

## SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

### **SEMINAR: Interactive Hard Antler 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 seminar features 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.

### **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: The Future of the Velvet Antler Industry.**

This seminar will feature discussion about the future of the velvet antler industry, assessing the pros and cons of velveting bulls versus not velveting bulls, potential income differentials and hearing from other ranchers their determining factors to harvest antler in velvet or after fully grown.

### **SEMINAR: Farm Promotion and Ways to Educate the Public – Deb Anderson, Anderson Elk Ranch.**

Elk ranching comes in many different models but, in general, its practice and benefits are little known by the public. It is an advantage for the elk industry when ranches proactively work to educate the public. This seminar features Deb Anderson, who shares their ranch promotion ideas based on decades of experience. Tours for visitors and school children, local chamber meet and greets, FFA, news reporters, the Andersons' have hosted them all!

### **SEMINAR: Elk Meat Industry Update – Rick Ewert, Meat Industry Committee Chairman.**

Elk meat table fare has a large fan base but how does it get there? What are the rules for elk meat to enter the market that producers should know about? This seminar features the chairman of NAEBA Meat Industry Committee covering lots of the basics from differences between state and federal inspections, labeling, processing plants and more!

### **SEMINAR: Effectively Communicating with Your State Regulator – Dr. Maggie Baldwin, Colorado Department of Agriculture.**

Colorado is known to be one of the better places to own elk, in part because of its reputation for common sense regulators. The local industry and NAEBA have learned tremendously from the Colorado Department of Agriculture on how to effectively work to improve the regulatory environment. This seminar leads a discussion of how the elk industry can use those lessons and apply them to each state to strike the balance between rules based off science while allowing ranches to thrive. Improved rules only come with effective advocacy work!

### **SEMINAR: Emerging Technology of Animal ID – Tod Adams, AllFlex.**

One thing all elk ranchers have in common, regardless of the operational type or location, is the requirement to use animal identification. An emerging trend, however, is how animal identification technology has evolved and how that may provide new advantages to the owner. Many ranchers are using such technology on the ranch while other state agencies are recommending their use too. This seminar aims to explain what's new in this world and its opportunity.

### **SEMINAR: Preparing for a Successful A.I. Program – TBA.**

As we look forward to a new breeding season, this seminar teaches useful tips to prepare your animals for A.I. From proper cow selection and preparation for breeding day and beyond, this is great opportunity to get ready for your first on-farm A.I. experience or learn new ways to improve your current A.I. protocol.

### **SEMINAR: Creating a Whitetail Deer & Elk Genome Update – Dr. Chris Seabury, Texas A&M University.**

Dr. Seabury's genome work is one of the most exciting research projects taking place in the cervid world. His development of the whitetail deer genome is showing extremely promising benefits while he begins work on the elk genome too. What has he learned so far? What is the status of the elk genome? How can such a genome benefit the industry in future? Come and learn!

### **PANEL DISCUSSION: Ask the Elk Experts – TBA.**

Bring your questions! Back by popular demand, 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? This seminar offers 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!