

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson David Corbin at 10:00 a.m. on March 17, 1993 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: all members were present

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes
Lila McClafin, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Gayle Bartel
Larry Woodson, Board of Agriculture
Darrell Moneti, Wildlife and Parks
Ellen Spivey, Animal Health Department
Lynn Kaufman, Moundridge
Dr. Wilbur Jay, State Field Veterinarian

Others attending: See attached list

The Chairman called for the adoption of the minutes of March 16. A motion was made by Senator Frahm to adopted the minutes. Seconded by Senator Steffes. Motion carried.

The Chairman opened the hearing on HB 2144 - regulating the production of domesticated deer . He called on Gayle Bartel.

Gayle Bartel presented an interesting video on elk ranching and the Elk Association.

Darrell Moneti supported the bill, and encourage strong cooperative effort with the State Livestock Commissioner and with other state and federal agencies in dealing with big game ranching issues (Attachment 1).

Larry Woodson stated his testimony was directed to KSA 65-6a18 relative to the Kansas Meat and Poultry Inspection Act (Attachment 2).

Ellen Spivey presented testimony supporting HB 2106. She said the legislation is needed to serve or protect the public interest, and she reviewed some of those issues. Her testimony also requested that the bill be refined to give the commissioner of the Kansas Animal Health Department a more specific legislative directive and they would have several recommendations to make (Attachment 3) The members of the Committee had several questions regarding health problems of these animals. Dr. Wilbur Jay responded to these questions.

Lynn Kaufman a producer from Moundridge presented information regarding their association. Included are copies of the bulletins he distributed: (1) NAEBA takes lead to stop TB in cervidae; (2) Gourmet Venison; (3) NAEBA News; (Attachment 4). A copy of the winter 1993 issue of North American Elk is on file in the committee office.

Dee Likes suggested the committee consider broadening the scope of the bill to allow the livestock commissioner and the Kansas Animal Health Department to issue the rules and regulations necessary to control diseases in exotic animals (Attachment 5).

Larry Woodson responded to questions relative to the diseases present in these animals and the tests that are done on the animals.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 1993. The meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

GUEST LIST

COMMITTEE: Senate Agriculture

DATE: 3-17-93

[illegible]

STATE OF KANSAS



Joan Finney
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

Theodore D. Ensley
Secretary

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

900 SW Jackson St., Suite 502 / Topeka, Kansas 66612 - 1233
(913) 296-2281 / FAX (913) 296-6953

H.B. 2106

Testimony Presented To: Senate Agriculture Committee
Provided By: Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
March 17, 1993

H.B. 2106 in its original form presented a number of problems to the Department. Most notable was that the Department would have no authority to maintain any involvement with big game ranching. Action by the House Agriculture Committee amended the bill to the point that the Department maintains an involvement. Big game ranching does touch upon natural resource management and will remain of interest to the Department.

We encourage a strong cooperative effort with the State Livestock Commissioner and with other state and federal agencies in dealing with big game ranching issues. We would also hope that cooperative efforts will occur in other wildlife related issues such as disease control and health checks, exotics and exotic pets, illegal activities, gene pool considerations, public education and animal husbandry.

Senate Ag Co.
3-17-93
Attachment 1

HOUSE BILL NO. 2106
SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

March 17, 1993

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, my name is Larry D. Woodson, Director of the Division of Inspections, Kansas State Board of Agriculture and I appear today on House Bill 2106 regarding domesticated deer and elk farming.

My testimony is directed at K.S.A. 65-6a18 relative to the Kansas Meat and Poultry Inspection Act.

The authority for the Kansas Meat and Poultry Inspection Act was established by the Federal Wholesome Meat Act of 1967. Title III, Section 301 addresses Federal State Cooperation and provides 50:50 funding to states that operate inspection programs "equal to federal".

My purpose in citing this Act is to call your attention to the provisions of Section 301 that addresses the amenable species i.e. cattle, sheep, swine, goats, or equine and the processing for intra state commerce. Species not addressed in this section fall under 7 U.S.C. 1622; 7 CFR 2.17, 2.55 or Voluntary Inspection and Certification.

The significance of Voluntary Inspection for non-amenable species is that inspection is performed on a fee basis. Species slaughtered that are not amenable do not qualify for 50:50 funding. Thus, buffaloes, rabbits and, if passed, deer and elk are slaughtered without federal matching funds.

There are two options available for Kansas: 1) establish a voluntary inspection section and charge inspection fees for non-amenable species; or 2) continue the existing program of mandating the inspection of certain species and providing inspection at state cost (no matching funds) for those animals entering commerce.

Senate Ag. Co.
3-17-93
Attachment 2
2-1

An inspection fee does place an additional burden on those animals or products and makes it difficult for them to compete in the marketplace.

By providing the inspection, it does encourage the development of this type of business in Kansas.

One of the ironies of the Wholesome Meat Act is that it considers buffaloes as game animals. Buffalo slaughtered in Kansas are all raised domestically and one survey estimated there were some 80 buffalo raisers in Kansas. Of that amount, most would be hobby raisers with very small numbers. There are less than ten commercial herds in Kansas. Three hundred forty-two buffalo were slaughtered under Kansas Inspection in 1992.

As there is more interest in deer and elk ranching, the number of animals offered for slaughter will increase but the volume will likely remain relatively small compared to cattle, swine and sheep.

I would anticipate a request in the future relative to other exotic species that will want to sell their products for food.

We know that llamas, ostriches, emus, and other animals have already been started in Kansas. These too will be offered for sale and require inspection services.

In conclusion, I mainly wanted to alert the committee as to the ramifications of including deer, elk or other exotic species under the Kansas Meat and Poultry Inspection Act.

I stand for questions.



STATE OF KANSAS
Animal Health Department

March 17, 1993

Testimony on H.B. 2106

AN ACT concerning domesticated deer; relating to the production thereof.

Presented before the
Kansas Senate Agriculture Committee
David R. Corbin, Chairperson

by
Ellan E. Spivey for
R. Daniel Walker, DVM (Absent)
Kansas Animal Health Commissioner

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Committee Members:

I want to thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of Dr. Walker who is unable to be here today. I would like to testify in support of H.B. 2106. Paramount in the development of good legislation is establishment of the fact that legislation is needed to serve or protect the public interest. Let me list some of the issues that pertain to this matter.

During the last decade increased activity has occurred in the commercialization of captive cervidae (deer and elk farming) as an economically feasible alternative form of agriculture. Animals are not only raised for their value as a source of meat and leather but other markets have developed with an increasing demand for these animals.

Unusual as it may seem, the elk antler is harvested annually each spring and marketed to the orient for medicinal use. A mature male elk may yield in excess of \$1500 worth of antler per year. The high value of a renewable product such as this obviously increased the demand for breeding stock. Mature female elk have recently been commanding sale prices in excess of \$10,000 each.

In addition to the increased demand for captive domesticated cervidae as a production animal, the various deer and elk species have become popular as additions to both public and private exhibitions and collections.

The growth of the domesticated captive cervidae industry has not been without problems. Most notable of these has been the diagnosis of bovine tuberculosis in captive cervidae worldwide. Bovine

tuberculosis is not known to be a problem in wild deer and elk, but of real concern is the scenario in which domestically raised animals infected with diseases such as TB, bovine brucellosis, menigeal worms transmit their disease to the wild population. This can be especially disastrous when diseases not known to infect wild species are introduced.

