

# Northeast Deer and Elk Farmer News



Winter/Spring 2011

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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](http://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](mailto:Rootnyelk@aol.com).

**Payment for Ads to be sent to:**

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

## NORTHEAST DEER & ELK FARMERS CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING April 15 – 17, 2011 HOTEL RESERVATIONS at the Captain Daniel Stone Inn & Restaurant 10 Water St. Brunswick, ME 04011

### NDEF Conference Agenda Highlights

- **Shawn Shafer, Executive Director of North American Deer Farmers Association (NADeFA), Updates On Current Issues And Regulations Regarding Our Industry**
- **Kelly Butler, AI Diversified Inc., New Techniques And Expectations In Artificial Breeding And Reproduction**

To make reservations at the Captain Daniel Stone Inn, please call:  
 1-207-373-1824 or toll free 1-877-373-CDSI  
 No. 10 Water Restaurant: 1-207-373-9299  
 E-mail: [inquiry@captaindanielstone.com](mailto:inquiry@captaindanielstone.com)  
[www.captaindanielstone.com](http://www.captaindanielstone.com)

Single/double occupancy rate \$149.00+tax per night  
Call early as only 24 rooms are available. We look forward to your call!

The Captain Daniel Stone Inn is conveniently located in historic downtown Brunswick, ME. Brunswick is home of the prestigious liberal arts school, Bowdoin College since 1794. A summer theatre, two museums, two excellent libraries, many good restaurants, and its classic New England architecture complete its charming ambiance. Brunswick is just a 15 minute drive north of Freeport, which is known for its many factory outlet stores as well as L.L. Bean. Nearby are many light houses, [Reid State Park](#), and Maine's gorgeous coastline.

## 2010 NDEF OFFICERS

### President

Robert Root (2011)  
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kcasey823@aol.com

### 3rd Vice President

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matt@aucoinfarm.com

### Treasurer

Mark Drew (2011)  
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New Limerick, ME 04761  
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mdrew@pwless.net

### Secretary

Norma Mierke (2012)  
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126 County Road 12C  
DeRuyter, NY 13052  
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nbmierke@frontiernet.net

### Directors

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nhelk@comcast.net

Tom Peryea (2011) NY  
tomselkranch@juno.com

Ken Swett (2012) ME  
reddeer@adelphia.net

Richard Frost (2013) VT  
rff-elk@juno.com

Mark Drew (2013) ME  
mark@pioneerwireless.net

## President's Paddock By Bob Root

The responsibility and longevity of the cervid industry is our job. We as a structured organization(s) of farmers/ranchers are tasked with keeping up to date, and react if needed, with current events which will effect our future in this industry.

You may think that because there are no issues in your state, that all is fine and well. That may not be the case. While it is quiet at home, other states may be under attack by those who wish to press their agenda upon the public and destroy our way of life. Several issues may be at stake, one of which is your rights as a land owner to utilize your property as you wish, not how someone with a different viewpoint wishes you to do so.

North Dakota was faced with this situation. In the election process this last November, a very small group of people, 30 in total got the backing of national animal protection and anti farming groups. They in turn managed to attach legislation on a ballot to eliminate all cervid farms/ranches and hunt preserves in the state. If left unattended and unchallenged it would have rung the death toll on the livelihoods of several farmers/ranchers in that state. This distraction and attack on the land owner's rights required time, energy, and money, all of which is hard to come by in this economy. All this effort to save a way of life chosen by a few hearty soles in North Dakota.

The down side, if a few people get their way and can destroy these peoples chosen life style it could and would, be used as a hand-hold to launch similar attacks in other states, maybe yours.

The solution to this challenge was a campaign launched by the Citizens To Preserve ND Property Rights. They, with the backing of the cervid industry and many donations from like minded people, took up the challenge. When you attempt to fend off an attack from organizations with millions of dollars to spend it can be a daunting and very expensive task however, take up the fight they did. With the monetary backing, several simultaneous defenses were put into play, a call for assistance of like minded organizations, billboards, radio spots, people beating the pavement to get the word out and finally a television spot.

The end result was a resounding defeat of this bill, which sends a message that this industry can and will join together to preserve it's rights to exist. That industry is you, and your continued support of this organization has allowed us to be of assistance to farmers/ranchers and property owners of North Dakota, to combat what seemingly were insurmountable odds to protect their rights and the rights of others. Of that you are to be commended.

## News From Maine

By Mark Drew

Here is a brief update on what is happening relative to the deer industry in Maine this year.

There are now a total of 63 licensed deer producers in the state, of which, 10 are operating as commercial large game shooting areas. Over the past year six producers have depopulated their herds, while 8 new licenses have been issued. There are now over 3700 deer behind fence in Maine.

