



Venison & velvet

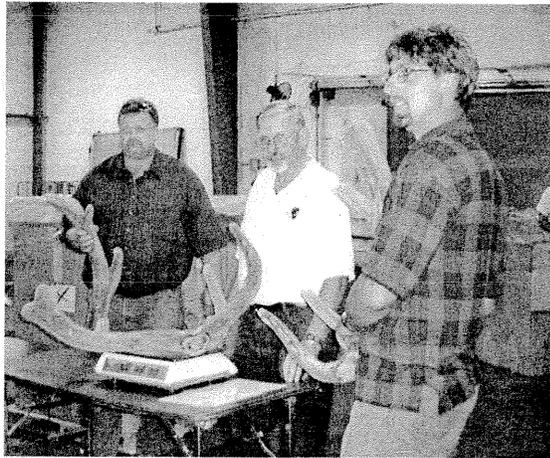
Venison & Velvet is published quarterly by Wisconsin Commercial Deer & Elk Farmer's Association

ANNUAL VELVET HARVESTS OVER 7,000 LBS. OF ANTLER FROM WCDEFA MEMBERS

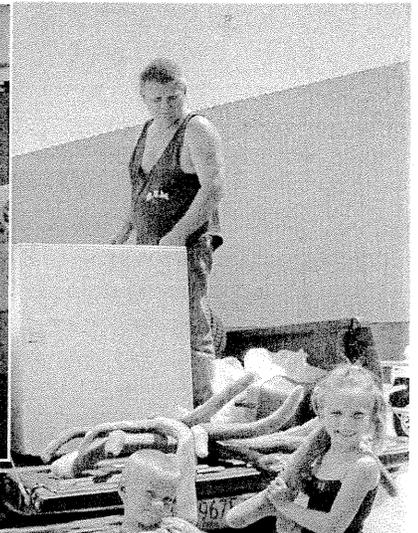
Diana Susen

The WCDEFA held their 2002 Velvet Antler Collection Day on July 30, hosted by Committee Members, Gail Winnie, Dean and Joyce Jarvis, Glen Pfeifer and chairman Jeff Fritz. As pick-up trucks with freezers and generators lined up outside, committee members carefully graded, weighed, and tagged members annual harvests inside the cold storage facility in Wausau. The steady stream of producers coming to sell their antler began at 7:00 AM, and by 5:00 PM over 7,000 pounds had been collected.

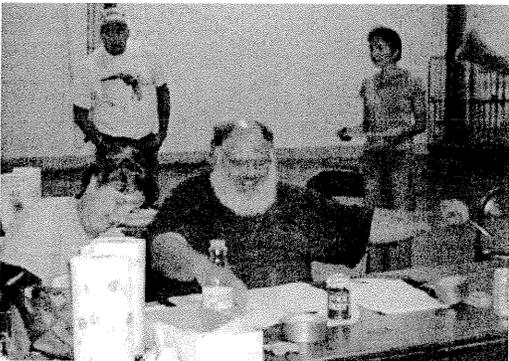
A big thank you to the Antler Committee for all their hard work. A complete summary of the antler pool will be included in the next newsletter.



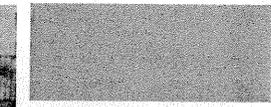
Velvet Committee members, Glen Pfeifer, Gail Winnie and Jeff Fritz.



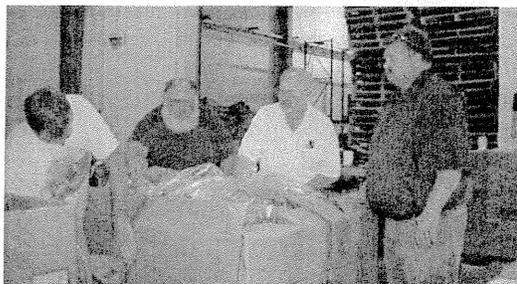
McKenzie, 5 yrs., and Maverick, 3 yrs., help their Dad, Brian Guenther, carry in antler while their Mom, Doris, checks in.



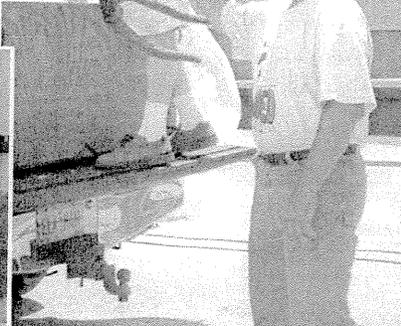
Committee members, Joyce and Dean Jarvis, complete paperwork on all antler brought in.



Antler Pool Chairman, Jeff Fritz, helps Tom Lischka unload his antler.



Velvet Committee members Gail Winnie, Dean Jarvis, and Glen Pfeifer, get help from Eugene Woelfel sealing a box of antler.



Tim Enderle helps Jim Korleski unpack - Check out Jim's license "ElkMan"



Glen, Joyce, Dean and Gail.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Members Spotlight - Willow Creek Elk FarmPage 4
 Letter from the President6
 2002 Meetings Attended by a WCDEFA6
 Hunters Shouldn't Fear Wisconsin Deer Meat7
 CWD - Specimen Submission9
 CWD - No Threat to Humans or Cattle9
 Colorado Elk Breeders State The Facts About CWD9
 Tenth Anniversary Pictorial10
 North American Deer Farmer's Assoc. Holds Cervid Congress ...11
 AEPB Nutraceutical Newsletter11
 In the Press12-13
 WCDEFA Board Members Set the Record Straight14&15
 July 17, 2002 - Position Statement15
 Product Review16
 Velvet Voice17
 Legislative Day at the Capitol19
 Two Junior Members Promote WCDEFA20
 WCDEFA Booth at Farm Progress Days20
 Application for Membership21
 WCDEFA First Edition Cookbook22
 Recipe Corner22
 Classified Ad23
 Welcome New Members23
 List of Advertisers23
 Advertising Rates & Deadlines23
 Attention Members24
 CWD Herd Monitoring Program24

NOTE: As some of you may know I recently got married so my name has changed from Gina Stoffel to Gina Wolf. You can still reach me at the same phone/fax and email address, however, this will change before the next issue of Venison and Velvet. So for the next issue of the newsletter please forward all submissions to Gwen at the office and she will forward them to me. I will put a notice in the next issue with new contact information. Thanks.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2003

March 1 WCDEFA Annual Convention in Wausau
 Holiday Inn



THIS & that

Website Update: Want to share your favorite elk recipe? Log on to www.wcdefa.org and click on recipe page. There you will find easy instructions for entering your recipe. Recipes have already been submitted by Mary Siegler, Sandy Fritz, Jody Koenig, Kris Hammes and Diana Susen. Won't you share your recipes?

Send us your email, we will send you info: We are trying to minimize the postage and printing expenses, so if you haven't already sent in your email address, please send it to info@wcdefa.org. Using the e-mail, we can broadcast information that members might be interested in.

Over one million dollars have already been spent by Wisconsin's DNR on CWD. Reported on the MSNBC website of WJFW of Rhinelander, most of the money was spent on killing deer and collecting brain samples in zones around Mount Horeb.

Increase Lab Capacity for CWD Tests Underway. Six state labs across the country are under contract with the National Veterinary

Services Laboratories to test for CWD. The USDA plans to place five more labs under contract by September, expanding testing capacity to 500,000 samples annually.

Congressman Randy Cunningham's Elk Stew recipe: This California congressman knows what's good for you. His specialty recipe is posted on the 1st Traveler's Choice Internet Cookbook website. Check it out at www.virtualcities.com/ons/ca/gov/cagvrc1.htm

Date and Location Set for 2003 Convention - The annual convention will take place Saturday, March 1 in Wausau, but we are moving to the Holiday Inn.

Colorado Elk Breeders state the FACTS on CWD Power Point - This powerful presentation is loaded with facts and backed up with documentation on the history of where this dreadful disease started: Colorado Department of Wildlife. If you would like a copy e-mailed to you, request by email to Gwen at info@wcdefa.org

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MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT- Willow Creek Elk Farm

by Janet Dahl

Willow Creek Elk Farm is owned by Bob and Janet Dahl and located in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The farm was named after Willow Creek, which runs through the woods behind the farm.

Often we laugh and discuss the fact that if 10 years ago you had told us that we would be elk farmers one day, we wouldn't have believed it. The question that is asked of us most often is "Why Elk?" It is odd how many different events can lead to a final point.

In 1987 we purchased a 5-acre farmette South of Oshkosh on Hwy 45. The farmette consisted of a large farmhouse built in 1914, and a sizeable barn surrounded by many outbuildings. Janet's father owned three other dairy farms surrounding our new home, so the location was perfect. At that time we were focusing on starting our own family and careers, and were spending time helping Janet's parents with their dairy farming. We did not have any plan for farming ourselves.