Of even more immediate and real concern is the fact that cases have been documented in this country where domesticated elk infected with bovine TB have transmitted the disease to domestic cattle herds. The cost of damage to both cattlemen and elk ranchers alike is enormous. The expense of indemnification to owners of depopulated affected cattle or deer herds is at this time the responsibility of the state in which the infection occurs and has made this a priority issue with few good answers. There are currently approximately 12 domesticated cervidae herds infected with TB in the United States today.

Another concern is that since European Red Deer are sometimes cross bred with domesticated North American wild elk, (for commercial reasons) the risk exists that hybrids from this cross could stray or be released to the wild, co-mingling and breeding with native wild populations and adulterating pristine native elk gene pools.

With elk selling prices in the thousands of dollars, wild native herds have been the target of professional game poachers as they can not be distinguished from domesticated species. Poached animals are easily sold in this largely under regulated industry.

As you can see, the scope of this issue is large. H.B. 2106 is a timely and appropriate piece of legislation. I would respectfully request that this bill be refined to give the commissioner of the Kansas Animal Health Department a more specific legislative directive. I would have several recommendations on the details of this bill.

I plan to bring to this legislative session my proposals for certain Animal Health Department organizational changes that will enable the agency to adjust and grow as the agency's mission of public service changes. This legislation will fit in well with those proposals.

I have reviewed the amendments made to this bill through the House Agriculture Committee and concur with the committee.

If you believe that the initiative advanced by the Association is indeed a positive step to secure your future and the future of this industry then make sure your congressman, senators and state officials know how you feel. Your voice makes a difference. Money helps too! A trust fund has been set up to support the Association's efforts on your behalf and you can make contributions to NAEBA's office in Kansas City.

**NORTH AMERICAN ELK BREEDERS
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KANSAS CITY, MO 64153**

**TEL: (816) 746-5700
FAX: (816) 746-1822**



**THE NORTH AMERICAN ELK
BREEDERS ASSOCIATION**

Dakota south through Texas and including Alaska and Hawaii), Farm Bureau and Washington Veterinary Medical Association. The National Cattlemen's Association wrote a letter of support pointing out that inclusion of elk and deer within the existing federal TB program is part of their legislative agenda for the year. The dairymen are considering fully supporting the program in that it might solve some of the problems facing their industry. Members of the nation's sheep industry are considering the concept as a possible solution to their scrapie problem.

Despite this level of support there are nay sayers within our own industry. Both the North American Deer Farmers and Exotic Wildlife Associations were approached before the team went to Washington. They were asked to participate in the formulation and presentation of this initiative. Their underlying sentiment seems to be either that "TB is not a problem" or that "government created the problem, government can solve the problem and if government doesn't solve the problem then solutions in the courts are available".

NAEBA's position continues to be that indeed TB is a problem, only government and industry working together can solve the problem and if the problem isn't solved quickly the very basis of the industry is in jeopardy. Courtrooms are not very fertile ground to farm. It is NAEBA's goal to provide for the financial security of its members. The issues of test protocols, control versus eradication, etc. need to be addressed but regardless of what changes may occur, an indemnification program is required in any event.

The Producer's Perspective

Annual insurance premiums currently are envisioned to be 1% of the producers declared herd value with an absolute cap set at 2%. Participation in the program is entirely voluntary until animals were entered into interstate shipment. Evidence of insurance could then be required on the health certificate before the state veterinarian to which the stock is being shipped would issue an import permit number. The amount of insurance for the value of the stock shipped would transfer from the seller to the buyer. The seller would pay the first premium and the buyer would pick up the remaining premiums for the term of the program not to exceed 10 years from inception.

Producers could insure their herds for any amount from zero to fair market value. But, like most insurance programs, this one would have a deductible clause. There was a general feeling among producers at the NAEBA convention that a 20% deductible was acceptable. It was thought that paying full value would not sufficiently encourage producers to take steps to prevent the spread of TB and might actually lead to abuse.

In the case of interstate commerce, the minimum value of insurance is the sale value of the stock being shipped (the sale establishing fair market value). If over insured, the excess premium will be returned if a condemnation action is implemented. If under insured, compensation would be based on the amount of insurance in force (less deductible).

NAEBA TAKES LEAD TO STOP TB IN CERVIDAE

*An informational pamphlet prepared by the
North American Elk Breeders Association*

The North American Elk Breeders Association, through unanimous vote of the board of directors, set as a major goal at the Annual Convention in Denver in February inclusion of members' herds of elk and deer within the scope of the federal tuberculosis program for other livestock. Currently, the tuberculosis program covers only selected bovidae (cattle and bison). Central to being included in this program is the need to ensure members financial security when faced with destruction of animals diseased or exposed to tuberculosis. There has never been a successful program in any country to control/eradicate bovine tuberculosis which did not include fair and equitable indemnification of producers.

*donate by
attachment 4
3-17*

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New Zealand has had tuberculosis in its deer herds for many years. Effectively controlled but never eradicated in New Zealand it was often thought North American cervids were not susceptible to infection the way New Zealand animals were. Possums from the wild with open lesions reinfect herds and for all practical purposes make eradication impossible in New Zealand. The few isolated outbreaks of TB in cervidae (elk and deer) here over the years were often associated with zoos and deemed to be an anomaly not indicative of a potential widespread problem. As interest in elk and deer farming escalated, the handling and management of these domestic alternative livestock became routine and more sophisticated. Eventually, bovine tuberculosis was isolated on farms, first in fallow deer herds in Canada in 1990 and later in elk - with the most significant outbreak being in Alberta. Existing Canadian statutes including indemnification were broad enough to cover cervidae and prompt action was taken on the part of Agriculture Canada to quell the disease. The methods used were criticized as being wasteful of livestock and insensitive to farmers, they were the same as those employed in the cattle industry which proved very effective over the past 75 years. The policy by law in both Canada and the United States is to eradicate bovine tuberculosis from livestock as a potential reservoir of infection in humans. It is too early to tell, but the decisive, aggressive policy of the Canadian government may have been effective.

Trace back actions from the Canadian outbreak pointed a finger in one case to the disease having spread from the United States. Currently, 25 herds of deer and elk have either been confirmed to be infected with bovine tuberculosis or are suspect in 12 states, the numbers being evenly divided between elk and deer. For some reasons in some parts of the industry it is important to distinguish between elk and deer and to blame one over the other. Only humans seem to be able to make this distinction - the disease and the animals infected don't know the difference.

Action in the United States to quell the outbreak of tuberculosis has been paralyzing slow. Government movement control and procedures to isolate potentially infected herds are limited to bovids, with the exception of a few states which have broader authority. Indemnification if available at the state level is woefully inadequate. Many of the unfortunate producers of herds with TB suspected have been willing to cooperate. Others simply can't afford the financial loss and infected animals remain quarantined with neither the government nor the producer happy with the standoff. In many cases, trace back actions to potentially infected herds are not being pursued because there is no authority to do anything about it. This can only lead to an ever increasing number of exposed herds.

The industry does face a crisis. There is fear that tuberculosis in cervidae will spread to other livestock and indeed this has just happened in New York. There are 18 dairy herds quarantined in New York and 8 in Pennsylvania are implicated. Wildlife agencies are acting irrationally and speculating about the spread to wild populations to accomplish their own agendas.