The licensing and inspection of the deer facilities is now monitored by Gerry Lavigne and all inspections and renewals are being done between August and December. The cost for inspections is \$20 and if the farm passes, the license is issued on the spot. Gerry has been overseeing this program for several years and the industry has been improved by this.

One area that has seen remarkable improvement, is the enrollment of deer producers in the CWD surveillance program. Currently all farms are enrolled, while most are participating as monitored herds, some have reached certified herd status.

In the past calendar year there were 179 captive deer tested for CWD and since 2002 we have sampled 1360 such deer with no positive results. The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has tested nearly 9000 wild whitetails in this same time frame with no positive test results.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, Maine has now opened up it's borders to the importation of cervids. Please contact the Dept. of Agriculture to get a copy of the requirements.

## News From New Hampshire

By Jim Neil

Fourteen inches of snow plowed off this late afternoon, and then a follow up plowing in the morning to take care of drifting and additional overnight snow. It wasn't but a couple of weeks ago that we had to deal with a twenty-two inch snowfall. Thankfully, two or three warm days settled that before this storm.

Why do I mention this, as all of us in the northeast deal with it every year. It is sort of like mowing the lawns during summer months. Most of us fail to work these costs into our farm budget yet, for the entire year it is a substantial expenditure. Fuel, broken equipment, the cost of the equipment itself, electricity for tractor heaters and let us not even think about the time we spend doing it all. And, it does not add one pound to our animals. Best not dwell too long on that subject.

New Hampshire game farmers are fortunate to have gained one of our own to the State Legislature. Ken Kriese of Boscawen, won a seat in the New Hampshire House of Representatives in the November elections. Ken works elk along with Bo Gilbert and has been very active and vocal on behalf of our industry for several years. Having both Ken and Rob Johnson, of the NH Farm Bureau in Concord gives us the eyes and ears necessary to monitor proposed rule and regulation changes that are continually threatening our well-being. Congratulations Ken. The only good thing I see about the nearly one billion dollar state budget shortfall, is that it should occupy enough of Concord's time to keep us off the docket.

## State Correspondents

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

### MAINE

Mark Drew  
mdrew@pioneerwireless.net

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jim Neil  
nhelk@comcast.net

### NEW YORK

Bob Root  
rootnyelk@aol.com

### VERMONT

Hank Dimuzio  
ledgendfarm@comcast.net

Feeding and snowplowing will be over soon enough, just about in time for another annual convention in Maine this year. We are looking forward to seeing everyone. All is well in the Granite State.

## News From Vermont

By Hank Dimuzio

So there is not much activity in VT, but lots of potential. New Secretary of Agriculture Chuck Ross, has an M.A. in Geography, which may help get the cervid industry back on the map. New Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Patrick Berry, comes from Vermont Law School where he was primarily a successful fundraiser. He may be more open than the prior Commissioner Wayne LaRoche. The core cervid farmers in Vermont will

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need to meet with these individuals in the near future.

The "Pete the Moose" saga will most likely come to a head soon. If you're not familiar with this story it began when "Pete" was mauled by dogs as a calf, found and rehabilitated then released into Big Rack Ridge hunt preserve. A bill sponsored by Rep. Kate Webb (D-Shelburne) aims to return control of Big Rack Ridge one of Vermont's only hunt preserves to the Department of Fish & Wildlife. The Bill states that all the native white-tail and Moose that were trapped during the initial fencing of the preserve must be removed from the property with no deadline set. The animals may be hunted but there can be no charge for that privilege. House Fish & Wildlife Chairman David Deen (D-Westminster) was quoted as saying "there is no presumption that 'Pete' is going to be killed." The removal of native wildlife prior to the introduction of farmed species is standard in most other states that allow preserve hunting. We will following this to make sure that the wording in the bill does not preclude the cervid industry from introducing legislation to allow farming of whitetail deer bred in captivity.

#### **News From New York**

**By Bob Root**

Things have been relatively quiet in New York. The big news is the closure of the Oneida Containment Area. The Department of Environmental Conservation is now taking volunteered hunter killed Chronic Wasting Disease samples, for testing for the disease.

For the past five years; thousands of samples and several millions of dollars spent, all samples taken were found to be negative for CWD. This is significant to the relaxing of regulations in Pennsylvania regarding the importation of deer carcass parts across state lines from hunter kills in what was the containment area.

## 22nd Annual NADeFA Conference

*Gaylord Opryland - Nashville, Tennessee*

*Dear Member,*

NADeFA invites you to join us at the Gaylord Opryland Hote, the home of the 22nd Annual Conference and Exhibition. This year, the Conference offers educational sessions presented by speakers who are experts in their respective fields. These sessions will provide information about topics such as animal health, research, nutrition, marketing techniques and much more. Ambitious bidders will once again have the opportunity to return home with many fine items from the live and silent auctions held Thursday through Saturday.