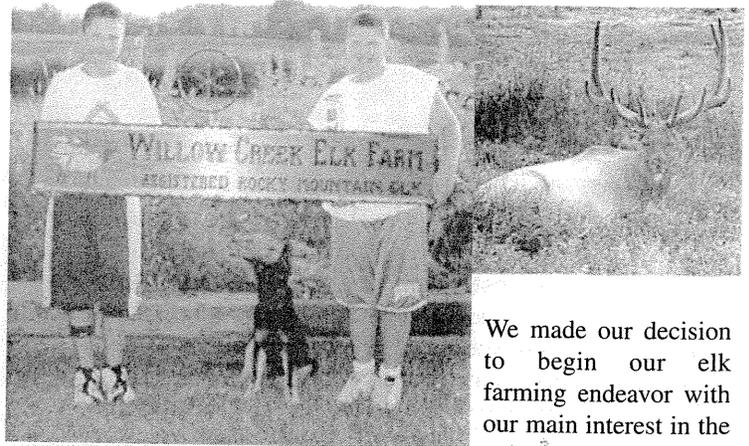
Over the following 10 years, Janet's parents sold their dairy cows and we purchased additional land surrounding our farm. The land was all part of a licensed game farm, Black Wolf Wildlife Association (blackwolfwildlife.com), which was designed to preserve the area, so we were looking for a new way to utilize the land without developing it.

Our main objectives were to preserve the land and create something we could enjoy as a family. We wanted to farm, but needed to choose the right type of farming for our lifestyle. We have two boys (Vince, 12, and Evan, 10) and own and operate another business, so our time available is limited. Because Janet was raised on a dairy farm and very familiar with the long hours and dedication that was involved with dairy and horse farming, we knew we needed to find an alternative that would work better for us.

During the spring of 2000 we saw a special program on Wisconsin Public Television that highlighted several types of alternative farming - ranging from ostrich and emu, llama, pheasant, ginseng, mushroom, buffalo and elk farming. We agreed that elk farming seemed to be just what we were looking for and decided to investigate it further.

While at Farm Progress Days we visited the WCDEFA - Wisconsin Commercial Deer and Elk Farmers Association booth. We gathered information from the elk farmers displaying at the booth, and then spent a lot of time researching our newfound interest. The internet was a wealth of information, and after researching what we could online, we contacted a few local farms to tour.

The first and only farm we visited was Hillcrest Farms in Plymouth, Wisconsin, owned by Jim Pankow and Kristine Hammes. Jim and Kristine were extremely knowledgeable, encouraging and helpful. We liked their ideas and concepts and felt that raising elk would definitely suit our lifestyle. Jim was always there to answer our many, many questions, and helped us to plan what we would need to begin.



Vince 12, Evan 10, and Sadie 14 weeks.

We made our decision to begin our elk farming endeavor with our main interest in the velvet and breeding stock. We decided to rent out the rest of our land for crop farming, and to start slowly. Our plan was for a total of 50 acres fenced in eventually, with a total of 80 elk.

Our first 5 acres were fenced in over the summer of 2000. During August, we worked hard to construct our fence. It was definitely a learning experience, and after a great many hours, a lot of hard work, and a great deal of help from our family members and Jim Pankow, we were ready to have our elk delivered.

The first elk were delivered in September - 1 bull, Montana (pictured above), and 2 cows. Our first two cows calved in May of 2001 - one with twins! Five additional cows were purchased in 2001.

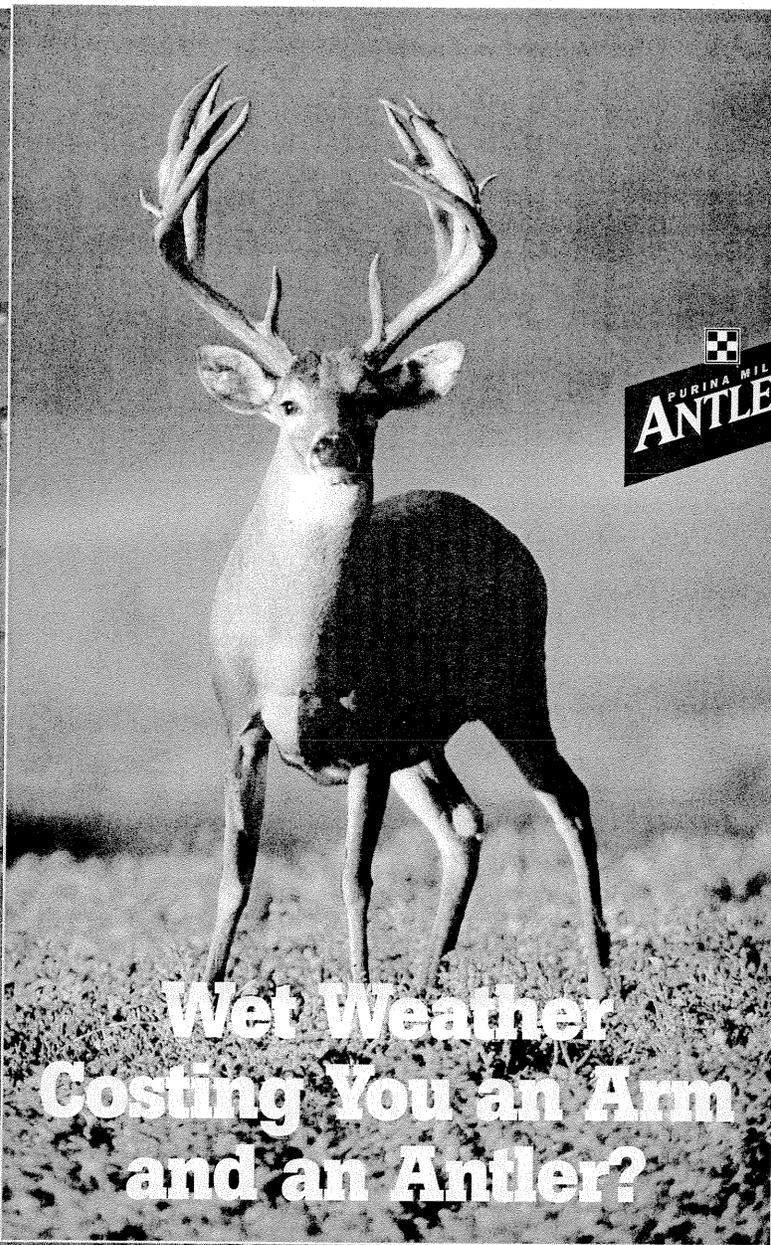
Today the farm is home to 18 head of elk. We estimate that we will have 80 elk by 2006. Currently, we have names for all of the elk, and so far can recognize each one by its appearance and personality. We enjoy coming home at the end of the day and feeding the elk or just spending time around them. They are a joy to watch and to learn about.

Our main goal with raising elk is still for the velvet and breeding stock. We continue to rent out the rest of our land for crop farming, and build one new 5 acre pasture each summer. Eventually we will reach our goal of 50 acres of pasture.

We are members of North American Elk Breeders Association and Wisconsin Commercial Deer and Elk Farmer's Association. We have attended several farm tours and the local conventions. The people we have come in contact with have all been extremely friendly and are eager to share their insight, which has been very helpful. We have learned so much, but realize that we have much more to learn and experience. Starting slowly was a very important step for us.

We feel very comfortable with our decision to become elk farmers, and we feel fortunate to have enriched our lives with this learning experience and these very interesting animals.

We have a website at www.willowcreekelkfarm.com which has more pictures and information if you are interested. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact us 920-233-0364.



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Since our last newsletter your association has been working diligently to stem the tide of bad publicity and bad legislation in the aftermath of CWD in wild whitetail. To a great degree we have been very successful. The proposed permanent CWD rule, although we have some issues to work out, is for the most part "livable" and in the long run will instill consumer confidence in our industry and our products.

I want to thank everyone who has been helping to defend our industry at this critical time. All the Board members and many other members are giving enormous amounts of time and effort. The membership commitment has been outstanding. Below you will see a list of many of the meetings that required representation by our Association. I would like to especially thank Diana Susen and Wes Ramage for the hours and the miles they have donated attending meetings, conducting interviews, and writing letters.

While CWD was again our main focus other Association business goes on. This newsletter, for example, takes an enormous amount of work, but is the best state association newsletter in the industry I believe. Next year's convention is being planned, the Velvet Pool is being conducted and a meeting is being planned with the WI Dept. of Commerce to discuss marketing our products.

In closing, I would again like to thank everyone for their hard work. The fundamentals of this industry are still very strong and positive and those who stick with it will be greatly rewarded.