The future of the industry need not be one of despair. Prompt action has proven its effectiveness. In the United States bovine tuberculosis appeared in domestic bison herds in 1984. As bison are bovidae, it was possible to extend existing regulations to them. Government and industry working together effectively controlled this outbreak in 18 months and there have been no reported cases of TB in these herds since. The key to prompt action was indemnification.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has been unsuccessful in recent years getting appropriation authority from the congress to continue funding existing programs. In fact there are about 18,000 quarantined dairy cows in Texas and New Mexico and funding for indemnification to control the TB problem is not available. The incidence of infection in cattle herds is increasing and is a serious problem along the Mexican border.

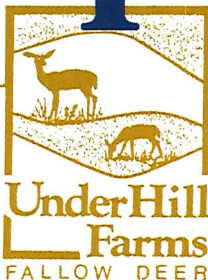
In the face of this and with the fact that indemnification is the key to success NAEBA proposed a partnership with government through a tuberculosis mortality insurance program. This is a neutrally funded program. Government would advance the money at the beginning of the effort and industry would pay it back through premiums over 10 years. The sidebar outlines how this would work from the standpoint of a producer. This program would insure that owners are paid for any animals destroyed by government at a very minimal cost. Mortality insurance from private companies for livestock specifically exclude losses through slaughter by government order. The implementation of the program is proposed to be back dated to January 1, 1990, before the beginning of the current outbreak.

The President, Sam Withiam, and members of the NAEBA government liaison committee; Steve McGrath, Dave Whittlesey, Jim Rich, Bill Ward, and other interested members, Mike Ferguson and Rush Johnson presented NAEBA's proposal in Washington, DC to members of Congress and the administration the middle of March. It received an enthusiastic reception. Five senators including Senators Lugar, Craig, Baachus, Bond and Gorton have agreed to introduce legislation in the Senate. Seven congressmen including Congressmen Stallings, Morrison, Campbell, Allard, Nussle, Volkmer, and Walsh will support the effort in the house. In fact every member of the Senate and House Agriculture and Agriculture Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committees was contacted in person or in writing, the support was overwhelming. The group met with permanent staff members of these same committees. The proposal was briefed to the Secretariat in the Department of Agriculture. Liaison has already been established between committees of Congress and the Department of Agriculture. There was no mistaking the message from both the administration and Congress. In this time of budgetary strain if industry isn't willing to help itself don't expect miracles from Washington. It is ambitious but it is a possibility that this program could become a reality by October of this year. The hearing process may start by early summer.

Many allied associations are strongly supporting this initiative. Strong endorsement has been received from the U.S. Animal Health Association, Western Livestock Health Association (19 western states from North

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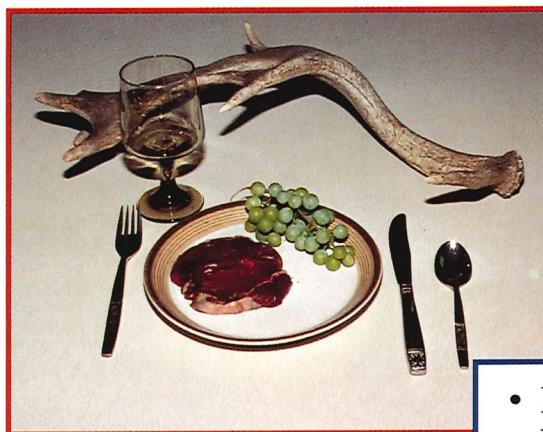
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NAEBA NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH AMERICAN ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

NAEBA REGISTRATION ANNOUNCEMENT

WE ARE TERMINATING USE OF THE DENVER LABORATORY FOR NAEBA REGISTRATION BLOOD TESTING AS OF AUGUST 28th, 1992.

IF YOU HAVE BLOOD TESTING KITS IN YOUR POSSESSION YOU MUST CHANGE THE ADDRESS ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE BLOOD MAILER SLEEVE AND REQUEST NEW LAB FORMS IF YOU MAIL BLOOD IN LATER THAN AUGUST 15, 1992.

SEE STORY ON PAGE TWO FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND NEW PROCEDURES.

Inside . . .

- ✉ New Laboratories Approved for NAEBA Registration Blood Testing - Lab Addresses, Instructions, Etc.
- ✉ Executive Committee Meeting Report
- ✉ Progress Report on TB Indemnification Program
- ✉ Reports on Federal and State TB Meetings and Proposed

NEW PROCEDURES FOR REGISTERING ELK

The NAEBA Registration Committee has decided not to renew the current contract with the Denver Laboratory (Analytical Genetic Testing Lab) after its expiration date on August 28, 1992.

Contracts have been signed with the following two (2) laboratories, members may choose which of the approved labs they wish to use for purity testing their elk before registration. The approved labs are:

**W. D. H. A.
1174 SNOWEY RANGE ROAD
LARAMIE, WYOMING 82070**

**SASKATOON RESEARCH COUNCIL
BOVINE TYPING LABORATORIES
15 INNOVATION BLVD.
SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN
CANADA S7N 2X8**

Members who have blood testing kits in their possession must change the address on the mailing sleeve (the red and white cardboard mailer that surrounds the styrofoam blood vial container) if you mail blood samples to the lab after August 15, 1992. Delete the address of AGTC (Denver) and affix the address of the laboratory of your choice. You will also need to request lab forms for the new laboratory from the office and enclose those with the blood samples.

Failure to follow these instructions will jeopardize registration process on the animals involved. **Any blood samples received at the Denver lab after August 28, 1992 WILL NOT be forwarded to the new labs - you will have to draw new blood samples and resubmit them to either the Wyoming or Saskatoon lab.**

The DNA library will be stored at the Wyoming Lab location. We feel that we will receive superior service from the Wyoming and Saskatoon Laboratories which will allow us to process registration applications on a more timely basis. ☺

EFFORT TO OBTAIN TB INDEMNIFICATION CONTINUES

By: Steve McGrath, NAEBA Director

Representatives of NAEBA returned to Washington D.C. in June to continue efforts to obtain Federal underwriting for an insurance program that would provide indemnification for elk which must be eradicated as a result of efforts to eliminate TB from domestic herds. Meetings were held with representatives of USDA/APHIS, the National Cattlemen's Association (NCA), the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA), the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), the North American Deer Farmers Association (NADeFA), Congressional delegations, their staffs and the Congressional Budget Office.

The reception to NAEBA's proposal was generally very positive with the exception of the North American Deer Farmers Association (NADeFA), which continues to oppose any program sponsored by NAEBA, even though several modifications were made to the program in order to obtain NADeFA's support.

During a meeting with allied industries, the USAHA and representatives of government, some very important resolutions were passed, including:

- 1) John Adams of the National Milk Producer's Federation moved that the Working Group support the inclusions of cervidae under current regulations monitoring and controlling the interstate movement of livestock. Dr. Alley of the U.S. Animal Health Association seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.
- 2) Mr. Adams further moved that the Working Group support the U.S. Animal Health Association in encouraging USDA/APHIS to outline and present at the USAHA annual meeting in November, 1992, proposed uniform testing protocol standards, methodology and quarantine rules for cervidae. Al Keating of the American Farm Bureau Federation seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.
- 3) Dr. Alley of USAHA moved that the Working Group support and request USDA to research and develop a reliable and sensitive TB test for cervidae and livestock. The motion was seconded and passed by a unanimous vote.

