

## 2020 NAEBA Convention Seminar Descriptions

**LUNCH KEYNOTE: Looking Beyond 30 Years – Travis Lowe, NAEBA Executive Director.** As NAEBA celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> year, the association looks to continue the rich tradition started by the industry's first elk owners. Markets, bloodlines and even the people have changed greatly over the years, but NAEBA remains committed to its goal to see the elk industry continue with ample opportunities to grow. As new elk owners enter the industry and NAEBA works to protect ownership rights and reduce regulation, the future holds endless possibilities.

**SEMINAR: Chemical Immobilization – Steve Kirschner, Wildlife Pharmaceuticals.** Continuing improvements are being made in chemical immobilization of elk regarding safety, new tranquilizing drugs and ease of use. Whether you routinely immobilize your deer or elk or only do so on occasion, it is important in any situation to use the safest and most efficient products available. Steve Kirschner walks us through his recommended approaches and products available for use.

**SEMINAR: Elk Purity Test Update – Travis Lowe, NAEBA Executive Director.** NAEBA is working with the University of California at Davis to develop a state-of-the-art elk purity test. The test, for the exclusive use by NAEBA members, is DNA based that allows hair, antler or semen to be used for samples. This seminar will review the test collection procedures and costs, along with how it fits in with NAEBA Gold and Silver registration.

**SEMINAR: Elk Mortality Insurance- Rodda Yates, Yates Insurance.** Every year the NAEBA office receives inquiries from members regarding options for insuring their animals. Elk, overall, have a very low mortality rate, but some owners do not want to leave anything to chance when it comes to their top herd sire or hauling a group of trophy bulls. This seminar features an insurance company that specializes in mortality insurance for farmed elk and exotics. Costs, coverage and exclusions will all be answered in this seminar.

**SEMINAR: Lessons Learned from the NZ Elk Industry – TBA.** New Zealand has been home to farmed elk and red deer for almost 50 years. Many of the industry's early founders were very involved in both hemispheres as North America and New Zealand learned from each other. Since then, New Zealand has grown to be the largest supplier of farmed raised venison in the world. Luke Wright, a New Zealand native, shares his experience working with elk in New Zealand and Canada, and what can still be learned today.

**PANEL DISCUSSION: Ask the Elk Experts – TBA.** Bring your questions! This panel features an array of elk industry experts, from ranchers with over two decades experience to veterinarians that specialize in elk and deer. Attendees can ask questions of the team and hear their input. Feeding, artificial insemination, calving issues, worming... it's all on the table. 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: Utilizing NAEBA Registry Database – Travis Lowe, NAEBA Executive Director.** Many NAEBA members have registered animals and realize the benefit of DNA matched animals in the registry system. NAEBA's registry is home to over 84,000 registered elk, which is available to members to research and learn. Want to track your favorite bloodlines? Interested in the age or registration level of a specific animal? Executive Director Travis Lowe will provide a live demonstration on the different search options and ways to utilize the NAEBA Registry.

**SEMINAR: Best Practices of Velvet Cutting – TBA.** This seminar will lead discussion on harvesting velvet, including the correct time to cut and utilizing best management practices to ensure humane treatment of bulls during velvetting. This is truly an art and there is always more to learn!

**SEMINAR: Interacting Scoring Stations –** Every year NAEBA's Convention offers the Hard Antler Measuring Seminar designed to demonstrate the scoring procedure in a classroom setting. In order to give attendees a hands-on experience, this year will be a

different format with several scoring stations having antler sets for small groups to work with a hard antler judge. Attendees will get to examine different antler sets and talk through where to make marks and other critical decisions. Whether you are new or experienced in scoring antler, this is a great way to build and/or brush up on your scoring skills.

**SEMINAR: Understanding EHD – TBA.** EHD and Bluetongue is the number one killer of whitetail deer on this continent. Now, recent reports show the disease is impacting elk and cattle. Research has shown that controlling the midge population and preventing animal exposure to the midges are key to greatly minimizing chances of an outbreak.