



**An association of elk and deer breeders committed to the development of their herds and the cervid industry in the state.**

# What is the KCBA?

- The Kansas Cervid Breeders Association represents elk and deer breeders in Kansas.
- Founded in 1995.
- The KCBA is guided by a 5 member board of directors.
- Produces quarterly newsletters for membership.
- Works with Kansas state agencies and other livestock and cervid associations across North America.
- The KCBA's breeders raise elk, whitetail deer, sika deer, fallow deer, and red deer.

# Elk



# Whitetail Deer





# Fallow Deer



# Sika Deer



# What is a cervid?

- A cervid is any member of the deer family.
- This includes moose, elk, and all other deer species.
- Cervids grow and shed antlers every year.

# Who raises elk and deer?

- Kansas has been a home to domestic elk and deer since the 1980's.
- There are approximately 80 cervid ranches in Kansas.
- Ranch's herd size range from 10 to 400 head.
- Cervid ranches are all over state but mostly concentrated in the eastern half.
- Cervid ranches provide sole income for many Kansans.



# Why raise elk and deer?

- Elk and deer are profitable in several markets.
- Breeding domestic elk and deer is just like breeding cattle or any other livestock.
- Elk and deer give opportunity for ranchers to try something a little different.
- Elk and deer can be raised on land that could not otherwise be utilized.
- Cervids are considered domestic livestock in Kansas and most states. (KSA 47-2101)

# Markets

- Meat markets
  - There is a widely growing demand for elk and deer meat, especially elk.
  - Elk meat is very lean, high in protein, low in cholesterol
  - Elk meat has doubled in value since 2008.
  - Current meat prices ranch from \$3.30-\$4.50 for elk on the rail.
  - Elk meat is commonly sold at farmer's markets and restaurants.
  - This provides a viable path for cull animals.

# Markets

- Trophy bulls/ trophy bucks
  - There is a popular market for trophy elk bulls and trophy bucks sold to fair chase game ranches.
  - Domestic breeders are able to produce large bulls and bucks due to superior genetics.
  - Game ranches range in size and are commonly several thousand acres.

# Markets

- Velvet
  - Elk antlers are valuable for velvet antler.
  - Velvet is harvested by cutting off antlers in late spring and early summer.
  - Antlers grow back every year.
  - Velvet is sold to Asian markets and used for medicine.
  - Velvet is used to relieve arthritis
  - Currently valued at \$30 a pound
  - An average elk bull will produce 20 pounds of velvet

# Markets

- Breeding Stock
  - Breeding stock is commonly sold between ranches and at auctions.
  - Values vary depending on the quality of genetics.
  - Elk cows and does are commonly artificially inseminated.
  - Proven elk cows range from \$2,000-\$5,000 per cow.
  - Proven whitetail does range from \$1,000-\$10,000.



# Markets

- Artificial Insemination
  - Semen is sold from elk bulls and whitetail bucks.
  - Elk semen prices range from \$100-\$1,000 per straw.
  - Whitetail semen prices range from \$100- \$5,000 per straw.
  - Opportunity to improve genetics
  - Many Kansas breeders AI their cows and does.

# Care

- Cervids usually wormed 2-4 times a year.
- Calves are vaccinated.
- Fed grain, corn, or deer pellet everyday.
- Fed brome hay and alfalfa.
- All animals must have 2 forms of ID- dangle ear tag and metal USDA ear tag.
- Many animals are DNA registered and matched to sire and dam.

# Care

- Cervids are allowed to roam in pastures with 8" high perimeter fence.
- Fence guidelines are regulated by KDA.
- Herds are often divided into separate female breeding groups, bulls and calves.
- Elk and deer are managed with squeeze chutes.

# Health Testing

- TB accreditation- Herds participating in the TB accredited herd program test every animal every three years.
- Local vets use the skin test.
- Cervid industry has been working with USDA for approval of the TB blood test.

# Health Testing

- Voluntary CWD Monitoring Program.
- Many ranches participate as it is required in order to sell animals out of state.
- Every animal is inspected annually by KDA state vet for signs of CWD.
- Every animal that dies in a participating ranch must be tested for CWD.
- Due to USDA budget cuts, these costs are now paid by producer.



# CWD

- Chronic Wasting Disease
  - CWD positives are very rare. Usually .002% infection rate in most states, many zero.
  - CWD has never been proven to harm humans or transfer to any non-cervid animal.
  - Many untrue and unproven perceptions regarding links to CWD with farmed cervids in news editorials.

# Trophy Ranches

- There are several trophy ranches in Kansas that provide hunters with an opportunity to have a fair chase hunt of an elk or deer.
- Ranches must comply with Kansas Dept of Wildlife & Parks and Kansas Dept of Agriculture's hunting and fence regulations.
- Hunting is a significant source of revenue the for the state.

# Future

- The future is bright for cervid farmers as there is a steady and growing demand for farmed elk and deer.
- Organization and education is key.

# Challenges

- Unfunded mandates.
- Elimination through regulation.
- Anti-agriculture and anti-hunting groups.
- Inaccurate public information.

# Thank You!!

- The KCBA appreciates the opportunity to visit with you.
- Please feel free to attend our association meetings in January 2013 and July 2013.
- Visit the KCBA online at [www.kansascervidbreeders.com](http://www.kansascervidbreeders.com)
- Visit the North American Elk Breeders Association(NAEBA) at [www.naelk.org](http://www.naelk.org)
- Visit the North American Deer Farmers Association(NADeFA) at [www.nadefa.org](http://www.nadefa.org)