In addition, positive steps were taken to coordinate further joint research projects to develop improved diagnostic tests for TB, to determine biological origin of the disease, and to develop a third generation diagnostic test.

During our visit, actual draft legislation was prepared and submitted to various U.S. Congressmen and Senators, which is currently being considered for introduction by Congressional staffs and the Congressional Budget Office. That legislation will hopefully be introduced this year.

I am happy to report that USDA/APHIS is also moving forward to amend existing Federal Regulations to include cervidae as "program livestock" and therefore subject to Federal controls on interstate movement, as well as working on the development of uniform methods and rules for TB testing protocols and quarantine rules governing cervidae.

All things considered, NAEBA's effort has been very productive. If opposition from NADeFA and EWA could be eliminated, there is little doubt but that the financial security of our industry would be greatly enhanced. In light of their ongoing active opposition, and their failure to provide realistic and viable alternatives, the future of our proposed indemnity program must remain guarded. Personal contact with your Senators/Congressmen will certainly increase the chances of our proposed TB indemnification program being implemented. Industry wide support including endorsement, or at the least neutrality, by NADeFA and EWA would almost certainly guarantee that the program would be put into effect in the very near future. ☺

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WASHINGTON AND OREGON STATE WILDLIFE COMMISSION HEARINGS

By: Steve Wolcott, NAEBA DIRECTOR

TEMPORARY BAN ON ELK RANCHING IN PLACE IN STATE OF WASHINGTON

Repercussions of the Tuberculosis problem are being felt around the country. Those who oppose elk farming are using the TB question as a weapon against us. The Wildlife Commission of the State of Washington, on June 17th, authorized emergency regulations prohibiting the importation, transport and breeding of elk, deer and other exotics. The threat of TB was a major excuse used to accomplish this ban. Other excuses included the threat of other diseases, the possibility of the theft of wild elk, hybridization and habitat competition from escaped animals.

At the request of Jim Rich, a deer and elk breeder in Washington, I attended the organizational meeting of the Washington Alternative Livestock Association, held on June 25th in Ellensburg, Washington. A dozen breeders, including four owning elk, were in attendance. Jim Rich, who is a member of NAEBA and has helped us lobby in Washington D.C., was elected President of the Group. Several attorneys were interviewed and it was decided to hire a law firm in Seattle to challenge the emergency regulations in federal court. Although somewhat more expensive, this approach would result in a federal court decision setting a precedent nation-wide and help prevent similar actions in other states. The Washington breeders "passed the hat" and collected \$17,000.00. The hope was expressed that some financial support would come from outside of the state as well. The first stage of legal proceedings will be heard by the judge in early August. More funds are needed already.

The Washington State Wildlife Commission carefully orchestrated its move against elk, deer and exotic species breeders. The meeting that the vote was taken at was called a "workshop" so that public testimony could be prohibited. The breeders attending the "workshop" were not allowed to speak or defend their industry. "Experts" from Alberta, Montana and Wyoming, all of whom are opposed to game ranching, gave presentations full of innuendo, half-truths and speculation. The Washington State Veterinarian was not allowed to speak, and had no idea that a ban was even being contemplated by the Washington State Wildlife Commission.

is not an isolated case. Representatives of Fish and Game Departments in the west met in March in Denver where they contemplated how to get rid of game ranching in their states. The Fish & Game people in Oregon attended the Washington state "workshop" and are now recommending a "ban or strict regulation" of game farming. When the Oregon Elk Breeders asked NAEBA to provide a representative for their state hearings, I flew in to testify at the public hearing where the Oregon Wildlife Commission was to vote on their new regulations. The Oregon elk breeders had done a good job communicating with members of the Commission before the meeting. My role was to tell the Commission that it did have legitimate concerns with game ranching, and that those concerns could be met through the development of reasonable regulations. I described how my home state of Colorado has accomplished this, and what Colorado's regulations set out. The Colorado Wildlife Commission has implemented regulations to protect its wild elk herds from the very threats that Oregon is now concerned about: disease, hybridization and habitat competition from escaped animals, and theft of wild elk. At the same time, Colorado's regulations have allowed elk farming to grow to eighty ranches and over 3,000 farmed elk in 1992.

The Oregon commissioners did not come to a final decision, but voted to EITHER strictly regulate or ban elk, deer and other exotic species farming. In addition, they decided to hold a workshop where experts on both sides of the issue can make presentations, and to appoint a task force which would include representatives from the Oregon Elk Breeders Association and the Oregon Alternative Livestock Association, to make recommendations upon which to base their actions.

The word "Tuberculosis" evokes an emotional response among the general public, particularly the older generation of people who are familiar with it as a terrible human disease. Drugs have now been developed to cure TB in humans. The current spread of TB, particularly in Africa, has nothing to do with wildlife, but rather with the spread of AIDS. It is important that we do not allow these issues to become confused. No one wants to see native elk and deer populations become infected with TB - that is why NAEBA is working so hard to develop an indemnity program that will enable us to eliminate disease in our animals just as it has been successfully eliminated in bison.

We have to realize that there were people who were opposed to game ranching before the TB problem, and

there will be people who are opposed to it after the TB problem is over. These people are making use of the fact that there is TB in deer and elk to accomplish their goals. It is also clear that from the viewpoint of Fish and Game Departments, the easiest way to deal with game ranching is to ban it. This is why it is so important for elk breeders to get their state agriculture departments involved in the decision making process and regulation of game farmed elk. Agriculture departments can easily perceive the economic value of game ranching and see it as a true and viable industry, especially when so many other areas of agriculture are going downhill. State Veterinarians also understand the true nature of the TB problem, its control and eradication, because that is exactly what they have been doing with other livestock species for decades.

NADeFA OPPOSES NAEBA INDEMNIFICATION PROGRAM

The North American Deer Farmers Association is opposing our TB indemnity program bill. I visited with Dennis O'Hara, current President of NADeFA, at the meeting of the National Research Council in El Paso which was held in July to discuss forming of TB policy and eradication of the disease. He outlined two basic reasons for NADeFA's opposition: 1) They think that deer farmers are "entitled" to a traditional indemnity program funded by the U.S. Government (taxpayers), and 2) They feel that the existing tests for TB in deer are not adequate and think they can force the government to come up with a better test by allowing the TB emergency to spread and get worse.

Without going into the philosophical question about whether elk breeders are entitled to indemnity at taxpayers expense, the reality is that this is not going to happen given today's political climate and the public pressure being exerted to balance the budget deficit. This is especially true given the high value of elk, and the total cost of compensation, especially compared to cattle.

There is no question that the existing TB tests are not perfect. A better test would help tremendously. NAEBA is supporting efforts to develop and verify alternate testing procedures. We are eager to see the results of the study being conducted by the USDA and Ag Canada to determine the accuracy and acceptance of the BTB test.

We can not wait. Every day of delay increases the risk to our herds, to other livestock and wildlife, and to the people who come into contact with infected animals. We do not know how serious the problem really is and will not know until all the herds are tested. We do

I think that certain special interest groups will use the "factor of the unknown" to try to shut us down. Washington State is an example, and other states are waiting to follow.

