

## 2021 Annual Convention Seminar Descriptions

**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: Chemical Immobilization – Steve Kirschner, Wildlife Pharmaceuticals.** Continuing improvements are being made in chemical immobilization for 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: Advocating for a Live CWD Test – Travis Lowe, NAEBA Executive Director.** How could a live CWD test benefit the farmed elk industry? In the last few years, several peer-reviewed studies suggest trials to develop a live CWD test may have finally paid off. Combined with the promising science and examples seen in Texas, NAEBA and the Elk Research Foundation are working around the clock to chart a path forward in how to use innovative techniques.

**SEMINAR: Lessons Learned from the NZ Elk Industry – Luke Wright, Orr Lake Genetics.** 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 –** 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 the NAEBA Registry Database – Travis Lowe, NAEBA Executive Director.** Many NAEBA members have registered animals and realize the benefits 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 – Perry Olson, Minnesota Elk Company.** 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: Interactive 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 are the number one killers 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.