poses the question, could it be a cross-over disease (it was thought that with the Moose solitary nature it might avoid contamination, even though it is in the same family). We as Deer and Elk farmers can only wait and contribute our samples as they come along, to not sample is unwise, if we want regulations to lessen and return to normal all should participate with the standing rulings.

Seems that poachers will go to great length to bag a bull elk, recently a large bull was killed behind wire at a preserve in Savannah New York, the animal was reported to have been possibly shot during the daylight hours then only the head removed after dark with the remainder left to spoil. This area is surrounded by 10 foot mesh fencing with a large earthen perimeter on the inside for privacy of the people using the preserve. Value of bull estimated to be \$25-35,000 as stated by preserve operators.

RFID will be the standard for animal identification in the very near future. As noted in the last newsletter Dick and Lorie Krebs from Mountain Ash Elk Ranch are evaluating a type of RFID for a manufacturer from Canada, with backing from New York State.

Did you read the last NDEF newsletter fall 2005, good job, lots of information, may have been the largest edition to date, take the time read the newsletter and if you have something to add do so, participation is the key to success.

Wind is howling, temperature is dropping, and daylight is coming, got to get to work, hope to see you all at the next convention, be sure to mark your calendar, and fill out and return to Richard Frost the antler competition survey forms, from the fall newsletter.

Bob Root

Grant News

New Hampshire Press Conference October 25, 2005

Thomas C. Dorr, Under Secretary for Rural Development

Thank you, Jolinda, and good afternoon. It's great to be here, and I'll be happy to take your questions in just a moment. Before I do, however, I'd like to recognize three of our partners:

- Henry Ahern and Richard Frost, from the Northeast Deer and Elk Farmers Association;
- Stu Arnett, from the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development; and
- Paul Bradley, with the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund.

These gentlemen are the real stars of this show. I am called upon very regularly -- it goes with the job -- to attend conferences and meetings all around the country. In fact, I'm in New Hampshire today primarily to attend the Farm Bill Forum in Manchester this morning.

As a part of these trips, more often than not, we arrange meetings like this to highlight some of the projects which Rural Development has helped finance.

We do this because success is contagious, enthusiasm is contagious, initiative is contagious. That's true here today. Every one of these successful

projects sets an example. Every one of them makes it easier for the next innovator or entrepreneur to get started. Success breeds success.

The point I make over and over -- and I'll make it again today -- is that the critical variable -- the magic ingredient -- is leadership.

USDA Rural Development can help with funding and technical support. Jolinda, for those of you who may not know her, is one of our secret weapons -- she and her staff have done just an outstanding job leveraging investment for New Hampshire, over \$82 million in 2005 alone and over \$318 million since President Bush took office.

But not a penny of that would have been invested without the vision, energy, and leadership of partners like Henry Ahern, Richard Frost, Stu Arnett, Paul Bradley, and their associates. That's where the drive comes from. Nothing happens without it.

These are three very different projects, and they illustrate the incredible diversity of opportunity in rural America today:

- Harvesting velvet antler for use as a nutritional supplement;
- Broadband applications for micro-businesses;
- Technical assistance to develop cooperative housing parks.

In fact, it would be difficult to think of three more radically different business ventures. But the common denominator is leadership.

It is a privilege for me, on behalf of President Bush, Secretary Johanns, and a great team at USDA Rural Development, to be here today to support this spirit of initiative. Gentlemen, we look forward to working with you. Thank you.

Editors Note: Omitted from the Undersecretary's announcement was Jim Neil. Jim was also present at the award presentation, and is an integral part of the grant team.

The grant project is underway!

Richard Frost and Henry Ahern met with Lyn Millhiser from USDA-Rural Development on November 21 to sign the final papers to allow us to begin work. We have until November 21, 2006 to complete the study.

At the annual meeting in April 2005, several members came forward with pledges of dollars, velvet antler, and time. We now need to hear from you. Some checks have already arrived (Thank you, folks). Contact Henry to coordinate velvet antler collection for sending off for processing and to determine how your time contributions can best be used.

For members who were not at the meeting and would like to participate, it's not too late. Let Henry, Richard, or Jim Neil know how you would like to help. Their contact information is in the Directors section (on page 2) of this newsletter.

We have held our first official meeting with the team of graduate students from the Small Business Institute at Plymouth State University. They have begun to do research, and we will be meeting with them frequently.

This is expected to be a major project. There will be a lot of paperwork, and there are a lot of rules we need to follow for this government grant. But if the results are what we anticipate they will be, it should provide a means for velvet producers to move their velvet, and another reason for new farmers to get into the business. This can help us all.

News Release
Texas Animal Health Commission
Box 12966 *Austin, Texas 78711 *
(800) 550-8242 * FAX (512) 719-0719
Bob Hillman, DVM *

Executive Director
For info, contact Carla Everett,
information officer, at
1-800-550-8242, ext. 710,
or ceverett@tahc.state.tx.us

For immediate release---

Elk May Blaze the Animal ID Trail in Texas

Elk being moved in Texas will sport a radio frequency identification (RFID) ear tag beginning after the first of the year, if commissioners for the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) adopt regulations proposed for tracking the animals for disease control, including chronic wasting disease (CWD), a fatal brain disorder. About 300 producers in the state own elk, which are classified as exotic livestock in Texas and are under the jurisdiction of the TAHC, the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency. Premises and animal identification and record keeping requirements will extend to all of the animals' movements in commerce.

