

# PENNSYLVANIA DEER FARMERS ASSOCIATION, INC.



-To Preserve, Protect & Promote the Deer Industry in Pennsylvania-

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 6

Fall 2007

No. 3

### PA Sale Tops \$ Million and a Half

A huge crowd estimated at nearly 500 people were in attendance at the Pennsylvania Fall Sale held in early September at the Pasquerilla Center in Johnstown, Pa.

The total gross from the sale was \$1,549,600, made up of \$1,185,750 from the sale of live breeder deer, \$308,900 from the sale of semen and \$54,950 from the sale of trophy shooter bucks. Sale average for breeding stock was \$6375, shooter bucks, \$2035.19 and \$3,591.86 for the semen lots.

The top selling doe was "Annie," nine year old mother of Maxim, consigned by Curt Waldvogel, London, Ohio. She was purchased for a record setting \$170,000 by a buyer from the state of Texas.

A bonus was given for the Top Selling Total Consignor of the sale. This was won by Harry Strawser, Hummelstown, Pa.

For the first time, Internet bidding was accepted via the Live Auctions TV website. A total of 252 folks signed up



*Pictured at the fall sale are, left to right, Top consignor Harry Strawser, PDFA Board member Russ Walk, Secretary of Agriculture Dennis Wolff, Executive Secretary Beverly Gruber and Board member Glenn Dice.*

for bidder numbers. Twenty-one of these were Internet bidders.

The sale management company was Midwest Whitetail Deer Sales, Jerry Campbell and John Yoder, 6860 South State Road 5, Topeka, Indiana 46571. Auctioneers were Aaron Kanagy, Belleville and Crist Miller,

Fredericksburg, OH.

Dennis Wolff, Secretary of Agriculture for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, attended the sale on Saturday. He spoke to the crowd and then spent an hour and a half visiting the trade show and talking with attendees.

### PDFA MARKETING EFFORTS

With financial assistance from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Market Promotion Grant, a plan has been formulated for getting the word out about deer farming in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This project consists of three main marketing tools. First is an ad which will appear in six agriculture and sports-type newspapers--Lancaster Farming, Farmer's Friend, Farm & Dairy, Horse Trader, Outdoor News and Country Folks. Second is a bi-fold, six panel color brochure which is a versatile information piece and membership applica-

tion. Third is a fulfillment folder which will be mailed in response to requests about joining the association. It will include a cover sheet, an introductory letter, the four-color brochure, a member directory, the 2007 economic impact study, and the most recent PDFA newsletter.

This project has come about largely due to the numerous calls and emails our office has received over the last few months from folks wanting information about deer farming. The interest is out there. We hope by advertising and making this literature available, we will be better able to "spread the word."

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



Hello Everyone:

September 7 and 8, 2007 found us at the Pasquerilla Conference center in Johnstown, PA. for our 6th Annual Select Trophy and Breeders Auction. Exhibitor space was sold out and this years auction total set a new record of \$1,500,000.00 an increase of \$600,000.00 over last year. Several State Senators and Representatives were in attendance with the high-light being a visit from PA Secretary of Agriculture Dennis Wolff. I would like to thank Midwest Deer Sales and the PDFA auction committee for the hard work they put into this sale to make it another record breaker. Congratulations also to all the top consignors.

The Economic Impact Study of Pennsylvania's Deer Farms was released and is now in the hands of our legislators and other government agencies. If you would like a copy of the study contact Bev Gruber at the Association office 610-767-5026. The North American Deer Farmers Association just recently released the Economic Impact Study of the United States Cervid Farming Industry. The study was completed by the Agricultural and Food Policy Center of Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. The total impact of the industry, combining the farming and hunting components, is reported as \$3.0 billion annually across the United States. A copy of

this study can be received by contacting NADeFA at 651-345-5600.

The Association recently received a grant from the PA Department of Agriculture to promote deer farming in Pennsylvania. An informational pack has been developed for people interested in deer farming and ads will start to run in many of the states major farm publications promoting deer farming. Another step your association has taken to fulfill its purpose mission. We hope to reapply for more grant monies in the future to move toward television.