This years Conference also features more than 225 exhibitors, daily events, and auctions. There will be fun and entertainment for everyone, including an evening on the General Jackson, the world's grandest showboat.

*Carolyn Laughlin*

*President, NADeFA*

*Shawn Shafer*

*Executive Director*

- *NADeFA Annual Auction*
- *NADeFA Open Auction*
- *Antler Competition*
- *Photo Contests*
- *Dart Gun Competition*
- *Venison Competition*
- *Culinary Competition*
- *New Deer Farmer Seminar*
- *Break Out Sessions*

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**NORTHEAST DEER & ELK FARMERS  
CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING  
APRIL 15 – APRIL 17, 2011  
Captain Daniel Stone  
Inn & Restaurant  
10 Water St.  
Brunswick, ME 04011**

**NDEF CONFERENCE REGISTRATION & Membership/Renewal Application (Part 1)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Farm/Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Province/Country/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Web Address \_\_\_\_\_

New Membership  Renewal Membership      Is the address above a change? Yes  No

Currently Own Cervids? \_\_\_\_\_ Type/Species Owned \_\_\_\_\_ # Owned \_\_\_\_\_

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

Do you wish to be included in the Association Website Directory? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsored by/Referred by \_\_\_\_\_

**NORTHEAST DEER & ELK FARMERS**  
**NDEF CONFERENCE REGISTRATION & Membership/Renewal Application (Part 2)**

**Full Conference Includes:**

- **Friday Evening:** Informal gathering, cash bar
- **Saturday:** Full breakfast for overnight guests, coffee breaks, luncheon, evening banquet, and auction.
- **Sunday:** Full breakfast for overnight guests.

**ALL SATURDAY SEMINARS AND EVENTS**

	Received before 4/1/2011	After 4/1/2011
Conference (NDEF Member**)	\$115 each _____	\$125 _____
Conference Guest (non voting)	\$ 95 each _____	\$100 _____
Conference (Non NDEF Member)	\$135 each _____	\$145 _____
Child	\$ 70 each _____	\$ 80 _____
Day Guest (Speakers and luncheon)	\$ 75 each _____	\$ 80 _____
Annual Dues	\$ 40 each _____	\$40 _____
Additional Contribution (optional)	_____	_____
<b>Total</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____

**\*\*FOR MEMBERSHIP PRICING STATUS, PLEASE BE SURE 2011 DUES ARE UP TO DATE OR INCLUDED WITH THIS APPLICATION**

Please make check payable to NDEF and mail the CONFERENCE REGISTRATION & Membership/Renewal Application (Parts 1 & 2) to:

Kenneth and Gladys Swett  
 Ash Hill View Deer Farm  
 89 Swett Rd.  
 Carmel, ME 04419  
 (207) 848-3866  
 E-mail reddeer@roadrunner.com

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## HARD ANTLER COMPETITION AND SCORING

The NDEF Annual Hard Antler Contest will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup> at

The 2011 Annual Conference at

**Captain Daniel Stone Inn & Restaurant**

**10 Water St.**

**Brunswick, ME**

Antler entered will be judged as pairs and may be sheds or cut off, harvested within the past 14 months. All antlers will be scored using SCI scoring techniques, using a predetermined width credit. There will be five age classes for both Red Deer and Elk, with two categories of awards for each. There will be an open class for fallow and whitetail deer with two awards.

All NDEF members are invited to enter, with a fee at \$10.00 per set.

### DETAILS:

- NDEF membership is required for participation.
- Antlers must have been cut or cast in the past 14 months.
- Judges' decisions are final.
- All antlers will be tagged before entry.
- Winning antlers will be displayed at the auction/banquet.
- Red Deer and Elk will have 5 age groups: 2 year, 3 year, 4 year, 5 year, and mature.
- Fallow and Whitetail will have open class.
- Awards in each group will be given to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> highest scoring pair.

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### Entry Form

#### 2011 NDEF Hard Antler Competition

ID number attached to each set of antler \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Farm/Ranch Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Species \_\_\_\_\_

- Please fill out a separate application for each set of antler you want to enter.

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**NORTHEAST DEER & ELK FARMERS  
2011 BENEFIT AUCTION**

The benefit auction is the financial mainstay of our organization. Donated items make this event possible. **Please list your auction donations early so they can be properly displayed giving you credit throughout the Conference.** No consignments.

All NDEF members THANK YOU!