When I pointed this out to Dennis O'Hara, he responded by saying that we might have to sacrifice some states and that NADeFA did not have very many members in Washington or Oregon. (Dr. O'Hara raises his fallow deer in New York State.) He has made similar remarks to me previously on the phone, but they seemed so incredibly short-sighted that I wanted to verify them in person.

Those who believe that anti-game ranching forces will be satisfied with a ban in Washington or Oregon are wrong. These states were chosen because the chance for success appeared good. Battles in this war are being waged in Montana, California, Idaho and Wyoming. In the past several years skirmishes have taken place in Colorado, Arizona, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Idaho and Louisiana. Rumblings are being heard in Wisconsin, Nebraska and Missouri. New York and Pennsylvania may soon lose their TB-free status because TB has been found in their dairy herds, believed to have been passed to the dairy cows from deer and elk.

The people who oppose game farming did so before the outbreak of TB and they will continue to oppose it after TB is eradicated. They are happy to use TB as a weapon against us - it is their most powerful weapon. They will be more than happy if we will hand them their weapon on a platter - and we are if we do nothing to stop the spread of the disease or insisting on testing and control to eradicate TB. We must take this weapon away from them.

SO, while a better test would be nice, and we must diligently pursue efforts to develop a better test, we can't afford to do nothing until we get it. Even if the cervical skin test is the best we can do for now, we can eradicate TB in elk and do it fairly quickly utilizing the cervical TB test in conjunction with other available tests.

I take inspiration from the bison industry experience. TB was eradicated in bison in approximately 18 months and no new cases have been reported in the 10 years since the program was implemented. This was done using the caudal fold test which is just as good, or bad, when used in bison and cattle as the cervical test is when used in elk. What did the bison industry have that the elk industry doesn't?

1) Bison are listed as an USDA TB program animal

2) Bison had an indemnity program.

The USDA can administratively make cervids a TB program animal, but they are reluctant to do so unless there is some indemnity program in place because of the financial liability that may be triggered by quarantine and destruction orders. From our perspective, indemnity is the key. We all know that Congress is not in the mood to add items to the budget. The USDA can not get enough money appropriated to pay for cattle that need to be slaughtered for TB, let alone cervids. A publicly funded indemnity program is just not going to be available in the foreseeable future.

NAEBA INDEMNITY PROGRAM PROPOSAL

NAEBA is lobbying for a producer funded indemnity program which would operate just like an insurance policy. Owners would buy the insurance policy from their ASCS office, where they (the producer) would set the level of coverage at any level up to 80% of market value. Premiums would be collected for up to ten years, only until enough is collected to repay the USDA for money actually paid out for indemnity compensation. Premiums would be limited to 2% of the insured value annually. The results of herds tested so far suggest that the premiums of 1% for something less than 10 years would cover the eradication of TB in elk. Legislation is being drafted and Congressional hearings are scheduled for August 5th. We have established good communications with the National Cattlemen's Association and the National Milk Producers Association - they are supporting the inclusion of cervids as a USDA TB program animal and are giving us logistical support in Washington D.C. The National Farm Bureau also supports our efforts.

I have heard several people refer to me as "Mr. Gloom and Doom". Several elk breeders at various meetings have taken me aside and asked me what I think the future of the elk industry is. Should a person buy more animals or build more fence? My reply is that I am buying more elk and building more fence. I believe in this industry and what it has to offer both to the producers and the consumers. While we may have setbacks, they are only temporary. The industry, as represented by NAEBA, is taking a far-sighted, proactive position that is building a foundation we can rely on for the future. ☺

WISCONSIN TB MEETING

By: Jim Pankow, NAEBA Director

On June 22, 1992, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) held a conference on Bovine Tuberculosis at the School of Veterinary Medicine in Madison, WI. More than 80 people attended this conference, including State Vets and Health Officials from New York, California, Minnesota, Michigan, Missouri, Idaho, Wyoming, Texas, Mississippi, Iowa, Maryland, Kansas, Georgia, North Dakota and Florida.

NAEBA was well represented at this meeting with over 15 members attending from Texas, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Illinois and Colorado. The 8 Directors that attended were: Bob Johnson, Sr., Bob Johnson, Jr., Joe Cano, Lorin Heins, Jim Korleski, Rick Carmack, Steve Wolcott and myself. NAEBA members attending were Jeff and Terry Fritz, Dean and Joyce Jarvis, Pete Lies, Dean Michaels, Don Seaford, Chris Thomas, Gene Tank and Chris Chase.

Our moderator was Dr. Donald Sockett, Chief Epidemiologist for the State of Wisconsin. Speakers were: Joe Tregoning (Executive Assistant to the Wisconsin Secretary of Agriculture), Barb Spangler (National Association of State Departments of Agriculture), Art Tennyson (American Veterinary Medical Association) and Dr. Dennis Carr (State Veterinarian, Wisconsin).

Dr. Mitch Essey (USDA, APHIS director) gave an update on the current Federal TB program and recommendations for guidelines and proposed changes. Eric Broughton (Agriculture Canada) gave an update of the Canadian program along with his recommendations and guidelines for US protocols. Robert Cook (American Association of Zoo Veterinarians) discussed the concerns of the zoo industry about preserving endangered species. Dr. Raleigh Buckmaster (NADeFA) addressed TB in the deer industry and presented concerns of the deer farmers in implementing any new TB regulations. Bob Frost represented the International Llama Association. Steve Wolcott (NAEBA) represented the elk industry and discussed concerns of our Association and suggestions we have endorsed for future protocols that would address the TB problem in farmed elk.

Dr. John Huntley, New York State Veterinarian, Dr. John Hennessy, Missouri State Veterinarian and Dr.

Donald Sockett, Wisconsin State Epidemiologist, which discussed the experiences that their respective states had in dealing with TB in cervidae as well as voicing their suggestions, comments and areas of concern that they felt should be addressed.

The afternoon session was conducted as a panel discussion and addressed what role APHIS should play in the national TB program, the accuracy of existing TB tests for cervidae, the validity and use of the BTB test in the U.S. and what type of research is needed in the area of TB in cervidae. Discussion was also directed to formulating uniform interstate regulations, TB herd certification programs and what the minimum standards might be to implement such a program. We also discussed the need for an indemnification program, the purposes and goals of an indemnity program, the amount of indemnity that would be fair and equitable and who should be responsible for financing such a program.

Steve Wolcott presented our Associations position on testing protocol, interstate movement of animals and NAEBA's proposed indemnity/insurance program. Our position on these issues regarding elk were well received both during the conference and during private discussions at lunch and after the conference itself.

I would like to point out here that some times I hear, "What is NAEBA doing for me" and "Am I getting my monies worth?". First, I can tell you that everyone at this conference recognized NAEBA as the voice of the Elk Industry, and that without the efforts of everyone attending, the concerns of the Elk Industry would not have been heard.

I feel a very note worthy comment is one that Dr. Essey made to me during lunch, he said, " You sure have a very progressive organization (NAEBA), their indemnity proposal is brilliant!".

Although it would be impossible to cover everything that was discussed at a seven hour conference, I feel the major concerns discussed were:

1. An accurate test or tests for detecting TB in cervidae should be developed, including recognizing the BTB test used extensively in New Zealand.
2. That the associations representing deer farming, meaning NAEBA and NADeFA, must work together to present a comprehensive proposal to APHIS and USDA.