The most important issue today is EHD moving into Pennsylvania. EHD a disease spread by infected midges has been moving north the last few years and is now confirmed in our state. To date the PA Game Commission has confirmed over 1,200 deer dead in the wild in south western PA and at least 4 deer farms have confirmed cases. Once the first hard frost comes it will kill the midges and the spread of the disease is done until next summer when the midges reappear. The PDFA board will make this its main topic for the October board meeting. We plan to form a committee to research EHD and put together an action plan for our membership for dealing with the disease next year.

In closing please remember that your actions as a deer farmer represent all of us. Be a responsible deer farmer. Have a great fall.

Dave Griffith  
President

**\*\*Deer Photos Needed!\*\***

HELP!! The PDFA office needs nice, clear, high resolution photos of whitetail deer for our various publications. They can be color or black and white but they should be a JPG file and good for printing. If you have any photos like this that you're willing to share, please email them to the office at lowhill@rcn.com. Be sure to include a short note giving your permission for the photos to be used by us with no restrictions. This release will be kept on file in the office. Be assured that your photos will ONLY be used for PDFA publications.

If you don't use the computer, but would like to send some photos for us to scan, we can do that, too. Send them to the office (P. O. Box 5, New Tripoli, PA 18066) and we will send the photos back to you.

# A Big Thank You To 2007 Sponsors

*The following members were sponsors  
for the buffet held at the fall sale:*

## **Cherry Creek Whitetails**

Vince Piancone  
Stroudsburg, Pa.

## **Lower Meadow Whitetails Farm**

Amos Kauffman  
Honeybrook, Pa.

## **Thunder Valley Whitetails**

Larry & Kelly Pittenger  
Montoursville, Pa.

## **Creegan Quality Whitetails**

Dave Creegan  
Bedford, Pa.

## **Pneu Dart**

Blair Soars  
Williamsport, Pa.

**These folks donated a straw of semen  
each. A total of \$2,700 was raised:**

Blank blank,  
Blank blak farm, Town, Pa  
donated 1 Straw Maximus D/T  
purchased by Curt Waldvogel  
Waldvogel Whitetails, London, Oh.

Blank Blank  
Blank Blank Farm, Town, Pa.  
donated 1 Straw Flees's Gambler  
purchased by Daniel Esh, Town Pa.

## **Jeff Graham**

Antlered Acres, Greencastle, Pa.  
donated 1 Straw Geronimax  
purchased by John Yoder  
Squaw Whitetails, Topeka, Ind.

# THANKS!!

2007 PDFA Director

Meeting Dates

Friday, Nov. 9

(no meeting in December)

Directors Meetings are held at  
6:00 at the Huntingdon county  
Ag Extension office across from  
the Huntingdon County

Fairgrounds.

All members welcome.

*Mark  
Your Calendar*



## LAST CALL FOR 2008 DIRECTORY

There is still time to place your ad in the 2008 PDFA member directory.

The book will be approximately 90 pages and 1,500 will be printed.

Ads are truly a bargain. PDFA Member ad rates are:

	1/2 page	Full Page
Color	\$500	\$700
B& W	\$260	\$500

Call the office at 610-767-5026 if you need the contract form or if you have any questions.

## PDFA Lifetime Members

Dean Borotrager	Sam A. Kinsinger
Duke Carl	Aaron E. Lapp, Jr.
Andy Coblentz	Ted S. Miller
Jesse A. & Lydia Detweiler Jr.	Tim Orton
Marvin & Kelly Diller	Cody Pheasant
Steven Ebersole	Vince Piancone
Ken and Julie Erway	Larry & Kelly Pittenger
Kermit R. Fidler	Amos Stoltzfus
Andy Foor	John Ervin Stoltzfus
George Hazard	Dale and Margaret Streams
Joseph Hostetler	

*Visit the Website*

***www.padfa.com***

***Be Sure Your Information  
Is Correct***

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AWARDS GRANT TO DNA SOLUTIONS

Oklahoma City – DNA Solutions, Inc. in Oklahoma City received a Phase II SBIR grant from the Department of Defense (DoD) in collaboration with Oklahoma State University to develop a live test for Chronic Wasting Disease.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is an infectious disease that affects mule deer, white tailed deer, Rocky Mountain elk, and moose, according to Dr. Brandt Cassidy, director of laboratory operations for DNA Solutions.

