

# NAEBA 2023 March Mingle Seminar Descriptions

**SEMINAR: Utah Elk Rule Changes Update-** *Mike Ford, President of Utah Elk Breeders Association and Travis Lowe, NAEBA Executive Director*

The last several months have seen both challenges and opportunities related to the rules governing Utah elk ranches. The Utah Department of Agriculture publicly asked the state legislature for help reforming the rules. The Utah Elk Breeders Association, assisted by NAEBA, has been an active voice in the weekly conversations developing much needed changes to the state's elk rules. This session provides a summary of the various stakeholder requests and an up-to-date status of the proposed changes.

**SEMINAR: Becoming Your Legislator's Elk Expert Resource-** *Taylor Lowe, NAEBA Staff*

Virtually every state is active in an effort to improve their governing elk rules. This is common activity for all livestock industries. Elk ranching, however, is more unique and your local representatives may not understand the industry and how their votes impact your livelihood. Taylor Lowe, a former lobbyist, conducts sessions across the country to prepare individuals to be an industry resource for their elected officials. Given NAEBA and states like Utah's efforts to reform CWD rules, there is no better time to develop these relationships for the elk industry.

**SEMINAR: Strategies for Successful Elk Transportation-** *Andy Azcarraga, Plateau Valley Elk Ranch*

A major component of elk ranch commerce is movement of animals from one market to the next. This session features a panel of ranchers with tens of thousands of miles experience moving elk down the road. What type of trailer works best? Can bulls and cows travel together? Andy will answer these questions and more.

**SEMINAR: Herd Health Preventative Measures and Treatment-** *Dr. Darryl Ragland, Purdue University*

A major focus for NAEBA is how to help prepare members to prevent animal loss in your herd. This entails understanding prevalent health threats and proactively preparing for prevention and effective treatments. With calving season, antler growth and breeding season still ahead, this session is well timed to help prepare for a successful 2023.

**PANEL SEMINAR: Secondary Markets Adding Value to Your Antlers-** *Chris Thuerauf, Antler Ridge Elk Ranch and Morgan Cummons, Grande Natural Companies*

Elk antlers, which grow a larger set each year, can provide opportunities to assist your bottom line. Whether in the form of hard antler or velvet, come hear the experiences of ranchers that have worked to develop secondary markets to strengthen their business and grow the public's interest in elk products.

**SEMINAR: Harmonizing CWD Rules and Future Reform-** *Travis Lowe, NAEBA Executive Director*

Elk ranchers often note the disparity between elk rule requirements from state to state, especially when it comes to interstate movement. This seminar provides tips to navigate the various rules and an update on NAEBA's efforts to make sure rules are both rooted in science and consistent as possible.