That cervidae raised behind a fence must be classified as livestock, and that a fair and equitable indemnity program must be implemented.

To underscore the level of importance that health and animal welfare issues have assumed in our industry, one participant stated, "If this conference had been held three years ago, we would have been lucky to see a half a dozen people attend."

In discussions with NAEBA members after the conference, each agreed that this conference impressed upon them the need to be pro-active in regard to regulations affecting our industry and that it will take a lot of effort and money to keep our industry at the level of respectability and profitability it now enjoys. ☺

NAEBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS IN IDAHO

The Executive Committee met in Idaho Falls on Saturday and Sunday, June 27th and 28th. All members were present including Steve McGrath, legal counsel, with the exception of Lester Gegenheimer. Many current issues were discussed and those present had time to "brain storm" some solutions to problems and suggestions to improve our Association. This is an overview of some of the topics discussed at the meeting.

Mr. Carl Johnson, Director of Services for the Padre Island Convention Center, made a presentation to the committee. He discussed the benefits of Padre Island as a convention site, our proposed convention agenda, gave us a general idea of costs association with our convention, stimulated our thinking about proposed activities and invited NAEBA representatives to come to the island to "walk through" our convention plans and consummate the needed agreements with the convention center, hotels, caterers, etc. NAEBA's proposed convention dates of February 4th through February 7th are secure. The Executive Committee felt that Carl Johnson had adequately addressed many of the doubts and unanswered questions about the viability of Padre Island as a convention site and enthusiastically endorsed the Padre plans.

Steve McGrath made a full report of the status of our pending indemnification program legislation in Washington D.C. and registered his disappointment that NADeFA was going to officially fight our indemnification program proposal, after having told us that they could support it. It was decided that to reduce the scope of the legislation to "elk only" and to

eliminate the word "deer" in the bill might elicit criticism from the other Associations. It was decided to submit this amended bill to the Senate and House Agricultural Committees and APHIS.

Dennis O'Hare, new president of NADeFA, was contacted during the meeting and informed that we had amended the proposal to an "elk only" legislation - Mr. O'Hare advised us that he was still unwilling to support the bill and was basically unwilling to discuss the issue further.

Bill Morrell, president of the EWA, was contacted and he advised us that they too were going to resist the legislation, although he was willing to set up an appointment to discuss the matter further.

Steve Wolcott reported on the recent meeting in Madison, Wisconsin called by APHIS and told of almost universal support among Federal and State agencies for our indemnification proposal.

Mr. Bob Spoklie of Montana was invited to appear for the purposes of orienting the Executive Committee on Montana activities and the Montana Elk Association. Being unable to attend himself, he sent the Executive Director of the Montana Elk Breeders Association, Mr. Les Graham. Les informed the Executive Committee members of the Montana political situation and a general commitment was made to work on an agreement whereby one dues fee would be charged Montana game farmers that would enable residents of Montana to be a member of both the Montana Elk Breeders Association and NAEBA. Steve Wolcott was directed to prepare a standardized Chapter proposal to govern the relationship between NAEBA and State and regional chapters of NAEBA.

The request from some of the Canadian members that the proposed per head assessment be waived for them was discussed and it was decided that all membership dues and assessments should be the same for everyone, no matter where they resided.

It was the unanimous and emphatic opinion of everyone present that an Executive Director be hired as soon as possible and much time was spent debating the issues and qualifications surrounding the selection of an Executive Director. Several names were submitted for initial consideration. Action is to resume immediately on the task of locating and hiring an Executive Director for the Association.

It was decided to recommend to the Board of Directors that ballots be sent to all members which would allow

t o vote on the new Director to be elected from the region for the 1993 year, prior to the actual convention, so as to insure that all members could vote on the selection of their regional director regardless of whether they attended the convention or not. It was felt that this would allow the time during the general business meeting at the convention to be used for other purposes and would insure all members an opportunity to vote.

The most critical issue discussed were the attempts of some of the western States, and in particular Washington State, to literally outlaw game farming by over-restrictive regulations. Steve Wolcott, who had just returned from a meeting with the Washington State producers and their attorneys, reported on litigation efforts that were underway to resist such action taken by the State of Washington. It is believed that Oregon, Montana, Idaho and Wyoming are all waiting on the outcome of the Washington State litigation to impose similar sanctions in these states.

After discussion about prospective dates for Board of Director's Meetings, it was decided that the meetings should be called when there was a need for the meetings. It was decided that we should step up efforts to keep Directors currently informed by mail and otherwise as to activities and problems and, in essence, allow the Directors themselves to determine the need for meetings.

It was announced that Sam Withiam had met with Bill Morrell, president of EWA, in San Antonio and developed a good working relationship between EWA and NAEBA. Since the next convention was to be held in Texas (South Padre Island), and since 80% of EWA's approximately 500 members reside in Texas, EWA has expressed an interest in the possibility that we might invite them to participate in some way in our convention, either as guests or hosts. It was decided to explore this possibility further. It was also pointed out that many wealthy Mexican cattle ranchers (I am informed that they have an association) might also be interested in attending and participating in the convention.

The recent magazine articles in the National Wildlife Federation magazine and the National Audobon Society magazine were discussed. Each member of the Executive Board received copies of the articles themselves and a critique sheet pointing out fallacies and inconsistencies in each article. It was the general consensus of the Board that once these articles are in print there is little that can be done to remedy the situation, however we need to let the publishers know

that if they continue to publish distorted facts, we are going to do something about it. Steve McGrath is considering the legal options available to us.

A letter from Jim Pankow with attached letter from his insurance agent questioning the adequacy of our liability coverage on Directors and office workers was read to the Executive Committee. Steve McGrath was asked to take this under study and report to the Board on his findings. ☺

The following information was updated as of 7/24/92.

Accounts Receivable	\$ 35,029.20
Accounts Payable:	\$ 1,514.55
Cash in Bank:	\$ 16,610.67
Members - 537	Elk Registered - 3,764

NAEBA PHOTO CONTEST DEADLINE APPROACHING

THE DEADLINE FOR ENTERING PICTURES
IN THE NAEBA PHOTO CONTEST IS
AUGUST 15

MAIL YOUR PICTURES ALONG WITH
YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER
AND CATEGORY TO THE OFFICE ASAP!

SEE THE SUMMER, 1992 JOURNAL FOR
ENTRY RULES AND INFORMATION



NAEBA 1992 FALL SELECT SATELLITE SALE

NAEBA WILL HOST A VIDEO
SATELLITE SALE IN NOVEMBER

WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION
AND CONSIGNMENT FORMS IN THE
NEXT ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL

MEMBERSHIP CONTEST UPDATE

RUSH JOHNSON is leading the competition by a large margin! It is time to go out and beat the bushes - get those members to sign up and you can qualify for the prizes in the 1992 NAEBA MEMBERSHIP CONTEST.

Remember, your name must appear as "referred by" on the membership application for the points to be valid. See the Summer, 1992 Journal for official contest rules and information.

POINTS EARNED THROUGH 7/20/92:

21 points: Rush Johnson

8 points: Steve Dugan and Sam Withiam

6 points: Steve McGrath

5 points: Harvey Brubacher, Gene Draz, Pete Lies, Doug Surine and Dave Whittlesey.