This research will help develop a sensitive detection system that will be able to detect CWD prior to death. Currently, CWD is only detected post-mortem. This detection system will reduce the need for animal experimentation and provide a model for scientific

research into the components of the disease.

Early detection of CWD also relates to the early detection of Creutzfeldt-Jakob's disease and Alzheimer's in humans and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, Mad Cow Disease, in cattle. These diseases are similar to CWD because they cause deterioration in the brain and brain functions.

"We hope this technology will be a stepping stone towards detection in humans and cattle," said Dr. Brandt Cassidy. DNA Solutions, Inc. research is important because it uses cell structure instead of animal bioassays to detect the disease. The use of animal bioassays involves the use of dozens of laboratory animals over a period of

months for a single sample, according to Dr. Cassidy. Using cell structure allows researchers and scientists to detect CWD rapidly.

This study has the ability to reach a global market. The detection system provides ways to detect disease in humans, animals, and food.

This research is significant to the military because it can be used to determine the safety of local food consumed by the military overseas. The grant awarded by the DoD is crucial to the health of the military deployed around the world.

"Our research is a novel approach applying cell-based solutions to unique diagnostic challenges," said Dr. Cassidy.

I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has had to overcome while trying to succeed. -Booker T. Washington

## There Are A Lot Of Reasons To Have Farm Bureau Health Insurance

**Blue Cross quality and Farm Bureau's personalized service provide an unbeatable combination that you can't afford to be without when protecting the people who are of big importance to you.**



No matter what your needs - individual coverage for you - your family or employees - we offer our members a wide range of health plan options:

● PPO Plans ● Comprehensive Major Medical Plans ● HSAs ● Dental/Vision ● Medicare Plans

For over 30 years, PA Farm Bureau and Blue Cross have teamed up to provide quality health care at competitive group rates with the personalized service you would expect from a Farm Bureau membership.



For more information call:

**PFB Health Service 1-800-522-2375**

\*Any Pennsylvania Farm Bureau member who meets the Blue Cross Association guidelines may apply for coverage.

**Farm Bureau is the State's Largest Provider of Group Health Care Coverage for the Agricultural Community**

# FROM OUR FRIENDS AT PDA

## TUBERCULOSIS (TB) TESTING AND SUSPECTS

TB testing consists of a single cervical tuberculin (SCT) test which is an intradermal injection of 0.1 mL of USDA bovine PPD tuberculin (1mg/mLPPD) in the midcervical region with reading by visual observation and palpation 72 hours (plus or minus six hours) following injection. This test is administered by an accredited veterinarian or a State or Federal official. If a cervid is not negative on a SCT test, a State or Federal veterinarian must do a comparative cervical test (CCT) which is an intradermal injection of biologically balanced USDA bovine PPD tuberculin and avian PPD tuberculin at separate sites in the mid-cervical area to determine the probable

presence of bovine tuberculosis (*M. bovis*) by comparing the response of the two tuberculins at 72 hours (plus or minus six hours) following injection. If a cervid is not negative to either the SCT or CCT test, they are classified as a suspect or as a reactor.

If your cervid is a suspect, there are two options:

1. A state or federal official will place a quarantine on the farm for 90 days, at which time the cervid will be retested and if negative on the reading three days later, the quarantine will be lifted. If classified as a suspect again, the quarantine cycle would begin or the animal could be sacrificed for necropsy. If the result is positive, the owner

would be asked to sacrifice the cervid for necropsy. Indemnification is available for this case.

2. The cervid may be sacrificed for necropsy. No indemnification is available for this circumstance.

Approximately one out of every thirty normal animals tested are classified as suspects. The negative results of retesting or necropsy (which finds no abnormalities) of a suspect retain the status of the animal and/or the herd accreditation/qualification status.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Martin at 717-783-5309 for PDA information or Dr. Donald McLean at 717-237-7443 for USDA information.

## EPIZOOTIC HEMORRHAGIC DISEASE (EHD)

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) is a viral disease that occasionally enters Pennsylvania when prevailing weather patterns enable the insect vector (*Culicoides* spp) to advance this far north. 2007 has been a particularly noteworthy year for EHD in Pennsylvania. Previously, 2002 was the most recent significant EHD presence here, with much less impact than this year's outbreak.

