

2019 NAEBA Convention Seminar Descriptions

LUNCH KEY NOTE: Elk Research Foundation Project Updates - Travis Lowe, NAEBA Executive Director. Over the last thirty years, our knowledge on elk health issues has grown immensely. The Elk Research Foundation, which serves as NAEBA's 501(c)(3) animal health foundation, continues work to bring advances in science that can benefit the industry. Whether it is learning about disease susceptibility or vaccination trials for Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD), the foundation has many ongoing projects that warrant your attention and support.

SEMINAR: Parasite Prevention - Ken Waldrup, DVM, PhD, Texas Department of State Health Services Zoonosis Control. An essential part of herd health is protecting the animals from parasites. Dr. Ken Waldrup walks us through identifying different types of parasites, treatment and prevention methods.

SEMINAR: The Use of Anthelmintics in Elk and Other Cervids - Ken Waldrup, DVM, PhD, Texas Department of State Health Services Zoonosis Control. When an elk owner notices one animal acting like they may be sick, it is a cause for concern. But what can the owner do? Wait and hope the animal improves? Is there some sort of proactive treatment that can be given by the owner? Dr. Ken Waldrup shares insight on what kind of treatment products can be used by the owner and what role the local veterinarian must play in use of antibiotics and other anthelmintics.

SEMINAR: Knowing Your Pasture & Soil - Walter Fick, PhD, Kansas State University. Most agree elk are a product of their environment. But how much thought have you given to the type of pasture and soil in your operation? Dr. Walter Fick, a range management specialist at Kansas State University, shares basic tips on what you should know about your land. Have you tested your soil? What should you look for? What are some of the essential ingredients we should have in our fields? Come hear all!

SEMINAR: Purity Testing Elk - Travis Lowe, NAEBA Executive Director. NAEBA has provided members detailed instructions from the purity lab on the protocol to ensure they receive quality samples. This seminar will review the registration changes and best practices protocol, which is a key component of NAEBA's breed registry.

SEMINAR: Elk Operation Business Forecasting - Ian Thorleifson, Hot Sun Elk Ranch. Every year NAEBA works to provide members with tools to operate financially sound operations. Last year, NAEBA unveiled business operation plans. This summer, we will review these best practices and hear feedback on what members have learned over the last year. This is a must-see for any current or prospective elk owner!

PANEL DISCUSSION: Low Stress Elk Handling - Brian Wagner, Black Velvet Elk Ranch; Eric Mohlman, Mohlman Elk Farm; Bill Mayes, Mayes Elk Farm. Handling elk is one of the most serious events that take place on the ranch. Whether it is routine herd testing, herd rotation or transporting animals, ensuring your safety and the animals' safety is paramount. High stress and/or injury to animals result in economic loss. This panel features three owners with unique experiences sharing tips on best practices. One guest has transported thousands of elk across the United States, one guest works their herd with a chute, raceway and tub system, while another guest almost routinely handles their herd with chemical immobilization. A lot of great information will come through this panel dialog!

SEMINAR: Getting Started in Elk Ranching - Mark Luedtke, Luckyland Elk. Have you recently made the decision to start an elk ranch? 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: NAEBA Registration & DNA 101 - Travis Lowe, NAEBA Executive Director. On March 1, several changes to improve registry services and expectations for the membership took effect. Additionally, as breeding stock sales continue to grow and more bulls are moving through the trophy bull market, many producers have found they are behind on their registrations and purity needed to move their animals. Travis Lowe will explain different registration scenarios, explain how to properly fill out paperwork forms and answer your registration and DNA questions.

SEMINAR: Best Practices of Velvet Cutting - Perry Olson, NAEBA Velvet Antler Judge. Perry Olson will lead discussion on harvesting velvet, including the correct time to cut and utilizing best management practices to ensure humane treatment of bulls during velveting. This is truly an art and there is always more to learn!

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. 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 are 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.