"We've worked closely with elk breeders associations, including the Exotic Wildlife Association, South Central Elk Breeders Association and the North American Elk Breeders, to develop the proposed regulations that will be presented to the commissioners for final approval at their meeting December 6 in Austin," said Dr. Bob Hillman, executive director for the TAHC and Texas' state veterinarian. "The regulations were developed to enhance disease monitoring with minimal impact on marketing."

"Identification and record keeping requirements will be extremely useful for quickly tracing elk movements, if chronic wasting disease (CWD) - or other diseases, such as brucellosis or

tuberculosis - are detected in the animals," he said. "Nationally, the implementation of animal identification for exotic livestock is 'way down the line,' but the Texas industry saw a need to be able to track elk movement now, so these animals will blaze the trail in the state for other species."

The proposed regulations will require owners to obtain a unique premises identification number for their ranches prior to importing elk, moving them to market, slaughter, another ranch or onto other premises within the state. Furthermore, receiving sites within the state also are to be identified. Dr. Hillman said producers of all livestock species can easily obtain the unique seven-character premises identification number.

"Producers can go online, call us or request a paper application to obtain their premises identification number. The information collected will be accessed and used only by state and federal animal health officials for disease surveillance, control and eradication purposes," explained Dr. Hillman. Premises registration can be completed online at <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us> or by calling the TAHC at 1-800-550-8242.

"HB 1361, passed during the last legislative session, enables the TAHC to develop an identification program consistent with the National Animal Identification System, and provides authority to charge a fee for the premises registration. Until 2005, the TAHC was one of the few state regulatory agencies that did not charge fees for services. An industry committee, after looking at many options, determined a \$10 per year fee for premises registration is the most equitable way to support TAHC programs," Dr. Hillman noted.

Under the proposed elk regulations, the premises identification fee, to be paid biennially, is slated to become effective January 1, 2006, for elk producers who move their animals in Texas commerce. The fee will not be charged retroactively for premises registered prior to that date. However, as

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premises registration are renewed every two years, the \$10 per year fee will be applicable. Fees for premises registration for other livestock species are expected to be in effect in spring 2006. As of late November, more than 4,000 of the state's 200,000 premises have been registered.

Add one/Elk to Blaze Animal ID Trail in Texas

If the elk regulations are adopted, Texas producers must individually identify elk with a permanent, official electronic ear tag prior to moving them from their premises. A movement report then must be submitted to the TAHC within 24 hours, providing the owner's name, and the age, gender and individual identification device number for each animal moved, source of the animal and the premises identifications for the herd of origin and destination site. The producer is to maintain a copy of the records for at least five years.

"Pasture-to-pasture movement of elk can be allowed without the electronic

ear tag, provided the producer owns both sites and has them under a single premises registration," explained Dr. Hillman. "However, the owner must first obtain a written permit from the TAHC and fulfill the reporting requirements."

The proposed regulations urge producers to have elk tested for CWD when they die or are harvested. Deer and elk that exhibit clinical signs of CWD, such as emaciation, behavioral changes and excessive salivation always should be reported to the TAHC, so brain tissue can be collected and tested. Although the disease has been detected in several states in mule deer, white-tailed deer and elk, and in one instance, a moose, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) do not associate CWD with any known human health effects. More than 9,413 samples from free-ranging or captive deer and elk in Texas have been tested, with no CWD detected.

While mule deer and white-tailed deer also are susceptible to CWD, these animals come under separate identification and health regulations, explained Dr. Hillman. Mule deer in far west Texas and white-tailed deer statewide are classified as native wildlife, and to own them, producers must obtain a scientific breeder permit from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), which has regulatory authority over these species. Scientific breeders must meet identification and testing requirements established by the TPWD.

"We cannot say we don't have CWD, if we don't monitor susceptible species and test for it," Dr. Hillman stressed. "If we do find CWD in Texas, appropriate action must be taken to control and eradicate the disease. Hunting, wildlife and exotic hoof stock are industries extremely important to the livelihood of Texas. It's only reasonable to take precautions to ensure these animals are healthy."

Elk Royale Soup

2 pounds ground elk
6 chicken bouillon cubes
6 beef bouillon cubes
1 medium diced onion
3 sticks celery, diced
5 carrots, diced
4 medium potatoes, diced
2 parsnips, sliced
1 medium turnip, sliced
1 bay leaf

10 oz. package frozen peas
10 oz. package frozen corn
9 cups water
1/8 tsp. garlic powder
1/4 tsp. pepper
1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. sweet basil
1/4 tsp. oregano
1/4 tsp. parsley

Brown meat in large kettle with salt, pepper, and garlic powder. Dissolve bouillon cubes in water, and add to pot. Add remaining water and other ingredients. Cover and simmer until vegetables are tender, stirring occasionally, about one hour on medium heat. Discard bay leaf before serving.

Kris Hammes, Hillcrest Farms, Inc.
Plymouth, Wisconsin
IEBA 3rd Cookbook

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:

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