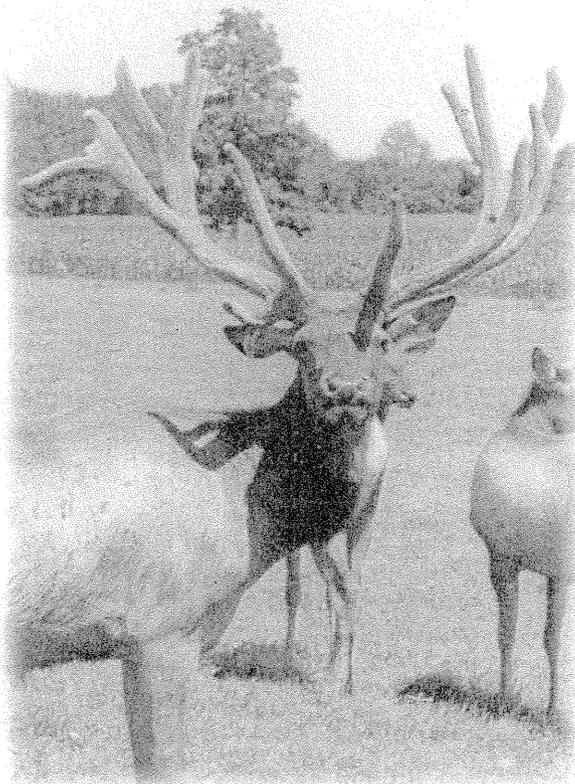
Jim Pankow, President

Meetings Attended by a WCDEFA Board Member or Members

The Wisconsin Commercial Deer & Elk Farmers Association had representation at the following meetings.

- January 10 Senator Baumgart Meeting (Captive Wildlife Bill)
- January 17 Senator Schultz Meeting (Captive Wildlife Bill)
- January 31 Senator Schultz Meeting (Captive Wildlife Bill)
- March 8 State Capitol Captive Wildlife Vote
- March 20 Mt. Horeb Meeting (CWD)
- April 1 DATCP Meeting Emergency Rules (CWD)
- April 4 Senate Committee Natural Resources Hearing (CWD)
- April 5-7 DNR Informational Meetings on CWD at WI Deer & Turkey Expo - Madison
- April 25 The Assembly Natural Resources Committee CWD Subcommittee hearing - Madison
- May 1 Mt. Horeb Meeting (CWD)
- May 8 DNR Public Meeting ~ Eau Claire (CWD)
- May 9 DATCP Meeting Emergency Rules (CWD)
- May 15 DNR Public Meeting ~ Waukesha
- May 16 DNR Public Meeting ~ Green Bay (CWD)
- May 20 DNR Public Meeting ~ Rhinelander (CWD)
- May 22 DATCP Meeting Emergency Rules (CWD)
- May 30 Legislative Day at Capitol in Madison
- June 10 Task Force Meeting
- June 17 Task Force Meeting (CWD)
- June 24 Task Force Meeting (CWD)
- June 25 & 26 NADEFA Cervid Congress
- July 16 Proposed Permanent Rules (CWD) Fond du Lac
- July 18 Proposed Permanent Rules (CWD) Eau Claire
- July 22 Proposed Permanent Rules (CWD) Madison
- July 22 Task Force Meeting
- July 25 Proposed Permanent Rules (CWD) Wausau

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HUNTERS SHOULDN'T FEAR WISCONSIN DEER MEAT

By Joe Knight - Eau Claire Leader staff

A few sick deer have accomplished what anti-hunting groups and a generation of urban shut-ins raided on "Bambi" could not: They have gotten more than a third of the state's hunters to consider giving up the sport.

According to a St. Norbert College poll of 405 state hunters, 36 percent said they were thinking of not hunting this fall, and another 6 percent were unsure. Their concern is the risk of eating deer infected with chronic wasting disease.

Maybe I'm missing something, but this is a disease that makes deer and elk sick. Not a single case of it making a person sick has been noted. As far as we know it is restricted to a small percentage of the deer in the southwestern part of the state.

I have met plenty of hunters who smoke, chew tobacco, drink booze, eat greasy food, nurture beer bellies, avoid prostate exams, drive long distances on crowded highways, climb into rickety tree stands or participate in deer drives where deer run past 20 or 30 anxious hunters all carrying loaded guns.

All these activities seem riskier to me than eating Wisconsin deer meat.

An editorial in Monday's Milwaukee Journal Sentinel called for the state to beef up its testing facilities for CWD, with the goal of having adequate testing available for all hunters to have their deer tested so they would know whether their deer are "edible."

That's simply not feasible.

Wisconsin hunters may shoot more than a half-million deer when you include all the various seasons. If all the labs in the country that are set up to test CWD did nothing but analyze Wisconsin deer, they couldn't even handle the bow-hunting kill.

Only three labs in the country test for the disease. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has been shipping deer brains to an Iowa lab for testing.

With the help of a federal grant, state officials hope to have a lab running this fall and some people trained to do the analysis. But at best that program will only be able to provide more testing around the state to see if the disease has spread beyond Mt. Horeb area.

The private sector may get into the CWD testing business. Three Hayward men are considering establishing a lab.

That might not be a bad investment.

There is a shortage of testing facilities nationally and more states are going to want to test for the disease.

The editorial in the state's biggest newspaper continued: "World Health Organization recommends that venison from contaminated deer not be eaten. And we certainly wouldn't advise the consumption of untested venison."

Why not?

We've had chronic wasting disease in the state for at least three to five years, according to DNR projections. It didn't just appear this winter when the lab tests for CWD came back.

It could well have been around longer. Hunters have shot and eaten lots of untested deer during the past five years.

Chronic wasting disease has infected elk and deer in a large area of Colorado for years. Hunting has continued. Hunters have continued to eat elk and deer meat.

Chronic wasting disease is routinely described in news stories as a disease related to mad cow disease. That's true, but it's also alarmist.

Both diseases are caused by somewhat mysterious agents known as prions.

By comparing chronic wasting disease to mad cow disease the reporter or editorial writer avoids having to explain what a prion is, which even scientists have a tough time doing.

However, the diseases have some major differences. One infects cows, the other infects deer and elk.

Beef from cows infected with mad cow disease has caused a fatal illness in more than 90 people, most of them in Great Britain. That's the scary part.

The inference is that people will get an incurable disease from eating venison from an infected animal, but we aren't aware of that happening.

Scrapie, a prion-caused illness in sheep, has been around for 200 years and there are no known cases of people getting sick from eating mutton. But I have yet to read in a news story "Chronic wasting disease, which is related to scrapie..."

I suppose we could say the common cold is related to AIDS. Both are caused by viruses.

Hunting in the so-called "eradication" zone around Mt. Horeb is a different issue. First, it's not a hunt, it's a cull, where shooters will try to kill all the deer in one area to try to spare all the deer in the state and all future generations of deer from this disease.

They aren't hunting for food. But if they want to take a deer home or donate it to a food pantry, they should have the first priority in getting deer tested.

If hunters elsewhere want to sit out the season, so be it. The DNR and tourism interests won't like it, but it will be a less crowded, higher quality hunt for those of us who do go out.



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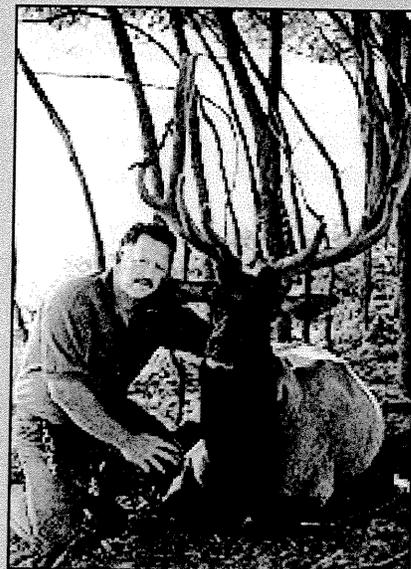
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CWD - Specimen Submission

As part of the new regulations for the CWD Surveillance and Monitoring Program all cervids under the age of 16 months that die or are shipped to slaughter must be tested for CWD. In an effort to keep up with the demand of testing being done by the DNR of the free-ranging white tail deer, Wisconsin is currently in the process of certifying additional labs. While turn-around time for getting results vary there is something meat producers might want to do to insure their samples have priority. USDA veterinarian Dr. Richard Bertz has this advice - When your veterinarian fills out the Form 10-4 Specimen Submission form, ask him to include the following additional data in section 21: "Carcass held for slaughter - fax results." This alerts the Lab that this animal was slaughtered and is being used for meat consumption. Bertz suggests the results could be faxed back as early as 7-8 days.

It has also been recommend that two or three neck bones be attached to the head to insure a good sample. Currently it is up to the producer to make arrangements for the collection of the sample. Most producers have been responsible for delivering the head to their veterinarian, but our association will ask DATCP if certified state inspectors could perform the specimen removal right at the place of slaughter. This may take some time before we can get this changed in the ruling procedures, so until then we will have to be responsible in getting those heads to our vets. WCDEFA feels that this would ensure the quality and accuracy of each sample as well as reducing the costs incurred by the producer. We will keep you posted on this development.