Currently, positive EHD cases are occurring in wild white-tailed deer in our southwestern and southern tier counties. Confirmed positive EHD cases are also occurring in farmed deer located in Franklin County. Presumably, all farmed deer located in the affected counties are at risk. Confirmed positive EHD cases in cattle are occurring in Franklin, Somerset, and Washington Counties.

The cattle cases this year have been characterized by a few animals in the herd displaying dramatic oral erosions, fever, and drooling. Some lameness with coronary band lesions and also teat lesions have been reported. Both beef and dairy animals have been affected this year with no death losses reported thus far.

The Department and USDA APHIS VS are responding to reports in domestic livestock including farmed deer. Please contact our 24/7 line if you know of a suspect case: (717) 772-2852. As a routine precaution, the Department may impose a temporary quarantine on the affected livestock until foreign animal diseases can be ruled out.

It is expected that the current epizootic will subside as killing frosts occur with cooler weather. The Department does authorize autogenous killed EHD vaccine usage for those wishing to pursue this option.

## CWD TECHNICIAN TRAINING OFFERED

**Veterinarians, Veterinary Technicians,  
Cervid Farmers and Taxidermists**

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, November 28, 29 and 30, 2007 we will once again be testing hunter-killed deer for Chronic Wasting Disease. This will be held at the following Pennsylvania Game Commission's regional offices:

NW – Franklin	SC – Huntington
SW – Bolivar	NE – Dallas
NC – Jersey Shore	SE - Reading

We are inviting you to participate and hone your skills or to learn for the first time how to sample deer for this disease. We plan to be at the PGC HQ's from 8 am to 4 pm each of these days. It has been our experience that after sampling around 20 deer, you are much more confident about this process.

Please feel welcome to join us on any of those days. It is important that you let us know ahead of time when you plan to arrive so that we will have enough space and enough tools available for everyone who is interested in learning. After this training we can certify you as a CCT (Certified CWD Technician). Please contact Mary Martin at the number below and she will forward the information to the appropriate party.

Mary Martin  
PA Department of Agriculture  
Bureau of Animal Health - Room 408  
2301 N Cameron Street  
Harrisburg PA 17110  
717-783-5309

## WOMAN GORED BY DEER AT SOMERSET PRESERVE

Shanksville, Pa.--A woman studying wetlands for an engineering firm was gored by a deer at a hunting preserve recently.

Jamie Detweiler, 35, of Ligonier, was gored in the leg when the buck charged her at 6 Springs Hunts near Shanksville. She was taken to Memorial Medical Center in Johnstown, where officials would not release her condition.

Randy Musser, who owns the engineering firm where Detweiler works, said she was expected to get out of the hospital Thursday.

"She's beat up a bit and has puncture wounds, but she seems to be doing pretty good," Musser said.

Roger Harmon, who opened the preserve for deer, rams and wild boar five years ago, said it's the first time anyone has been gored at the site.

## OVER THE BACK FENCE

by Beverly Gruber  
Executive Director



What a great sale and a great facility. Too bad it isn't closer to the middle of Pennsylvania.

I just read in *Outdoor News* that only 5% of Americans consider themselves hunters. The Pennsylvania statistics are a little better, but not much. The good news is that more people than ever feel that hunting is an OK sport as long as it is done in a respectful manner, done in accordance with the principals of fair chase, and that people eat what they kill.

As long as the non-hunting public continues to support the sport as they have in the past, we will be fine.

## EHD STRIKES IN PA

The EHD (epizootic hemorrhagic disease) outbreak in Pennsylvania this year has put everyone in a panic mode. Although prevalent in the warmer southern states for years, records show that this is only the second time (2002) that Pennsylvania has been hit. The surrounding states of West Virginia and Ohio have also experienced the virus and the deer kill.

The Pennsylvania Game commission held a meeting in Waynesburg, Pa. in late September and at least 500-600 people showed up to listen and ask questions. Beverly Gruber represented PDFA at the meeting. The primary speaker was Dr. Walter Cottrell, state PGC veterinarian who told what EHD is, gave the symptoms and answered many, many questions. From a brochure distributed at the meeting we learned the following information:

What is EHD? Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD or HD) is caused by a virus. The virus is not spread directly, but rather, is spread from animal to animal by biting midges that usually live near water or wet muddy areas. The midges transmit the virus from animal to animal as they feed. The EHD virus is very similar to the virus that causes bluetongue disease (BT) in domestic livestock like cattle and sheep. The mortality rate seen with EHD depends on whether the deer can mount an effective immune response.