3 points: Mike Ferguson, Steve Killorn, Brian MacCarty, Roger Prock, Craig Stefanko, Bob Spoklie and Rod Schmidt.

1st PRIZE

PAID REGISTRATION FOR ONE COUPLE OR FAMILY TO THE 1993 CONVENTION AT PADRE ISLAND and ONE FREE FULL PAGE AD IN THE JOURNAL.

2nd PRIZE

ONE FREE 1/2 PAGE AD IN THE JOURNAL AND GIFT CERTIFICATE FROM JEFFERS VET SUPPLY.

3rd PRIZE

ONE FREE 1/4 PAGE AD IN THE JOURNAL.

NAEBA TO BE REPRESENTED IN NEW ZEALAND

Sam Withiam, NAEBA President, will be representing NAEBA at the New Zealand Wapiti Breeders Association Conference at Timaru on August 27th.

Sam has been invited as the guest speaker to give an overview and update of the elk industry in the United States.

THE 1993 NAEBA CONVENTION WILL BE HELD AT PADRE ISLAND FEBRUARY 3rd - 7th !

It is official! The 1993 NAEBA convention will be held at Padre Island and promises to be the most exciting NAEBA convention yet.

The convention committee has been hard at work ironing out all of the details necessary to see that we have another great convention and the emphasis is on FUN! Some of the events planned are seminars, exciting guest speakers, an elk cook off, trade show and exhibits, Texas style bar-b-que, benefit auction and dancing, ocean boat ride, optional trips to Mexico, the King Ranch and a wildlife preserve, local elk ranch tours, deep sea fishing, parasailing, a ladies program and childrens program.

This convention is designed to give members more time to socialize and get acquainted with each other.

Padre Island is warm in February, so come prepared to enjoy the sun, surf and ocean fun. Bring you shorts, suntan lotion and swimsuit and come prepared to have a ball! Mark your calendars now and plan to attend - you won't want to miss it.

A full convention package will be in the mail to members in the near future that will introduce you to the Island and explain travel and accommodation packages that will be available for NAEBA members.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

WE NEED KEY PEOPLE TO WORK DURING THE NAEBA CONVENTION

WE WILL NEED HOSTS, HOSTESSES, WORKERS AT THE REGISTRATION DESK, SPANISH SPEAKING MEMBERS TO ACT AS INTERPRETERS FOR OUR GUESTS FROM MEXICO, PERSONS TO ASSIST AT THE CHARITY AUCTION AND MANY OTHER VOLUNTEERS

PLEASE CONTACT THE NAEBA OFFICE
(816) 746-5700

A CALL FOR ACTION

An Editorial Opinion by Sharyon Doshier

In the past eight weeks, while many of us have been caught unaware and complacent, the future existence of the elk industry in many states has been seriously compromised. Many state agencies have taken drastic measures to seriously restrict, and ultimately, do away with the elk industry in its entirety by attempting to take away our rights to privately own and propagate elk.

The State of Washington has, in effect, shut down elk operations within that state, and has appealed for support and adoption of the same measures in Oregon, Idaho and Montana. The Fish & Wildlife Departments of all states with indigenous elk populations have adopted agendas to eliminate private ownership of elk and openly admitted that their goal is to make it illegal to own, breed or sell elk in the U.S. They have a stronghold in the states with native elk, and are now making attempts to corrupt the thinking of Wildlife officials in states that do not have wild elk! They are using the "good old boy" technique where "we all have to stick together in this" and "if you help us with this, we will support what you want to do later". If they are successful, they will shut down our industry.

This is no longer an issue where the people in the South, East and Midwest can sit back and say, "it is their problem, they should never try to raise elk in states where the wildlife department lobby is all powerful and makes millions of dollars off the hunting of native elk populations - we can still raise our elk and sell our animals in our states - we don't have to worry because we don't have wild elk populations". **WAKE UP PEOPLE!** If they set a precedent in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota, Utah, Nevada, Wyoming and Arizona - it is easy to get the same measures passed in all the other States. We have to fight this from the beginning, and make sure that no state is allowed to pass laws that seriously restrict and ultimately do away with elk ownership.

In the last month alone, members of our Association, in Montana, their only offense having been that they raise elk, have been forced to set at their kitchen tables, under the guard of state wildlife agents, while their houses were searched, their computer records and personal possessions pilfered through and confiscated and their places of business ransacked. Their rights have been violated, all in the name of a Wildlife Department "fishing expedition", looking for evidence

to use to harass or prosecute these people. That at issuing the search warrants were told by the Wildlife authorities that they suspected the elk ranchers had "tampered with public records". **COME ON!** How much are we going to let these agencies get away with?

In public meetings in Washington and Oregon, elk raisers have been characterized as thieves who regularly go out and chase wild elk mothers until they abandon their calves so they can pick them up and take them back to their farms to raise. Elk ranchers have been portrayed as organizing and participating in the practice of capturing wild elk and "laundering" them through licensed game farms to be sold to the unsuspecting public. We have been accused of spreading disease to wild elk, domestic cattle and people. They say we have no concern for the elk or anything else - we are only motivated by the tremendous profits possible in the illegal trade of elk.

Recent articles have been published in the National Audubon Society magazine, the National Wildlife Federation magazine and Outdoor Life that are highly critical of domestic elk farms and are printing outright lies about our industry and the kind of people that are involved in it. They portray us as treating our elk inhumanely, say the elk on game farms are all riddled with disease and parasites, and that we traffic freely in illegally caught elk.

Are you angry yet? I know I am. I have written letters to the editors of all of these magazines presenting our side of the story, even though I was advised not to for fear of "stirring up" the issues and making those organizations angry, if we do not stand up for ourselves and present our side of the story, I guarantee you that no one else will.

Some of the articles brought up the fact that certain members of NAEBA were people who were known to have captured and sold wild elk, but have either avoided prosecution by law agencies or only received mediocre fines. This should point out to you the importance of publicly prosecuting any of our membership who are illegally dealing in elk. I feel we should cooperate in government "sting" operations and turn in anyone that we know is capturing wild elk. If we turn our backs and ignore this type of activity it will be the ruin of our industry. These people are not only breaking the law, they are helping to destroy our future by giving government agencies the ammunition to put us out of business.

It is time to take drastic measures to educate the public on what the elk industry REALLY IS, and not allow

to believe the lies that are being told about us. We need to get the word out, and we also need to challenge the people who are printing the lies and make them check their sources before they print anything. Legal action may be needed to stop them or they will continue to do so unopposed. We are the only people who will oppose them.

IT IS TIME TO GET INVOLVED. It is time for us to write letters to our representatives in local, state and federal government. It is time for us to write letters to people who hold public forums such as the newspapers, television stations and radio stations. It is time for us to dig into our pockets and provide financial support for programs to educate the public about our industry and pay attorneys and lobbyists to represent our interests.

I want to raise elk. I want to be assured that I will always be able to look out my window and see those magnificent animals grazing in my pastures. I will not stand still and have the government take away that right. I can not understand anyone who has elk that will sit back, content to let other people fight their battle, and await the outcome so they can enjoy the spoils of victory without paying the price. I desperately hope that this is not the case, but they might experience a rude awakening when the time comes that they are forced to "dispose" of their elk.