USING RESEARCH TO VALIDATE:

CWD - NO THREAT TO HUMANS OR CATTLE

According to public health officials and wildlife experts, there is no scientific evidence indicating that CWD can be transmitted to humans. In fact research conducted has determined a molecular barrier exists that significantly limits the susceptibility of humans, cattle and sheep.

- FDA TSE Advisory Panel chairman Dr. Paul Brown, National Institutes of Health "To date there's no identified instance of disease in human beings attributable to chronic wasting disease, either through contact (with sick animals) or through consumption."
 - Species barrier prevents transmission of CWD Study published by the European Molecular Biology Organization, The EMBO Journal 19.17 (2000):4425-4430. Raymond, C.J., et al. "Evidence of a Molecular Barrier Limiting Susceptibility of Humans, Cattle, and Sheep to Chronic Wasting Disease." To read the complete study visit emboj.ourpjournal.org/cgi/content/full/19/17/4425
 - No evidence that CWD can be transmitted from deer and elk to cattle under natural conditions. Beth Williams, DVM, Ph.D., of the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory, noted two studies:
 - 10-year study involving 12 cattle orally fed CWD-infected deer brain one time in 1997, all cattle are healthy.
 - Contact study begun in 1997, 24 cattle are being kept alongside CWD-infected deer; all 24 cattle are healthy.
 - Dr. Daniel H. Gould of Colorado State University
 - Geographically targeted survey of adult-age cattle (five years or older) on 22 ranches where cattle co-mingled with free-roaming deer.
 - No indications of chronic wasting disease, and no evidence of prion proteins detected in any animal tissue
- <http://www.usaha.org/rrreports/reports00/r00idebl.html>

COLORADO ELK BREEDERS STATE THE FACTS ABOUT CWD

In an effort to set the record straight on CWD, Colorado Elk Breeders have gathered the facts and documentation and included it in their powerful Power Point about CWD. Included is information from an internal memo dated March 1996 from Mike Miller, DVM, Ph.D, Wildlife Vet. CDOW. The memo Chronic Wasting Disease of Deer & Elk Overview of Actions and Recommendations states "CWD was first recognized by biologists in the 1960's in DOW research facilities near Fort Collins Co., Kremmling CO., Mecker DO., & Wheatland WY." Another slide states "Elk ranching was almost non-existent in CO and most of United States until the mid 1980's." To request a copy, email info@wcdefa.org

Appearing in the summer issue of Native Herds Magazine is a comprehensive article written by Linda Lindsey titled "Colorado Elk Ranches Conquering CWD." This sweeping article takes a look at the disease that crept into the elk ranches from the wild. The statistics include the number of domestic elk killed and tested for CWD: "Out of over 3,000 elk killed only 40 have tested positive for CWD, or 1.3%". In addition "More than 200 animals were shipped to 15 states from affected Colorado elk ranches. These animals were also quickly identified, depopulated, and tested for CWD. Only one of 200 elk tested positive for the disease, one in a Kansas herd. The remained elk in that herd were killed and none tested were found to be positive." Linsey reports that on a national level only 98 domestic elk out of a total of approximately 135,000 domestic elk in the United States have tested positive for the disease. This is less than 0.1%!

The article also includes interesting information and quotes from reporters in Colorado that ran into barriers when it came to digging up the information about CWD in the wild. Linsey tells how the elk ranches asked for help in developing a CWD eradication program with included monitoring and surveillance. This program, now mandatory in Wisconsin, will insure the freedom of farmed elk from this terrible disease. And lastly is the industry's involvement in finding a live animal test for CWD. Elk breeders have donated a great deal of money to the Elk Research Council in hopes on finding a live animal test. Linsey reports that "The elk industry urges the government to give more financial support to this research, which is vital to the health of hunting and livestock industries in this country." This article is currently posted on Native Herds Magazine's website at www.nativeherds.com or a copy is available by request to info@wcdefa.org.

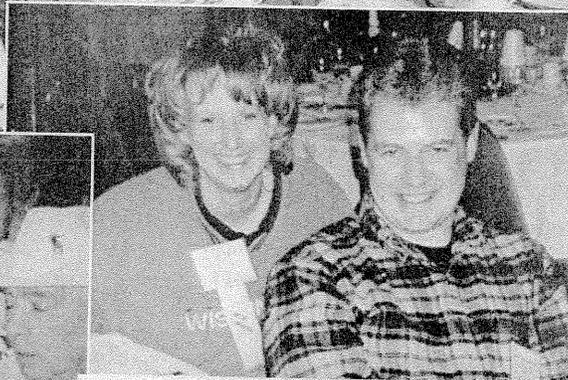


Wisconsin Commercial Deer and Elk Farmers Association
10
TENTH
ANNIVERSARY
1992 - 2002

TENTH ANNIVERSARY
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RURAL INSURANCE





North American Deer Farmers Association Holds Cervid Congress

The First North American Cervid Congress Meeting was held on June 25 - 26, 2002 at the Rock Gardens/Comfort Suites in Green Bay, Wisconsin. This meeting was sponsored by the North American Deer Farmers Association® (NADeFA®). All efforts were made to invite representatives from every state cervid association along with delegates from Canada and Mexico. Representatives from WCDEFA who attended were Wes Ramage and Diana Susen.

The goals set forth for the Cervid Congress included:

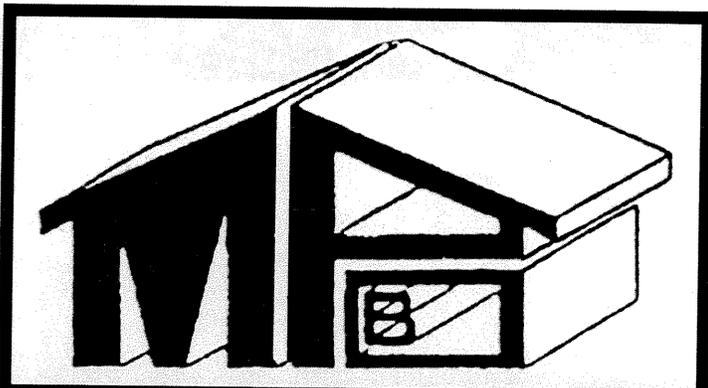
- Bring Information from All States Together
- Gather All the Ideas from Across the Cervid Industry in One Place
- Increase Knowledge and Educate Cervid Representatives on What is Needed from Their State
- Educate How States Can be Proactive
- Differentiate Reactive Versus Proactive
- Develop Proactive Measures to Exercise the Essential Needs of the Industry
- Learn More About the Truth of Chronic Wasting Disease ("CWD")

- Create a Unified Effort

Topics Discussed by the Cervid Congress included:

- CWD the Science and Program
Moderated by Dr. Dennis Gourley State,
- Provincial and Federal Regulations - Emergency/Permanent Rules,
Moderated by David Griffith
- Marketing & Strategic Planning,
Moderated by Kevin Grace

Over twenty different cervid associations from across the nation were represented. Break-out sessions were formed on each topic. At the end, half hour presentations were given by the moderator of each break-out session, followed by discussions. Ideas were given on how to go forward as an industry in the wake of CWD. A position statement for the Cervid Congress was developed along with a plan for state & branch association development. In the marketing & strategic planning arena, discussions included anywhere from high fence hunting to venison quality awareness. A draft of these sessions will be developed for the entire cervid industry based upon content and discussion.



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**Osteoporosis:
Velvet Antler May Help
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A condition related to arthritis and characterized by the progressive loss of bone density and the thinning of bone tissue, osteoporosis is considered a major public health threat for more than 20 million Americans. Six percent of whom are women. Ten million Americans already suffer from the disease, while an additional 18 million have been diagnosed with its basic form. It is estimated that one in two women and one in eight men over the age of 50 will have at least one osteoporosis-related fracture in their lifetime.

In order to understand osteoporosis, it is first necessary to recognize how the body replaces calcium levels and maintains mineral levels in the bones through a cycle of breaking down and building up bones. Bones are broken down by osteoclasts during a process called "resorption," releasing minerals and proteins into the bloodstream. Osteoclasts then rebuild new bone by secreting a protein matrix (forming collagen, the body's most common protein) and a matrix participant in the formation of connective tissue and bones. This matrix contains various osteoblasts, but when it goes away and the body

fails to form enough new bone, or too much old bone is reabsorbed, osteoporosis can result.

Some researchers believe that velvet antler may have the ability to rebuild bone in people with this degenerative disease. A study on the use of velvet antler in patients with osteoporosis is currently underway at the University of Alberta.

Antlers are regenerative—they are grown each spring and cast in late winter, only to be regrown the following spring by the same natural process. Velvet antler, rich in calcium and phosphorus, is an extremely fast-growing tissue composed of fibroblasts, chondroblasts, and chondrocytes, required for healthy growing bones and tissue.

Because collagen is a natural ingredient in velvet antler, dietary supplements such as an integral role in forming connective tissue and bone, researchers note that applications of pharmaceutical-grade collagen hydrolysate (PCH) may have a beneficial effect on cartilage metabolism (Skeels, *Antler and Rheum*; 20(2):87-91, 2000).