Symptoms in Infected Whitetails. White-tailed deer develop signs of illness between two and seven days after exposure. Deer in the early stages of EHD may appear weak, disoriented, lame or unresponsive to humans and other stimulus. As the disease progresses, deer may have bloody discharge from their nose as well as swollen, bluish tongues and sores in the mouth. The painful mouth sores often cause excessive salivation and can cause deer to stop eating. EHD can cause hemorrhaging of organs such as the heart, liver, spleen, kidneys, lungs and intestinal tract. Infected deer develop a high fever and may seek water as a result. Within 36 hours of showing symptoms, most deer become unconscious and die, often near water. Deer that do not die may be sick for several weeks before gradually recovering. Recovered deer may develop ridges or rings in their hooves, caused by growth interruption, and may become permanently lame. Survivors develop antibodies that protect them from future infection.

Three of our members with deer behind fences (two in Beaver County and one in Franklin County) have reported deer loss due to EHD. In Beaver County thirteen deer died and in Franklin County one deer died.

At the October Board of Directors meeting a task force will be named to research EHD and put together an action plan for dealing with the disease in 2008, according to President Dave Griffith. When the plan is finalized it will be available to the membership.

## GUN WINNERS AT FALL SALE

389EN Dart Gun  
**Kevin Wallace**  
Wellston, OK

Black Anodized  
ExCabiler Dart Gun  
**Greg Lucas**  
Howard, PA

*Thanks to all who purchased tickets and to Diane Miller and Linda Lieberum for selling tickets.*

## LARGEST TRADE SHOW EVER

A special thank you goes out to our 35 trade show vendors which participated in the fall sale. This was the biggest trade show we ever had. Thank you to:

Antler Run Trophy Whitetails, Wilton WI  
 B & B Genetics, Milford IN  
 BF Products, Harrisburg PA  
 Blosser White Tails, Buffalo MD  
 Blue Mountain Whitetails, Newburg PA  
 Buck Valley Game Farm, Spring Mills PA  
 Canadian Whitetail Genetics, Nepean ON  
 Chestnut Hill Whitetails, New Holland PA  
 Conewago Valley Whitetails, Camp Hill PA  
 Creegan Quality Whitetails, Bedford PA



Dobson Run Deer Ranch, Vintondale PA  
 Double O Buckshot, Antigo WI  
 Dream Ranch, Guntersville AL  
 Dusendang Whitetails, Paris MI  
 Eagle Creek Whitetail Deer Farm, Wingate PA  
 Fidlers Whitetails, Bernville PA  
 Field of Dreams Whitetails, Spring Mill PA  
 Foremost Whitetail, Marble PA  
 Four Guys, Fredericksburg OH  
 Frey's Trophy Whitetails, Middlefield OH  
 Gap Ridge Whitetails, Kinzer PA  
 Glenn Dice Farms, Chambersburg PA  
 Griffith Brothers, Huntingdon PA  
 Grizzly Flats Farm, Cedar Spring MI



Heartland Wildlife Institute-Kalmbach Feeds, Wooster OH  
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 Hilty Whitetails, South Whitlry IN  
 Lower Meadow Whitetails, Honey Brook PA  
 Midwest Woodlots, Pierceton IN  
 Mountain Ridge Whitetails, Hummelstown PA  
 NADeFA, Lake City MN



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 Pierce Whitetail Farms, Saronna WI  
 PneuDart, Williamsport PA  
 RDM Wildbunch Whitetails, Knox PA  
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 Select Genetics, Washington PA  
 Thunder Valley Whitetails, Montoursville PA  
 Triple M, Garrettsville OH  
 Twin Lakes, Bismark MO  
 Vern's Whitetails, Mifflintown PA  
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 Wallahachie, LLC, Wellston OK  
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 Whitetail Marketing, Elmer MO  
 Windy Hill Farm, Liverpool PA



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