It is time for action and time for us to wake up and take some control over our futures. It is time to stop being divided over past issues and unite to protect our industry and assure our continued right to own and raise the animal that we cherish - the elk. ☺

NEW COMPUTER SOFTWARE DEVELOPED FOR ELK RAISERS

By: Dan Fritz

Accurate recordkeeping is essential to the success of any business. In the elk business, detailed and accurate records are a true asset and will be even more important as the industry gains in popularity. The secret of good recordkeeping is to have a system that records all pertinent data, is easy to use, that minimizes the time you spend recording and retrieving data, and more importantly, presents that data in a form that is easy to understand and usable for the producer.

Dan Fritz, a fellow elk breeder, has taken the experience and knowledge that he has gained in 6 years

from his own and his father's elk operations, combined it with a B.S. degree in Animal Science from the University of Minnesota and intensive involvement with dairy, swine and beef production industries, and developed a computer program designed specifically for the elk breeder. This is a Lotus-based computer program called **ELK-TRAKKER** (copyright 1992). Any breeder will find it easy and effective to use, whatever your elk operation may be.

ELK-TRAKKER is a IBM compatible program designed to run under an existing spreadsheet program called Lotus 1-2-3 (available from most computer stores.) You will need to have a Lotus version 2.0 through 2.3 installed in your computer for the program to run.

The program can keep track of more types of information than many elk breeders may need at this time, however you can use as little or as much of the program as you need to custom tailor it to your operation. The program is designed to meet the needs of all elk breeders whether they raise and sell breeding stock, produce velvet, or raise elk as a hobby.

Some of the features of the program are name, registration #, age, present status, weight and height data, vaccination records, purchase and sale dates, buyer and sellers info, price, TB test records, tranquilizer type and amounts and general health record of each animal. Reports keep track of cow/calf information and ranking, herdsire progeny and ranking and includes a genetic database that will store up to 8 generation pedigrees for each animal. Records for button drop dates, velvet growth rates, pounds cut, quality ranking and the price the velvet sold for are included as well as point numbers and horn score for bulls kept in hard horn.

Since **ELK-TRAKKER** is designed to run under an existing spreadsheet program it is offered for sale at a price that is affordable for all elk breeders. The program sells for \$200.00 (U.S. funds) and includes a user manual, technical and user support, shipping and handling.

For more information on the program contact **Daniel Fritz**, RR #3, Milaca, MN 56353, (612) 983-2020. ☺

EDITORIAL

The following is an editorial reprinted from the Canadian Venison Council magazine, VELVET & VENISON, June 1992 issue. The points discussed are just as appropriate for the US as it is for Canada.

Game farmers have to be aware of the attack being waged on our industry by a coalition of hunter groups, animal rightists and uninformed members of the general public. We have to make our case known - we have nothing to hide - we are not doing anything the rest of the world is not involved in (the raising of native species).

WE MUST:

- Become active in various lobby groups (such as livestock associations, wildlife groups, fair organizations and animal welfare groups.
- Communicate with politicians to keep them informed of our industry, our needs and our concerns.
- Communicate with everyone that will listen to broaden the base of support for our industry.
- Remember that urbanites (about 80% of North Americans live in cities, most game farmers do not) must be informed about the industry if they are going to understand it.

...We, as game farmers, have to realize that our industry has grown to the size of "getting peoples attention". Therefore, public perception has to be worked on as we become a part of mainstream agriculture.

We DO NOT raise captive wildlife. All animals were wild at some point in time. Our animals, like all other livestock, have been raised behind fences for generations in all parts of the world, they do not fear man as does wildlife. We raise our animals for agricultural purposes. These animals are either purchased by another farmer/legal owner or they are born and raised on that individual farmer's private property.

...Our children and grandchildren will view the raising of elk, deer, bison and wild boar as normal 20 years from now as we view the raising of cattle, sheep and pigs. We have to ensure that this happens. ☺



A FIRST IN THE U.S.A. LOLLI BROTHERS ELK SHOW

Lolli Brothers of Macon, Missouri is hosting the first elk show in the United States Thursday, September 24th in conjunction with their regular fall elk sale.

Elk may be entered into one of four categories: 1992 Heifers, 1992 Bulls, Adult Cows (age 18 months and over) and Adult Bulls (age 18 months and over). A panel of judges will judge the elk in the pens prior to the sale and will award first, second and third place ribbons in each division. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place Heifers and 1st, 2nd and 3rd place Adult Cows will compete for the Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Female. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place 1992 Bulls and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place Adult Bulls will compete for Grand and Reserve Champion Bull.

Grand Champion Cow and Grand Champion Bull will each receive a trophy and \$1,000.00. Reserve Champion Female and Reserve Champion Bull will each receive a trophy.

All elk competing in the show will sale in award order in the sale ring. Entry fee for the show and sale is \$100.00 per elk and 10% sale commission. There will be no charge for No Sales called in the ring.



BE FOREWARNED

With all the activity brewing in the Western states and "surprise" visits of Wildlife and law enforcement agents being made on game farmers, it has been suggested that members may want to video tape any activities that occur on your farm in conjunction with these visits. This would provide an accurate record of all activities during the inspection that could be submitted to the proper authorities should your rights be violated.

Cooperate with the inspector, be courteous and supply all the records and information that he requests, do not be belligerent, merely inform him that you will be video taping all activities to serve as a record of the visit, as a means of protecting your rights and his.

The persons sent to inspect you might not like this but it is well within your rights and could be very valuable to you later on. ☺



6031 S.W. 37th Street • Topeka, Kansas 66614-5128 • Telephone: (913) 273-5115
FAX: (913) 273-3399

Owns and Publishes The Kansas STOCKMAN magazine and KLA News & Market Report newsletter.

March 17, 1993

TO: Senate Agriculture Committee
Senator David Corbin, Chairman

FROM: Dee Likes, Executive Vice President

RE: House Bill 2106, Concerning Domestic Deer

The Kansas Livestock Association supports this effort to give the Kansas Animal Health Department regulatory authority in the production of domestic deer. In addition, our association's policy supports the department's ability to regulate other "exotic animals and birds" which pose disease threat to the livestock industry. By exotic animals, I am referring to domesticated deer, elk, llamas, ostriches, wild pigs or other animals that may be raised, sold and transported by private individuals.

During last year's session, a companion animal bill included language giving the Animal Health Department authority to issue rules and regulations for exotic animals. This bill was vetoed, but not because of this provision. We encourage this committee to support this provision again in HB 2106.

Most of the provisions of the bill pertain to expanding the definition of livestock in statutes dealing with the Kansas Animal Health Department, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and the meat inspection area regulated by the Kansas State Board of Agriculture and the livestock theft forfeiture law passed last year.

We support the committee including references to domestic deer and exotic animals in the statutes pertaining to livestock diseases. Article 6 of Chapter 47, explains the Kansas Animal Health Department's authority to quarantine infected animals, regulate interstate movement of livestock, the ability to test individual animals or herds suspected to be infected with contagious diseases and other disease control programs.

Mr. Chairman, we suggest the committee consider broadening the scope of the bill to allow the livestock commissioner and Kansas Animal Health Department to issue the rules and regulations necessary to control diseases in exotic animals. We stand ready to cooperate and assist the committee in this effort.

Thank you.

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