Researchers believe that velvet antler may have the ability to rebuild bone in people with osteoporosis, a degenerative disease affecting today's aging population.

AEPB Nutra-ceutical Newsletter

The next issue of the Velvet Antler News was recently mailed. It was mailed to retailers, manufacturers and distributors and others in the nutraceutical field. It was also mailed to

those who have contacted the AEPB an NAEBA with interest about velvet. EQAP members should have also received a copy of the newsletter. Because of the highly favorable reaction to the newsletter, we printed extras for those state associations and farms that request them. Some extra copies are still available for sale at 50¢ each. Please contact Jennifer if you would like to place an order. Your thoughts and ideas about the newsletter are appreciated.

Guest Opinion:**Wisconsin Commercial Deer and Elk Farmers Association's perspective on Chronic Wasting Disease**

by Wesley Ramage, WCDEFA vice president

All of us were amazed and surprised with the detection of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in the wild whitetail deer herd in Dane County.

However, from the get-go, our association has stood squarely behind the actions taken by the Department of Natural Resources and the Division of Health in dealing with the problem. We really hope that, due to the narrow concentration of that disease in the herd thus far, eradication will be the ultimate outcome and it will happen soon.

As producers we were working together with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection as far back as 1997 to establish a pilot program for the surveillance and monitoring of CWD in farm-raised elk and deer. This program has now developed into a full-blown mandatory requirement for all stakeholders intending to move animals everywhere. These are difficult times for all of us to adapt and adjust to these new realities, but we are willing to endure the pain for the long-term benefit of farming these magnificent animals.

In the midst of all these events we welcomed the passage of the Captive Wildlife Bill into law. We see this as a necessary updating of the wildlife laws as they relate to issues in our society in the 21st century, and at the same time giving regulatory authority to the DNR, where appropriate, without encroaching on the jurisdiction of the DATCP. Special thanks to Senators Schultz and Moen for their lead in the passage of this bill.

In conclusion, we have seen swift action on the part of DATCP and DNR toward the CWD issue, but feel that further measures need to be taken by the DNR through the Legislature regarding the banning of the importation of hunter harvested wild carcasses from endemic states. This would include a reporting system of Wisconsin hunters to the DNR prior to their travels to hunt in endemic states.

For more information about the WCDEFA, call 1-888-233-1667, web site www.wcdefa.org

Additional Information:

- The North American Elk Breeders Association helped develop the CWD program now being funded by USDA.
- Elk and deer farming offers an alternative to keeping the family on the farm by producing a low fat red meat and velvet antler as a dietary supplement for health used, trophy bulls, stags and bucks that benefit the state's economy.

**Guest Opinion
WCDEFA'S
PERSPECTIVE
ON CWD**

Submitted by
Wesley Ramage to the
Bureau's® Rural
May 2002 publication.

This article states the position WCDEFA has taken with the outbreak of CWD. It also mentions how the association has been working with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection for the past five years developing surveillance monitoring of CWD for farm deer and elk.

The passing of the Captive Wildlife Bill into law was also touched upon and the importance of Wisconsin hunters reporting to the DNR prior to their travels to hunt in endemic states.

The article listed the WCDEFA phone number and website for more information.

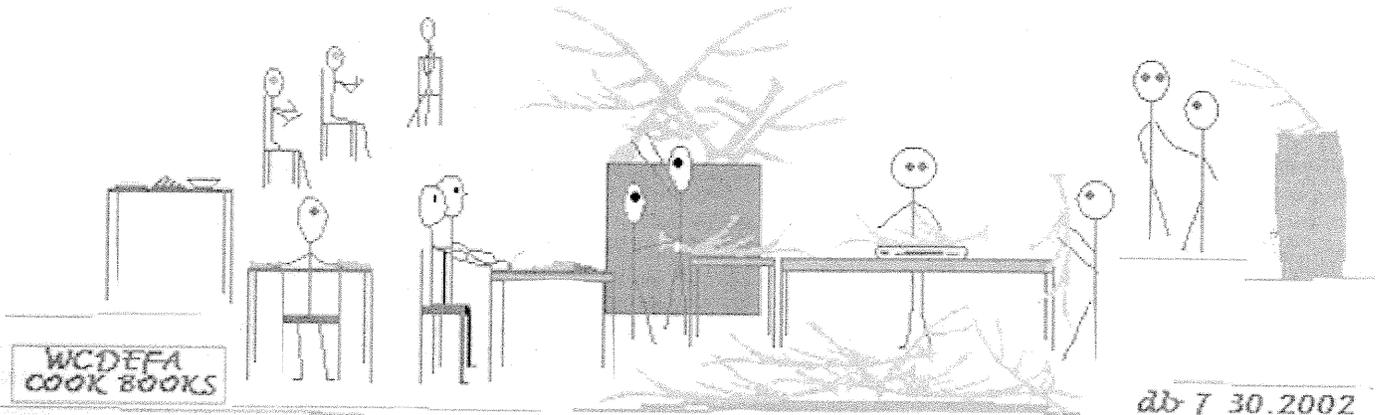
Right:

A local paper for the Town of Cross Plains ran this photo of Gwen Gilman and son Erik. Gwen and Erik were pictured at the WCDEFA Progress Day Booth which was held July 9-11th.

If you see an article in your newspaper please cut it out or send the whole paper to Gwen and Erik at the WCDEFA office.



The Gathering of the..... ELK ANTLERS



db 7 30.2002

"What a learning experience for me. I learned a lot about Elk antlers just by watching and as a volunteer, it was rewarding, in that, everyone was so willing to pitch-in and help. The elk producers and volunteers were a friendly and happy group of people. Thanks for the opportunity to be a volunteer for the WCDEFA."

Dory Berger

Wisconsin Commercial Deer & Elk Farmer's Association

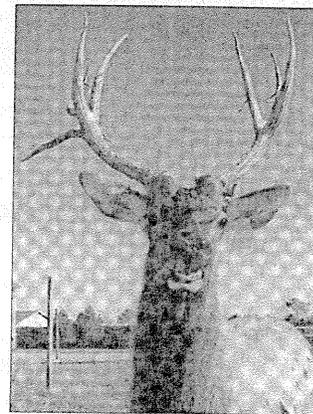


The booth of the Wisconsin Commercial Deer & Elk Farmer's Association was manned by the team of Gwen Gilbertson and son Erik. The Gilbertsons operate an elk farm in the Town of Clyde and are active in the state association.



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WCDEFA Board Members Set the Record Straight -

(Letters submitted to newspaper editors)

Home News, Spring Green, WI - 7/3/02

Dear Editor,

I read last week's letter from Mark Strozinski and the earlier letter from Reed Horton I find it very unfortunate that both of these individuals have made "knee jerk" assumptions as to the source of CWD in Wisconsin. Everyone is entitled to his or her own opinions, however to make the assumption that CWD was brought into Wisconsin by farm raised elk is not only un-founded but also simply not true. I also believe, although I am not a Biologist, that if Elk were responsible for "BOVINE" Tuberculosis a scientist would have possibly named this disease "CERVIDAE" (i.e.; elk) Tuberculosis and not Bovine (i.e.; cattle). I only hope Mr. Strozinski uses FACTUAL information when teaching our students in his Biology / Science classes. If he would have spent some time on the issues he would have found actual data which states the elk he specified were legally transported into Wisconsin from South Dakota, they were ALL accounted for and all have since passed the 5 year "quarantine" status set forth by our wildlife officials and Department of Ag, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP). CWD was not found in the South Dakota herd until AFTER the Elk had been imported into Wisconsin, some Activist's clam over 200 animals were imported, however after given copies of actual documentation of importation records even they agree that only 21 animals entered the state, again all but the 2 that died during transportation have since been cleared of the 5 year "quarantine" status, 5 of which were depopulated and the brain stem tested, ALL 5 tested NEGITIVE for CWD. (Somehow that apparently is not "newsworthy") Elk have been governed by DATCP for 10 years, prior to that they were governed by the DNR; whitetail deer are under the DNR jurisdiction officially until January 2003, when the Captive Wildlife Bill will put ALL "fenced animals" under DATCP. I also would like to add to the previous letters the fact that CWD was first discovered in the Colorado Department of Wildlife Research Center, it was discovered during a "nutritional needs test" where Mule Deer and Sheep (possibly infected with scrapies), co-mingled. The Colorado Dept. of Wildlife gave some of these mule deer to the Denver Zoo; some were even released back into the wild. The Denver Zoo gave some mule Deer to the Toronto Zoo, and also sold some animals, which eventually arrived at an Elk Ranch in South Dakota. Wyoming has only 1 Game farm in the entire state located near the Montana border, this farm has never had a case of CWD yet the state has an extremely large case of CWD in the wild herds. This disease has been around since 1967 and surprisingly a lot of the additional documents from the handling of the disease from the Colorado Dept. of Wildlife have "somehow" become "misplaced" and former employees seem to have "limited memory" according to some investigating the history of this disease. ALL Elk imported into Wisconsin require shipping permits issued by DATCP; this documents the state and farm of origin, verified by a certified veterinarian, not the farmer. DATCP's rules are the reason we can track the farm raised animals the way we can and since the outbreak of CWD in the WILD DEER, Wisconsin DATCP requires ALL imported elk and deer to come from farms with at least 5 years of documented CWD surveillance, there is NO REQUIREMENTS as of yet for importation of DEAD hunted carcasses possibly infected with CWD or the discarding of heads or brain material (which had trophy racks attached) from being brought into Wisconsin. I hope we can eradicate CWD before it infects the rest of our herds on both sides of the fence. Elk farmers have already spent over \$180,000.00 in researching this disease and may have found a genetic link as some elk are naturally immune to CWD and further research is underway. This was funded by ELK FARMERS not The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the same farmers you blame for CWD. The majority of Elk Farmers in Wisconsin were already on a voluntary CWD surveillance program long before the DNR found CWD in the WILD DEER, and yes ALL of the brain sampling and "certified" inventories were, and still are being paid 100% by the farmers, not the taxpayers. CWD is not wanted by anyone, and yes our WILD Deer herd is larger than we can physically manage in some areas, but you have to give the DNR and DATCP credit as they were looking, and had been looking for something "ghost-like" which up until this spring DID NOT EXIST in Wisconsin. Our neighboring states cannot make that statement, but guess what they will be looking for it this fall. In closing I would like to mention that the vast majority of Elk Farmers in Wisconsin are extremely proactive, they have raised many industry standards regarding the safe handling and management of these majestic animals, this industry is only new to the un-informed, as Elk have been farmed for close to 2,000 years according to history and I believe "Whitetail Deer" Game Farms have been in Wisconsin under the DNR's regulations for approx. 70 years. I urge anyone discounting this industry to first EDUCATE themselves.