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Donated Auction Item(s)

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Donated Auction Item(s)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Farm / Company: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State/Prov., Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail or E-mail List of AUCTION ITEMS TO:

**Kenneth Swett**

**Ash Hill View Deer Farm**

**89 Swett Road**

**Carmel, ME 04419**

Tel(207) 848-3866      E-mail: reddeer@roadrunner.com

**Please bring Auction Items with you.**

**Items should be put on display by 8:00 am Saturday April 16, 2011**



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**NORTHEAST DEER & ELK FARMERS  
PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY FORM**

You may enter **ONE** photo each in the following categories:

- Adult Males Buck/Stag/Bull
- Adult Females Doe/Hind/Cow
- Fawns/Calves
- Mixed Group (we will not be separating them into species).

Photos previously entered are not allowed.

Awards will be given for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> in each category and one in Best in Show

Entries will be accepted up to 8:30 AM on Sat. April 16. Please have name, animal name, and age of the animal(s) on the back of each photo.

Format: Preferable size is 8" x 10", others accepted.

Category: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm/Ranch Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Species: \_\_\_\_\_

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**NORTHEAST DEER & ELK FARMERS  
CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING April 15 – April 17, 2011**

**Captain Daniel Stone  
Inn & Restaurant  
10 Water St.  
Brunswick, ME**

**EXHIBITOR INFORMATION**

Northeast Deer & Elk Farmers is an association with members actively involved in the industry of commercially farming deer and elk. Our membership area cover the six New England states, New York state, and Southeastern Canada.

The Conference and Annual Meeting normally draws a stay-over group of 50-60 persons. All of the persons are either already in the business or seriously considering. They are buyers of a wide range of feed, fencing, advertising material, and livestock related equipment, buildings and accessories.

**EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION FORM**

*REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES:*

Space 10' x 8' (w/ 6' table). Setup completed by 10am Saturday, April 16. Teardown by Sunday am. (Convention attendees will be arriving Friday evening and departing Sunday morning.)

**Friday evening:** Informal gathering & cash bar.

**Saturday:** Coffee breaks included in registration.

Luncheon & banquet/auction.

Exhibitor – Member	\$65/space _____
Exhibitor – Non-member	\$75/space _____
Optional Saturday lunch	\$30/per person _____
Optional Saturday dinner	\$35/per person _____
Optional Annual Dues	\$40/each _____

**Auction items Greatly Appreciated  
(see 2011 Benefit Auction form)**

**Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Farm / Company: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State/Prov., Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to NDEF and mail to: Kenneth Swett,  
89 Swett Road, Carmel, ME 04419**

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# Northeast Deer and Elk Farmers Association

## 2011 Annual Conference Agenda

### Friday, April 15, 2011

- 5:00pm-7:00pm Registration, Auction Items, Antler and Photo Entries  
5:00pm-11:00pm Meet and Greet (Bar Open)  
6:00pm-8:30pm Dinner (Pub Menu, On Your Own)  
7:15pm-8:30pm BOD Meeting

### Saturday, April 16, 2011

- 7:00am-8:30am Breakfast Buffet  
8:00am-8:30am Registration Continues  
8:30am-8:45am Conference Welcome by Kenneth Swett  
Opening Remarks by NDEF President Bob Root  
Speaker Introductions by Mark Drew  
8:45am-9:20am State Updates by Jim Neil (NH), Hank Dimuzio (VT)  
Bob Root (NY), Mark Drew (ME)  
9:20am-10:30am Gerry Lavigne, Changing Dynamics of a New  
England Deer Farm  
10:30am-10:45am Break  
10:45am-11:50am Shawn Shafer, NADeFA Executive Director, Update  
on Current Issues and Regulations facing the Cervid  
Industry  
12:00pm-1:00pm Lunch  
1:15pm-2:30pm Kelly Butler, AI Diversified Inc., New Techniques and Expectations in  
Artificial Breeding and Reproduction  
2:30pm-2:45pm Hunting Ranch Topics  
2:45pm-3:00pm Break  
3:00pm-3:30pm Venison Topics  
3:30pm-4:00pm Velvet Topics  
4:00pm-5:00pm New Advancements in Deer and Elk Farming, TB Blood Test, Live Animal  
CWD Test, Open Discussion  
5:00pm-6:00pm Happy Hour  
6:00pm-7:30pm Banquet, Antler and Photo Awards  
7:30pm-End Auction (Cash Bar Open)

### Sunday, April 17, 2011

- 7:00am-8:30am Buffet Breakfast  
9:00am-10:00am Business Meeting and Elections  
10:00am BOD Meeting

**For Sale**  
**Wire Fence Dispenser**  
**\$150.00 or BRO**

**John Morse**  
**Wilmot, NH 03287**  
**603-748-0945**



Editor  
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