

2023 Convention Seminar Descriptions

SEMINAR: Measuring Hard Antler Bulls in Handling Facilities - *Brian Wagner, Black Velvet Elk Ranch.* Measuring hard antler takes practice and understanding in order to ensure accurate scoring. As trophy bulls are sold by their score, accurate scoring is immensely important for the breeder and preserve. This session provides guidance for scoring bulls in the chute to ensure safety for the measurer and bull while obtaining accurate measurements.

PANEL SEMINAR: Managing Broken Bones and Antler Pedicle Damage - *TBD.* A recent NAEBA member survey noted one of the biggest issues for ranches is managing broken bones and antler pedicle damage. This session gives insight in how to identify problems, treatment and prevention. Come hear insight from those with years of experience.

SEMINAR: Treating Abscesses and Infections - *Ray Favero, Ph.D., Whitetail Genetics LLC.* Another noted health risk to elk are abscesses and antler infections. How closely should one observe a bull's antler while it is growing? Signs of cuts, infection or insects on velvet antler could be a real problem you need to address quickly. What about growths or lumps on the animals? Dr. Ragland will walk us through examples of problems and tips for taking action. Be prepared and don't wait until it's too late!

SEMINAR: Preventing Johne's Disease in Elk Herds - *Dr. Scott Wells, University of Minnesota.* This session brings awareness to a disease that can impact elk. How does Johne's Disease affect the animal or elk herds? What are the symptoms? Testing and treatment options? Come hear the details!

SEMINAR: Parasite Prevention - *Ray Favero, Ph.D., Whitetail Genetics LLC.* An essential part of herd health is protecting animals from parasites. Back by popular demand, this session walks us through identifying different types of parasites, treatment and prevention methods.

SEMINAR: Live CWD Test Update- Where Are We on a Live Test for Elk? - *Dr. Tracy Nichols, USDA APHIS.* We know there are a lot of research and trials aiming to create a live CWD test for elk. This session provides a comprehensive overview of elk live test approaches being considered, their known success and how this compares to agency goals.

PANEL SEMINAR: Live Test Update- Where Do We Go from Here? - *Dr. Tracy Nichols, USDA APHIS; Dr. Beth Thompson, South Dakota State Veterinarian; Jon Reed, NAEBA President; Harvey Petracek, ERF Chairman.* Armed with the knowledge of the current research and status of live CWD testing for elk, a panel of animal health experts and industry representatives will exchange ideas for how live testing could, should, or should not be used. The perspectives may vary but NAEBA is excited to lead a discussion about how this may fit in the bigger picture of CWD policy reform.

SEMINAR: Are Whitetail Genetic Markers a Blueprint for Future? - *Josh Newton, Cervid Solutions LLC & Pennsylvania Deer Farmers Association President.* The last several years have yielded considerable attention to the creation of a whitetail genome and how this can possibly manage or prevent CWD infection. Beyond the research, how is this knowledge playing out at whitetail ranches? This session gives the whitetail industry a chance to share what they have learned and a viewpoint of how this may be a path for the cervid industry.

SEMINAR: A New CWD Road Map - *Travis Lowe, NAEBA Executive Director.* After more than 30 years of CWD response programs, testing and research, much has been learned while many questions still remain. Many stakeholders believe CWD management may be at a turning point, in particular with the continuous spread of CWD nearly coast to coast in the free-ranging deer herds without a known correlation. NAEBA is leading a discussion with its state and provincial association partners to chart possible new approaches that may strike a better balance to protect animal health without draconian program response.

SEMINAR: A Year in the Life of an Elk Rancher - *Brenda Hartkopf, Minnesota Elk Breeders Association.* The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association recently created an educational tool for regulators to provide an inside look into the life of an elk rancher. While this is a great opportunity to demonstrate the care and passion of the elk industry, this session provides a chance for new or perspective elk ranchers to learn more about the operations of running an elk ranch.