

2018 NAEBA Convention Seminar Descriptions

LUNCH KEY NOTE: Campaign to Eliminate Brucellosis Testing- *Travis Lowe, NAEBA Executive Director.* Legislative advocacy is probably the most important function of an elk association as it works to ensure your legal right to raise elk in a state or province. Right now, NAEBA and its allies are leading an aggressive campaign to eliminate Brucellosis testing for farmed cervids in the United States and Canada. NAEBA Executive Director Travis Lowe will conclude lunch with remarks highlighting the progress in each state while explaining how this will impact you.

SEMINAR: Elk Operation Business Forecasting- *Andy Azcarraga, Plateau Valley Elk Ranch and Ian Thorleifson, Hot Sun Elk Ranch.* We are here to make money, but how much time do you spend planning on how to make money in the elk business? One thing is certain about the elk industry, there are many different models, based on your markets, size and location. Over the last several months, a NAEBA-led task force has created several profit and loss templates for members to use and modify to project income, expenses and cash flow. Some operation models pay off quicker than others. This is a must see for any current or prospective elk owner!

SEMINAR: Processing Velvet Antler from Antler to Capsules- *Bill Knutson, Spring Coulee Freeze Drying.* We know that elk velvet antler can be harvested and used for health remedies such as arthritis and other muscle ailments. But how does it go from frozen velvet antler to being sold as capsules? Bill Knutson walks us through the exact process of how harvested velvet is processed and made into product. We will be able to see how much product that antler can produce and also see why quality harvesting matters!

SEMINAR: Understanding Meat Industry Products and Yields- *Scott Salonek, Elk Marketing Council.* The elk meat industry is growing to the point that it is hard for supply to meet the demand. The ever-growing health conscious public provides an opportunity for this market to explode. One of the industry's seasoned meat industry marketers offers important information when it comes to forecasting animals for meat inventory needs. For example, how much meat product is yielded from a three-year-old bull on average? Given that amount, how much trim, tenderloin, roasts and steaks can you expect? This is important information for someone that wants to fill meat orders on a regular basis for their clientele.

SEMINAR: Making Better Tax Decisions for Your Elk Ranch- *Ken Anderson, Anderson Elk Ranch.* Paying taxes is one of the only guarantees you have in this world. However, there are a lot of moving parts when it comes to owning a ranch. Are you making the right tax deductions and classifications? Do you operate your ranch under your name or a separate business entity? Different answers can impact the amount you pay each year as well as your legal liability.

SEMINAR: Artificial Insemination 101- *Dr. Mike Bringans and Luke Wright.* This class discusses the management of factors that affect elk A.I. success rates. This includes cow selection, nutrition, synchronization and program management for best results. What can you do to improve your results? Remember, poor A.I. results are usually not the fault of the bull.

SEMINAR: Reviewing What is Scientifically Known About CWD Genotypes- *Don Davis, PhD.* Susceptibility in elk and deer is often linked to CWD genotypes. For elk, this includes the 132MM, 132LM, and 132LL. The Elk Research Council has teamed up with other associations to learn what is scientifically known about CWD resistant genetics in North American Elk and Whitetail Deer. A report has been compiled by four renowned researchers and epidemiologists that are considered experts on Chronic Wasting Disease. One of the researchers, Dr. Don Davis, will present the group's findings during this NAEBA seminar and answer questions.

SEMINAR: Getting Started in Elk Ranching- *Mark Luedtke, Luckyland Elk.* Have you recently made the decision to start an elk ranch? But what is the next step? Our convention will offer this seminar to give helpful tips to those moving forward in starting an elk ranch. From designing pasture layouts to purchasing animals, you will always save money if you do it right the first time. Plan to attend and bring your notepad!

SEMINAR: Harvesting Velvet from Yearling Bulls- *Perry Olson, NAEBA Velvet Antler Judge.* Though the elk industry harvests thousands of pounds of velvet a year, harvesting velvet antler from yearling bulls is less prevalent compared to bulls of older ages. Perry Olson shares insight on best practices for harvesting spiker velvet antler. Best time to harvest? Is it worth the time and effort? Come hear all!

SEMINAR: Advanced Hard Antler Scoring- *Tom Peryea, NAEBA Hard Antler Judge.* This seminar is designed to build on the basic hard antler scoring techniques for elk trophy bulls. Because of genetic evolution, it is common to see elk bulls with very unique antlers that are often bigger than elk in the wild. A seasoned NAEBA Hard Antler Judge will show examples of scoring bulls with drop tines, uncommon tine placement and antler sets that are outside the norm of your basic 6x6 or 7x7 bull. Whether you're new or experienced in scoring antler, this is a great way to build and/or brush up on your scoring skills. This class is also a prerequisite for anyone interested in becoming a NAEBA Hard Antler Judge.