Dave Gilbertson - Town of Clyde Resident

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel - 7/24/02

Preventing spread is the bottom line

Elk producers want to see chronic wasting disease eradicated. How it got to Wisconsin no one really knows. Whether a diseased elk or deer was brought in illegally and released in the wild for genetic improvements or was carried in on a carcass from out West is really not the issue.

Maybe some day we will discover that it's a naturally occurring thing. But for today, the issue is that we need to test and monitor, and that is exactly what our association supports.

With aggressive efforts in Wisconsin like the ones taken by the Department of Natural Resources to eradicate the disease in free-ranging white-tailed deer, plus the monitoring of farm-raised deer and elk, together we will be able to prevent this disease from spreading; that is the bottom line.

Look at Colorado: It had the disease in free-ranging elk and deer for decades and did little to stop it. It wasn't until the disease infected the farm-raised elk herds that a program for eradication came about. That program has proved to be successful and has stopped the disease in private herds.

We all need to support Wisconsin's efforts to stop chronic wasting disease, and Wisconsin elk farmers are willing to do their fair share.

Jim Pankow.

continued on page 15



WCDEFA Board Members Set the Record Straight - continued from page 14

The Post-Crescent, Appleton-Menasha, WI - 7/22/02

Elk farmers part of fight against CWD

I'm writing in response to Don Ebel's views (The Post-Crescent, July 4) on chronic wasting disease and regarding regulating game farms.

Yes, our farms are being regulated, but not by the Department of Natural Resources. Recognized as alternative farming in Wisconsin since 1996, elk and red deer farms have been regulated by the state Department of Agriculture. Every farm needs a permit to operate, along with submitting animal inventory and identification forms on an annual basis. A surveillance, control and eradication program is in place and all animals over the age of 16 months are tested for CWD when they die or are slaughtered.

There has never been a farmed deer or elk with CWD in Wisconsin. It is true that CWD was found in a farmed elk herd in Colorado, but an aggressive CWD control program was developed by the industry and instituted with the help of the U.S. Animal Health Association. This effort traced all animals exposed, including the infected herd. Only one elk shipped out of Colorado tested positive, which was shipped to Kansas. The eradication process worked and Colorado farm-raised herds are free of CWD. But not so for the wild population of mule deer and elk in western states like Colorado, where CWD was first recognized at a Division of Wildlife Research facility in 1967.

No one wants CWD eradication more than the elk and deer farms. For many farmers, it is their way of finally making a living from farming.

Our industry supplies products like velvet antler, exported to Korea for health supplements, and venison and elk meat for those interested in healthy eating. That is why we, along with other elk and red deer farmers, support the regulations initiated by the Department of Agriculture for monitoring farms to prevent outbreaks of CWD in our herds. Please, visit www.elkantlers.com

Diana Susen

Distributed in WI State Capitol mailroom - 7/17/02

JULY 17, 2002 • POSITION STATEMENT

Wisconsin Commercial Deer and Elk Farmer's Association
DATCP Docket No. 99-R-07

The Wisconsin Commercial Deer and Elk Farmer's Association (WCDEFA) supports the proposed rules for regulating farm-raised deer and elk to prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease with the following additions.

1. Allow herds that are enrolled in the CWD program and have two separate locations being used for the same type of operation be allowed to continue being registered as a single herd.
2. Do NOT exempt DNR and zoos from complying with new rules and regulations regarding movement of farm-raised and free-ranging elk or deer.
3. Have mandatory sample collection for CWD testing done by State Inspectors at all slaughter facilities. To ensure the quality and accuracy of each sample certified state inspectors should perform sample test and submit to approved laboratory as part of their job description as a state employee.
4. Increase lab capacity and ensure priority test results for all slaughtered animals.

Producers slaughtering for meat consumption need to have test results returned in a reasonable amount of time (10 days).

The Wisconsin Commercial Deer and Elk Farmer's Association represents farmers commercially raising elk, red deer, reindeer, fallow and sika deer.

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Product Review

RURAL VALUES AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

Our company is deeply rooted in Wisconsin's heritage. We believe that the services we provide - and the values we operate by - set us apart from other insurance companies. In fact, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation founded Rural Mutual Insurance Company in 1934 to provide auto insurance to Farm Bureau members who often couldn't find affordable insurance elsewhere simply because they were residents of rural Wisconsin.

We're proud of the fact that the way we do business hasn't changed much since those early days. Back then, being there in person to give your word and a handshake meant something. In today's world, with a growing reliance on advanced communication technology, that kind of personal service is becoming increasingly rare. At Rural Insurance, we utilize all the latest technology, but we still feel we're at our best when we're face-to-face with our customers and we take great pride in the personal, local service we provide. We believe that establishing a comprehensive policy that protects who you are and the life you've made requires more than the latest interactive software; it takes real people with experience and

commitment who will sit down with you and cover the details. That's what we mean by "peace of mind with an old-fashioned touch" and why we have more than one-hundred-fifty Rural Insurance agents statewide, living and working in the same communities you do.

Today at Rural Insurance, we understand that the distinction between Wisconsin's rural and urban environments has blurred. Accordingly, we have expanded our service capabilities and developed innovative products to meet the needs of Wisconsinites from all walks of life. Whether you require auto, home, life, health, farm or business insurance, your Rural Insurance agent can provide you with a policy to protect the things that matter most.

We're proud of our rural Wisconsin heritage and our growth to meet the needs of so many in our state. But we're prouder still that we've never outgrown our rural values. As always, Rural Insurance remains committed to our mission of satisfied customers by providing you with peace of mind with an old-fashioned touch when it comes to your insurance needs.

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Velvet Voice

HSR Health Supplement Retailer

In the August 2002 issue, velvet antler again is discussed in an article called "*Nutritional Support to Bear Arthritis*." A quote from the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention states "Arthritis is the leading cause of disability in the United States and although cost-effective interventions are available to reduce the burden of arthritis, they are currently underused. Besides the physical toll, arthritis costs the country nearly \$65 billion annually." Noting that "Medical journals and drug companies have been open to new roads for preventing and treating these inflammatory conditions." The writer goes on to state "*The biggest talk in the industry now centers on collagen for arthritis.*" "*Another compound that may contribute to the structural integrity of cartilage is deerantler velvet. This is the soft tissue from the inside of the growing antler, which is rich in GAGs, hyaluronic acid, proteins, lipids and other compounds. While it has been traditionally used in Chinese medicine as a health tonic, it is now being studied for its ability to nutritionally support joint structure and function. "I believe there are three mechanisms of actions: anti-inflammatory, analgesic and cartilage growth factors to promote repair" said Jimmy Suttie, a leading velvet researcher at Ag Research in New Zealand. A Wisconsin-based company, NAEP, Inc. with their product AntlerPower was an advertiser in this issue of HSR Health Supplement Retailer Magazine.*

Whole Foods Source Directory

Once a year, Whole Foods Magazine puts out a directory listing all the suppliers and manufacturers in the natural products industry. In their latest edition forty



Pictured above: Stanley Bajdan of Faraway Land Elk Ranch (on the left) and Tino Roets of Johannesburg South Africa (on the right). Tino was in the U.S. promoting his company's top quality hand-made furniture. While in Wisconsin he toured Faraway Land Elk Ranch. Stan shared with Tino the virtues of the elk antlers in the health field. Tino was very impressed and is now interested in a dealership in Africa for the VitalEx capsules. Tino is coming back to the U.S. several times this year. He wants to see a Green Bay Packer game and hunt an elk at Faraway Land in Wild Rose, Wisconsin

different manufacturers were listed as being suppliers of velvet antler in the Dietary Supplements category. Just two years ago only five companies appeared in this section.

