

2017 NAEBA Convention Seminar Descriptions

LUNCH KEY NOTE – Elk Advocacy Matters. Legislative advocacy is probably the most important function of an elk association as it works to ensure the legal right to raise elk in a state or province. Not all states allow elk ranching. For example, the laws for elk ranching in Texas, Minnesota and Oregon are vastly different. Our keynote speaker will offer a very positive message pressing the importance of legislative advocacy and developing relationships with your local legislators. This starts with you!

SEMINAR – Business Forecasting- by *Lance Hartkopf, Splendor Ridge Elk Farm.* We are here to make money, but how much time do you spend planning on how to make money in the elk business? Do you forecast your annual income and expenditures? Are you setting benchmarks on your herd and product production? Are your animals meeting those benchmarks? This seminar dives into the details on creating a business forecast to ensure your existing ranch, or future ranch, is set up to earn a steady profit!

SEMINAR – Selling Elk Products From the Ranch- *Kelly Farmer, Stonewood Elk Ranch Ltd.* One of the biggest selling points of elk ranching is the ability to engage in multiple markets. One of our members from Manitoba shares her story on developing a steady market demand for elk products in their local area. Can you do more to create demand for your products? This means more money!

SEMINAR – Identifying & Treating Antler Infections- *Brian Wagner, Black Velvet Elk Ranch.* One of the biggest health risks to bulls are antler infections. Do you pay attention to a bull's antler while it's growing? Signs of cuts, infection or insects on velvet antler could be a real problem you need to address quickly. One of our experienced elk ranchers walks us through examples of problems and tips for taking action. Be prepared and don't wait until it's too late!

SEMINAR – Elk Necropsy & Diagnostics- Finding Out What Killed Your Elk- *Dr. Daryl Ragland, DVM; Purdue University.* It's awful to have a death on the ranch, but how do you prevent future loss? Often times an elk owner will assume they know what their elk died of when it could be something entirely different. Dr. Daryl Ragland will instruct you how to take quality post-mortem samples so you can obtain the real answers. You do not want a disease, parasite or infection to go untreated in your herd!

SEMINAR & ROUNDTABLE – Should Elk Be an Amenable Species? *Travis Lowe, NAEBA Executive Director.* The association has spent hundreds of hours researching the pros and cons of whether elk meat should be regulated as an amendable species in the United States. NAEBA has recently published a summary list for the membership to review and comment on until August 31. This seminar will explain some of the major points while leading a roundtable discussion with members in the room to ask questions and share comments. This is an important decision and we need your feedback!

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 elk ranching – what questions should you be asking and where do you get this information? 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 – Best Practices of Velvet Cutting- *Lance Hartkopf, NAEBA Senior Velvet Antler Judge.* Harvesting velvet is an acquired skill. Our long-time Senior Velvet Antler Judge will lead discussion on harvesting velvet, including the correct time to cut and how to utilize best management practices to ensure humane treatment of bulls during velvetting.

Official SCI Scoring Class- *Gilbert Aguilar, Safari Club International.* For the first time in years, an official SCI class will be offered during our NAEBA Convention. One of the most important skills for producers to acquire is to be able to score antler sets accurately for selling bulls to trophy ranches as well as to evaluate bull performance. The completion of an official SCI Class is also a prerequisite for anyone interested in becoming a NAEBA Hard Antler Judge. NOTE: This is a half-day course that costs \$150 paid to SCI. (NAEBA does not collect a fee for this course). Attendees must be SCI members to attend this class but the \$150 fee also includes the first-year membership to SCI.

SEMINAR – Advanced Hard Antler Scoring- *Tom Watts, NAEBA Senior 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. NAEBA's Senior 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.