Alaron Products and Bio Products attend Natural Health Expo in Anaheim

Two New Zealand velvet antler companies, Alaron and Bio Products were among the hundreds of companies attending the Natural Products Expo. Over 22,500 retailers attend the event in Anaheim, California. Among the velvet products they displayed were the velvet sub-lingual sprays. Big with athletes, the sub-lingual spray, sprayed under the tongue is known for its rapid absorption into the bloodstream.

USA Merman James Eubank Endorses Velvet Antler

One of the top senior swimmers, this 87-year old swimmer who recently won four gold medals and one silver is convinced of the benefits from taking velvet antler. Eubank endorsed the velvet tea, made with herbal extracts at the IX FINA World Masters Swimming Championships in Christchurch New Zealand.

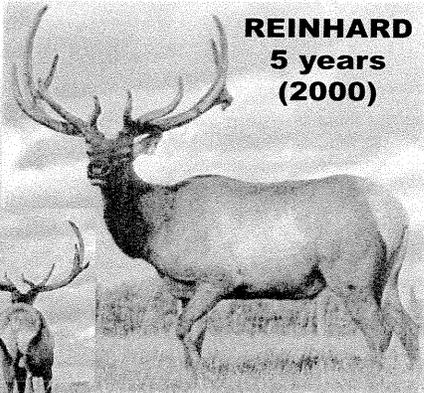
"The biggest talk in the industry now centers on collagen for arthritis."

HSR HEALTH SUPPLEMENT
RETAILER MAGAZINE



WEST RIDGE ELK

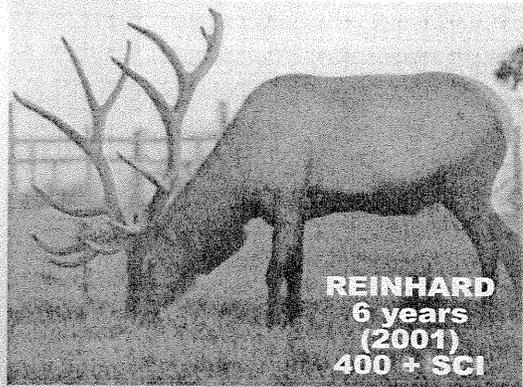
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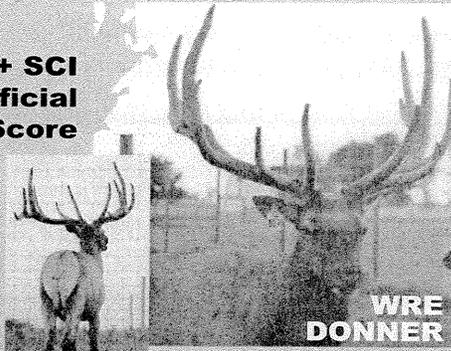
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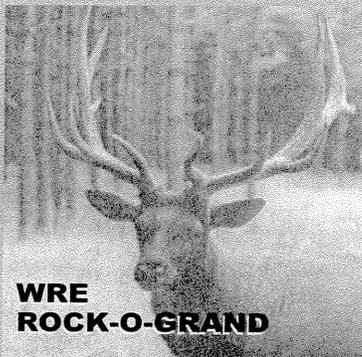
**310 + SCI
Unofficial
Score**



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**290 + SCI
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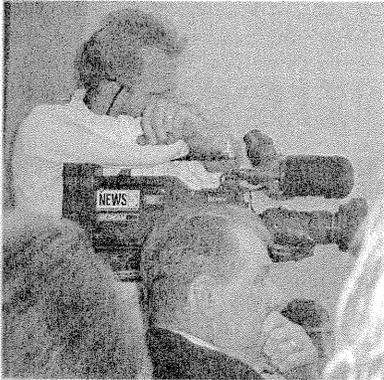
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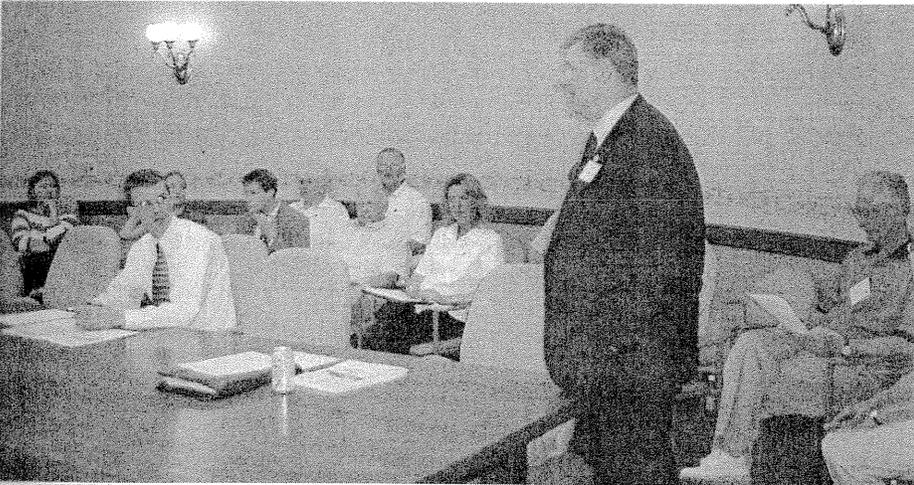
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Several media sources attended, including News 3 from Madison which aired a very favorable segment on their 10 o'clock news that evening.



President Pankow starts off the session with an overview of WCDEFA.



A big thanks to Gary Goyke for all the planning. A special thanks to Senator Baumgart who made arrangements for us to use the room in the capitol and a round of applause for the many members that came.



Dr. Glen Zebarth from Minnesota gave an excellent presentation as Lee Berquist from the Milwaukee Journal, Diana Susen and Jim Pankow hear about CWD.

LEGISLATIVE DAY AT THE CAPITOL

May 30, 2002

Speakers: Jim Pankow
Dr. Glen Zebarth
Gary Goyke

Press: WISC-TV Madison
Wisconsin Public Radio
Capitol Times
Country Today
Journal/Sentinal
Wisconsin State Journal
Brett Hulsey~Reporter

WCDEFA Members Present:
Legislative Information Day
on Chronic Wasting Disease
"You've Heard So Much... Hear the Facts!"
Jim Pankow
Wes Ramage
Diana Susen
Kris Hammes
Dave Gilbertson
Gwen Gilbertson
Doug Ray
Larry Gerdes
Tim Enderle
John Gooch
Sandra Gooch
Marcia Hoppman
Dave Hoppman
Donna Simerson
Jim Simerson
Dawn Amenda
Russell Schelkopf
Frank Binder
Sam Vainisi
Jerry Potts
Joe Cano & son
Nancy Fochs
Bob Johnson



Two Junior Members Promote WCDEFA



Erik & Alex Gilbertson from Spring Green promoted The Wisconsin Commercial Deer and Elk Farmers Association in a local parade on the 4th of July.

Their float not only promoted our association but also advertised "Visit us at Farm Progress Days, in Farming the Next Generation Tent." Farm Progress Days was held only about 5 miles from the parade site.

WCDEFA Booth at Farm Progress Days

Farm Progress Days was held in Richland County this year on July 9, 10 & 11th. We handed out a number of CWD brochures and answered many questions. The largest attendance day was Wednesday, which drew between 17,000 to 18,000 people. We would like to thank our volunteers for working the booth for the Association. Dan Butteris and Jerry Potts worked the booth on Tuesday July 9th, as Gwen had Dave in the hospital. Thanks for filling in on such short notice, your time and efforts are greatly appreciated!!!! Gwen Gilbertson worked the booth the 10th & 11th. If you have any business cards or brochures to promote your farm please send them to the office so that they can travel with the booth.

If anyone is interested in volunteering for next year, the name has been changed to "Wisconsin Farm Technology Days," will be held on July 15 - 17th in Waupaca County at Clinton Farms. The packet of information is here at the office.

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Wesley Ramage
(920) 583-4347
Fax (920) 583-4348

The Clearstone guarantee: Our animals pass on their genetics. Our bulls, used in natural breeding with 20 to 30 Clearstone cows, can produce as many top males as the best semen bulls in North America who have sold up to 1,000 straws of semen per year.

www.clearstone-elk.com



WCDEFA

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

WCDEFA

Membership in the Wisconsin Commercial Deer & Elk Farmers Association is payable in advance and on a fiscal year basis, July through June.

If you are a member of NADeFA, NAEBA or ROBA, deduct \$50 from your active membership.

- NADeFA** **Life Member** - \$2,000 **Active Member** - \$200 (owns animals in WI)
- NAEBA** **Associate** - \$50 (doesn't own or raise animals in the State of Wisconsin, Non-voting)
- ROBA** **Supplier** - \$150 (supplies feed, fence or other products or services to farmers)
- Member/Supplier** - \$75 (supplier as listed above but who is also a member of WCDEFA)
- Junior** - FREE (under 18 years, Non-voting) Date of birth _____

Name _____ Partner/Spouse _____

Farm/Ranch Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

County _____ Website Address _____

Tel _____ Fax _____ E-Mail _____

Occupation _____

The state is divided in quarters with Hwy 51 being the North-South line and Hwy 10 being the East-West Line.
 Section of the state in which your farm is located: Northeast Northwest Southeast Southwest

SPECIES	# ADULT MALES	# ADULT FEMALES	UNDER 1 YEAR
Elk			
Red Deer			
Fallow Deer			
Hybrids			
Reindeer			

Would you like your farm on one of our future tours? Yes No

I am interested in serving the Wisconsin Commercial Deer & Elk Farms Association on the following Committees:

- Auction Convention Education Jr. Member Ethics Health/Legislative Velveting
- Farm Progress Days & Farm Tours Newsletter, Advertising & Publicity Or in some other way

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail with your check to: WCDEFA • 3591 High Point Rd. • Spring Green, WI 53588-8935

Give a copy of this application to a non-member.

WCDEFA First Edition Cookbook

The WCDEFA First Edition Cookbook is now available at the WCDEFA Office. These cookbooks make great gifts. The more you buy the more you save. The cookbooks are available to both members and non-members. Give them to your valued meat customers for their appreciation in doing business with you.

Cookbook prices are as follows:

1-9 cookbooks	.....	\$5.00 each (members)
1-9 cookbooks	.....	\$6.00 each (non-members)
10 or more cookbooks	.....	\$4.00 each (members)
10 or more cookbooks	.....	\$4.95 each (non-members)
25 or more cookbooks	.....	\$3.50 each (members)
25 or more cookbooks	.....	\$4.45 each (non-members)

Shipping & Handling:

1-5 cookbooks	.....	\$1.80
6-10 cookbooks	.....	\$2.75

Larger quantity orders accepted also. Shipping & handling will depend on amount ordered.

Phone/fax orders accepted. You will be billed and when the office receives your payment we will send shipment.

RECIPE

Elk & Wild Rice Casserole

By Beth Ann Arvold

Elk Rock Ranch • Emerald, Wisconsin

Brown 1lb-cubed elk
1lb pork
1 onion
1 garlic clove

Mix together with:

1/2 cup wild rice
1/2 cup white rice
1 can beef consommé (beef broth)
4 Tablespoons soy sauce
2 cups celery
1/2 cup mushrooms
1 can water chestnuts (8 oz.)

Bake 2 hours at 325 degrees. Add: 1 can beef consommé (beef broth) Bake 1/2 hour more.

Top casserole with:

1/2 cup butter
1/2 cup almonds

This and other fine recipes can be found in the WCDEFA First Edition Cookbook.

CORNER



Hillcrest Farms

Jim Pankow • Kristine Hammes

N5397 Hillcrest Drive

Plymouth, WI 53073

(920) 892-6753 • fax (920) 892 -6472

Since 1989, Jim Pankow has been breeding elk and buffalo. By 2000 the herds had grown to over 100 elk and over 100 buffalo. Quality purebred animals are grown for sale to those interested in elk or buffalo farming.

- All breeding stock is "Gold" registered with NAEBA and DNA-matched to sire and dam
- Breeding females are daughters of Proud Ruler, a son of Dakota Pride, who cut 36+ lbs. of antler
- AI sires include King, Dakota Pride, Colorado Extreme John Boy and Claude
- Backup bulls are sons of King, Korea Gold or Weapon
- All calves born on our farm come with 40+ or 50 lb. velvet weight and 400+ Boone and Crocket scores in their pedigree

All Hillcrest Farms animals are raised free of growth hormones and artificial stimulants.

NAEBA Herd Reg. #25
WI T.B. Accredited Herd #5
CWD Program 2 years



WANTED:
 HYDRAULIC POST POUNDER
 FOR TWELVE FOOT POSTS.
 PHONE: 715-758-8313.

We are always interested in participation from our members. Please submit copy or photos from a recent deer or elk event you attend. If you are willing to write an article for an upcoming newsletter please contact the office. You don't have to be a great writer to submit copy. We can review what you submit and tweak the copy if necessary. You might be surprised how easy it is and how fun it can be.



If you are interested in advertising in our newsletter please contact the office at (888) 233-1667 for more information.

ADVERTISING RATES & deadlines

<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>COPY DUE</u>	<u>MAIL</u>	CLASSIFIEDS: \$10 + .20 per word over 20 words
Feb	Jan 23 . . .	Feb 20	SPECIFICATIONS: camera ready art work, print quality or electronic files in Quark or Word
May	Apr 24 . . .	May 22	NON-MEMBERS' ADVERTISING RATES: 20% surcharge
Aug	July 24 . . .	Aug 21	PREPAYMENT POLICY: All ads must be paid when ad is submitted
Nov	Oct 23 . . .	Nov 20	

	FULL PAGE (7.75 x 9.625)	1/2 PAGE (7.75 x 4.75 OR 3.75 x 9.625)	1/4 PAGE (3.75 x 4.75)	CARD (3.75 x 2.375)
1X	\$75	\$50	\$30	\$20
4X	\$290	\$190	\$100	\$75

LIST OF ADVERTISERS

August 2002

Bearskin Game Farm - Gail Winnie & John Hendrickson . . .	3
Clearstone Elk Farms - Wesley Ramage	20
Eaton Highland Red Deer Farm - Dr. Sam Vainisi & Dr. Gretchen Schmidt	16
Elk Hills Ranch North - Jerry & Bette Potts	3
Fox Hollow - Wayne & Terri Curtis	16
Hillcrest Farms - Jim Pankow & Kristine Hammes	22
Hill Top Elk & Deer Ranch - Fred Bower	6
M.P.B. Builders, Inc. - Doyle Pokorny	11
Majestic Monarchs - Joe Eugster	13
Meadow Creek Elk Farms - Robert & Diana Susen	20
Nanchas Elk Ranch - Charlie & Nancy Fochs	8
Purina Mills - Rick Decker	5
Rural Insurance	14
Valley Spring Elk & Trout Farm - Larry & Mary Gerdes	14
West Ridge Elk - Dave & Marcia Hoppman	18

new members

New Active Members:

Burdette & Tina Nelson
 57915 School Road
 Readstown, Wisconsin
 54652-9754
 Phone: 608-538-3832

Gooch Farms
 John & Sandra Gooch
 W420 HWY 18
 Sullivan, Wisconsin 53178
 Phone: 262 593-5806
 email:
 goochfarms@hotmail.com

Be sure to add these names to your directory.

Wolf's Elk Farm
 Brian & Victoria Wolf
 W947 Washington Road
 Rubicon, Wisconsin 53708
 Phone: 920-474-7461
 email: bwolf@powerweb.net

ATTENTION

This could be your last newsletter!!!

The dues for the 2002-2003 membership year are past due. If you have not yet renewed your membership, the time is now!!! We would like to keep sending you all of the important updates that concern our industry, but if you do not renew your membership by September 1st, you will not receive another newsletter or any updated material that affects your industry until dues are paid!!

The Wisconsin Commercial Deer & Elk Farmers Association has a strong voice in our state Capitol and is working hard to enhance our industry but needs your membership support. So please send your membership renewal into the office now before it is too late!!

Easy steps for enrolling in the **CWD HERD MONITORING PROGRAM**

- Complete an application form
- Provide a report of a herd census
- Statement from the herd veterinarian

Visit www.wcdefa.org to download any forms needed

For additional information contact
DATCP 608-224-4903

Electronic filing is now available.

what's INSIDE

summer 2002

- Members Spotlight - Willow Creek Elk Farm
- Hunters Shouldn't Fear WI Deer Meat
- Colorado Elk Breeders State The Facts About CWD
- North American Deer Farmer's Assoc. Holds Cervid Congress
- WCDEFA Board Members Set the Record Straight
- Legislative Day at the Capitol
- Two Junior Members Promote WCDEFA
- Elk & Wild Rice Casserole



WISCONSIN COMMERCIAL
DEER & ELK FARMERS ASSOCIATION
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(888) 233-1667 • www.wcdefa.org

